

Country Journal

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CHESTERFIELD

Ashmere Project holds first season in new digs

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

CHESTERFIELD – The Ashmere Project completed its first season in its new grounds: the former Chesterfield Scout Camp it purchased on Oct. 3 for \$1.4 million.

Numerous projects were undertaken, with substantial help from volunteers and donations, throughout the spring of 2026 to bring the old buildings back to life and create wheelchair accessible facilities and trails on the grounds.

Camp opened on June 28 to about 30 friends with disabilities and 50-60 volunteers, who supported individuals, provided activities and served in key roles such as cooks and nurses.

The camp, which started 20 years ago on Martha's Vineyard, moved to Western Massachusetts several years ago. During the summers of

2022-2025, they rented out Berkshire Lakes Camp on Ashmere Lake in Hinsdale, while searching for a permanent home.

They are a mission-driven project that relies 100% on donations and fundraisers. No one is charged to take part in the camp program and the only paid staff member is Camp Ranger Jakob Paltches, who has overseen the extensive renovations completed to date.

Also unique to the Project is their mission of creating a "community of friends who celebrate diversity and foster inclusion, independence and equity." Language is key to living this mission; what most camps would label "staff" and "people with disabilities" is replaced by terms like "friends with disabilities," "volunteers" or simply, "a community of friends."

"We try to eliminate the hierarchy of language,"

Maggie Moyers, R. N. said. She also pointed out that some participants cross these labels, as there were a few caregivers, who have disabilities themselves.

Moyers, co-chair of the Project's Board of Directors, said that this year's program reached several milestones, most notably taking place in their new, permanent site.

Other highlights included winning first place for their float in the Chesterfield Parade, a town that she said has fully welcomed them. The heat wave that took place during camp was made much better by their beautiful pond.

With its original roots in eastern Massachusetts, the camp was pleased to open up a slot for a person, who lives in Western Massachusetts, although it sadly meant that one of their regular friends was ill.

Moyers also noted that

ASHMERE, page 5



Kellen McDonald, Ben Wadleigh, Te Cole, Keenan Bartlett, Stella Guggenheim (the director), and Isabelle Barnett being interviewed by Susan Harrington on the red carpet before the Ashmere Project's documentary screening at the Academy of Music on July 10.

Submitted photo

BLANDFORD

Homeowners discuss plumbing problems with house construction

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Almost new resident but homeowner Megan Kaiser, in person, and her husband Ryan Chaffee, via zoom, brought a formal complaint to the Select Board at the Monday, July 20 meeting.

Plumbing work done at their home on Brookman Drive, which is under construction, was both done incorrectly and not completed.

After multiple attempts

to have Bill Clark Plumbing of Chester to finish the work, the family has engaged the services of Osdens Plumbing and Heating of Blandford at additional cost of \$6,755 on top of the \$9,500 already paid, to complete the plumbing work and "bring it up to code."

The town's Plumbing Inspector Aaron Poteat, according to Kaiser's prepared statement to the board, "approved rough plumbing work that, as we have now learned, remained incomplete and contained deficiencies."

As a result, the couple has asked for a "complete reinspection of the rough plumbing" to comply with the state plumbing code. They want the town to assign a different plumbing inspector to review the work and want to be on site at the time.

When asked for his perspective, Chaffee referenced PEX plumbing, polyethylene cross linked tubing, which is a new easier-to-use than copper piping plumbing system and it requires special and specific installation, which, according to Chaffee, was not

done appropriately nor completed.

"The pictures will speak for themselves," he said and added that Poteat told him he could do the vent through the roof himself. "I'm not going to do that...but I'm going to follow the rules and do this right."

Kaiser provided pictures as documented evidence of the non-completed work, including no roof venting, incorrect connections and more. "It's a mess," she said.

They would like to be in residence by November

in time to enjoy the holidays with their children.

Chair Jackie Coury said, "We will make this a priority," and she said that appreciated that she came to the board with the issues.

The board then approved the establishment of a Blandford Community Development Coordination Group to improve "communication, routing and coordination among the Town boards, departments, committees and officials involved in the review of special permit applications and related

development matters."

This group is "limited to administrative coordination" that includes confirming receipt of applications, identifying boards that should be involved, noting deadlines, next steps and coordinating the flow of information "so that each party can carry out its duties independently."

The group shall include representatives from those involved in the town's permitting and development review process. This group

HOMEOWNERS, page 2

CHESTER

Littleville Fair marks 104th anniversary

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

CHESTER – The 2026 Littleville Fair, 15 Kinnebrook Road, opens on Friday, Aug. 7 from 4-10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8 from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. and runs through Sunday, Aug. 9 from 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

All of the fair goes favorite events are returning including oxen draws, the demolition derby and live music throughout.

Admission is \$10 for adults with children 12 and under free. This long standing agricultural fair will have livestock, flowers, vegetable and art exhibits, competitions and prizes.

The fair book can be downloaded by visiting littlevillefair.com. The Littleville Fair is a cash only event and coolers, alcohol and dogs are not permitted except for medical service dogs.

