

# Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

July 24, 2025 | Vol. 47, No. 13 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

## BLANDFORD

### TA gives update on vacancies and BESS

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera posted information regarding town issues on the town website.

Her posting brings to date what's going on with filling open seats on the Planning Board as well as Battery Energy Storage Systems. The Planning Board needs to have at least two more members in order to legally act on any special permit applications; two applications are now waiting. The remaining members of the Planning Board and the Select Board must meet to appoint Planning Board members until the next town election.

As far as the potential BESS installations go, 2024 legislation removed the ability to permit these installations from towns to the state. "No board or committee in Blandford will be the permitting authority," she states and further, "removes a lot of our ability to impose oversight." As of the date of her memo to the town, Wednesday, July 16, there were no permits filed at the state.

Details on what the town has done regarding the 2024 legislation are on the website and include the resolution opposing the "state overreach" and more. The Intervenor Status is explained, and since the process is "a legal" pro-



Northern long-eared bat. Photo from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Northern long-eared bat

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website lists the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This classification happened in November 2022 effective Jan. 30, 2023.

The bat is found in 37 states and the District of Columbia and is threatened with extinction by the white-nose syndrome,

a fungal disease known to affect bats.

The NLEB is the only mammal on the Massachusetts list of 18 endangered species and is protected "wherever found." They are primarily forest-dependent insectivores; they eat moths. They inhabit caves.

During the July 10 on-site meeting at the North Blandford BESS site, Blandford Storage LCC was told that they need to seek permitting from the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers because of the "believed presence" of northern long-eared bats.

The Endangered Species Act requires consulting the USACE to insure that no actions are carried out nationally or on the high seas likely "to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction of adverse modification of critical habitat." The USAC is the federal agency that has the authority to permit activity in an endangered species habitat.

cess, Ferrera said Thursday, July 17, that it is important that town counsel represent the town at that level when Blandford comes up for public hearing.

As of July 16, Ferrera has "again reached out to legal counsel for assistance with obtaining Intervenor Status, as well as submitted the residents petition that was given to the Select Board during the Monday, July 14 meeting."

New information regarding the site on North

UPDATES, page 6

## HUNTINGTON

### Residents voice complaints on dirt road conditions

By Wendy Long  
Correspondents

The Huntington select board, along with Highway Superintendent Brad Curry, heard input from 11 residents who live on dirt roads in the town regarding the condition of those roads.

Poor conditions, they say, that existed even before last week's heavy rains. Pisgah Road resident Pete Campbell had asked for a spot on the July 16 agenda and opened the public comments. "The dirt roads in this town are a mess. It is wrecking cars and hurting these people," Campbell said. "Worthington has 40 miles of dirt roads that get graded twice a year. Huntington has 14 miles and nothing's getting done."

Curry clarified that Huntington has 10 dirt roads and Select Board chairman Roger Booth said the town's highway department is understaffed. "We have been actively trying to fill the vacant highway positions

for over four years. Within six months, we lose them," Booth said, adding that they often leave to work for Mass DOT, which pays \$65/hour. Booth also declared that even if the dirt roads were graded twice a year, residents would not get the outcome they are expecting.

Reportedly, Goshen received the brunt of last week's rainstorm in the region and has five dirt roads that won't be repaired for up to two years, according to Booth. "Dirt roads are a real problem," Booth said. "If I could do it, I would tar every one of them. In this town, we can't do that on four roads that were declared scenic roads in a town bylaw, which further prevents tarring them or removing the stone walls alongside them."

Selectman John McVeigh told the residents that, if these roads are paved, they are required to widen the roads to 22 feet across, which will impact the stone walls

COMPLAINTS, page 3

## CHESTER

### Littleville Fair kicks off fair season

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

The 103rd Annual Littleville Fair, is the first local agricultural fair of 2025, will be held on Aug. 1-3 at the recently upgraded Littleville Fairgrounds at 15 Kinnebrook Road.

Admission will be \$10 for adults with children 12 and under free. This family friendly fair includes an exhibit hall with canning, crafts, vegetables, baked goods, flowers, conservation, needle arts and wood working. Pulls by horse, oxen, trucks and tractors will be going on all weekend, along with fair foods, live music and entertainment.

Daily activities include the exhibit hall, a 4H petting zoo, family jungle and army bounce house. Each day (7 p.m. Friday, 5 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday), a free bicycle will be raffled off for children under age 12. The child must be present to win.

Gates open on Friday, Aug. 1 at 4 p.m.. Events that day include two classes of oxen draws at 5 p.m., line dancing with "Stompin Boots" from 6 -9 p.m., and Bingo in the dining hall at 6 p.m. The truck pull weigh in is at 5 p.m. with that event



Chicken master Glen is the chick's handler. He also moonlights as the Huntington mailman. File photo

starting at 6 p.m. The exhibit hall will close at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, Aug. 2, gates open at 7 a.m. Food offerings include breakfast at the food booth starting at 7 a.m. and barbecue chicken later in the dining hall. Special events that day include four classes of oxen draws at 9 a.m., the ox teamsters challenge at 10:30 a.m.,

the farm olympics (TBA), women's fry pan toss at 4 p.m. and the demolition derby at 5 p.m. Registration is (noon-3 p.m. The diesel truck pull weigh in starts at 7 a.m. with that event starting at 9 a.m. Live music will be Old Country Road from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and Jim Blanch

FAIR, page 9

## HUNTINGTON

### Organizations construct community garden raised beds

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

On Saturday, July 12 volunteers gathered on the Huntington Library grounds to construct six raised garden beds. The beds, sponsored by several local community organizations, will form the first stage of a community garden. They

are each designed to be deep beds and have benches built in on two sides, to make the project more accessible to everyone.

Cicero is attributed with the saying, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." The Community Garden at the library is a project spearheaded by

Hilltowns CARE member and library trustee Erica Wells. The community garden space Hilltowns CARES envisions will provide opportunities for residents of all ages to enjoy a beautified public space in an accessible part of town and to collaborate on creative work across generations. The garden will also provide space for the library and other groups to host outdoor workshops and educational programming.

Several tents were spread across the library lawn, including a cooling station set up by the Huntington Fire Department, a children's area and a grilling station where volunteers prepared lunch for the builders. By 2pm the build was completed. Materials were purchased or donated by local purveyors.

"All of our garden beds have been "adopted" for the season by community groups," said Wells. "If you would like to participate in maintaining and beautify-



Justin Pinard and Tom Palavra of TLS Construction helped build the raised beds on July 12 for Huntington's new community garden. Turley Publications Photos by Wendy Long

GARDEN, page 2



PAGE 7

|                          |                    |                       |                       |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Blandford.....6          | Easthampton.....12 | Opinion.....4         | Schools & Youth.....5 |
| Buckland.....9           | Florence.....12    | Otis.....12           | Williamsburg.....5    |
| Business Directory.....3 | Hilltowns.....2    | Pittsfield.....7      | Worthington.....9     |
| Chester.....9            | Huntington.....3   | Public Notices.....10 |                       |
| Classifieds.....11       | Lenox.....5        | Puzzle Page.....10    |                       |



# HILLTOWNS

## GARDEN

from page 1

ing this space, there is always room for more hands! Please reach out to us at hilltowns.care@gmail.com to see what we may have planned for upcoming project days.”

The next phase is scheduled for July 26th, when sponsoring organizations and members of the community are invited to come together for planting. Donations of plant starts are welcome. Community groups have been invited to “adopt a bed” for the season, with a suggested donation toward the initial build, labor, and materials. Sponsoring members include Hilltowns CARE, The Friends of The Huntington Library, The Library Trustees, Daisy Troop 65560, and the Huntington Council On Aging. Local groups and individuals who would like to participate or make a donation toward the project can get in touch by emailing hilltowns.care@gmail.com with the subject heading “community garden.”

Groups that are maintaining this year’s garden beds have been furnished

with instructions around everything from planting to watering and soil additives.

According to Hilltowns CARE, a community garden is for everyone! People are invited to feel free to look around, gather, sit, and enjoy the space. Please remember to be respectful of the hard work of our gardeners and take any waste with you when you leave.

Hilltowns CARE envisions growing this project in future years, which will require more fundraising and donations. These will be announced on the group’s website <https://www.hilltowns-care.org>. They can also be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1028821992002866>.

Hilltowns CARE is a year-old grassroots community group founded by friends and volunteers in order to build relationships, create networks of support, and build systems of community resilience in the Hilltowns. It includes participants from all over the Western MA and area Hilltowns. They regularly host in-person gather-

ings and have a monthly book club, among other events. The garden is a volunteer-powered, intentional endeavor for the health of the

community.

Hilltowns CARE will host their first virtual meet-up on Thursday, July 24th, at 6:30 p.m. on zoom. This

will be an informal meeting to share ideas and test an online format for gathering. The next in-person gathering will be in August. To learn

more, sign up for the email newsletter at <https://www.hilltowns-care.org/> send an email, or join the Facebook group.



Brianna Sloane and Erin Judge work on a raised bed structure for the new garden next to the library.



Justin Shatwell and Amy Walker helped create a raised bed. Turley Publications Photos by Wendy Long

## State falls short of contracting goals to veteran-owned business

Following the recent report from the Commonwealth’s Supplier Diversity Office which found that the state continues to fall short of its contracting goals with Veteran-Owned Businesses, Senator John C. Velis, Senate Chairman of the Joint Committee on Veterans and

Federal Affairs, shared his frustration with the report.

Dating back to 2015, the Commonwealth has set a yearly goal of contracting and purchasing goods from Veteran Owned Businesses with 3% of state agency discretionary funds.

However, with many of these contracts left unfilled

by agencies, the state has fallen short by nearly \$1.3 billion cumulatively in the last 10 years, leaving Veteran business owners discouraged and unlikely to pursue future state contracts.

“I have always been committed to making Massachusetts the very

best state in the nation for our Veterans to call home, and am truly concerned about what this report details when it comes to supporting our Veteran-Owned Businesses,” shared Senator Velis, a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserves. “Honoring our veterans goes far beyond a once

year celebration, and it is really frustrating to hear that our state agencies are not living up to our goals of contracting and placing orders with Veteran-Owned Businesses. I can understand why so many are losing faith in a system that should be uplifting their hard work.”

Velis shared that he encourages Massachusetts Veteran-Owned Businesses to reach out to the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs with their experiences and to share any feedback on how the state can improve efforts to meet its 3% annual discretionary spending goal.

## MassDOT lists I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation will be performing overnight and daytime milling, paving, bridge repair and bridge painting operations on I-90 eastbound and westbound in the towns of Stockbridge, Becket, Montgomery, and Russell.

All work is weather dependent and will take place at the following locations and times: Milling and paving operations will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 2.0 to mile marker 7.8 nightly now through Thursday night, July 24 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m.

Bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 6.4 nightly from now through Thursday night Thursday, July 24 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m.

