

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." – Abraham Lincoln

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

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CHESTER

Littleville Fair *sure to be fun*

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

This year's Littleville Fair will showcase its historic favorites while adding several new events, including line dancing with Stompin Boots; Family Jungle, a reptile and exotic bird exhibit; a bee talk with Bob Broga, a cow plop, and a wool spinning demonstration.

Fairgrounds will also feature a new dunk tank along with the new bath house.

This family-friendly agricultural fair runs Friday, Aug. 2, Saturday, Aug. 3 and Sunday, Aug. 4 at the Littleville Fairgrounds, located at 15 Kinnebrook Road. Admission is still \$10 with ages 12 and under free. There will be 50/50 raffles all three days.

This year's schedule, subject to change, begins on Friday, Aug. 2 with gates opening at 4 p.m. and a 4-H petting zoo and pony rides taking place all evening. Three events begin at 5 p.m.: two classes of oxen draws, the truck pull weigh in with a 6 p.m. start and line dancing with Stompin' Boots, which runs until 8 p.m. Bingo will take place in the dining hall



The Littleville Fair is a family-friendly agricultural fair in Chester, taking place Aug. 2 - 4 this year.

Submitted photo

FAIR, page 6

HUNTINGTON

Storm dampens Select Board meeting

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Despite a meticulously laid out agenda for their meeting on July 17, the Huntington Select Board was forced to take numerous items out of order, as those with appointments had to cope with downed trees and wires during a severe thunderstorm.

Appointments scheduled with Police Chief Robert Garriepy, Highway Superintendent Brad Curry and Fire Chief Josh Ellinger were interrupted by emergency calls and a need for the department heads to respond personally or send out personnel.

Police Chief Garriepy reported to the scene of a downed tree on Route 112 and was unable to return to the meeting. Curry and Ellinger were able to send other personnel and complete their business with the Select Board.

This meeting also marked the first meeting of newly elected Select Board member John McVeigh, who returns

MEETING, page 2

EASTHAMPTON

Veterans event highlights family fun and service members

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

The Coalition for Veteran Wellness hosted their first family Summer Vet Fest on Sunday, July 21 in Nonotuck Park.

Over 100 vets and their families enjoyed food, activities and games designed to offer support and build community. Kids got their faces painted and dashed about the event on a scavenger hunt. Local veterans services organizations were on hand to supply information on recreation, housing, mental health support services and healthcare.

Steve Connor, a housing specialist for Central

Hampshire Veterans Services was dressed as a clown but his work is no laughing matter. Their first priority "is to get veterans into subsidized housing followed by offering appropriate services for mental health and substance abuse if those are issues." Just getting transportation to these services can be an issue. "We're often the first door for veterans," he says. He noted that veterans services in Massachusetts dates back to Chapter 115, a state law passed in 1861 that "provides for all the things veterans are supposed to receive: housing, clothing and food for them and their survivors." He says that his work can be tough but

is punctuated with "victories where we see veterans get on their feet."

Steve Jones, a Marine Corp veteran of Iraq presented the work of the 501(c)3 he founded, Warriors Art Room. Over the past eight years the non-profit has provided 1,200 veterans with art therapy at their location on Pleasant Street in Easthampton. Post deployment he struggled with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and had a turning point in an abstract art class he took at Holyoke Community College with renowned professor Dean Nimmer.



Tom Geryk, Veterans Agent for the Town of Easthampton with Michelle Murdock, Veterans Service Officer for the town of Southamton provided information on services available to veterans.

Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel

VETERANS, page 7



PAGE 6

Becket.....8	Classifieds.....14, 15	Middlefield.....8	Plainfield.....13
Blandford.....10	Easthampton.....7	Northampton.....7	Public Notices.....12
Buckland.....11	Florence.....8	Obituaries.....12	Puzzle Page.....13
Business Directory.....3	Goshen.....11	Opinion.....4, 5	Sandisfield.....11
Chester.....10	Hilltowns.....6	Otis.....8	Schools & Youth.....10
Chesterfield.....11	Huntington.....2, 3	Pittsfield.....15	Worthington.....13



HUNTINGTON



The women of the Huntington Evangelical Church Women's Guild supplied home baked desserts. *Submitted photo*



Acoustic country musician Greg Hall performed with harmonica player Miguel Santiago on Thursday, Aug. 18. *Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel*

Concert series continues Thursdays through Aug. 22

HUNTINGTON – Each Thursday through Aug. 22 on the town green in Huntington, free concerts are being held.

The music ranges from classic country to alternative rock and each concert is held from 6:30-8 p.m. Local community organizations supply food,

lawn chairs or picnic blankets are suggested and children are welcome. On Thursday, July 18 Western Mass acoustic country musician Greg Hall

played guitar with Miguel Santiago on harmonica. For full details, go to the Huntington MA Events Committee's Facebook page.

MEETING

from page 1

to the board after a hiatus and the election of Roger Booth as the board's new Chairman. Booth replaces Ed Renaud, who served a number of terms on the Select Board and many years as chairman.

Curry provided updates to the board on highway department issues, including a review of funding from Chapter 90 and the state's "fair share" allotment of \$100,000. His department has sought bids on repairing the roadway through the town's transfer station, which is in poor condition and has led to several injuries among residents in the past few years, Curry said. Different bidders had various approaches to the problem and Curry and the Select Board decided on the best way forward. Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin will work with Curry on putting out new specs for this project to invite comparable bids.

Curry also proposed paving Allen Coit Road, which he said is one of the worst streets in town. After discussion and with input from Selectman Bill Hathaway, who has road construction experience and serves as the board's liaison to the highway department, it was agreed to proceed with a binder or base coat for a year and see how it holds up after winter. Funding for the tarring (from the total proposed \$260,000 will be held until spring to see if it is required. Select Board members, Curry and Peloquin have also scheduled a ride along on Wednesday, Aug. 24 to prioritize road patching needs and will look at Goss Hill, Skyline, Searle, Littleville, County, Bromley and Blandford Hill Roads. Curry reported that Blandford Hill is among the worst of these, but the town is waiting for a logging operation to finish up so they can work from the final damages.

In other news, Curry reported that the recently repaired mower still has issues and shuts down after an hour. It restarts once it has cooled down. Line painting has been postponed due to weather.

Truck #2-which would have been replaced this year had a ballot question passed at Annual Town Meeting has a number of safety issues that will cost an estimated \$85,000 to repair. Hathaway concurred that they have no choice and the repair was unanimously approved.

Karen and Barre Lucas were heard at the meeting. Karen has been a paramedic for 25 years and at one time worked for the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association. Barre Lucas is currently employed there. Karen Lucas has been asked to become an "at large"



Returning after some years away, Select Board member John McVeigh attended his first meeting of this term of office; Roger Booth was elected Chairman of the Huntington Select Board. *Turley photo by Wendy Long*

member of the HCAA Board, which required approval of the Select Board. The board or town administrator will consult with Huntington's board member John Garriepy for input. This decision was tabled until the next meeting.

The Lucas's, whose two children were present, also spoke to the board about speeding on the 25 m.p.h. section of Route 112, near intersections with Bromley Road and Littleville Road. They reported that cars have ended up in their front yard twice, with one involved in a rollover. Children are crossing Route 112 from the Mountain View neighborhood in order to walk to school; as they are within one mile of the Gateway complex, bussing is not available. They had called Mass DOT for assistance and were informed that it was a local issue. They consulted with Police Chief Garriepy about it; the town has secured a mobile speed limit sign, but they said Garriepy told them he has to get a permit to put that sign out on a state highway. Peloquin added that the sign first has to be placed on County and Montgomery Roads, which were determined to have the highest number of speeding infractions. This has been delayed by some technology issues. She said that she and Garriepy had spoken to Mass DOT and secured two 25 mph signs for that section, which have been installed.

McVeigh said that area, along with Bromley Road, should be declared a school zone, but Booth pointed out that would only reduce the speed limit by 5 mph. Also of concern is that children are currently crossing and walking along Route 112 to get to the summer programs offered at Gateway.

Booth suggested that this issue go onto the next meeting agenda to discuss enforcement options with Garriepy present.

Ellinger, who also had to be excused to dispatch firefighters and first responders to several road closures-returned to the board to discuss a volunteer firefighter, who recently turned age 65. In Massachusetts, the mandatory retirement age for firefighters is 65; however, it is not clear if this includes volunteer firefighters. Ellinger would like to have the town's legal counsel look into this and also seek input from the department's insurance providers MIAA and CHUBB. Ellinger said that town counsel's interpretation would be fine with him, either way. He just needs to write a policy for the Fire Department that is consistent with the law.

Ellinger also reported that he only has two quotes for the fire department's trailer purchase, despite requesting bids from seven different companies.

In other business, the state has approved the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License for The Rapids Restaurant, which the board unanimously approved and signed. Booth was named the signatory on Community Development Block Grants. The board authorized Peloquin to sign Asplundh Tree Expert LLC's contract for FY'25, as soon as it is received. Hourly rates will be \$222.52 for tree removal; \$148.22 for stump grinding and \$208.20 for wood chipping.

Peloquin provided an update on the sewer back-up at town hall, which occurred recently. The town's insurer MIAA has a contract with Service Master, which has been working on the

clean up and repair. The main bathroom floors will need to be replaced, along with up to four feet of the bathroom walls down to the studs. Employees will be able to use Stanton Hall bathrooms while these repairs are being done. There will be no access to bathrooms for the public until further notice unless people are attending an event at Stanton Hall.

McVeigh also suggested that they look at getting documents that are stored in the basement to a more secure space. He said that during Hurricane Irene they came about a foot away from having the basement flooded. Curry mentioned that Blandford and Sandisfield recently got approval from the state to archive records digitally.

Booth reported that the Timothy Hill Ranch at Norwich Lake Retreat no longer has their 501(c)3 tax status. They may still qualify for tax exemption if they are under the umbrella of a religious organization; however, if they are renting out rooms or cottages as an Air B & B, the town may be able to collect a tax. The board unanimously agreed to have this examined further by town counsel and/or the assessors.