Several new events are offered this year including the Arcadia Wildlife tent on Saturday and Janoah the Jester and a K9 demo on Sunday.

Friday will feature two classes of Oxen draws, a truck pull and Bingo in the Dining Hall. The top prize for the Bingo coverall will be a 43-inch smart TV.

Saturday is a long, full day with gates opening at 7 a.m. and breakfast available in the food booth. There will be four classes of oxen draws, a diesel truck pull, a dairy and beef cattle show, ox teamsters challenge and the popular Demolition Derby at 5 p.m. followed by the women's fry pan toss.

Sunday's schedule features another early start at 7 a.m. and breakfast. Events include antique tractor pulls, a sheep show, horse pulls, a beard competition, zucchini contest weigh in, wool spinning demo and Jack 'n Jill



Chicken barbecue will be served in the dining hall on Saturday, Aug. 8.

Submitted photo

cross cut saw competition. Events end at 4 p.m. with entrants picking up their items from the exhibit hall.

There are tons of activities for children. Bicycles will be raffled off on Friday

at 7 p.m., 1 and 5 p.m. on Saturday and noon and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are free and children must be present to win.

LITTLEVILLE, page 7

BLANDFORD

Public comment garners heated discussion

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD –The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in a March 2023 unanimous decision that government officials cannot silence members of the public based on the substance of their input during "public comment" periods of government meetings.

Specifically, the state's highest court ruled that "civility" codes that limit criticism of public officials are contrary to multiple provisions of the state constitution, which provide "robust protection of public criticism of government officials."

Pam Dirschka started off the Public Comment segment of the July 20 Select Board meeting with what she said was "a positive."

She complimented the board on the recent information session on all things energy related. However, she continued with the issue of not finding out in a timely manner that the town's November 2025 vote for a solar/energy moratorium was disapproved by the Attorney General's office.

Planning Board Chair Greg Garfield addressed the appointments made by the Select Board to the planning Board.

At the June 4, 2025 Planning Board meeting, "a mob came into the room and the chair of the Planning Board quit and another member quit. Who stood up? Edna (Willander) stayed because I stayed and Sara (Simpson) stayed because we stayed. We did not even have a quorum at that time."

PUBLIC, page 2



PAGE 8

Blandford.....	2, 3	Goshen	8	Monterey	6	Public Notices.....	9
Business Directory.....	3	Great Barrington	10	Montgomery	7	Puzzle Page.....	10
Chester.....	7	Hilltowns	6	Opinion	4, 5	Sandisfield.....	10
Chesterfield	5	Huntington.....	8	Pittsfield	5	Schools & Youth.....	9
Classifieds	11	Middlefield.....	6	Plainfield	10	Worthington.....	5



BLANDFORD

Vocalist and pianist perform at White Church

BLANDFORD – On Saturday, Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m. soprano Sara Paar and pianist Marcia Eckert will present An American Sampler, a concert of nostalgic and captivating vocal music by American composers and poets.

Jake Heggies’s Natural Selection is a young woman’s coming-of-age tale and includes a tango, operatic references, some blues and a final resolution of being at one with nature.

The songs of Connecticut Yankee Charles Ives alternately move, entertain and inspire.

Stefania de Kenessey’s “The Names of Woman” honors the lives of groundbreaking women from all times and places, including the powerful Enheduana, a Mesopotamian high priestess and poet, who was the world’s first author to name herself.

And from the pen of Kate Light, there is whimsical poetry about relationships, the opera Carmen, a mysterious marriage and an unusual 18th Century artist, all set delightfully by Alla Borzova.

Acclaimed as “sensitive to every expression in the text” (New York Concert Review), soprano Sara Paar is an interpreter of contemporary classical music and opera. She is a favorite with composers throughout the United States and has been admired for her beautiful voice, stirring and inherent sense of drama, her sensitive interpretations and exquisite attention to detail.

Marcia Eckert is active as a collaborative artist and has appeared in the Mostly Mozart Festival, as well as at Merkin, Alice Tully, and Weill concert halls, and London’s Leighton House. She has been referred to as “a pianist of impressive skill and sensitivity, the sort of keyboard collaborator that every instrumentalist dreams of” (Scott Cantrell, Albany Times-Union).

Paar and Eckert have performed for over five years around the New York area in concert halls, universities and benefit concerts. Their recently released album, “Wisdom’s Harvest,” has received glowing reviews from Gramophone and Fanfare magazines, among others. It was referred to as “a rich and articulate effort where Paar and Eckert’s talents seemingly know no bounds, anyone with an ear for classical, chamber, opera and piano music will find much to adore here.” (Takeeffectreviews.com June, 2026).

Marcia Eckert is a part-time resident of Blandford and helped to find the antique Henry F. Miller grand piano, which will be heard in this concert.

Youngsters 16 and under are free; there is a \$20 suggested donation, which may be made at the door or on line at thewhitechurch.org



Soprano Sara Paar, from left and pianist Marcia Eckert will perform in concert at The White Church, Saturday, Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted photo

HOMEOWNER

from page 1

will not make decisions, but will make certain all pertinent groups/boards get the necessary information.