In Becket bridge painting will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 18.4 nightly now through Thursday night July 24 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work area.

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](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real time conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

## MassDOT launches LEAP program

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation Office of Transportation Planning is launching the Local Early and Actionable Planning Program to help municipal officials jump start infrastructure projects.

The LEAP Program will provide planning and early-stage design assistance to towns and cities across Massachusetts with a particular focus on rural and economically disadvantaged communities as these communities often face significant barriers when it comes to initiating transportation projects due to limited funding and staffing.

The funding, totaling approximately \$1 million, is included in Governor Healey’s Capital Investment Plan this year and will be funded as part of MassDOT’s capital budget for FY 2026.

“Our goal is to empower community leaders with the tools and support they need to bring priority projects to life,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. “Through the LEAP Program, we’re helping local governments

take that critical first step, positioning them to secure the resources needed to advance transportation projects that make streets safer, more connected, and more accessible for everyone, whether they’re walking, biking, riding transit or driving.”

The LEAP Program is structured in a way that allows municipal staff to request the support they need for early-stage planning and design activities, including, but not limited to: Conceptual Design and Alternatives Analyses, for example, hydraulic and geotechnical analysis; Safe Streets Network Strategy; Design and Engineering for Smaller-Scale Projects (e.g. Complete Streets Program Projects); Federal Grant Application Development; Safety Analysis, for example, conduct crash pattern evaluation; Traffic Analysis, for example, collect traffic volume data; Speed Studies; Cost Estimation and Visual and Mapping Support.

The total amount available statewide in Fiscal Year 2026 for the LEAP Program is \$1 million. MassDOT anti-

pates providing municipalities with approximately \$25,000 to \$100,000 per project.

The focus of LEAP is on helping under resourced communities access federal and state transportation funding programs. Municipal leaders may immediately begin requesting support through the form at the following link:

[https://mbta.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_d5YEu8i81ktYx1Y](https://mbta.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d5YEu8i81ktYx1Y).

To help local officials and stakeholders learn more about the LEAP Program and application process, MassDOT staff will be presenting at a series of public meetings across the Commonwealth.

These meetings will be scheduled throughout July, August, and September and information will be posted online at the link below when available.

For more information about the program, eligibility criteria, and upcoming events, people may visit <https://www.mass.gov/massdot-municipal-planning-and-support> or email Derek Krevat, Manager of Municipal Planning & Support, at [Derek.Krevat@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Derek.Krevat@dot.state.ma.us).

**NOW OPEN!!**

**NEW TRAILER BLOWOUT!**

**INTEGRITY TRAILER**

SALES & REPAIRS

**STARTING AT \$1,800**

*Trailer Repair and Maintenance*

*Aluminum Flatbed Sales & Installation*

*We Do Trailer Tires*

38 Russell Road • Huntington, MA 01050 • 413-685-8015 • [jong@integritytsr.com](mailto:jong@integritytsr.com)

**LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!**

**INFLATION**

**PRICE BUSTERS**

**PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS OR ROAST ..... <b>\$288</b> / lb             | USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE STEAKS ..... <b>\$10.99</b> / lb                 | USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS..... <b>\$5.69</b> / lb          | USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREST 10 LB BAG..... <b>\$2.33</b> / lb |
| USDA INSP. STORE CUT BONE-IN HAM STEAK ..... <b>\$3.99</b> / lb                                   | USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS ..... <b>\$7.49</b> / lb | USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN THIGHS 10 LB BAG..... <b>\$1.55</b> / lb                    | USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED PANCAKE BATTERED SAUSAGE ..... <b>\$2.99</b> / lb     |
| SLICED IN OUR DELI<br>USDA INSP. TURKEY BREST..... <b>\$4.99</b> / lb                             | USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF ..... <b>\$4.99</b> / 5 LB BAG    | USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SALAD SHRIMP 91/120 CT. 2 LB BAG ..... <b>\$6.99</b> ea |  |
| GREAT ON THE GRILL<br>USDA INSP. STOREMADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN ..... <b>\$2.99</b> / lb |   |  |  |
| USDA INSP. STOREMADE KOREAN BBQ MARINATED BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS..... <b>\$3.35</b> / lb       |   |  |  |

**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](http://www.90meat.com)

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

SALE DATES: 7/24/25-7/30/25 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

# BLUE HEAVEN

BLUEBERRY & RASPBERRIES FARM

246 Skyline Trail, Middlefield • Joe & Donna Pease  
Open: Tues.-Sun. 9-4, Closed Mon. • (413)623-8846

**“ALL YOU CAN EAT AS YOU’RE PICKING”**

**Raspberries**

**\$3.75** heaping pint

**Blueberries**

**\$3.50** per pound

**CHECK OUT ALL THE**

**Turley Publications**

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

# HUNTINGTON

## Kinti Ensemble to perform Aug. 3

HUNTINGTON – The Kinti Ensemble with acclaimed cellist, Rebecca Hartka and multi-instrumentalist/virtuoso quena flute player, Inti Curi Cachimuel, will present a performance of original compositions and traditional tunes, weaving the lyricism of classical music, folk rhythms and improvisation on Sunday, Aug. 3 at 2 p.m.

The concert will be held in North Hall, 40 Searle Road and is wheelchair accessible and air conditioned. They call this performance Hummingbird as they, like the animal, will sip the nectar of nature's bounty in their inspiration for the music.

Their one of a kind sound draws inspiration from the natural world, ranging

from an Andean style song, inspired by the Condors in the high Andean

mountains, to a Celtic tinged tribute to Water. Using cello, charango, drums and zampona, the duo creates layers, transporting the audience into a rich world of music that is at times meditative and other times, invites movement.

Kinti Ensemble is named after the Quechua word for hummingbird, q inti and like their namesake, builds a bridge between North and South America. The duo has been inspiring audiences since 2021 in a range of venues throughout New England with a unique sound rooted in the music of their Celtic and Andean indigenous ancestors, as well as original looped and partially impro-

vised compositions inspired by the natural world.

<https://cello-medicine.com/kinti/>

Inti Curi Cachimuel is a virtuosic Quichua indigenous musician and composer from Otavalo, Ecuador with fluidity in a wide range of styles from traditional Andean to jazz. Cachimuel has performed in places such as the Lincoln Center, Smithsonian Folk Festival, Pequot Museum and others. Some of his other musical projects include "Runa Jazz" a music ensemble with a unique sound blending Andean music with jazz.

Rebecca Hartka explores a variety of styles and improvisation. A strong impulse to connect across cultures has inspired travels to Cuba and the Yucatán,

Mexico in 2019 and 2020, where Hartka collaborated with Mayan musicians in concert. In 2022, with a Water Honoring project, she improvised for bodies of water around New England, raising money for the Connecticut (Quinetucket) River Conservancy (CRC), as well as the Schaghticoke First Nations Land Restoration Project. Improvising with water inspired her to layer sounds using a loop station, which culminated in May 2023 with Resonating with Nature, a collaborative set of performances with her Glass Artist husband, Wesley Fleming, at the Glass Biennale in Denizli, Turkey.

All performances are free (donations welcomed). Performances begin at 2 p.m. People should come early to



Kinti Ensemble will grace the North Hall stage in Huntington on Sunday, Aug. 3 at 2 p.m. Photo by Dexter Lane

get a good seat. Doors open about 1:30 p.m. People may visit the website at [www.northhallhuntington.org](http://www.northhallhuntington.org) for program updates.

The seven program series is sponsored by the Westfield Bank,

Easthampton Savings Bank, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and Cultural Councils of: Cummington, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Russell, Westhampton and Worthington.



Eleven town residents attended the July 16 select board meeting to voice complaints about the condition of the town's dirt roads. Turley Publications photos by Wendy Long

### COMPLAINTS

from page 1

along many of the dirt roads. The state highway association has been petitioning the state to exempt the 22 feet width for several years, to no avail, he said. Further issues are that cars will drive faster on paved roads and the state will not reimburse the town for road work that does not meet their requirements.

Booth invited residents to share their concerns. Emerson Gorham Road resident Deb Kuhn said she used to fill the potholes in herself, but they've gotten too big. Her road hasn't been touched in over a year. The highway department did clear vegetation in one area, but never finished and it's growing in again.

Ernie Smith of Goss Hill Road said the highway department graded a 1,000 foot stretch of his road the previous day but the rest is still messed up. "Start a job, finish it," he said.

Lois Smith asked if the town could hire private contractors like White Wolf or Paul and Randy Lapointe to get the roads done quickly. "It's going to give a lot of people relief," Smith said, adding that she had calculated that 19% of the town's tax revenue is paid by people, who live on dirt roads. She also pointed out that having a vacant position should mean that the department has extra money in their budget to hire contractors.

Joe Girard of County Road suggested that the town increase the pay for highway department employees. "You're not providing a service while people are paying their taxes," Girard said.

Related issues were discussed and included the increasing severity of storms, the need to follow a schedule of road repair that reduces the number of times the roller has to be moved and the YMCA Camp's use of four full-sized buses that run in and out daily and further impact the Pisgah Road. Selectman Bill Hathaway said he expects things to be done once and done correctly including clearing drainage ditches and blowing leaves out.



The select board approved Andrea McKittrick and Pete Campbell's application for a license to reopen the Huntington Liquor Store, which has been closed since December 2022.

In the end, it was determined that the board would look into hiring a contractor to do the west side of Route 112 (Goss Hill, Kimball and Nagler Cross roads) so that the roller doesn't have to be moved. The YMCA will also be contacted to see if they can provide financial help; if not, the town may post the road to require smaller vehicles. Highway will come up with a list of the order of road work to be completed by Tuesday, July 22, which will be posted to the town website.

Booth concluded the discussion saying, "I hope we satisfy you all to where we don't have to see you again in August." He said that this is the way that the public should bring these issues to their attention, with McVeigh adding that Facebook is not the place to do this.

In other business, the town held a public hearing and approved an application for a full alcohol beverage license to Andrea McKittrick and Pete Campbell for the Huntington Liquor Store at 21 Russell Road. The store was previously licensed to Evelyn Korfias and Gary Rom, who both passed away in December 2022. The store has not been open since.

McKittrick said they plan on reopening the store for the sale of liquors, beer, wine, lottery, tobacco and snacks.

McVeigh reported that a camera is up and operational at Petis Field, with hope of preventing or dealing with the vandalism that has taken place at the playground. He will install signs noting the 24-hour surveillance, asking residents to pick up pet waste and prohibiting dogs on the playing field. For the most part, vandalism has stopped since school let out.

The board also revisited the town's options for dealing with illegal picnicking along the rivers. Booth noted that this had previously been managed by county government, but was left in limbo when that dissolved. People seeking to cool off are leaving behind trash and worse at the state highway pull offs and at a swimming hole across from the Pioneer Valley Assembly of God Church. An option they will look at with Police Chief Brian Kowal is ticketing the cars that are exceeding the time limit for parking, as long as extra patrols are not required.