Approval was granted to replace a second computer in the Town Clerk's office, using \$1,000 from the IT account. Peloquin will get the format for the window specs for the town library to Booth. North Hall reported that their water was tested this spring and does not meet drinking water standards. They are providing bottled water at their events and have posted signs to not drink from the faucets. Booth suggested Peloquin find out whether or not they ran the water when the system was reopened after six months, before getting the sample to be tested.

Peloquin presented the final warrants from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for improvements to Crescent Street and Stanton Hall. Also the financial assistance application for the Clean Water grant was submitted and accepted. Finally, the assistant to the highway department would like to stay in that part-time role, despite taking an additional school-year position in another town. Working from home has been allowed for another part-time employee. Peloquin proposed doing this on a trial basis to see if it can work out.

This will be further discussed at the Wednesday, Aug. 14 Select Board meeting with the employee and Highway Superintendent present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m. The Huntington Select Board will meet on Wednesday, July 31 at 5 p.m. at Town Hall.

HUNTINGTON

JIM BLANCH AND BOOT HILL OPENED SUMMER MUSIC SERIES



There was a large audience for the opening night at the Huntington Summer Music series on the Town Green. Photos by Pat Greenhalgh



The band Jim Blanch and Boot Hill performed at the July 11 concert in Huntington.

Summer reading program begins at library Aug. 2

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Public Library will host a party for children taking part in this summer’s Read, Renew, Repeat program.

All children, who have taken part, are invited to attend on Saturday, Aug. 17 at noon. Eco-friendly snacks will be offered and children can exercise their creativity by making their own upcycled comic book masks. Readers will also receive a certificate of achievement for their summer reading.

Also in August, a children’s craft hour will be held on Fridays at 11 a.m. On Aug. 2, children will make a flying fish craft; on Aug. 9, a polar bear craft and on Aug. 16, an axolotl puppet craft. If this is a new term for you, it means a type of salamander that does not morph into a land animal at adulthood; it stays aquatic and gilled.

On Thursday, Aug. 8, another craft will be offered as patrons recycle puzzle pieces into beautiful tree wall art. This begins at 4:30 p.m. and is geared for people aged 13 and up. To ensure enough materials for everybody, people should call 413-512-5206 to sign up.

An introduction to nature journaling workshop will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 4:30 p.m.. Learn the basics and create your own, unique journal. People may call the library at 413-512-5206 in advance to sign up; this activity is also for patrons aged 13 and up.

The library’s two book clubs will reconvene. The Cookbook Club will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 5 p.m. If the dog days of summer are getting people down, they may cool off at the library where they’ll share fun, dog-inspired recipes. It’s a great way to beat the heat and enjoy some delicious treats.

The regular Book Club resumes on Thursday, Sept. 5 at 4:30 p.m. The first book will be “The Wager” by David Grann, who also wrote “Killers of the Flower Moon.” This #1 New York Times bestseller is a story of shipwreck, mutiny and survival and is based on the true story about the HMS Wager and events off the coast of Chile from 1741. Copies may be picked up at the library while available, ordered through interlibrary loan or borrowed digitally through Libby.

For more information on these events, or to offer suggestions for upcoming programs, people may call 413-512-5206 or email library@huntingtonma.us.

Schoolhouse museum holds open house July 28

HUNTINGTON – Norwich Bridge Schoolhouse museum located near 72 Worthington Road, will hold an open house on Sunday, July 28 from 1-4 p.m.

People will take a step back in time

and visit this old-time one room schoolhouse. They will explore the collections of books, documents, maps, artifacts, tools and other historical items. Light refreshments will be served.

Summer music series continues

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Community Events weekly summer music series will continue on Thursday July 25 with Otan Vargas performing from 6:30-8 p.m. and the bake sale will be hosted by It Takes a Village.

Thursday, Aug. 1 musical performance on the Huntington town green will be by local musicians of Woodford Way. Western Massachusetts based Blues/Folk duo Woodford Way is the brainchild of singer/songwriter Kyle Mangini and guitarist Jeff Lynch.

Influenced heavily by James Taylor, Paul Simon, and Bob Dylan, Woodford Way blends narrative driven folk tunes with well-crafted pop gems that jump into the ears of listeners and tell a unique, individual, and compelling story that is all their

own. Woodford Way returns to the Huntington series from their performance in 2016

Bake sale will be provided by the Huntington Food Pantry. The Huntington Food Pantry serves qualifying residents within the Gateway Regional School District. Located at 63 Old Chester Road in Huntington at the PVAG church, the pantry is open on Thursdays to the community.

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

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Should I retire at 65 or 67? And what about earnings and taxes?

Dear Rusty:

I'm just trying to figure out how to determine whether to retire at 65 or 67 and, if I retire, approximately how much could I make outside of my Social Security without being overly taxed.

Signed: Thinking About Retiring

Dear Thinking:

Deciding when to retire is serious business, because it affects your future and what your retirement income will be going forward. Thus, it's good you are taking the time to fully understand your options and we're happy to assist you with that. Here are some things which should help you decide whether to retire at 65 or 67.

Social Security benefits are subject to income tax by the IRS if your combined income from all sources, which includes your Adjusted Gross Income on your tax return, plus half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year, exceeds certain thresholds for your income tax filing status. If you file your income tax as "married/jointly" and your combined income from all sources is more than \$32,000, then 50% of your received SS benefits are subject to income tax at your normal IRS tax rate. But if your combined income as a married couple is more than \$44,000, then 85% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. FYI, the taxation thresholds are lower for those, who file taxes as an individual, \$25,000 and \$34,000 respectively.

Born in 1960 or later, your Full Retirement Age for Social Security's purposes is 67. If you claim SS benefits before your FRA, not only will your monthly amount be permanently reduced, but you'll also be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit changes annually, but for 2024 it is \$22,320, future year's limits will be a bit higher each year.

If your work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in ben-

SECURITY, page 5

Corrections policy

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

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

When Kids move out to attend college... When Kids move back in after graduation...



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GUEST COLUMN

July questions for the Garden Lady



Michelle, who is enjoying the gardens in her new home in Worthington, sent the Garden Lady a picture of a spiky leafed plant that produces strong stems of creamy-white bell shaped flowers.

She asked for the plant to be identified and also wanted some tips on caring for the unidentified species.

The plant that Michelle discovered growing in her new landscape is Yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*), also known by the common names Adam's Needle or Ghost Lily. The plant produces basal foliage that is stiff, long and sharp to the touch due to needle-like tips.

Arising from the center of the plant are stems that carry the flowers. They can range up to eight feet tall.

It's my theory that the tall flower-covered stems must give it a ghostly appearance by the light of the moon, hence where it gets its other common name. Thread-like filaments line the leaves, giving it the species name "filamentosa."

These threads provide added interest in the landscape.

As long as it isn't planted in dense shade or moist soil, the Yucca can grow in just about any difficult spot that you can imagine. Animals won't touch it. Salt spray won't affect it.

Your soil, as long as it's of neutral pH can even be of poor quality. Your choice spot can also be droughty and hot.

It requires very little in the maintenance department other than cutting away brown leaves and flower stalks that have gone by. More severe pruning is only needed if the plant is growing out of bounds.

Sometimes Yuccas produce a branch



Yucca

– this can be pruned away so that the basal foliage remains the center of attention.

It was interesting to learn that the Yucca moth pollinates the plant at night. I read that they have a relationship whereby the moths only let an appropriate number of seeds become viable.

Nature is so amazing, isn't it?

Fruits that form are toxic to cats, dogs and horses but apparently not to humans, although don't take my word for it!

Enjoy your Yucca plant and all of the discoveries a new landscape affords.

Here is another question for the Garden Lady – this time involving the strawberry. Melissa is curious why the leaves of her strawberry plants have red blotches on them and if it is something she needs to worry about.

She noted that she just installed new plants in an area where old strawberry plants were recently removed.

This problem is a common one, especially with the weather we've been experiencing. I tackled it once before and the advice still holds true! Read on.

GARDEN, page 5

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.

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

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

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

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

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

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Early this week I saw two scarlet tanagers on the ground in my daughter's driveway.

As I drove in, they flew up. The red of the male was clearly visible. I think the second bird was either a juvenile or a female. It has been years since I have seen a scarlet tanager. The previous sighting was one along the side of the road near my house.

The scarlet tanager is about seven inches long. The male is scarlet red as the name implies with black wings and tails. The female is yellowish below and greenish above with grayish brown wings. The juvenile male has patches of red and yellow with dark brown wings and tail. The juvenile female is like the adult female.

They feed on the ground where I spotted these two and in foliage. They eat insects and wild berries. The female lays two to five pale blue green eggs with brown dots in a nest of twigs, grasses and rootlets placed in at tree from five to 75 feet above the ground.

Scarlet tanagers inhabit mature, deciduous forests. Tanagers are often



Male scarlet tanager

heard rather than seen despite the males bright red when in the forest canopy. They make a two part whistle "zureet zeyeer zeeroo." Their call is a metallic "chip."

Other birds

This past weekend while traveling on Route 122 in Barre, I saw three great blue heron fly over. I often see a lone wild turkey on New Braintree Road in Oakham.

Whippoorwills

I received two more comments about whippoorwills since the last column. A Pelham resident sent an email. He said, "I live in Pelham and hear an eastern whippoorwill most nights around 8:30. It's a beautiful call."



Whippoorwill

A Brimfield resident, who regularly sends emails about birds in his area, also had a comment about the whippoorwill. He said, "I saw you most recent column where you wrote about a woman reporting whippoorwills. We built our house in Brimfield in 1981 and during the summer of 1984 we heard whippoorwills calling behind the house all summer. Unfortunately they have never returned."

Brimfield birds

In the most recent email from the Brimfield resident, he said, "In the yard I have started to see young birds recently out of their nests. Three juvenile Baltimore orioles were following an adult male around the yard, also juvenile cardinal (dark bill), male hairy

woodpecker (red on top of it head), blue jays (young begging with quivering wings) and towhee have been seen recently. House wren and great crested flycatcher used nesting boxes in the yard and the young have fledged."