The next meeting of the Huntington Select Board will be Wednesday, July 30 at 5 p.m.

## Gas prices hold steady this week

WESTWOOD – Pump prices across the Northeast are little changed as markets react to an uptick in oil prices conflicting with domestic gasoline demand not meeting expectations for a second straight week.

The price for a barrel of crude climbed about 3% by the end of last week to around \$70 a barrel on reports that the United States might impose additional sanctions on Russian petroleum exports. Oil prices were also under pressure after a fresh round of attacks by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea, a main shipping route for oil cargos from the Middle East.

Gasoline prices, however, did not see similar gains after the Energy Information Administration's demand figures last week were below seasonal expectations. For the week ending July 4, total demand was 9.15 million barrels a day, an increase of 519,000 over the prior week, but well below what is typically one of the biggest weeks of the year for demand. In 2021, for example, demand reached an all-time high of more than 10

million barrels a day.

Amid continued strong domestic production, inventories of gasoline and oil continue to grow. Domestic stockpiles of oil climbed by 7.1 million barrels, one of the largest weekly builds of the year. And regional gasoline stocks climbed for a third straight week, rising by 1.19 million barrels to settle at 62.79 million barrels, significantly above this time last year and the 5-year average.

"A rise in oil prices typically puts pressure on gasoline prices, but weaker-than-expected demand for the week leading up to the Fourth of July and sizable inventories of both oil and gas are tempering price action at the pump," said Mark Schieldrop, senior spokesperson for AAA Northeast. "Pump prices are now almost 50 cents cheaper than they were this time last year."

The average gas price in Massachusetts is the same as last week (\$3.06), averaging \$3.06 per gallon. Today's price is seven cents higher than a month ago (\$2.99) and 45 cents lower than

this day last year (\$3.51). Massachusetts' average gas price is nine cents lower than the national average.

AAA Northeast's July 14 survey of fuel prices found the current national average up a penny from last week (\$3.14), averaging \$3.15 per gallon. Today's national average price is 2 cents higher than a month ago (\$3.13) and 37 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.52).

Today, Mississippi and Oklahoma have the lowest prices in the nation at \$2.70 and \$2.75, respectively. California and Hawaii hold the highest prices in the nation this week at \$4.52 and \$4.46, respectively. Massachusetts holds the 22nd place on the list of highest gas prices in the nation.

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing nearly 6.8 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, financial and auto-related services.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**George PROANE INC.**  
**PROPANE GAS PLUMBING • HEATING**  
 (413) 268-8360  
**TOLL FREE 1-800-464-2053**  
 Family Owned & Operated  
 3 Berkshire Trail West (Route 9), P.O. Box 102, Goshen, MA 01032  
[www.georgepropane.com](http://www.georgepropane.com)

**Paul's Plumbing & Heating**  
**238-0303**  
 PAUL GRAHAM  
 Mass. License 23299

**AQUA PUMPS WATER SYSTEMS**  
 Water Pumps • Sewer Pumps  
 Water Conditioners  
**46 Pitcher Street** **Donald Washburn**  
**Montgomery, MA 01085** **862-3301**

**Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.**  
 Water Well Drilling, Water Pump Sales & Service  
 Water Testing System Evaluations  
 Water System Repairs **HENSHAW** Hydrofracture to Increase Flow  
 800-232-4725 • Fax 413-296-4565  
**Charles R. Henshaw**  
 130 Cummington Rd., W. Chesterfield, MA • 413-296-4725

FEED • PET SUPPLIES • CLOTHING • COAL  
 WOOD PELLETS • WILD & CAGED BIRDSEED  
 POOL SUPPLIES • MOTOR OILS • FENCING  
 LAWN & GARDEN SUPPLIES • FERTILIZER  
**GATEWAY FARM & PET**  
 Poulin Grain RED WING SHOES Carhartt  
**59 RUSSELL ROAD, HUNTINGTON, MA 01050**  
**1-413-667-2279** M-F 8am-5pm Sat. 8am-4pm  
 TARA GRENIER • PAUL GRENIER

**DOWN TO EARTH EXCAVATING INC**  
 Highly Regarded Professionals: Complete Site Work, Septic Development and Repairs. Fully Insured.  
**413-667-5269**  
 Paul & Randy LaPointe, Owners Huntington, Mass.

**Dale's Structural & Carpentry**  
 Home Improvement • Additions • Restorations • Repairs  
 Post & Beam Repairs  
 Sagging Floors • Beams • Columns  
 Sill Timbers • Termite Damage  
 Foundation Repairs • Piers & Footings  
 Chimney Rebuilds  
**FULLY LICENSED & INSURED**  
 Huntington, MA • 413-667-3149  
[dalesstructuralandcarpentry.com](http://dalesstructuralandcarpentry.com)

**Jeff's Oil Burner Service**  
 • Tune Ups  
 • Installations  
 • Oil Tanks  
 Huntington, Massachusetts  
 Office 413.667.0245  
 Cell 413.530.7037  
[jeffsoilburnerservice@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffsoilburnerservice@hotmail.com)

## GUEST COLUMN



## What is the formula for deciding when to claim?

Dear Rusty:

*I am curious about the "formula" to decide when to take Social Security while still working.*

*I am past the Full Retirement Age. How do you best address such? Should we schedule a call?*  
**Signed: Wondering When**

Dear Wondering:

Well, you can always contact us by phone on 1-888-750-2622 to speak to one of our certified Social Security Advisors or you can send your questions to us via email at [SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org). You don't need to pre-schedule a meeting, as we have multiple advisors answering the phone on most normal business days. If they all happen to be busy when you call, simply leave a voicemail and an Advisor will return your call promptly.

For starters, since you have reached your Full Retirement Age, know that your work earnings will no longer negatively affect your Social Security benefits. You can earn as much as possible and your monthly SS amount will be the same, based on your average lifetime monthly earnings for your highest 35 years and based on your age when you claim. Since you have not yet claimed SS, you are already earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which increase your monthly SS amount by .667% for each month you continue to delay. That's 8% for each full year you delay past your FRA. You should not, however, wait longer than age 70 to claim because that is when you will get your maximum SS benefit amount. For you, that means that your age 70 amount will be 28% more than the amount you would have received at your FRA of 66 years and 6 months in October 2023 and about 15% more than if you were to claim now.

Note too, that if your more recent income is among the highest of your lifetime, Social Security will automatically increase your monthly SS retirement amount to account for that event. They will check your work earnings each year to see if you are entitled to a larger SS amount because of your recent earnings. Since (according

to your AMAC member record) you are married, you may also wish to consider whether your wife will get a spousal benefit from you when you claim. If your wife's personal SS retirement amount at her FRA is less than the amount you were entitled to at your FRA, then she will get a spousal boost when you claim. With her spousal boost (if claimed at her FRA), her total SS benefit should be about 50% of your FRA benefit amount not half of the higher amount you will get because you waited longer to claim. But your wife cannot get a spousal boost until you are collecting your SS.

And here is something else to think about: received SS benefits will become part of your overall income taxed by the IRS when you submit your income tax return. If you file your income tax as "married/jointly" and your combined income from all sources is more than \$32,000 then some of your SS benefits will become taxable income. If your combined income is between \$32,001 and \$44,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. Or, if your combined income from all sources exceeds \$44,000, then about 85% of your received SS benefits will become part of your income taxed by the IRS. Just something to keep in mind, especially since you are still working.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

## 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](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com), or call us at 413-283-8393.

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

## OPINION



## GUEST COLUMN

## Revisit wildflower gardening

After driving by an exquisite wildflower border, I was prompted to revisit and update a column I wrote some years back on the topic of wildflowers.

If you wish to give the natural look a go, preparation is the key. Read on for more useful advice.

Wildflower or meadow gardens can be beautiful, even breathtaking, if properly cared for. Besides being pretty, they are low maintenance and environmentally friendly, and they often attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

Our goal at the time of sowing is a grass-free, weed-free seed bed. Since wildflower seed is sown in winter or early spring, we have lots of time to achieve that goal.

At summer's end rototill the spot intended for your wildflowers. If the grass is especially thick you may need to go over it several times. Allow what is left of the grass to decompose.

Pull any weeds that sprout, or lightly cultivate the soil – don't go too deep or you'll expose more weed seeds to the light! You can also skip the tiller, and eradicate the grass by use of black plastic or a tarp- of course you'll have to look at it for several weeks!

If that's okay, then start now by mowing the grass as close as possible. Lay the black plastic or tarp on top and secure it in place with bricks or rocks. The heat,

coupled with the absence of light will kill the grass underneath.

By early fall you will be able to rake away any debris that remains. Plan to sow your seeds in early spring.

There are many wildflower mixes to choose from. I'd recommend selecting one that is suited to the northeast.

A mix that contains both annual and perennial flowers is a good option – the annuals providing you with color the first year while the perennials are establishing themselves.

Don't skimp on the seed. In fact, use up to three times more than the packet says you need to ensure you'll end up with lots of blooms. To avoid bare spots, divide your seed in half and sow the entire area with the first half, then go to the second.

Don't cover the seed at all, just firm it into the soil. A lawn roller works great!

Gently water until your seeds have sprouted and your plants are up and growing – this will usually take at least a month. Watch now, as the season unfolds in all of its beauty!

At the end of the growing season, after the plants have gone to seed, you should mow the entire field with your mower on its high-

est setting. This will prevent trees and shrubs from establishing themselves in your meadow. The mower will do a fair job of chopping up spent stems and leaves – just let them fall where they will.

First, they will act as winter mulch. Then, over time they will break down and add organic matter to the soil – just as leaves and twigs do in the woods. In the absence of a mower you can go the old fashioned route and cut the meadow with a scythe or hedge clippers.

In all instances care should be taken not to damage the crown of the plants, this can severely weaken or even kill perennial wildflowers.

As far as fertilizers go, wildflowers generally don't need it! In fact, rich soil does more harm than good, causing weeds to thrive and compete with your flowers for sunshine and water. Speaking of water, once your meadow is established it will only require water in cases of severe drought or if you plan to re-sow annual seeds in bare spots the following spring.

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

**Social media of the first kind.**

**Turley Publications, Inc.**  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

**Community newspapers, still as popular as ever.**

## Country Journal TEAM



**EDITOR**  
Ellenor Downer  
[countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

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



@ Country Journal



[countryjournal.turley.com](http://countryjournal.turley.com)

**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President

**Turley Publications, Inc.**

[www.turley.com](http://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](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com).



**PHONE**  
413.283.8393  
Fax: 413.283.7017  
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

**EMAIL**  
Advertising Sales  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

**Editor**  
Ellenor Downer  
[countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)

**Subscriptions**  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

\$31 per year pre-paid (\$36 out of state)  
Newsstand: \$.75 per copy

**WEB**  
[www.countryjournal.turley.com](http://www.countryjournal.turley.com)



@ Country Journal

The Country Journal is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

### Ryan Lambert holds summer internships

BOSTON – More than 110 Emmanuel College students are learning on the job and building professional networks through internships this summer.