Birds near water

The Brimfield resident frequently checks local ponds. He reported the common grackle nesting in a tree cavity, kingbird, chickadee and tree swallow with nests he watched at a pond in Warren all fledged their young.

He also keeps track of four great blue heron nests and said the first nesting herons to start incubating fledged their young a week ago. The other three nests still have young herons in them. He also watches an osprey nest, which has three chicks. He said, "About a week ago on a very hot and sunny day I saw that the adult on the nest was spreading its wings to provide shade for the chicks. I watched the nest for over an hour and the adult kept its wings spread the entire time trying to provide shade for the young birds." He said the young stay around the pond for awhile after fledging, sometimes until late August.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

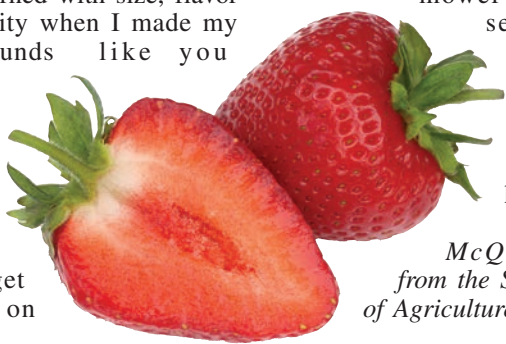
GARDEN

What you describe sounds like leaf spot fungus to me. All of the recent rain apparently awakened some spores from your previous strawberry growing experiences, and the awful humidity set it on its course.

I assessed my own patch and sure enough I too am afflicted! Had I put more thought into my garden I would have ordered resistant varieties, but alas, I was more concerned with size, flavor and freezing ability when I made my selection – it sounds like you were too!

Rest assured that most of the experts usually consider this a cosmetic problem.

To try and get the upper hand on



leaf spot, remove affected leaves and put them in the trash. Provide plenty of air flow by thinning away extra runners as recommended and avoid overhead watering.

Not that we can help what Mother Nature dishes out, since it has been coming from "on high" by the bucket of late!

Next year after harvest, renovate your strawberry patch with the lawn mower on an elevated setting. Rake up and get rid of the chopped leaves, thin out the patch and watch as it grows back happy and healthy.

Robert a McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University

from page 4

of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

SECURITY

from page 4

efits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They take away by withholding future benefits for as many months as necessary for them to recover what you owe for exceeding the annual limit. FYI, the limit goes up during the year you attain FRA, and the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

If you claim SS before your FRA, your monthly amount will be permanently reduced. If you claim at age 65, you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. If you claim at age 66, your monthly amount would be about 93% of your FRA entitlement and, by claiming at 67 you'll get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

The reductions for early claiming are permanent reductions except for the Annual Cost of Living Adjustments. Note that you can also delay longer than your FRA to get an even larger benefit amount; you can delay up to age 70 when your maximum benefit is reached. Just remember, the earnings test, as described above, will apply if you claim SS before your FRA and you are still working.

If your plan is to continue to work full time, be aware that if you claim early

SS and significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits. If your work income is high enough that the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit is more than SS can recover through withheld benefits in one year, they will tell you that you're unable to collect benefits at this time, until you either earn less or reach your FRA. So, deciding whether to claim Social Security at 65 or 67 is your personal choice and, hopefully, the above provides the information you need to make an informed decision.

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

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HILLTOWNS

HILLTOWN FAMILY CENTER OFFERS CHILDREN PROGRAMS



Three little girls at SprayPad: The Hilltown Family Center families cooled off on a field trip to the Westfield Spray Pad.

Submitted photo



Children stand in line with instructor in colorful tube. Families enjoy movement and music with the Hilltown Family Center's Creative Movement with Laural Lenski funded through a Mass Cultural Council through the town of Blandford and the CFCE grant through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Hilltown History Trail brings centuries of village work to life

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

Chances are if you have ever been to a historical society in New England you think of dusty, cracked-leather tomes and musty portraits of stern white ancestors.

Judging by the participating buildings and societies in the Hilltown History Trail's fourth annual regional event, there is so much more to experience beyond just books. Take in an intact doctor's office left precisely as it was in 1850 as if the doctor just stepped out for tea at the office of Dr. Samuel Shaw in the Shaw-Hudson House in Plainfield. "Shop" in a one-room store with complete sections for fabric, canned goods and the local post office at the Kingman Tavern in Cummington.

Experience a one-room shoemaker's workshop and store on the grounds of the Wilder Homestead in Buckland. See the horse-drawn sled that used to take children to school when winters were so much colder at the barn in Cummington.

The fourth annual Hilltown History

Trail in the Hilltowns of Western Massachusetts will take place Saturday, Aug. 3 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hilltown historical societies in Ashfield, Buckland, Cummington, Plainfield and Shelburne Falls open their museum doors to the public. And while these locations typically have very sporadic opening hours, on this one day a year all six are open for ease of exploring. The event is free, but donations are encouraged at the various locations.

"So many residents go by and never know what is inside," says Lori Austen, of the Plainfield Historical Society, and one of the organizers. "Come in and see what is going on. Develop a better appreciation for your own town's history or learn about the next town over." She characterizes the event as a way to introduce children to a life before supermarkets where everything needed to be made by hand. The barns behind the Kingman Tavern in Cummington contain not only that school-bus sleigh, but the 19th century wagon that the Cummington Creamery used to carry dairy goods to Northampton, and also rel-

ics of barrel making, recreation, and many tools of the early industrial age. She suggests allowing an hour at each site, but visitors can choose as many or as few locations as time permits.

Austen also encourages "All local history buffs to consider volunteering and doing research. Please contact your local historical society and become a docent. It's also a great way to do research and genealogy." Many of these historical societies are testaments to local people who had an interest in preservation and took action. The entire general store room of the Kingman Tavern was moved there by local historian Bill Streeter from another location. He also wrote the book "Only One Cummington" which was an important reference document to substantiate the town receiving its Cultural District Designation from the state last year.

One notable new exhibit is in the Old Parsonage of Cummington focusing on the town and its role in abolition. Head historic commissioner Carla Ness and other volunteers did the research necessary to actually

substantiate houses which were a part of the Underground Railroad. Among those who spoke on the issue in town was Sojourner Truth and Lucy Stone (a women's rights advocate as well) who was the first woman in Massachusetts to earn a college degree.

Participating museums in the Hilltown History Trail include: Ashfield Historical Society Museum, 457 Main St., Ashfield; Wilder Homestead, 129 Ashfield Road (112 S); Buckland; Buckland Historical Society Museum, 20 Upper St., Buckland; Shaw-Hudson House, 286 Main St., Plainfield.; Kingman Tavern, 41 Main St., Cummington and Shelburne Historical Society Museum, 33 Severance St., Shelburne Falls.

The Hilltown History Trail is produced by the Buckland Historical Society and happens every year on the first Saturday in August. People may visit www.BucklandMassHistory.org. a on the first Saturday For more information on the event and to download a map, people may visit HilltownHistoryTrail.org. Each site also has print maps available.



The original wagon that brought Cummington Creamery dairy goods to Northampton is in the barn maintained by the historical society. Six collections of buildings are represented in the tour in Cummington, Plainfield, Ashfield, Buckland and Shelburne Falls.



The Kingman Tavern Museum in Cummington is arranged by rooms attesting to the various businesses in town. A complete general store of goods was relocated here by local historian William Streeter.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel



Leslie Keller, one of the commissioners of the Cummington Historical Society, points out the various houses in town that were a part of the Underground Railroad. An exhibit on the town and abolition is in the Old Parsonage.

FAIR

from page 1

at 6 p.m. A free bicycle raffle will be drawn at 7 p.m.; children under age 12 may enter and the child must be present to win.

On Saturday, Aug. 3, gates open at 7 a.m. with breakfast offered at the food booth. Events at 9 a.m. include four classes of oxen draws and New England lawn mower racing. The youth dairy and beef cattle show will take place at 10 a.m. with the ox teamsters challenge scheduled for 10:30 a.m.

The BMX performance will begin at 11 a.m., as will the Sidetracked Band and barbecue chicken meal in the dining hall. A children's blueberry pie eating contest starts at 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. will see both a sheep show and BMX performance. Ed Popielarczyk's Magic Show and Balloon Sculpting is sched-

uled on Saturday at both 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Free children face painting will take place from noon-3 p.m., children's carnival games from noon-4 p.m. and a children's pedal tractor pull and farm Olympics starting at 3 p.m. Late afternoon events include the women's fry pan toss at 4 p.m., the Whiskey Travelers from 5-9 p.m., and a free children's under age 12 bicycle raffle will be drawn Saturday at 5 p.m. Child must be present to win.

The Demolition Derby will begin at 5 p.m., with registration from noon-3 p.m. Moe Boisseau may still have cars for sale for this event; call him at 413-364-4411 if interested. Payout for this year's derby will be \$1,200. Rules and regulations are posted on the

Littlevillefair.com website.

Saturday will include the 4H petting zoo, pony riders and the Family Jungle reptile/bird exhibit all day. Exhibit Halls will close at 8 p.m.

Gates reopen on Sunday, Aug. 4 at 7 a.m. and breakfast will again be offered at the food booth. An antique tractor pull starts at 8 a.m., horse pulls at 10 a.m., and the Pitoniak Brothers Band plays from 9- 11:30 a.m. Ed Popielarczyk's Magic Show and Balloon Sculpting Show will take place at both 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The beard competition is at 11 a.m. and a turkey dinner will be offered in the dining hall. Starting at noon-3 p.m. there will be free face painting and children's carnival games until 4 p.m.

Children also have a potato sack

race starting at 12:30 p.m. The zucchini contest weigh-in is at noon. Sunday afternoon will feature a bee talk with Bob Broga, cow plop, wool spinning demonstration and jack 'n jill crosscut saw competition, with all times still to be determined.

The Old Country Road Band will perform from noon-3 p.m. The final children's bicycle raffle will be drawn at 2:30 p.m. The fair closes with the flower box winner and all raffle prizes announced at 3:30 p.m. Littleville Fair will close at 4 p.m. and the exhibit hall pickups will be at 4:30 p.m.

For more information-including the fudge cake recipe for competition, people may visit the Littlevillefair.com webpage or follow the fair's Facebook page for updates.

NORTHAMPTON

Cooley Dickinson Hospital receives award

NORTHAMPTON – Cooley Dickinson Hospital has received a 2024 “Get With The Guidelines” quality achievement award from the American Heart Association, for excellence in treating stroke.

The honor was given with “Gold Plus” distinction, the highest level of the award given by the organization.

The award recognizes Cooley Dickinson’s commitment to the association’s in-hospital program that ensures patient care is aligned with the latest research and evidence-based guidelines.

“This award is a true reflection of the dedication and effort of our team, who go above and beyond national guidelines to set their own high standards in stroke care,” said Dr. Sundee

Shukla, Associate Chief Medical Officer at Cooley Dickinson.

Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death, and a leading cause of disability, in the United States. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs, and brain cells die. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability and accelerating recovery times.

“We are incredibly pleased to recognize Cooley Dickinson for its commitment to caring for patients with stroke,” said Dr. Steven Messe, volunteer chairperson of the American Heart

Association Stroke System of Care Advisory Group and professor of neurology and director of fellowships of neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. “Participation in ‘Get With The Guidelines’ is associated with improved patient outcomes, fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates – a win for health care systems, families, and communities.”

Each year, program participants qualify for the awards recognitions by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality care for patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, ‘Get With The Guidelines’ participants also provide education to patients to help them manage their conditions at home.

Hosmer Gallery hosts new exhibit

NORTHAMPTON – The Hosmer Gallery at the Forbes Library, 20 West St., will host illustrations and collage by Chaldea Emerson, Pamela Acosta Hernandez and Wendy Woodson Aug. 2- 31.

An artist reception will be held Saturday, Aug. 2 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Northampton Arts Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Hosmer Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The gallery is located on the second floor of Forbes Library. It is accessible by stairs or elevator. People may visit-forbeslibrary.org/info/hours for any updates.

Three-day cycling event covers 104 miles of rail trail

NORTHAMPTON – A three-day cycling adventure will cover 104-miles of Mass Central Rail Trail Sept. 20-22, starting in Northampton and ending in Boston.

This historic rail corridor is becoming the longest rail trail in New England. Currently, the corridor is 60% finished and its completion is a state priority, expected to bring in over \$200 million in new revenue to cities and towns it passes through.

Once completed, the MCRT will span 120 miles across the commonwealth.

“Ride N2B on the MCRT” will make roughly 12 stops along the route with overnight stays in Ware and Hudson. Presentations by local advocates, community leaders and historians will be made at these stops to spread awareness about efforts to continue the MCRT.

“Each day we’ll be having rest stops, an outdoor lunch, and an evening dinner

event. At each of the stops and events, we’ll be meeting with local leaders who are eager to get the rail trail finished,” Norwottuck Network Chairman Craig Della Penna said in a pree release.

The ride will have 12-15 riders for the whole route with other riders encouraged to join for parts of each day.

For information about the ride and joining a section, contact Della Penna at craigdp413@gmail.com.

EASTHAMPTON

VETERANS

from page 1

A painting he created that depicted a traumatic event he experienced proved to be a breakthrough. “I put all my feelings and emotions into it. It enabled me to talk about what happened. Now 500 people own a print made from that work.” For Jones, the military is a family affair. His daughter, who is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve and his son, who is a staff sergeant, were there to support the cause. Missing was his wife, who is currently deployed with the Air Force to Japan.

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

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Mobile Vet Center was at the event along with the

Veterans Health Administration. Information on federal Veterans Affairs was offered through the Springfield Vet Center. Various city departments like the Easthampton Community Center and Council on Aging attended to provide information on citywide resources.

Operation Veteran Vacation, a local non-profit that provides kickboxing, mindfulness classes and camping and outdoor recreation opportunities grilled the hamburgers and hot dogs. Salads and fresh fruit were served by OVV friend and award-winning chef, Christopher Bland, owner of Sober Chef Caterers, who talked with veterans and their families about his community work.



Steve Jones of Warriors Art Room, a Marine Corp veteran of Iraq, with his daughter ChyAnne Glevocki who is a First Lieutenant in the US Army Reserve. The non profit he founded focuses on art therapy.

Publication policy

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

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows. **Deadline is Monday at NOON**, on holidays it is **Friday at 2 p.m.**



Jennifer Delaney of Bright Spot Therapy Dogs with Molly. They work with veterans throughout the region.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel



Jeffrey Bocanegra, U.S. Navy Iraq veteran, grills with Chris Bland of Silver Chef Catering.

OTIS

OTIS HOLDS FARMERS' MARKET



Otis Farmers' Market was held on Saturday, July 20. Local farmers set up their tents. Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

Council on Aging hold grief counseling

OTIS – The Council on Aging sponsors grief counseling on Wednesday, July 31 at 1 p.m. in the Otis Town Hall.

Everyone is invited. People should call Otis COA at 413-269-0100, extension 5 for more information.

MIDDLEFIELD

Middlefield Fair happens Aug. 9-11

MIDDLEFIELD – The Board of Directors for the Highland Agricultural Society announces the 2024 Middlefield Fair will be held Friday through Sunday, Aug. 9-11 at the Middlefield Fair Grounds, 7 Bell Road.

The Middlefield Fair is one of the oldest fairs in the country and preserves many of the traditions of the old time country fairs. The fair brings an opportunity for the community to come together and compete to be the best of the best in many categories while providing a learning opportunity for the younger generation. Attendees find the exhibitors' hall full of entries from local hilltown residents in categories such as baking, canning, vegetables, quilting, needle work, photography and so much more. The old fashioned arts, crafts and cooking skills are alive and well in the hilltowns.

On Friday evening, the noise level goes up in this typically quiet hilltown community as the Ken Boisseau Memorial Diesel Truck Pulls are featured in the mechanical pull track.

On Saturday, the gas powered trucks have their turn on the track. Also on schedule for Saturday are the oxen pulls, which are located across the fairgrounds in the animal draw ring. Other activities and events include a State Police K-9 Demo based on availability, a kids zone full of children's activities, Balloon Ben noon-5 p.m., free face painting 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and the Middlefield Fair Car, Truck and Tractor Show at 11a.m. The featured performer is Above the Tree Line starting at 5 p.m.

On Sunday, the garden tractors are on the mechanical pull track and the horses are in the animal draw ring. The Cattle Show begins at 10:30 a.m. Live entertainment is also going strong on Sunday with an amazing performance of skilled Fiddler's from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be Ben the Balloon Man from noon -5 p.m., and free face painting from 11a.m.-

2 p.m. The Apple Pie Contest will be judged at 1 p.m. followed by the featured Entertainment, Charlie Lask's Neil Diamond Tribute at 2 p.m. Also people will see another great demonstration by the State Police K-9 Demonstration, based on availability.

There will also be exhibits at the fair like the petting zoo and a reptile encounter from Bubba's Snakes and Reptiles. There will be free children's activities throughout the fair and the fair welcomes back the Massachusetts National Guard with their amazing Obstacle Course and so much more. Each day ends with a free raffle for a new bike and helmet.

A visit to the Middlefield Fair isn't complete without a visit to the Exhibit Hall and museum. The Exhibit Hall features all of our contest winners in crafts, cooking, arts and produce. The museum contains collections of antique farming and cooking tools to reflect on yesteryear.

There is a great selection of food at the fair from the traditional dinners (Saturday is ham and Sunday is turkey), to the traditional fair food such as fried dough, hot dogs, hamburgers, French fries, ice cream, sausage and corn dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, candy apples, kettle corn and apple fritters. Sunday morning features traditional all you can eat pancake breakfast with a choice plain or with Middlefield's famous blueberries.

There will be local vendors and their handmade wares. Fair hours are Friday, Aug. 9 from 4-10 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 10 from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 11 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Middlefield Fair is an agricultural fair rooted in traditional country fair tradition and holds traditional competitions in baking, cooking, canning, needlework, quilting and so much more. There are old fashioned oxen and horse pulls in addition to the more modern truck and tractor pulls. There is fun, food and entertainment for all

MCC announces church services

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Congregational Church, 167 Skyline Drive, announces church services will be held on the first Saturday of the month at 5 p.m.

The first service will be Sunday, Aug. 3 and will be held in the church. Pastor Susan Borsella will preside over the service and all are welcome. The next service will be Saturday, Sept. 7 at 5 p.m.

FLORENCE

Walk benefits ALS on Sept. 14

FLORENCE – On Saturday, Sept. 14, people living with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, family members, friends, caregivers and others affected by ALS will come together for the 2024 Walk to Defeat ALS Western Massachusetts at Frank Newall Look Park, 300 North Main St.

All funds raised by the event provide help and hope for those living with ALS by supporting patient care, advocacy, and cutting-edge research to find treatments and a cure for this debilitating, always fatal disease. ALS, often referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive motor neuron disease that gradually robs people of their ability to walk, talk, swallow and eventually breathe.

Hundreds of people will rally together at Walk to Defeat ALS to fuel the mission and support people living with ALS in the region. Many who participate have a loved one who is battling ALS while others walk in memory of a loved one who has lost their fight. Some

participate simply because they want to make ALS a livable disease for everyone, everywhere while we tirelessly search for a cure.

Check-in is 10 a.m. and start time: is 11:30 a.m.

Walk to Defeat ALS is the #1 way to unite and support people affected by ALS in the community. People may register at www.walktodefbeatALS.org. Registered participants who raise \$100 or more receive a commemorative t-shirt.

The ALS Association is the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research in the world. The Association funds global research collaborations, assists people with ALS and their families through its nationwide network of care and certified clinical care centers, and advocates for better public policies for people with ALS. The ALS Association is working to make ALS a livable disease while urgently searching for new treatments and a cure. For more information about The ALS Association, people may visit their website at als.org.

BECKET

Hot Sauce to perform July 27

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will present an outdoor concert featuring Hot Sauce on Saturday, July 27 from 5-7 p.m.