Ryan Lambert of Westfield is an intern at ABA Abilities Services. The intersection of classroom learning and real-world application is central to the Emmanuel experience, with 100% of graduates completing at least one career-igniting internship. With more than 80 majors and areas of study, Emmanuel College combines outstanding classroom instruction and real-world experience to prepare students for lives of professional achievement, lifelong learning, and purpose.

### Tess Weisman receives 21st Century Leaders Award

AMHERST – The University of Massachusetts Amherst honored the exemplary achievements, initiative and leadership of some of its most talented and accomplished undergraduates during Undergraduate Commencement on Friday, May 16.

This year's 10 undergraduate recipients of the 21st Century Leaders Award were chosen in recognition

of their strong academic records and exemplary achievements. They also further distinguished themselves through intellectual accomplishments and will be recognized for the prestige and honor they bring to the University of Massachusetts Amherst, both as undergraduates and as alumni.

Tess Weisman of Northampton was one of ten graduating seniors who

received a 21st Century Leaders Award of \$1,000 from the UMass Amherst Alumni Association.

Weisman double-majored in psychology and sociology and earned a certificate in criminal justice. As a first-year student, she joined the Student Government Association as secretary of university policy. She was later elected SGA president in her junior

year, all while juggling her responsibilities as a resident assistant and teaching assistant.

Outside of UMass Amherst, Weisman interned with the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, where she worked with the Juvenile Justice Unit to provide diversion for youth involved with the criminal justice system and at the Mental Health Association,

helping clinicians provide therapy and trauma-informed recovery care to adults with co-occurring substance use and mental health diagnoses.

She will join William James College's Behavioral Health Service Corps, a yearlong program that will pair her with a job in the behavioral health-care field while taking classes toward a master's degree.

### Holyoke Community College announces honors and awards

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College announces the students, who earned honors and awards for their outstanding achievements during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Awardees were honored Wednesday, May 21, during

a ceremony in the Leslie Phillips Theater. Local students receiving honors and awards are: Alex Biddulph of Easthampton, Isabella Gitana of Easthampton, Jessica Grygorowicz of Easthampton, Allen Hall of Easthampton, Renee Hill of

Easthampton (two awards), Sarah Sabo of Easthampton, Laura Michon of Florence, Luca Sieber of Florence, Alexandria Casavant of Northampton, Amaranth Cole of Northampton, Andrew Rudnicki of Northampton, Christina

Ruggiero-Corliss of Northampton, Rebecca Tremblay of Northampton, Louis Paduano of Russell, Karina Dreichan of Southampton, Sarah Circe of Westfield, Nicholas Couchon of Westfield, Ryan DeFalco

of Westfield, Katherine Dengler of Westfield, Travis Guin of Westfield, Michael Navarro of Westfield, Valentina Vines of Westfield, Stephen Walbridge of Westfield and Nora Goncalves of Williamsburg.

## WILLIAMSBURG

### Trustees of Reservations acquires Beaver Brook Golf

WILLIAMSBURG – The Trustees of Reservations acquired Beaver Brook Golf Course in Williamsburg and Northampton, closed on the property this week.

The Trustees has begun planning and assessment work toward its plan to "rewild" the property to create an outdoor recreation and conservation hub in the heart of western Massachusetts. "We are thrilled to add Beaver Brook Reservation to our special places in the Valley and grateful to so many people who contributed to our fundraising campaign to protect and restore this landscape for everyone forever," said Katie Theoharides, president and CEO of The Trustees. "Rewilding this landscape and restoring the floodplain and wetlands gives us a great opportunity to showcase nature-based climate solutions while providing the community with beautiful open space and an opportunity for outdoor recreation and a place to gather."

Highly visible from its location on well-traveled Route 9 in Northampton

and Williamsburg, Beaver Brook provides The Trustees with a more prominent presence in the Connecticut River Valley. Wendy Ferris, The Trustees' vice president for the Central and Valley Region, said area residents can expect visible restoration work on the property to start in 2026 after a period of planning and assessment. Golfing is no longer allowed on the property.

"We will spend this year getting to know this land, learning about the best way to create and support a diversity of habitats, and planning an accessible trail system that welcomes all members of the community. This will take time to do well, but we know it will be worth the wait," said Ferris.

For now, the buildings on the property - a pavilion and clubhouse - will not be open to the public until the property is fully open in 2026. The public is welcome to walk on the property's trails and paths now, and The Trustees' stewardship staff will keep some pathways mowed this summer and fall.

Work such as the planting of native trees, shrubs,

plants, and flowers will commence in 2026, with volunteer opportunities available for the public to participate in the work.

The Trustees had a \$1.5 million fundraising goal for the property acquisition and activation and have raised \$1,246,450 to date. More than 400 individual donors from across the Commonwealth, including 127 donors new to The Trustees, have donated toward the project. Ferris said fundraising will continue to support the transformation of the property.

Ferris also thanked several organizations that contributed toward the purchase, including the Massachusetts Audubon Catalyst Fund, The Nature Conservancy, the Broad Brook Coalition, Kestrel Land Trust, and Hilltown Land Trust.

Ferris will be offering informal public engagement opportunities this summer and fall, which will be posted at [www.thetrustees.org/beaverbrook](http://www.thetrustees.org/beaverbrook). Information about supporting the restoration and transformation of Beaver Brook is also available on the Beaver Brook webpage.

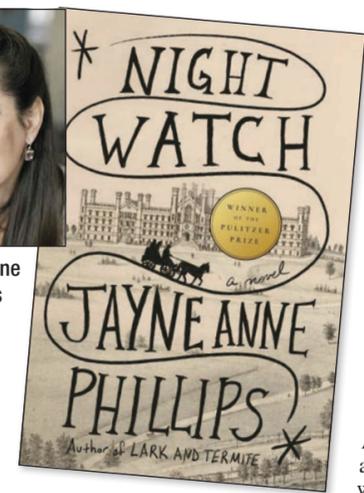
## LENOX

### The Mount hosts Pulitzer Prize winner Jayne Anne Phillips

LENOX – The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home, 2 Plunkett St., will host acclaimed author Jayne Anne Phillips, winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, for an evening of literary insight and conversation on Thursday, July 31 at 5 p.m.

Phillips will join André Bernard, former Vice President of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, for a thought-provoking discussion, including an exploration of the craft of interweaving history and storytelling, delving into the research that brings the past so vividly to life.

Recently awarded both the Pulitzer Prize for fiction and named one of The New Yorker's Best Books of the Year, "Night Watch" is a sweeping, masterfully wrought tale of resilience and survival in the turbulent aftermath of the Civil War. A powerful narrative of a mother and daughter's search for refuge, the novel has been hailed as "beautiful" and "engrossingly crafted" by The Washington



Jayne Anne Phillips

Post.

Jayne Anne Phillips is the author of eight critically acclaimed books, including "Machine Dreams," "Lark and Termite" and "Quiet Dell." A recipient of numerous honors, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, two NEA Fellowships and the Sue Kaufman Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Phillips was inducted into the Academy in 2018. Her work has been translated into twelve languages and continues to resonate with readers around the globe. Tickets are \$27 for members and \$32 for non-mem-

bers. People may visit [EdithWharton.org](http://EdithWharton.org) for registration and information.

The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home is a National Historic Landmark and cultural center dedicated to the intellectual, artistic, and humanitarian legacy of Edith Wharton (1862-1937), one of America's greatest authors. Wharton wrote over 40 books in 40 years, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "The Age of Innocence." The Mount presents Wharton's life and achievements through tours of her house and gardens, along with thematic tours of her library, and a popular ghost tour. The Mount is the literary hub of the Berkshires and hosts lectures by national authors and scholars, panels, and an annual writers-in-residency. The Mount's grounds, including the gardens and trails, are open free to the public year-round from dawn to dusk. For more information, people may visit [www.edithwharton.org](http://www.edithwharton.org)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

### NOTICE

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

## Blueberry Picking at Cumworth Farm

Trouble St. & West Cummington Rd.  
(Rte. 112), Cummington, MA

**OPEN DAILY 9AM-7PM**

**413-634-5529**

[cumworthfarm@gmail.com](mailto:cumworthfarm@gmail.com)

[Facebook.com/Cumworth Farm](https://www.facebook.com/CumworthFarm)

2.2 miles from Rte. 143 and Rte. 112N; 3.2 miles from Rte. 9 and Rte. 112S

## 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

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Pioneer Valley Assembly of God**  
Pastor Javier Melendez  
63 Old Chester Rd.,  
Huntington MA 01050  
413.667-3196  
[pvaglfe@gmail.com](mailto:pvaglife@gmail.com)  
[www.pioneervalleyag.org](http://www.pioneervalleyag.org)  
Facebook: Pioneer Valley Assembly of God  
Sunday service: 10:30am

**Hilltown Community Church**  
Rev. Dr. Robert Perreault  
55 Main Street, Russell, MA 01071  
413.275.3232 • Office:  
413.862.3341  
[hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com](mailto:hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com)  
Sunday Mornings @ 10 AM

## Your Community Church

**First Congregational Church of Williamsburg**  
4 North Main Street, Williamsburg, Mass.  
(413)268-7557 • [burgychurch@gmail.com](mailto:burgychurch@gmail.com)  
[burgychurch.org/](http://burgychurch.org/)  
Facebook: First Congregational Church of Williamsburg  
YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays through Friday 9am-noon  
Days and Hours of Services: Sundays at 10am

# BLANDFORD



Conservation Commission Chair Dick Gates speaks to Select Board on July 14 regarding site visit on North Blandford Road. Shown from left are Dick Gates, Select Board Ted Cousineau, Chair Cara Letendre and Jackie Coury. *Turley Publications Photo by Mary Kronholm*

## Conservation Commission gives site visit update

By Mary Kronholm  
*Correspondent*

BLANDFORD – Conservation Commission Chair Dick Gates brought the Select Board up to date on the Thursday, July 10 meeting at which all parties present agreed it was necessary to revisit the site to re-check new heretofore unknown wetlands areas, the new 404 permit through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to install the mats for the temporary road and to investigate the area as the potential habitat for the northern long-eared bat. He had no timeline or date for a re-visit. But reiterated, “More work needs

to be done.”

### Special Town Meeting

The Select Board discussed a potential Special Town Meeting and are waiting to hear from Town Counsel about same for the submitted petition.

### Planning Board

Regarding vacancies on the Planning Board, the Select Board and remaining members of the Planning Board will meet Monday, July 28 to appoint new members to serve until the next local election.

The Select Board, according to town zoning bylaws, will appoint an

Associate Member of the Planning Board “to serve for one year, or until replaced. In the case where the Planning Board is the SPGA, the Chairman of the Planning Board may have the associate member sit on the Board for the purpose of acting on a special permit application, in the case of absence, inability to act or conflict of interest on the part of any member of the Planning Board or in the event of a vacancy on the Board.” There are three people who have expressed interest but their names were not announced.

**Highway Department**  
Highway Superintendent

Ray Hultay brought the board up to date on his department’s work on roads and repairs to the garage. Beaver Deceivers were brought up again and if they are used, the town may not trap any beavers. They work temporarily according to Hultay.

### Executive session

The meeting concluded with a roll call vote to go into executive session in accordance with the MGL .30A, §21(a)(2) to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

## FLOWER POTS BEAUTIFY MAIN STREET



A tip of the hat to Ryta Gavriilyuk who, new to Blandford, has created and donated the two flower pots in the tree-belt or curb strip in front of the Post Office on Main Street.

*Turley Photo by Kronholm*

## CEB submit petition requesting Special Town Meeting

By Mary Kronholm  
*Correspondent*

BLANDFORD – The Citizens to Enlighten Blandford presented their petition to the Select Board at the Monday, July 14 meeting with accompanying certified signatures.

The petition is titled in part “To Protect Blandford’s Land and Safety.” The requests are that at a Special Town Meeting be held to “halt the proposed 4.04 MW solar photovoltaic array and Battery Energy Storage System at 89 Chester Road...the 2.8 MW on 30 Huntington Road proposing as well as the large BESS expansion project to 50 MW on North Blandford

Road.”

The petition states: We request: A Special Town Meeting with all departments (Board of Health, Fire Department, Planning Board, Select Board and Zoning Board) within 45 days to: Adopt a BESS bylaw to regulate these projects, their fire risks and require detailed emergency response plans...that all future projects be postponed for at least 1 year to evaluate more thoroughly. Require robust community input for commercial projects per Resilient Master Plan Strategy C-20 (p. 17). Enact a vote of towns persons on any Bylaw changes moving forward, as many other towns do. Hire

legal counsel to challenge the project’s compliance with Zoning Bylaws and Resilient Master Plan goals.

In addition to the above, the CEB provided specific notes referencing the town’s Resilient Master Plan, Zoning Bylaws, lack of planning for any emergency, loss of vegetation and unsightliness of proposed installations. They also suggest infrastructure changes.

The document concludes with, “We implore you to do due diligence on behalf of our beautiful town and take every precaution to protect our wetlands, citizens and safety before approving any of these projects.”

## Porter Memorial Library announces upcoming events

BLANDFORD – There’s another whole month of summertime activities planned at the Porter Memorial Library before school starts on Monday, Aug. 28.

Book Squirms and care givers meet on Tuesdays from 4-5 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. for stories, songs, sensory play

and socializing for preschoolers. The adult book club will meet Saturday, Aug. 2 at 11 a.m. to discuss Jane Anne Phillips’ “Night Watch.” Pokemon club is Wednesday, Aug. 21 from 4-5 p.m.

There will be a Community Library Building meeting on Thursday, Aug. 14 at the Town Hall to discuss the

process and planning details as the expansion project moves forward. This is an opportunity to ask questions of the design team and provide feedback on the plans. The meeting is open to the public.

On Saturday, Aug. 23 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., people may visit the library to play Bingo for books and any time for games and crafts.

## Volunteers receive free pass to Blandford fair as benefit

BLANDFORD – Volunteers can earn a free pass to the Blandford fair and help support a historical Blandford event.

There will be a volun-

teer painting party at the fairgrounds on Saturday, Aug. 2 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m..

Lunch will be provided. “Hoping we see you

there,” said coordinator Linda Barnard.

Any questions, people may call Linda at 413-977-2113.

## BLACK BEARS VISIT BLANDFORD YARD



Margit Mikuski said this American Black Bear sauntered into her yard, was hot, and was laying in the cool grass, panting. He was good size, but not huge and after he left, a younger bear dropped by. This one plopped itself in the shade of the weeping cherry tree after plucking a green tomato from the garden. After a nibble, it was left behind while the bear decided a solar light was a toy and played with it.

*Courtesy photo from Margit Mikuski*

## UPDATES

*from page 1*

Blandford Road came from Conservation Commission Chair Dick Gates. He told the board at the July 14 meeting that the Army Corps of Engineers has to check the property because of “the believed presence of Northern Long Eared

Bats.” The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible to maintain compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Eversource will meet with the Select Board at the Monday, July 28 meeting regarding the proposed

expansion of their substation on North Blandford Road.

Questions can be directed to Ferrara via email at CFerrera@TownofBlandford.com. The website posting includes links for more information.

# Giving Back

with TURLEY PUBLICATIONS

If you are a non-profit please send us your events to add to our calendar section at no charge to your organization.

We want to help you get the word out to the community on what you are doing and when you are doing it.

WE WANT YOU TO BE SUCCESSFUL!

If your event needs more attention, please consider running an advertisement in your community paper, call today 413-283-8393. Please let us know you are a non-profit, so we can better serve you.

12 Weekly Newspapers • [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

## PITTSFIELD

## ‘Let It Shine Artist Exhibition’ features four artists

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and Framework will feature a brand-new “Let It Shine Artist Exhibition” featuring 4 local artists at Framework by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., 437 North St.

Featured artists are Carly Holmes, Riley Wilde, Jesus Alicea and Kenny Davis.

There will be an opening reception with the artists during the Aug. 1 First Fridays Artswalk from 5-8 p.m.

The exhibition will be on view Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday, Aug 1 through Monday, Aug. 25, by visiting the Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. offices at 431 North St. Carly Holmes is a lifelong resident of Pittsfield and describes herself as an emerging artist with a passion for creating art. “I have always loved creating art,” Carly says. “As a child, I was constantly drawing and crafting. I have explored drawing, ceramics, and 3-dimensional design. But painting with acrylics is where my true passion lies. I view my work as a reflection of my ever-evolving interests, and as a personal outlet for self-expression.”

The Pittsfield Let It Shine Public Art Partnership has selected Holmes to co-create a new mural to be located at the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Intermodal Center alongside mentor artist, Jesse Tobin McCauley. The mural will debut at a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony this summer. Holmes is also the city of Pittsfield’s inaugural artist-in-residence and she is currently working out of studio space in the Lichtenstein



This 3-D art is by Kenny Davis.

Center for the Arts.

Riley Wilde’s journey as an aspiring visual artist began in 2021 and has become vital in expressing herself in ways that words can’t anymore. Each painting is led by intuition and always with a new approach to create a vibrant and intriguing piece of work.

“Sustainability is key to my process, as it doesn’t feel right unless I’m practicing with a considerate mindset,” says Riley. “Using recycled bottles for paint, repurposing old canvases, and catching excess drips to create new pieces is the only way I practice. Trying not to waste anything - creatively or emo-

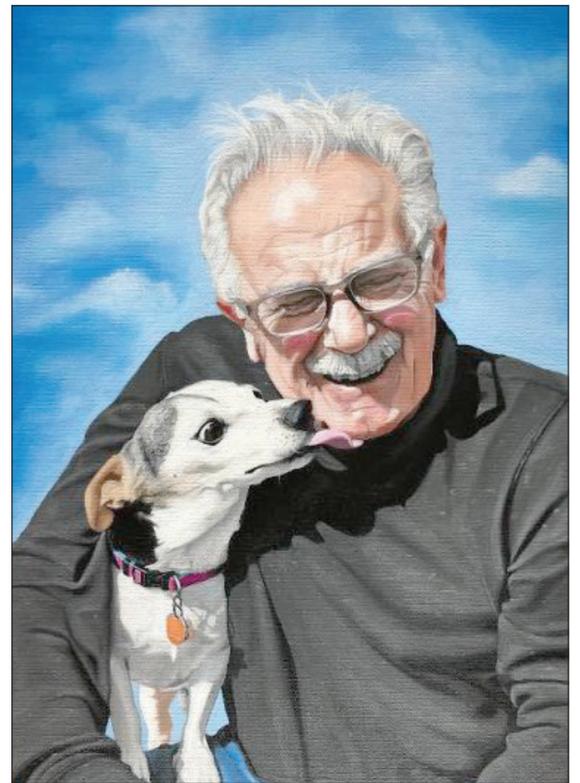
tionally.”

“In the last year, I’ve been expanding my practice while in collaboration with my partner and fellow artist, Daniel Stone, on some very large pieces. He has also challenged me to consider working with new surfaces, styles, and methods. Such as, creating reliefs, mosaics, illustrating figures, and using acrylic and wood surfaces. This has been rewarding and valuable in my growth as an artist and has made me feel seen. I’m looking forward to what my work continues to evolve into. Sometimes it’s messy and weird, but also alive. A reflection of everything I’ve

survived and everything I’ve yet to bloom into.”

Jesus Alicea is a multidisciplinary artist driven by a deep love for language and visual storytelling. His work explores the relationship between words and images-through logo design, poster art, cartoons, poetry, and creative writing.

Alicea creates playful yet purposeful visuals, often using illustrated characters to deliver promotional messages in ways that text or live action can’t. “My design work focuses on clarity and meaning, whether I’m crafting a logo or composing a visual narrative,” says Jesus. “Storytelling is at the



This is a painting by Carly Holmes.

core of my practice. Through poetry and media projects, I aim to connect with audiences in ways that are both creative and accessible. I’m always open to feedback, collaboration, and new creative challenges.”

Kenny Davis is a lifelong resident of Pittsfield who has worked on several murals around the city. “In my senior year at Pittsfield High School, I both experimented with my 2D style and created 3D works to tell my unique story,” says Kenny. “Now that I am eighteen years old, I am working

on developing a vibrant style that makes me proud.”

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

The gallery at Framework by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. is funded in part by a grant from the Pittsfield Cultural Council; a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The mission of Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. is to strengthen and promote Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.’s.

## 1Berkshire offers bilingual guide for youth

PITTSFIELD – 1Berkshire’s 2025 cohort of the Berkshire Leadership Program announces a curated and bilingual guide to summer activities and year-round programming.

This guide will promote access to free, low-cost and inclusive attractions and activities, as well as provide a directory connecting Berkshire youth with essential resources, services and opportunities in their local communities. “Our goal is to serve youth and families in Berkshire County, with a special focus on low-income, marginalized, and Spanish-speaking communities. We are prioritizing those who may face economic, geographic, or social barriers in accessing enriching, affordable, and inclusive opportunities that Berkshire County has to offer.” Project representative Hari Kumar stated. “There are many programs and resources for underserved youth available throughout the county, and our goal is to help bridge the gap between the service and their target audience,” continued Hari Kumar, BLP Class of 2025

Available as a digital resource through Facebook, and hosted online hosted on the Berkshire Coalition for Suicide Prevention website, the guide will feature local attractions, events, safe hangout spots, and essential services – organized by town to reduce transportation barriers and promote equitable access. Sections such as Free Cultural Passes, Health & Well-being, and Education & Learning offer clear guidance on how to access mental health support, volunteer opportunities, job training, and discounted admission to museums, theaters and cultural entertainment.