The "ultimate Berkshires Band," Hot Sauce features Benny Kohn, Miles Lally, Steve Ide and Tom Major. People should bring lawn chairs, coolers,

snacks and children. In case of rain, the concert will move into the Arts Center's Seminary Hall. This event, part of the BAC's "Music Brings Communities Together" program. The concert is free; donations are welcome. For more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.



This is one of the drawings exhibited at "Paw Prints" at Becket Arts Center.

Courtesy drawing

Art Center hosts 'Paw Prints' exhibit

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will host a free opening reception on Friday, July 26 from 5-7 p.m. for the exhibition "Paw Prints." The group show features animals domestic and not in various media

and scenarios. The themed exhibit will continue Wednesdays through Sundays until Sunday, Aug. 18, when there will be a free closing reception from 2-4 p.m. For more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

Collage workshop takes place July 26

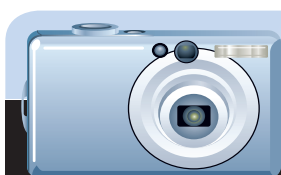
BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will host a collage workshop with Diane Firtell on Friday, July 26 from 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Firtell, a multi-faceted artist and

designer, will provide the materials. Cost is \$30 per person and \$25 for Becket Arts Center members. For more information and registration, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

Becket Arts Center presents concert July 28

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will host musicians from the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, who will present a community

concert on Sunday, July 28 from 5-6 p.m. The event is free; donations are welcome. For more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.



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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Hikers follow the Pinnacle Trail

The Pinnacle Trail starts at the crossing of the Dead Branch of the Westfield River in Chesterfield on the Claude M. Hill trail that runs all the way to Knightville Dam in Huntington.

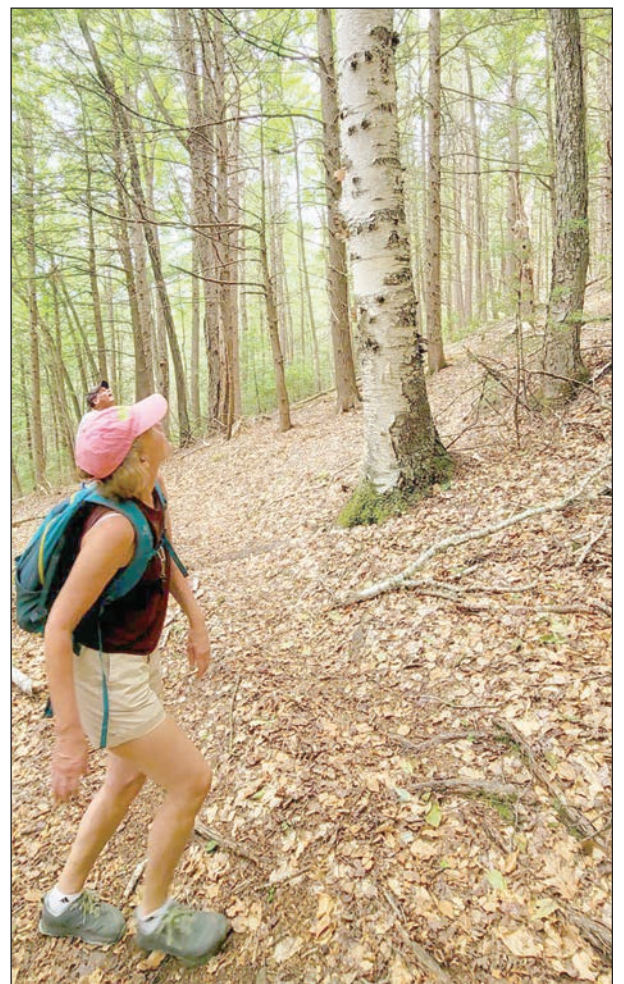
From the Indian Hollow Campground put on your water shoes to cross this fast moving stream and get ready to climb 700 feet of elevation for just under two miles to the amazing lookout over the gorge. There are views North to Mount Greylock and Cummington, views of Round Top Hill to the South from this rocky outcrop and even views of the East Branch of the Westfield River along with lots of wind.



This is an aerial view of some of the hikers sitting on the cliff face. Submitted photos



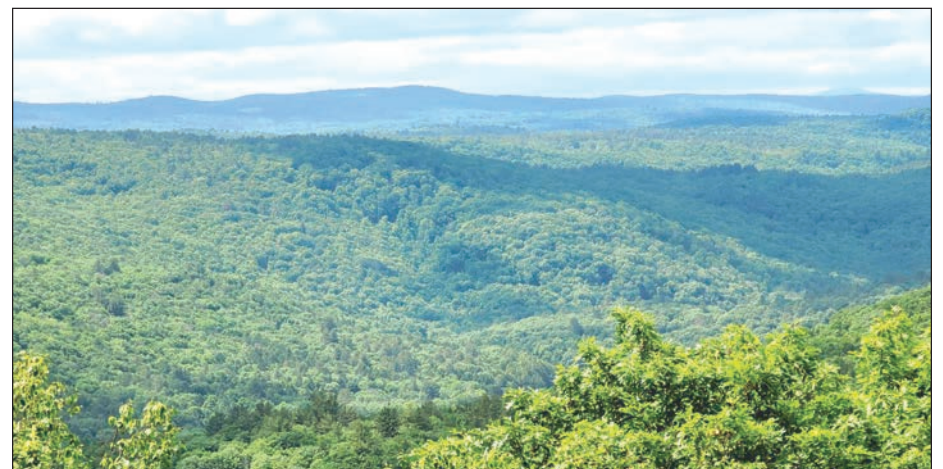
The hikers take a break to enjoy the view.



Valerie admires a tall white birch tree on the trail.



Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers enjoy the view and the stiff breeze on a warm day.



This shows a sweeping view to the North of Cummington and Mount Greylock.

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Local graduates announced

Emmanuel College Boston

Caitlin Bolduc of Easthampton, cum laude Bachelor of Arts in psychology with a concentration in developmental psychology, Brigid Moriarty of Westfield, magna cum laude Bachelor of Science in a double major in biology with a concentration in health sciences and Spanish ceremony with distinction in the field of study and Lauren Menzel of Westfield, summa cum laude Bachelor of Science in chemistry with a concentration in forensic science with distinction in the field of study

Quinnipiac University Hamden, Connecticut

Brooke Barber of East Otis, Bachelor of Arts in graphic and interactive design and Miles Ellsworth of Easthampton, Bachelor of Science in accounting

Quinsigamond Community College Worcester

Irene Chetambe of Westfield, Associate Degree in Science

St. Lawrence University Canton, New York

Clarissa G. Kurtaliaj of Cummington, Bachelors degree in English, art and art history

Colleges and universities announce Dean's list

DEAN'S LIST

College of Holy Cross Worcester

Lilly Patton of Washington

Dickinson College Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Sofia Rowan Marie Getoff-Scanlon of Easthampton, junior Spanish and Portuguese studies and political science major

Fairfield University Fairfield, Connecticut

Zoe E. O'Neill-Garvey of Easthampton

Tufts University Medford

Natalie Nicoletti of Williamsburg, Class of 2025 and Annika von Schoeler-Ames of Williamsburg, Class of 2026

Worthington Library announces scholarship recipients

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Library announces the recipients of the 2024 Worthington Library Scholarship Awards, Olivia Mason and Taylor Mason, both graduates of Wahconah Regional High School.

Recipients each received a \$500 award. Applicants were asked to write an essay about their favorite book and the lessons it taught them and will teach them in the future.

Olivia Mason chose "The Frog and Toad" series by Arnold Lobel. These were favorite books of hers with fond memories of reading them with her grandmother. Olivia explains that, "In each short story within the book, Frog and Toad would come across a challenge and learn how to face it together. I truly believe that the lessons of friendship in the Frog and Toad series helped me to start making friendships and brought me out of my shell. I'm

excited to hopefully be able to use this book from own childhood in my own classroom one day." Olivia will attend Framingham State University with the hopes of obtaining a degree in elementary education.

Taylor Mason plans to major in chemistry at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Her favorite book is "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan. Taylor writes, "This has been my go to

book for many years. One of the many lessons I took away from it was that it can take a while for you to find your true identity and just because you may not fit in at one place, doesn't mean you can't find your place. Just as all the characters changed throughout the series, I know that as I continue to grow as a person I will meet new people and my identity will grow along with me. I hope to be able to look back on it and teach these lesson to my future kids."

Holyoke Community College Foundation announces scholarship winners

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

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

Local scholarship recipients are Erin McCormick of Chesterfield, Alexandra Adams of Easthampton, Sarah Akin of Easthampton, Alex Biddulph (two awards) of Easthampton, Hind Bourhim of Easthampton, Gabrielle Carey (two

awards) of Easthampton, Casey Clapp of Easthampton, Gabrielle D'Amour of Easthampton, Ashleigh Fox of Easthampton, Jessica Grygorcewicz of Easthampton, Renee Hill (two awards) of Easthampton, Nikaia Jimenez (two awards) of Easthampton, Lincoln KaneLong of Easthampton, Lisa Miwa of Easthampton, Amber Slawski of Easthampton, Oliver King of Florence, Isabella Komlev of Florence, Karissa Robinson (two awards) of Florence, Bunnary Teng of Florence, Lauren Williams of Goshen, Staci Barrett (two awards) of Lee, Azades Hamblin of Montgomery, Sarah Belote of Northampton,

Sophie Bennett of Northampton, Alexandria Casavant of Northampton, Jesse Conner of Northampton, Cheryl Freier of Northampton, Barney Garcia of Northampton, Nico Howard of Northampton, Orlando Morales of Northampton, Erika Pizha of Northampton, Hans Valdes of Northampton, Dan Winter of Northampton, Kai Ramos of Southampton, Shannyn Samuelson of Southampton, Katherine Simmons of Southampton, Gabrielle Tisdale of Southampton, Eve Bartlett of Westfield, Raven Carrasquillo (two awards) of Westfield, Paige Cortis of Westfield, Nicholas Couchon of Westfield, Diana

Dovganyuk of Westfield, Angelica Gavrillov (two awards) of Westfield, Christina Gelmudinov of Westfield, Wandeliz Gonzalez Marrero (two awards) of Westfield, Mary Goretskiy of Westfield, Travis Guin of Westfield, Elizabeth Hancharonak of Westfield, Lindsay Hughes of Westfield, Amanda McGuire of Westfield, Kit McKenzie of Westfield, Moriah Morris of Westfield, Liana Parrilla of Westfield, Leniel Ramos of Westfield, Ethan Romero of Westfield, Nelly Salgado of Westfield, Sarah Shoemaker of Westfield, Valentina Vincas of Westfield, Jessica Liimatainen of Williamsburg, Kaylee Rooney of Williamsburg and Johnathan Santiago of Williamsburg.