The guide will be distributed through schools, libraries, community centers, and youth-serving organizations. Supported by a searchable online directory and event calendar, this project helps ensure all youth can explore, engage with and benefit from their communities. The Berkshire Youth Resource Guide will be available online in early July 2025 and will be distributed widely through schools and organizations that serve youth in Berkshire County.

## Berkshire Green Drinks meets Aug. 13

PITTSFIELD – Andrew Ferrara and Drake Reed will speak at the August Berkshire Green Drinks event on Wednesday, Aug. 13 at 6 p.m.

This free hybrid event will take place online via Zoom and in person at Wander Berkshires, 34 Depot Street, Suite 101. The in-person social gathering will begin around 5:15 p.m.; the presentation “Breathe Easy Berkshires: A Year and a Half of Pittsfield’s Air Quality” and Zoom meeting will start at 6 p.m.

Attendees will learn about the scope of the Breathe Easy Berkshires ambient air quality project, a local effort to monitor air pollution in Pittsfield. The presentation will cover the motivation behind starting the project, the progress made in the research and findings to date-including significant air quality events

that have been recorded.

The team will also demonstrate their mobile monitoring equipment and explain how it functions in the field. Finally, they will discuss how individuals can stay informed about air quality conditions and take simple, effective steps to protect themselves during periods of poor air quality.

This is a great opportunity to engage with local air quality research and take part in a conversation about healthier futures for Pittsfield and Berkshire County. People will learn more and should RSVP by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/Aug2025-Berks-Green-Drinks>.

Drake Reed and Andrew Ferrara are the co-managers of Breathe Easy Berkshires, a Berkshire Environmental Action Team project funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. The project monitors ambient air

quality in Pittsfield to identify sources of pollution, engage the community in discussion, and ultimately improve air quality and public health.

Drake focuses on health study development and community outreach. He is a social and environmental justice researcher who has managed climate science research for New York City. He holds a master’s degree in Design and Urban Ecology from The New School Parsons.

Andrew oversees the ambient air quality monitoring and stationary data collection. In addition, he manages BEAT’s Berkshire Zero Waste Initiative and recycling programs. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies with a concentration in sustainability from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Berkshire Green Drinks is an informal gathering held

on the second Wednesday of each month, free and open to everyone with an interest in the environment. A guest speaker is invited to discuss an environmentally related topic for approximately 30 minutes, beginning at 6 p.m. The presentation is followed by a Question and Answer session and discussion. The presentation is also live-streamed through Zoom, where online participants can have their questions answered.

Berkshire Green Drinks is sponsored and organized by the Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT). This month’s Berkshire Green Drinks event is co-sponsored by Wander Berkshires. For more information regarding Berkshire Green Drinks, people may email [team@thebeatnews.org](mailto:team@thebeatnews.org), call 413- 464-9402 or visit [thebeatnews.org](http://thebeatnews.org).

Visit us at  
[www.turley.com](http://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.**

**FRESH PICKED FROM OUR FARM EVERY MORNING**

**E. Cecchi Farms** 1131 SPRINGFIELD STREET  
FEEDING HILLS, MASS. ☎ “Corn so fresh the ears still wiggle.”



# 3 EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY



## Don't miss a week of your Hometown News Source!

### PLEASE CONSIDER SUBSCRIBING

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



## Each week you will receive:

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

**1 online**

Use our website to securely subscribe 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:

- \$31 ..... 1 year in state
- \$36 ..... 1 year out of state
- \$46 ..... 2 year in state
- \$56 ..... 2 year out of state

CHECK ENCLOSED  CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

Please complete this form and mail it in a secure envelope to:

**3** Country Journal  
24 Water Street, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORTHINGTON

### Part of Old North Road will be closed

WORTHINGTON – Old North Road, (Route 143) will be closed between East Windsor and Bashan Hill Roads for 2-3 weeks beginning Monday, July 21, 2025.

The construction company has run into an unexpected problem while building a retaining wall, just west of East Windsor Road. In order to build the retaining wall, they are finding that there isn't enough stability to shore up a remaining travel lane to allow for a single lane of traffic at that point. So that portion of Old North Road will be closed while

they build the retaining wall. They hope to accomplish this in two weeks, but may take as long as three weeks.

Residents on either side of the construction, between East Windsor and Bashan Hill Roads will continue to have access from either side, but there will be no through traffic. So the detour will be up west bound, directing traffic down East Windsor Road and into the middle of Peru. East bound, traffic will be directed up Lindsay Hill Road, which will be open in each direction. The road is a narrow dirt road with sever-

al blind curves. Additional speed signs and caution signs to drive slowly will be up.

The next section of blasting, closer to the Peru line, will not take place, till after this work is completed. That's expected to happen in early August.

Also, the problem with the dip in the road around the fire pond, should be repaired soon.

If people have any questions or concerns, they may email the Select Board at [sboard@worthington-ma.us](mailto:sboard@worthington-ma.us) or call Charley Rose at 413-519-1731.

### Sevenars Academy presents cellist Inbal Segev on August 3

WORTHINGTON – Sevenars Academy, located just off 15 Ireland St. Route 112, presents Inbal Segev, in three Bach Cello Suites on Sunday, Aug. 3 at 4 p.m.

In 2024 she thrilled her audience with Bach's Suites Nos. 1,3, and 5 and now brings Sevenars Suites 2,4, and 6 after a busy season that has included concerto appearances, a premiere with the American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and touring

with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Inbal Segev's notable career began at age eight, playing for heads of state in her native Israel and by age sixteen she was invited by Isaac Stern to the U.S., where she continued her cello studies at Juilliard and Yale.

She made concerto debuts with the Berlin Philharmonic and Israel Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta and has

since appeared as soloist with countless leading orchestras, including the Orchestre National de Lyon, Dortmund Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, and others. Her Bach has gained special attention, as heard from New York's Lincoln Center and Metropolitan Museum, to the Shanghai Concert Hall and Jerusalem Theatre, as well as on recording for Vox Classics.

## CHESTER



Lucian learns about playing the guitar at a recent library event.



A large group of children participate in the Legos with Tayo at the Hamilton Memorial Library.

Submitted photos

### Hamilton Memorial Library lists events

CHESTER – Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., is half way through their Summer Reading Program and attendance has been great.

On Saturday, July 26 at 9 a.m. the next program is

Chester-wide scavenger hunt. The hunt will begin here at the Library. The children will learn where all the important places are located in Chester such as the police department, fire department, town hall etc. People should call 413-354-

7808 to sign up.

The library has story time every Thursday at 11 a.m. and at that same time there is a new baby focused program.

For people who have wanted to learn how to solve the Rubik's Cube, the library

is offering a How to Solve the Rubik's Cube program on Wednesday, July 30 at 4 p.m.. People may call to sign-up at 413-354-7808. The library will be closed on Saturday, Aug. 2. For more information, people may visit [chester.cwmars.org](http://chester.cwmars.org).

## FAIR

from page 1

and Boot Hill from 5-9 p.m.

Saturday features a lot of kids activities with a youth dairy and beef cattle show at 10 a.m., a kids/adult blueberry pie eating contest at 12:30; Ed Popielarczyk's magic show and balloon sculpting at 1:15 and again at 4 p.m., a kids pedal tractor pull at 2:30 p.m., Henry the Juggler at 3:15 p.m., and free kids face painting from noon to 3 p.m. The exhibit hall will close at 8 p.m.

Despite being the clos-

ing fair day, Sunday is also chock full of activities. Gates open at 7 a.m. and breakfast will be available at the food booth. Later on, a turkey dinner will be offered in the dining hall. First up on the day will be antique tractor pulls at 8 a.m. At 10 a.m., the exhibit hall will open, the sheep show will take place and horse pulls will begin. The beard competition will be judged at 11 a.m., zucchini contest weigh in at noon, and Jack

'n Jill cross cut saw contest at 1 p.m. Music includes the Pitoniak Brothers Band from 9-11:30 a.m. and Whiskey Traveler from 1-4 p.m. Ed Popielarczyk returns with shows at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Henry the Juggler performs again at 1 p.m. and free face painting will be offered from noon-3 p.m. A kids potato sack race will be held at 12:30 p.m. and mini horse pull later in the afternoon. Bobby Broga will give a bee keeping talk at 12:30

p.m. followed by a wool spinning demonstration. Exhibit winners and raffle drawings will be announced in the afternoon.

Other local fairs coming up include the Middlefield Fair (Aug. 8 – 10), Cummington Fair (Aug. 21-24), and the Blandford Fair and 3-County Fair in Northampton (Labor Day weekend). The season is capped off with the Big E in West Springfield from Sept. 12-28.

### COA hosts dream catcher craft event

CHESTER – The Council on Aging, located at 15 Middlefield Road, will host on Saturday, July 26 at 10 a.m. a dream catcher craft.

All are welcome, but they should call 413-354-7735 to reserve a spot. The COA held a hot dog potluck on Wednesday, July 23.

## BUCKLAND

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE



The Buckland Historical Society will hold an open house on Sunday, July 27 from 1-4 p.m. The Buckland Historical Society Museum, a former circa 1865 School House, now houses three floors of artifacts and town records 20 Upper St. The Joseph Wilder Homestead contains a furnished 1775 saltbox with five fireplaces, a restored 1790 English barn and a Shoemaker Shop 129, Rt. 112. Submitted photo

### TOWN OF CHESTER Highway Department Laborer-Truck Driver

Position open until filled. Please review the job posting at [TownofChester.net](http://TownofChester.net).

To apply for the position please email your resume and letter of interest to the [townadministrator@townofchester.net](mailto:townadministrator@townofchester.net)

Call 413-354-7760 for information.

### Park Administrator

Full-time Park Administrator for a large, over-55 mobile home community. Responsibilities include overseeing facilities and maintenance crew, as well as enforcement of cooperative rules. Individual would be expected to take an active role in day-to-day operations, in coordination with President, Board of Directors, maintenance crew and office staff.

Requirements include previous management experience; general knowledge of building, property and vehicle maintenance; excellent organizational, communications, and time-management skills.

Resumes can be sent to: **Pine Valley Plantation Cooperative, 281 Chauncey Walker St., OFC30, Belchertown, MA 01007** or emailed to [office@pvpco-op.com](mailto:office@pvpco-op.com) Attention: Richard Kelleher, President

Please include days and times that you would be available for an in-person interview.

**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

**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](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

**Turley Publications, Inc.**

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Town of Chester  
Conservation Commission  
Notice of Public Hearing  
Monday, August 11th, 2025  
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
in the COA Room**

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, the Chester Conservation Commission will review the following:

A **Notice of Intent** (WE# 131-0075) submitted by Jeff Smith, Salvini Associates LLC, on behalf of Joseph and Heidi Couture for a single-family home build and septic installation at 66 Crane Avenue.  
07/24/2025

**Town of Worthington  
Conservation Commission  
Notice of Public Hearing**

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Worthington Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing in response to a Request for Determination of Applicability regarding the proposed work associated with the construction of two pedestrian curb ramps to meet ADA/AAB standards for the eastern sidewalk at the State

Route 112 (Clark Road) bridge. The Hearing will be held **Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 7 PM** in the Selectboard meeting room at Town Hall, 160 Huntington Road.  
07/24/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC MEETING  
WILLIAMSBURG  
CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION,  
Williamsburg MA 01096**

The Williamsburg Conservation Commission, in accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, will hold a public meeting on: **Wednesday, August 06, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Meeting** (link posted on the agenda) to review a: Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by The Town of Williamsburg for the reclamation of roadways. The subject area or activity will be located from approximately 35 Village Hill Road to Old Goshen Road and from 0 Briar Hill Road to 20 Briar Hill Road.  
Nick J. Caccamo

07/24/2025

**Public Hearing Notice  
Russell  
Conservation Commission  
CSX Right of Way**

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, CSX, the applicant, filed a Request for Determination of Applicability with the Russell Conservation Commission to determine the wetland boundaries for the Vegetation Management Spray Restriction Plan as part of the railroads 2025-2029 Vegetation Management Plan. The plan covers the section of track in Russell which run from the Montgomery town line near Carrington Road to the Westfield town line near Route 90.

A **public hearing for this application will be held on Thursday, July 31, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the Russell Town Hall 66 Main Street, Russell, MA 01071**  
07/24/2025



## 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](http://newspapers.turley.com/photo-request)

**Our  
advertisers  
make this  
publication  
possible.**

*Let them know  
you saw their  
ad in the  
Country  
Journal*

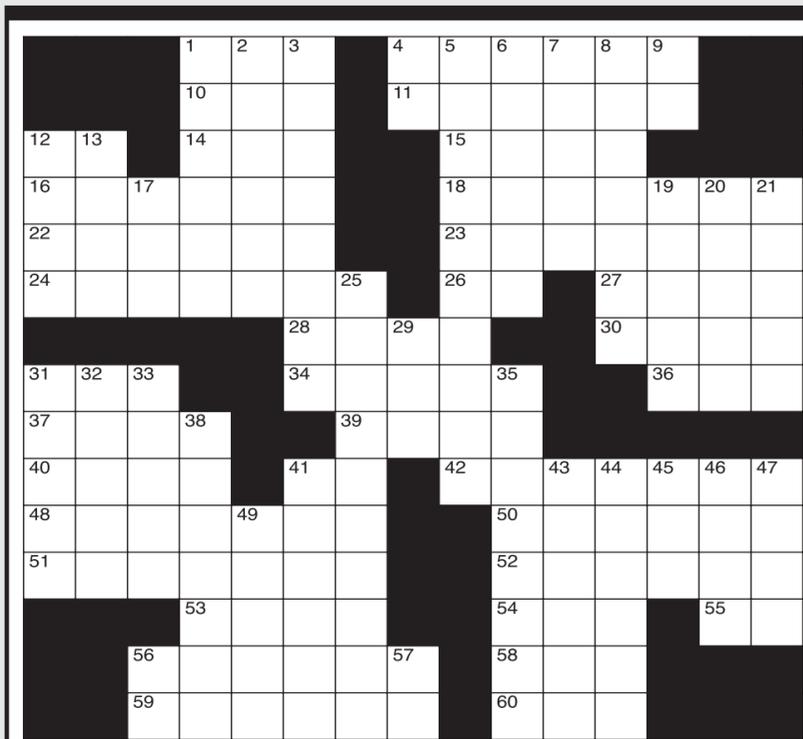
Country Journal  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Pacific Standard Time
- 4. Extracts through heating and melting
- 10. Express delight
- 11. More curvy
- 12. Expression of uncertainty
- 14. Indicates before
- 15. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- 16. Southwestern CA city
- 18. Unified
- 22. Less attractive
- 23. Base of jellies
- 24. A large and noisy party
- 26. He was traded for Luka
- 27. Wolverine genus
- 28. «Happy Days»

- actress Moran
- 30. Root of taro plant
- 31. Student environmental group (abbr.)
- 34. Silk garments
- 36. Unique power
- 37. Ray Liotta cop film
- 39. Leak slowly through
- 40. Notion
- 41. Atomic #55
- 42. Fixed in one place
- 48. About heat
- 50. Type of baseball pitch
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Large wading birds
- 53. Similar
- 54. Time zone
- 55. Atomic #34
- 56. Program
- 58. Old world, new

- 59. Contrary belief
- 60. «To the \_\_\_ degree»

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Plain-woven fabric
- 2. Classed
- 3. Suppositions
- 4. Midway between south and west
- 5. Tropical American trees
- 6. Leveled
- 7. Published false statement
- 8. Adolescent
- 9. Junior's father
- 12. Aurochs
- 13. Not low
- 17. Boxing's GOAT
- 19. Short musical composition
- 20. Small immature herrings
- 21. Eavesdropper
- 25. Parcels of land
- 29. Anger
- 31. Irritations
- 32. Hindu holy man
- 33. Wicker basket for fish
- 35. Natural object
- 38. Transporting in a vehicle
- 41. A dog is one
- 43. Smaller portion
- 44. Sew
- 45. Belonging to a thing
- 46. Horsley and Greenwood are two
- 47. Scottish language
- 49. Producer
- 56. Exclamation of surprise
- 57. Russian river

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**

Mar 21/Apr 20

The week kicks off with a surge of vitality and determination. You're eager to take action, and the universe backs you. It's a perfect week to push ahead with goals.

**CANCER**

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, a small act of courage pays off in a big way, and you'll find that trusting yourself leads to a fulfilling outcome this week. Embrace your instincts.

**LIBRA**

Sept 23/Oct 23

This week your relationships are in harmony, Libra. You're feeling strongly supported. Conversations flow with ease, and people are drawn to your warm personality.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec 22/Jan 20

Practical matters — especially career or finances — are looking up, Capricorn. A smart decision made now could lead to something even better down the line.

**TAURUS**

Apr 21/May 21

Creative energy flows in and a long-dormant idea may spark back to life, Taurus. You're in the right mindset to pursue something artistic and innovative. Reconsider a refreshing hobby.

**LEO**

Jul 23/Aug 23

Love and joy surround you, ideal for connecting with someone special or deepening an important bond, Leo. Your heart feels open, and good things are flowing your way.

**SCORPIO**

Oct 23/Nov 22

A milestone is within reach, and the progress you've made starts to emerge this week, Scorpio. Your persistence and inner fire have been guiding you forward.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you've had your eye on the prize for some time now, and the good news is that the finish line is within arm's length. Stick with things for just a little longer.

**GEMINI**

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you're in your element this week and buzzing with charm and curiosity. Engaging conversations abound. Opportunities to connect, both socially and professionally, come easily.

**VIRGO**

Aug 24/Sept 22

A chance to help or support someone brings a deeper sense of purpose. Kindness flows easily from you now, Virgo, and the gratitude you receive in return is both touching and inspiring.

**SAGITTARIUS**

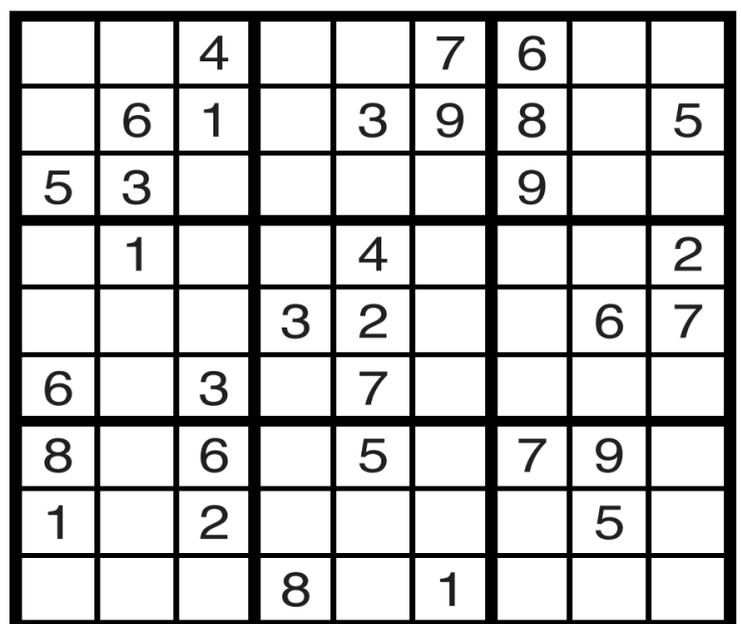
Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, a fresh perspective allows you to release old worries or doubts. This is a week of clarity and growth during which inspiration meets personal freedom.

**PISCES**

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you have been making some changes this week. Your perspective and surroundings at home have changed. This can be a refreshing endeavor.



## SUDOKU

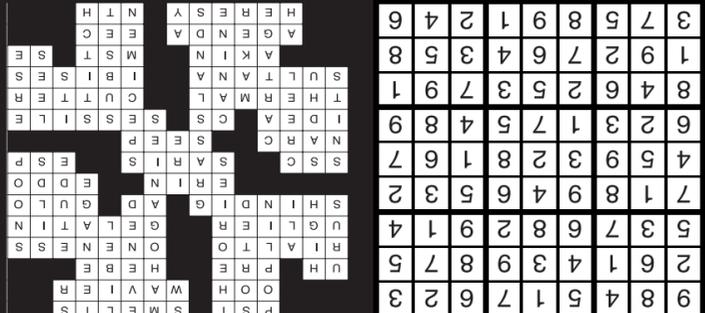
**Here's How It Works:**

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

**Fun By The Numbers**

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

**answers**



**WESTFIELD  
AUTO PARTS INC**  
**CARQUEST**  
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

# 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

**FIREWOOD**  
Fresh cut & split \$225.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

**PIANO FOR SALE**  
\$100 or best offer.  
Call Judy at 413-419-8263.

**NATIVE ULTIMATE 12 FISHING KAYAK:**  
Excellent Condition, always stored indoors. Adjustable seat, Scotty Rod Holders, Hummingbird fish finder, trolling motor, paddle, Stohlquist fishing vest, and many extras. \$600.  
Call Frank 413-537-5254

## WANTED

### WANTED TO BUY

#### 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

## 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

### LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Mini-splits, upgrades, pools, trustworthy & dependable. Luis Arroyo #20773A. Text or call 413-218-3301.

**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.  
Call John at (413)206-6509

## EXCAVATING

**ELIOT STARBARD EXCAVATION**  
35+ yrs of happy customers.  
508-882-0140

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

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

**WALKER HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
Interior and exterior  
Finish carpentry, framing, window & door replacement, drywall, painting and decks. Competitive pricing. Insured.  
Call Brendan at 413-687-5552.