BLANDFORD

COUNTRY CLUB ANNOUNCES TOURNAMENT WINNERS



The Blandford Country Club held its annual Presidents Cup tournament and the winners are Mike Meskevich and Sue Wesolowski. They are shown from left, Mike Meskevich, PGA club professional Dave Strawn and Sue Wesolowski.

Submitted photo

Fair Committee to hold painting parties, volunteers receive free lunch, fair passes

BLANDFORD – President Matt Ripley announced the preparations for the 2024 Blandford Fair.

Volunteers are always needed. The fair committee has two scheduled painting parties on Saturdays, August 10 and Aug. 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. with

a lunch provided.

Volunteers also receive two passes to the Blandford Fair.

If interested in helping, people should call Linda at 413-977-2113 so they have lunches and passes available for the volunteers.

CHESTER

Aug. 1 show benefits Fire Dept.

CHESTER – All proceeds from Chester Theatre Company, 15 Middlefield Road, evening performance of "Will Sacrifice" on Thursday, August 1 at 7:30 p.m. will go to the Chester Fire Department.

Tickets for Chester and Middlefield residents are only \$10. Tickets are available at the Chester Theater Company Box Office by calling 413-354-7771. For more information people may visit chesterthe-

atre.org or call the Box Office number.

This brand new comedy introduces us to Bridget and Nigel's fraught marriage and their cramped New York City apartment. Bridget's stagnant career convinces her to search for a country escape in the post 9/11 real estate gold rush in the Catskills. Armed with a limited budget and plenty of enthusiasm; she enlists the aid of Mr. Sunshine to help her realize her dream.

CHILDREN HOLD LAST STORY TIME



Hamilton Public Library held its last story time at the Chester Railway Station and Museum room. Children learned about crabs and made crab crowns to wear.

Submitted photo

GOSHEN

Council on Aging announces upcoming events

GOSHEN – It's time for the annual picnic to honor and celebrate Goshen residents, who are 90 and older.

There will be a special presentation and gifts for each of these residents who call Goshen their home. People are invited to Tilton Town Field on Tuesday, Aug. 13 at noon for a picnic lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, pasta salad, tossed salad and grilled summer vegetables. They will be having ice cream sundaes for dessert. This is always a special event. Everyone, who has helped the Council on Aging this year will also be recognized.

There is a program for Farmers' Market Coupons for eligible Goshen residents. Each booklet contains \$50 worth of coupons that can be used at various local farmers' markets for fresh locally grown produce. The eligibility criteria are: at least 60 years old; household income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (see below); or, disabled, under the age of 60 or living in elder housing. To be eligible, the gross annual household income must be no more than \$27,861

for a household of one, and \$37,814 for a household of two. If people are interested, they may call the COA office by July 24 and leave a message with their name and phone number.

Friday, Aug. 2 Community Connections Group will meet this month at the picnic table at Highland Village / Goshen senior housing from 10-11 a.m. to play a few games, have snacks and enjoy each others company.

On Wednesday, Aug. 7 crafts group will meet in the library at the Goshen Town Hall from 1-3 p.m. People may bring whatever project they are working on. The librarian Julie always has interesting things going on too. Let us know if you have a craft idea or something you would like to teach the group- we will get any supplies needed. It is fun to create together.

On Tuesdays, August 6, 13, and 27 (not Aug. 20) Tai Chi is back. Goshen resident Richard Larson will teach the Tuesday morning tai chi class on three Tuesdays in August. They will meet at the Goshen Town Hall from 9-10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join this class of gentle

strengthening movement, mindfulness and balance.

On Thursday, Aug. 15 technology help with The Tech Connect program, Goshen's own Stephen Morley to provide once a month drop in help for technology question. Morley will be in the library from noon-2 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The Tech Connect program also has classes and workshops listed on the website www.northernhilltownscoas.org, which are available to all hilltown older adults.

On Tuesdays, Aug. 20 and 27 Highland Valley Elder Services lunch is served the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month with pick up from the Goshen Town Hall from 12:30-1 p.m. This is a change in pick up time. The meal choices on Aug 20th are Beef Wellington or Macaroni and Cheese, and on Aug 27 the meal choices are roasted pork and gravy or veggie casserole Chana Masala. The meals also include milk, vegetables and a dessert. If people have not signed up and would like to for September, they should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 to fill out a

brief intake form. There is a suggested \$3 donation that is given to Highland Valley Elder Services to offset the cost of the meal.

On Wednesday, Aug. 21 Games Group will meet from 2-4 p.m. They have changed the time at players' request; they meet in the library.

The Hilltown Mobile Market comes to Goshen senior housing the first Tuesday of each month through November from 10 a.m.-noon. Goods from local farms will be available at a "pay what you can" price. This is an extension of the Hilltown Market located at 19 Sawyer Road in Worthington where farm goods are sold Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sundays noon-4 p.m. Home deliveries can be arranged by visiting www.hilltownmobilemarket.com.

Joan Griswold teaches a great exercise class in person on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Goshen Town Hall. She also puts this and other classes on Zoom on the other days of the week. People may email Joan with questions and/or for the zoom links at joan@bybhealth.com.

CHESTERFIELD



Jennifer Peotter, chair of the Chesterfield Farm and Forest Commission, left and member Matt L. Barron pose in front of the new Chesterfield Right to Farm Community sign on Route 143 near the border of Worthington. Submitted photo

Town has new Right to Farm signs

CHESTERFIELD – The town of Chesterfield has erected eight signs along Route 143 and six other roads at the borders of Goshen, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington proclaiming the municipality a Right to Farm Community.

The signs feature a red barn and Hereford beef cow flanked by an evergreen tree and a sugar maple with two sap buckets. "We felt it was very important to honor Chesterfield's long and rich agricultural heritage with the placement of these new signs," said Jennifer Peotter of Dirigo Farm, who chairs the six-member commission.

The signs were created by Jade O'Donnell, a member of the class of 2023 from Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School. "We're very grateful to Jade and Emily Jodka of the Graphic Communications program for working with us to refine and per-

fect the final design," said Commission member Matt L. Barron.

Also, under the direction of Commission member Brooke Bullock of Stonebridge Farm, there will be for the first time a listing of Farm and Forestry Producers in Chesterfield available for viewing and downloading on the town's website by visiting https://www.townofchesterfieldma.com/sites/g/files/vyhlf7606f/uploads/chesterfield_town_website_1.pdf.

Some 18 different producers are listed offering everything from fruits, vegetables and eggs to honey, maple syrup, hay, firewood and lumber. "I think many residents and visitors to Chesterfield might be surprised to learn of the bounty of local farm and forest products available right here within the community," Peotter said, adding "we encourage folks to support our home-grown farmers and foresters."

BUCKLAND

BHS to host open house

BUCKLAND – The Buckland Historical Society's Open Houses and Barn Reconstruction Progress will be held Sunday, July 28 from 2-4 p.m. at the Wilder Homestead, 129 Ashfield Road, Route 112.

People may tour the furnished 1795 Saltbox Home with five fireplaces, the 1780 English Barn which is 90% restored and the circa 1820 Shoemaker Shop, where boots could be bartered for with bushels of apples, cords of wood

or in one case, the work of digging a grave at the Buckland Historical Society Museum: 20 Upper St., Buckland Center.

People may enjoy this former school house of the Greek Revival style which now houses three floors of artifacts and town records. They will see exhibits on local industry, clothing, education featuring Mary Lyon, local artists Robert Strong Woodward and Edward Romanzo Elmer, as well, as the tragic life of Josiah Spaulding.

SANDISFIELD

Sandersfield Arts Center announces art award winners

SANDISFIELD – The Sandisfield Arts Center announces the winners of the third Annual Daniel Manacher Prize for Young Artists.

Aidan White, Mico Aldmar Mendoza, and Warwick Willow were selected by Juror Josephine Halvorson, an accomplished artist and the Chair of the MFA Program in Painting at Boston University's College of Fine Art. Each winner receives \$400 in support of their art practice, as well as a group show of their work at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Their work will be featured in an Opening Reception on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 4-6 p.m. The gallery show will run through Sunday, Oct. 6.

The prize was created by Adam Manacher and Carol Birnbaum in memory of their son, Daniel Manacher, who had a great passion and talent for art. Eligible artists are those 17-26 years of age living or attending school in Berkshire County.

"With this prize, we hope to carry forward values that were important to Daniel. We are happy that the judges have found young artists who tenaciously pursue their vision, seek to make ordinary objects extraordinary, and bring community into conversation."

Aidan White was born in Princeton, New Jersey and has lived in the Berkshires since he was eight. He is a painting major at Massachusetts College of Art and Design and expects to finish his BFA in August 2024.

Mico Aldmar Mendoza was born in 2000 and grew up in a small rural town in

Central Luzon, Philippines. He is a computer science major, with a background in environmental sustainability and studio art. He plans to pursue an MFA after graduation and wants to explore the possibilities when it comes to upcycling waste, minimizing material dependence and exploring sustainable practices/techniques in art.

Warwick Willow grew up surrounded by art. Their early creative experiences involved painting with homemade watercolors, sculpting with salt dough and exploring their mother's vast art collection in their family home in New Mexico. They began their formal study of the arts at the age of 15, going on to graduate from Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington with an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts. Having discovered their love of clay, they transferred to the Kansas City Art Institute in Kansas City, Missouri, where they studied ceramics and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. They currently work at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington as a Community Director.

More information on the Sandisfield Arts Center Gallery, The Daniel Manacher Prize for Young Artists, the Opening Reception and the Exhibit can be found at sandisfieldartscenter.org.

The Sandisfield Arts Centers programs are supported, in part, by grants from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, Otis Cultural Council, New Marlborough Cultural Council, the Monterey Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

OBITUARY

Joanne “Jody” (Wagenbaur) Schmider, 94

HUNTINGTON – Joanne “Jody” (Wagenbaur) Schmider, 94, died July 17, 2024 and was born April 22, 1930 in Springfield.

Jody grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut and summered at her family cottage in North Chester. After living and raising a family in Burlington for 26 years she moved to Huntington where she lived for the last 30 years.

For 20 years she served on the Littleville Fair board in Huntington and also served on the Huntington Lions Club for many years. She was an avid gardener who loved nature and was accomplished in knitting and sewing. She also was a long time member of the Huntington Evangelical Church.



She is predeceased by her husband, John Albert Schmider and leaves behind her children, Gretchen O’Halloran, John Schmider and Wendy Beaumont as well as her dear companion, Richard Chapman. She also leaves behind seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and her sister Susie Whiton from Cazenovia, New York.

Please join us in celebrating Jody’s life on Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 11 am. in the Huntington Evangelical Church, 17 Russell

Road, Huntington, followed by a reception across the street at the church’s chapel.

Arrangements by Driscoll Funeral Home, Haverhill. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the American Cancer Society. For guestbook, visit www.driscollcares.com.

DEATH NOTICE

SCHMIDER, JOANNE “JODY” (WAGENBAUR)

Died July 17, 2024
Funeral Service July 25 at 11 a.m.
Huntington Evangelical Church, 17 Russell Road,
Huntington

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS 2024

This notification is to inform parents/guardians and former students at the Worthington School District’s intent to destroy the Special Education records of students who were no longer receiving Special Education services as of 2017. These records will be destroyed in accordance with the state law unless the parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student notifies the School District otherwise by **SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**.

Special education records collected by the Worthington School District related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of Special Education in the district, must be maintained under state and federal laws for a period of seven (7) years after special education services have ended. Special Education services end when the student is no longer eligible for services, graduates, moves from the district or completes his or her education program at age 22.

After 7 years, the records are no longer useful to the district, but they may be useful to parents/guardians or former students in applying for Social Security benefits, rehabilitation services, college entrance, etc. The parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student may request records by calling:

R.H. Conwell Elementary School at 413-238-5856
or emailing Emily Lak at elak@hr-k12.org
07/11, 07/18, 07/25/2024

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

Notice is hereby given that **Gateway Regional School District** Office of Pupil Services will be destroying the special education records of students who graduated or left school in 2016. If you or your child received special education services and you wish to obtain the special education file, please call 685-1017. **Records will be destroyed on August 9, 2024.**
07/25, 08/01/2024

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts

The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS24P0414EA

Estate of:

Kenneth Martin Granger

Date of Death:

May 11, 2024

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Melissa A. Porter of Greenfield, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Melissa A. Porter of Greenfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
07/25/2024

Town of Huntington Invitation for Bid Heavy Equipment and Operator Services

The Town of Huntington seeks sealed bids from qualified firms to provide heavy equipment and operator services for FY2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). The complete invitation for bid is available at the Selectboard/Town Administrator Office located at the Huntington Town Hall, 24 Russell Road in Huntington; online at huntingtonma.us; or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. **Sealed bids must be submitted by Thursday, August 8, 2024 by 3:00 p.m.** by mail to Town of Huntington Selectboard, PO Box 430,

Huntington, MA 01050; or delivered to the Selectboard/Town Administrator office. MassDOT prequalification of contractors is required.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids if it is deemed in the best interest of the Town.

The Town of Huntington Selectboard will be the contracting authority.
07/25/2024

Town of Huntington Invitation for Bid Hot Asphalt Mix Applied to Highway Yard

The Town of Huntington seeks sealed bids from qualified firms to provide hot mix asphalt applied to the Highway yard. The complete invitation for bid is available at the Selectboard/Town Administrator Office located at the Huntington Town Hall, 24 Russell Road in Huntington; online at huntingtonma.us; or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. **Sealed bids must be submitted by Thursday, August 8, 2024 by 3:00 p.m.** by mail to Town of Huntington Selectboard, PO Box 430, Huntington, MA 01050; or delivered to the Selectboard/Town Administrator office. MassDOT prequalification of contractors is required.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids if it is deemed in the best interest of the Town.

The Town of Huntington Selectboard will be the contracting authority.
07/25/2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by TCI Holdings, LLC to Pinnacle Financial Services, LLC d/b/a Pinnacle Funding, said mortgage being dated April 19, 2022, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14526, Page 122, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 8, 2024**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely 138

Ridge Road, Worthington, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land with any buildings thereon situated on the southwesterly side of Ridge Road in Worthington, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, and being the same property shown as “8.7 acres” on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Worthington, MA owner Manfred Zorn” prepared by Fisk Survey, Chester, MA, dated 7 July, 1995 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds on Plan of Book 178, Page 241, which parcel is further bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin set the southwesterly line of Ridge Road at the easterly corner of the parcel herein conveyed and other land now or formerly of Manfred Zorn shown as a portion of Lots 1 and 2 on said plan thence running:

S. 79° 51’ 20” W, a distance of four hundred seventy and sixty-three hundredths (470.63) feet to an iron pin set in the southwesterly line of Ridge Road, thence turning and running,

N. 34° 39’ 35” W, a distance of eight hundred eight and seventy-nine hundredths (808.79) feet to an iron pin set, thence turning and running

N. 79° 51’ 20” E, a distance of one hundred twenty-seven and ninety-nine hundredths (127.99) feet to an iron pin found, continuing a distance of three hundred and fifty-two and thirty hundredths (352.30) feet to an iron pin set four (4) feet high in a wooden pole, thence turning and running;

S. 34° 39’ 35” E, a distance of six hundred twenty-five and sixty-eight hundredths (625.68) feet to a point, continuing a distance of one hundred seventy-four and thirty-two hundredths (174.32) feet to the point of beginning, the last two courses being along Ridge Road.

SUBJECT TO transmission line easement granted by Elizabeth M. Hewitt et al to American Telephone & Telegraph Co. of Massachusetts by an instrument dated 10 & 16 August 1928 and recorded in said Registry in Book 847, page

386, insofar as said easement is now in force and effect.

Being all and the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagor herein by deed of John Diamond dated April 12, 2022 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds prior hereto.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

No representations, express or implied, are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold “as is”.

The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing costs and all recording fees.

TERMS OF SALE:

The highest bidder in the sale shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer’s check or certified check in the amount of **TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000.00)** at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The successful bidder will also be required to deposit an additional sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid less the \$20,000.00 deposit (but no less than \$20,000) with the Mortgagee’s auctioneer, Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc., 31 Capital Drive, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089 or the Mortgagees attorney as may be directed within five (5) days of the date of the sale to be held by the Mortgagee, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer’s check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the

Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder at the sale shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee’s Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel or any portion thereof separately, or in any order that Mortgagee may choose and/or to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Pinnacle Financial Services, LLC
d/b/a Pinnacle Funding,
Present Holder of said
Mortgage

By
David A. Lavenburg,
Its Attorney
BACON WILSON, P.C.
33 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
413-781-0560
07/18, 07/25, 08/01/2024

WORTHINGTON

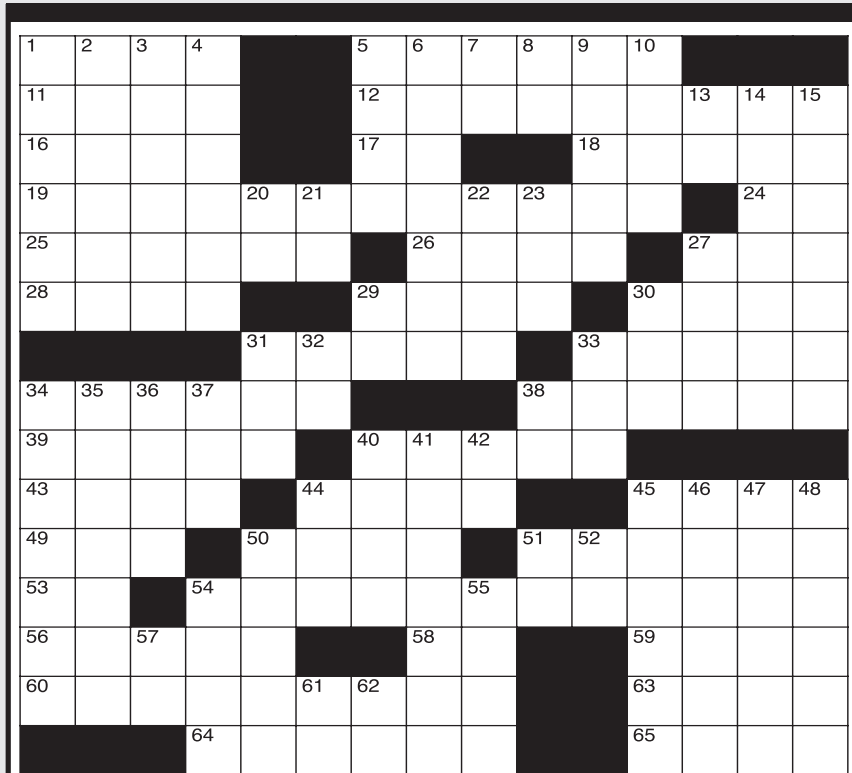
Special Town Meeting set for July 30

WORTHINGTON – The town of Worthington will hold a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, July 30 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. There is one article on the warrant for voters to act upon. It seeks the sum of \$9,384.96 from the fiscal 2025 Building Commissioner salary account to fund the Fiscal Year 2025 Local Inspector account. Both of the Select Board and Finance Committee recommend this article.

PLAINFIELD

PCC presents chamber music series

PLAINFIELD – Concerts at 7 will present its thirteenth summer series of chamber music at the Plainfield Congregational Church, 1 Church Lane, on Mondays, Aug. 5, 12, 29 and 26 from 7-9 p.m. These concerts are free, but donations gratefully accepted at the door or through their website by visiting Concert 7 at <http://www.plainfieldconcertsat7.org/>.