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

## SERVICES

### LANDSCAPING

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

**\*\*ALL SEASON\*\*** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

### MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

Weekly Mowing  
Landscape design and installation  
Paver Patios, Walkways  
For more services visit  
mattguertinlandscaping.com  
Call or text 413-266-9975  
Insured - Commercial - Residential

## LAWN & GARDEN

**\*COMPOSTED LOAM\* 3/8"** screened, \$40/yd. deliv., 10 yd min., No additives, fillers or by-products. Local deliv. to Oakham and surrounding towns only. Eliot Starbard 508-882-0140.

## 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

### CAJ MASONRY HARDSCAPE RETAINING WALLS

Chimney Repair  
Foundation Repair  
Steps, Patios  
Pool Surrounds  
Pressure Washing  
Water Proofing  
Cord Wood

Brian French  
(413) 222-5542  
frenchyn@gmail.com

## SERVICES

### PLUMBING

**GREG LAFOUNTAIN 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

## 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

## TUNE-UPS

**LAWN TRACTOR & MOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR**  
**A&M TUNE-UPS**  
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.  
Work done at your home.  
**STUMP GRINDING**  
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT  
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

## STUMP GRINDING

**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

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



**SAW Stump Grinding**  
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured  
WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM  
413-213-5470

## AUTO

**CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS**  
FREE TOWING  
FAST SERVICE  
CASH PAID AS IS  
CALL OR TEXT  
413-219-6839

## HELP WANTED

### Full Time Position OIL BURNER SERVICE TECH

MA Oil Burner Tech License required. Full Time position with benefits and vacation. Local service area, no cities. Potential signing bonus based on experience. Call Sherman Oil to inquire. 508-867-7447 or email shermanoil@aol.com.

**HOUSEKEEPER.** Monday and Friday, 5 hours each day. Duties include cleaning, ironing, washing. Send resume to **PO Box 8, Hampden, MA 01036.**

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

THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON IS SEEKING A PART-TIME TREASURER.

\$20,384 - \$23,110 annual salary based on experience. Approximately 16 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us). Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest and resumes from qualified candidates for a full-time **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** position within the Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

More in-depth information can be found on the Town's website: [www.worthington-ma.us](http://www.worthington-ma.us)  
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to [highway@worthington-ma.us](mailto:highway@worthington-ma.us) and [sboard@worthington-ma.us](mailto:sboard@worthington-ma.us). This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.  
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Post your job openings in our classifieds.  
**WE GET RESULTS!**

## HELP WANTED

### TRUCK DRIVER/LABORER

The Town of Peru Highway Department is now accepting applications for the position of **Truck Driver/Laborer**. Preferred applicants will have a valid Class B CDL, Class 2A Hoisting license, and a current DOT Physical card. Construction and mechanical experience preferred. Must be able to work in all weather conditions. Position is full time 40hrs/week with mandatory overtime during snowstorms. Excellent benefits.  
Email resume to: [townadmin@townofperu.com](mailto:townadmin@townofperu.com) or mail to **Town of Peru, Board of Selectmen, 3 East Main Rd. Suite 107, Peru MA 01235.** For additional information contact the Highway Superintendent at (413) 655-8224. (The Town of Peru is an equal opportunity employer).

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT

**4 ROOMS, 2 BEDROOMS,** 1.5/baths, appliances included. \$1500/mo. No utilities. 1st/last/security. References and proof of income required. Call 413-589-0401.



### 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.

**WARE: 3 BDRM.,** quiet dead end street. Refrig/stove/off-street parking. \$1300/mo. First/last. (508) 723-2638.

## 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.

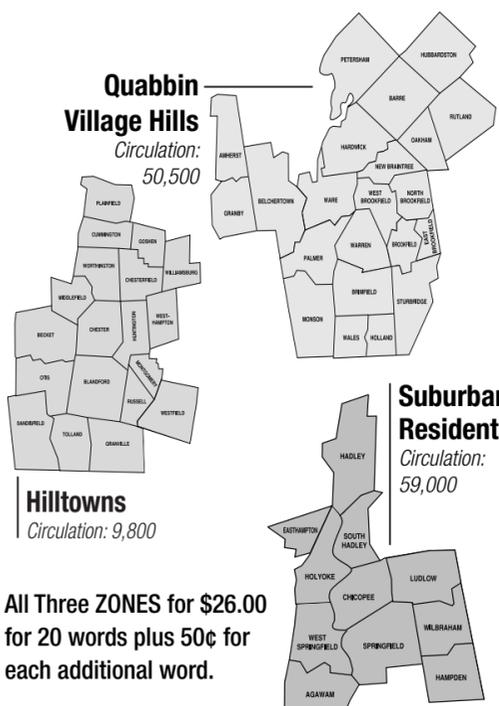
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban 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.

## 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 Base Price \$26.00 |
| 21 Base Price \$26.50 | 22 Base Price \$27.00 | 23 Base Price \$27.50 | 24 Base Price \$28.00 |
| 25 Base Price \$28.50 | 26 Base Price \$29.00 | 27 Base Price \$29.50 | 28 Base Price \$30.00 |
| 29 Base Price \$30.50 | 30 Base Price \$31.00 | 31 Base Price \$31.50 | 32 Base Price \$32.00 |
| 33 Base Price \$32.50 | 34 Base Price \$33.00 | 35 Base Price \$33.50 | 36 Base Price \$34.00 |
| 37 Base Price \$34.50 | 38 Base Price \$35.00 | 39 Base Price \$35.50 | 40 Base Price \$36.00 |

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: \_\_\_\_\_



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

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

## CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

FRIDAY AT NOON



**STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!**  
Subscribe Today!

**Turley Publications, Inc.**  
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS  
413.283.8393  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069

# OTIS

## Otis Library lists July events

OTIS – Otis Library, 48 North Main Road, will host Ed the Wizard on Thursday, July 24 at 5 p.m. People should register at the library. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, a local agency that is sup-

ported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. A balloon twisting story time with Brie's Balloons will take place Wednesday, July 30 at 10:30 a.m. This is a special puppy themed story-time. There will also be games and an art activity.

Each child will receive a balloon to take home. Ballons contain latex so those with an allergy should not touch them. Registration is required by emailing info@otislibraryma.org or calling 413-269-0109 or 413-269-0100 extension 117.

## COA announces news, events

OTIS – The Council on Aging Director Karen Yvon announced upcoming events through Thursday, Aug. 7 at the Senior Center. The Senior Center will be open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Events include on Monday, July 28 at 10:30 a.m. exercise class; Wednesday, July 30 from 9-11 a.m. food pantry; July

30 ad Food Bank of West Massachusetts will give a free food demo; Monday, Aug. 4 at 10:30 a.m. exercise class; Monday, Aug. 4 traveling hairdresser here – call number below for appointments (open to everyone); Tuesday, Aug. 5 trip to Log Cabin to see Neil Diamond; Wednesday, Aug. 6 from 9-11 a.m.

food pantry; Wednesday, Aug. 6 from 9:30-10:30 an, Tri-town health blood pressures; Wednesday, Aug. 6 at 1:30 p.m. grief counseling and Thursday, Aug. 7 out to lunch at noon at Feng Ye, 76 Franklin St. in Westfield. For more information, people may call 413-269-0100 extension 5.

## OPD holds school supplies drive

OTIS – The Otis Police Department is holding a school supplies drive to assist local students.

Students are in need of new backpacks, lunch/snack bags, reusable water bottles, boxes of tissues, Ticonderoga pencils, My First Ticonderoga pencils, crayons 24 count boxes, colored pencils 12 count packs, colored markers 12 count packs, colored pens, Highlighters (on yellow),

pencil boxes/pouches, glue sticks, index cards, sticky notes, black dry erase markers (thick and thin size), solid colored two pocket folders (red, yellow, green, orange, blue), hand held pencil sharpeners, 1" binders (hard cover), 3" binders (hard cover), three ring binder pencil pouch, three ring binder dividers with tabs and three wing binder paper both wide rule lined

and graph paper. Collection will take place now through Monday, Aug. 11. Drop off locations are Otis Town all and Papa's Food and Fuel. Distribution is Thursday, Aug. 14 from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Otis Town Hall. The above supplies, snacks and more will be available to pick up. All families are welcome.

# FLORENCE

## Alissa Fuller receives Community Support Award

FLORENCE – The Florence Bank announced it recently presented its 2025 Community Support Award to Alissa Fuller of Ware, a compliance and Community Reinvestment Act officer since 2022.

The Community Support Award was established by the bank in 1997 as a means of formally recognizing team members, who are active in the community and give their personal and professional time to local nonprofit organizations.

Each year, the award recipient selects an organization of his/her choice and the bank donates \$500 to that organization on the recipient's behalf. Fuller chose to support The Care Center in Holyoke because she applauds its mission.

She supports many other nonprofits in the region with her time, serving on the advisory council for the Ronald McDonald House of Springfield; as a volunteer for the Amherst Survival Center, the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and Community Action Pioneer Valley, where she assists

with tax preparation.

Fuller has 25 years of banking experience and has served in other roles, including loan operations manager. She oversees Florence Bank's overall compliance program and ensures adherence to federal and state regulations as well as the CRA regulation, which requires the bank to meet the credit needs within the communities it serves, particularly in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. She has an associate degree in business administration from New England College of Business and Finance. In 2022, she obtained fair lending expert certification from Tuscan Club University.

"Alissa is a team member we are proud of as she has proven herself to be an active volunteer who supports area nonprofits and those they serve," said Matt Garrity, president and CEO of Florence Bank. "She is well-deserving of the Community Support Award."

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer



Alissa Fuller receives Community Support Award. Submitted photo

Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield and Springfield.

# EASTHAMPTON

## bankESB promotes Judy Taylor to credit analyst officer

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB recently promoted Judy Taylor to commercial credit analyst officer, based at its 241 Northampton St., office.

Taylor of Southampton, has 14 years of banking experience. She joined bank-

ESB in 2021 as a commercial credit analyst II and was promoted to commercial credit analyst III in 2024. Before joining the bank, she was a KPMG auditor, worked at State Street Bank as an accounting officer, and worked at Bank of America

(formerly Fleet Bank) as a manager in the financial analysis and reporting department.

She was also employed for twenty years in various roles by the Holyoke Public Schools, with her most recent title being the

district's communications director. In her new role, she will be underwriting bankESB's most complex commercial loan requests, mentoring other analysts and will ensure overall safety and soundness of the commercial portfolio.

Taylor earned a bachelor's degree in business management with a focus in accounting from Westfield State University and a master's degree from Lesley University. She also holds a CPA license and attended the Massachusetts Bankers

School of Commercial Lending, earning a certificate in credit analysis. She is a longtime volunteer for the Our Lady of the Valley Weekend Meals Program and member of the Southampton Cultural Council.

# Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

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

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

**Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.**

## Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Location \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

**Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069**  
 or email\* them to: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

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