CLUES ACROSS

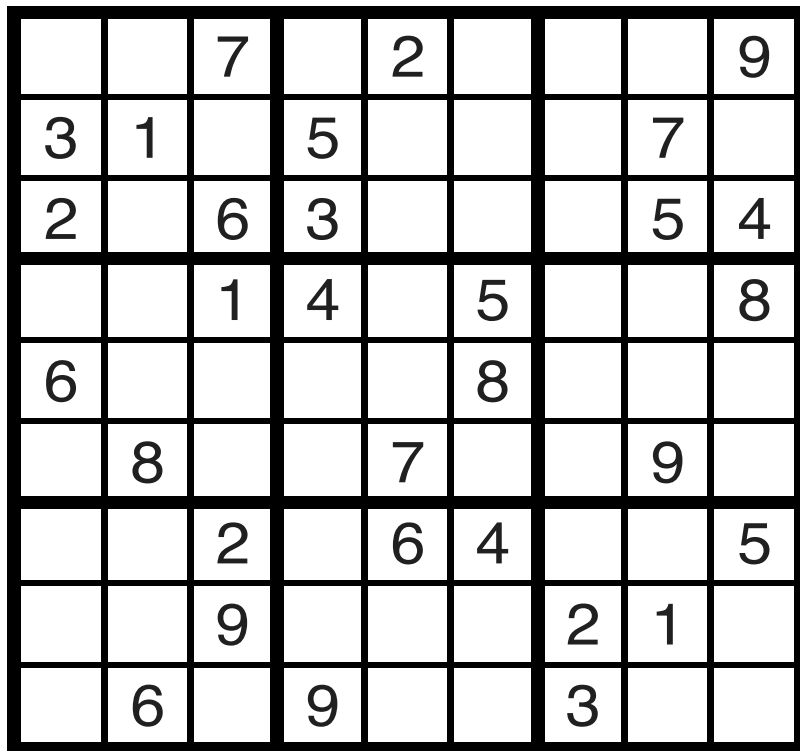
- 1. Average damage per system (abbr.)
- 5. Lustful woodland gods (Greek mythology)
- 11. Colombian Town
- 12. Sour
- 16. A way to stuff
- 17. Former AL MVP Vaughn
- 18. Carried or transported
- 19. Cannot even fathom
- 24. Hammer is one
- 25. A way to separate
- 26. Not moving
- 27. Women's service organization (abbr.)
- 28. German river
- 29. Quantitative fact
- 30. A person's head
- 31. Process that produces ammonia
- 33. French modernist painter
- 34. Too much noise
- 38. Agree to a demand
- 39. One a line at right angles to a ship's length
- 40. Employees
- 43. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 44. Component of hemoglobin
- 45. Quick and skillful in movement
- 49. Passing trend
- 50. Part of the eye
- 51. One who acclaim
- 53. Deadly amount (abbr.)
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Genus of mosquitoes
- 58. Blood type
- 59. A group of countries in special alliance
- 60. Institute legal proceedings against
- 63. Shade of a color
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Work units
- 4. Boil at low temperature
- 5. Lapps of northern Scandinavia
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Atomic #22
- 8. 36 inches
- 9. Monetary unit of Russia
- 10. Type of gin
- 13. An alternative
- 14. Alone
- 15. A way to ooze
- 20. Publicity
- 21. American firm
- 22. Jewish calendar month
- 23. Popular sandwich
- 27. Comedian Cook
- 29. The NFL's big game (abbr.)
- 30. Political action committee
- 31. Make a low, steady sound
- 32. Legendary sportscaster Michaels
- 33. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 34. Designed to keep ears warm
- 35. One who scrapes
- 36. Tear into two or more pieces
- 37. Supervises flying
- 38. Flying arm of the U.S. military (abbr.)
- 40. District in Peru
- 41. One died leaving a will
- 42. Morning
- 44. The world of the dead
- 45. Widen
- 46. Drink containing medicine
- 47. Celebrating
- 48. Secret encounters
- 50. A type of tag
- 51. Halfback
- 52. Modern tech
- 54. Monetary unit
- 55. Resigned to one's sleeping chamber
- 57. Execute or perform
- 61. "The Golden State" (abbr.)
- 62. "The Beehive State" (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Charge with a crime
- 2. Mended with yarn
- 3. North Atlantic flatfish

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

- ARIES**
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, show off your true colors and let others see who you are and what makes you tick. You are given the spotlight right now to shine and get noticed even more.
- CANCER**
Jun 22/Jul 22
Right now you have to take a leap of faith if you really want to grow. Take a trip somewhere you've never visited, learn a new language, or make an effort to meet new people.
- LIBRA**
Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, people from all corners will come together to help you out, just when you need it most. Now you will get to realize those people who truly support you.
- CAPRICORN**
Dec 22/Jan 20
Now isn't a good time to think you can fake your emotions, Capricorn. Others will see right through you and read your mind quite easily. It's better to be honest and open.
- TAURUS**
Apr 21/May 21
The full equation may not be revealed this week until you start to unravel some of the pieces, Taurus. You will need to remain patient as the process plays out.
- LEO**
Jul 23/Aug 23
Although you might want to keep your aspirations to yourself, it is helpful if you run your ideas past a few trusted people to see if their enthusiasm mirrors your own.
- SCORPIO**
Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you may have been sitting on certain information for a while and are not sure when you will reveal it. You'll know the right time when it comes around.
- AQUARIUS**
Jan 21/Feb 18
Someone you haven't spoken to in a while might be on your mind, Aquarius. This might be the right time to bridge the gap and open lines of communication.
- GEMINI**
May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, you are discovering more people you can trust and who have your best interests at heart. Continue to surround yourself with these winning individuals.
- VIRGO**
Aug 24/Sept 22
You can certainly proceed according to logic, but you might be better off trusting your gut for the time being. It rarely steers you wrong with the bigger things in life.
- SAGITTARIUS**
Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, even if your love life has been a little lackluster, you can rest assured that things will be flowing anew very soon. It's time to rekindle those feelings of love and affection.
- PISCES**
Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, it can be difficult to delegate to others and not handle everything yourself. But you have to trust in others and support them if you want them to learn and grow.



SUDOKU

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

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answers

S	D	R	E	D	E	T	V	R	O
T	N	I	L	T	C	S	O	P	R
S	I	X	V	B	A	V	E	S	A
Y	L	I	L	V	L	P	A	D	F
E	L	I	A	H	S	N	L	E	N
F	F	T	D	E	F	M	A	V	H
D	E	F	F	T	A	S	M	V	A
D	E	C	O	L	L	U	H	E	A
E	N	V	M	H	E	B	V	H	E
E	T	E	P	T	A	S	R	E	D
R	V	D	I	E	E	C	E	S	S
C	A	M	E	L	B	A	N	I	U
C	N	O	B	O	W	V	A	C	U
S	O	L	U	D	I	C	A	V	C
S	A	T	S	A	T	S	P	O	V

7	4	3	2	1	6	9	9	8
6	1	2	3	5	8	6	4	7
5	8	9	4	6	7	3	2	1
1	6	4	6	7	2	3	8	5
3	2	5	8	6	1	4	7	9
8	9	7	9	3	4	1	2	6
4	5	1	7	8	3	6	9	2
2	9	6	7	2	9	4	5	8
9	3	8	1	2	6	7	5	4

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PITTSFIELD

Berkshire Lyric Chorus to hold children's chorus camp

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire Lyric Chorus invites children ages 6 to 13 to sing with 'The Lyric Children's Chorus at their 2024 Summer Choral Music Camp.'

The annual weeklong camp will take place Monday, July 29 to Friday, Aug. 2 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Pittsfield Unitarian Church on Wendell Avenue. Participants will sing, learn about music, and have fun with the Lyric Children's Chorus as they look forward to their 2024-2025 Season. The week is tuition free for current chorus members as well as children, who plan to join the chorus in the fall, and is supported by Berkshire Lyric. There is a suggested tuition of \$100 for guest children, who will only be at the camp.

The Lyric Children's Chorus is part of Berkshire Lyric's family of choruses and presents seven concerts throughout Berkshire County during

the year. This past June they performed with the Berkshire Lyric Chorus at Tanglewood's Seiji Ozawa Hall. They also sing at several holiday concerts and present their own concert every spring. Their regular rehearsals take place on Saturday mornings at the Pittsfield Unitarian Church and will begin on Sept. 7 for the new season. As a part of Berkshire Lyric's commitment to music education, the chorus is tuition free for all children.

The Choral Music Camp week in Pittsfield will be led by Jack Brown, Artistic Director of Berkshire Lyric and assisted by high school members of Lyric's Melodious Accord. Parents may register children at the church located at Wendell Avenue and Broad Street on Monday, July 29 at 9 a.m.

For further information, people may visit www.BerkshireLyric.org or call 413-298-5365.



Berkshire Lyric Chorus will hold a music camp for children July 29 to Aug. 2 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Pittsfield Unitarian Church. Submitted photo

First Fridays Artswalk scheduled to take place on Aug. 2

PITTSFIELD – The First Fridays Artswalk in downtown Pittsfield returns on Friday, Aug. 2 from 5-8 p.m. as part of the city of Pittsfield's First Fridays at Five.

Participating venues on Friday, Aug. 2 include Berkshire Art Center, Berkshire Black Economic Council, Clock Tower Artists, Dottie's Coffee

Lounge, Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., Hotel on North, Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, Living in Recovery, Marie's North Street Eatery and Gallery, Marketplace Cafe, Methuselah Bar and Lounge, NUarts gallery + studios, Roots and Dreams and Mustard Seeds, Soda Chef, and THECOLLAB. There will also be

Interactive Pottery Demos in Palace Park with Jim Horsford and a free children's Paint and Sip on Dunham Mall.

People may download the Downtown Pittsfield app in the App Store or on Google Play to follow a virtual walking tour of art on their cell phone.

First Fridays Artswalk is supported in part by a grant from the Mass Cultural Council and a grant from the Pittsfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. This program is also supported in part by The Feigenbaum Foundation.

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