What the board passed did not give details as to what departments or the number of members that would belong or how they would become members.

Planning Board candidates

The board then reviewed the candidates for the Planning Board. The Planning Board submitted their two candidates for consideration according to the Mass General Laws Ch. 41, sec. 81A

The board voted to appoint both Cara Letendre and Ronald Racine to the Planning Board.

Board member Corinne

Shartrand was a no vote for Letendre based on her “incident in Town Hall of Friday” while member Ted Cousineau and Chair Coury voted in favor. Both said they based their vote on her years of service to the town.

“She’s been there for us every step of the way and I think she deserves to have this appointment and that’s why I am in n favor of it.” Cousineau said. “Any personal feud stops at that door. This is town business. This is what we do, the town’s work,” he added.

Coury said that she had received communication from the public about “their disappointment’ and took it into consideration “in decision making as one of the Select

Board members.” She does not condone behavior “in the chamber in any way shape or form.”

She reiterated what Cousineau had said about Letendre’s years of service and said, “I have not seen this behavior ever in the past. The incident appears to be an isolated event rather than a pattern.”

Coury continued, “Based on those qualifications (13 years of service), experience and familiarity with municipal operation, the candidate is well suited to serve on the board.”

She moved to appoint Letendre to the Planning Board; the motion was seconded by Cousineau and the motion passed, two to one.

The vote for Racine was unanimous.

Shartrand asked which position the candidates would hold. Planning Board Chair Greg Garfield said that had not been discussed with the existing members of the board yet.

Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

Springfield Water and Sewer Commission has informed the town of a wetlands filing on Otis Stage Road. There are mapping concerns and the Department of Environmental Protection is aware.

SWSC also has made an Intergovernmental Agreement for roadwork on Julius Hall Road, which the town’s Highway Department

requested.

Before moving to the public comment segment of the meeting, Shartrand told the board that she “felt threatened” and “concerned about being by myself at town hall; don’t know what’s going to happen.” She added that she will request that “someone walks out” with her. She said she is afraid “to park my car. I don’t know what’s going to happen...I’ll get over it because I’ve got bigger and better things to go onto ...I will move forward and I will serve Blandford to the best of by dedicated professionalism.”

Coury acknowledged Shartrand’s statement and told her, “We don’t ever want you to feel like you’re not being safe, that’s for sure.”

Other business

In other business, there were no issues with the annual Acholic Beverages Control Commission report; there are two licenses in town, one for the Blandford Country Store and one for the Blandford Country Club, Inc.

Appointment for a representative to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority was set aside pending Coury’s discussion with Council on Aging Director Margit Mikuski.

The board had questions about a communication from Bacon and Wilson about the Robbins Estate and a bond note requiring signatures. Coury then opened the floor to public comment.

PUBLIC

from page 1

We had another meeting and we asked a lot of people from town (who were) in that mob – I call it a mob because it was nasty.”

Garfield said that two people stood up, “Ron was one, thank you, Ron, and the other was Brian Nimerowski. He quit. A third, Scott O’Connor, volunteered.”

Garfield continued, “But another guy quit. We’re not getting any commitment from the mob people that came in here.”

He referred to the caucus when Ron Racine and Scott O’Connor were nominated. Racine did not take the nomination, he was away and Garfield continued, “We need people that are willing to work. Cara’s willing to work. Ron’s willing to work. Who else from the mob ever stood up? Nobody. All I hear is blah, blah, blah...nobody’s helping...doing anything. They’re writing stuff...getting information off the internet...putting it back on...that’s a bunch of garbage...doesn’t help anything...”

He noted the stress and not wanting to “put up with too much more...” and he said, “some of you mob people, you think you’re so smart, step up and do it.”

A member of the Conservation Commission which is appointed rather than elected as the Planning Board is, asked that the town have a process for filling elected positions and pointed to Amherst’s methods.

Board member Ted Cousineau said he had recently attended a meeting in Chesterfield where he learned that “Many small towns are looking to Blandford because we’ve put bylaws through. Amherst? That’s a hell of a lot bigger than any small town. The problem is getting volunteers...”

Cathy Smelcer, before reading her prepared statement, asked if an apology had been made for the Friday incident. Cousineau said there was. Corinne Shartrand said she did not get an apology.

The Friday incident referred to happened towards the end Congressman Richard Neal’s news conference and was apparently an argument.

Smelcer’s statement in part read as follows: “I am here to express my deep concern about the lack of accountability in our local appointments and the message this sends to the community.

When a former board member verbally attacks another public official during a meeting, an apology should not automatically reset the standard for future service. Yet Cara has been appointed ...”

She further stated, “This selective approach discourages volunteers and drives good people away. It also disrespects newer board members like Corinne, who was elected by the community and has worked to maintain decorum under difficult circumstances.”

Smelcer continued, “We are repeatedly told that experience matters and that people are hard to replace. But everyone starts with no experience,

and “experience” should not excuse behavior that would not be tolerated from others. Public service demands higher standards of conduct, not exemptions.”

“The people of this town have voiced their desire for unity and a fresh start. Continuing to reward division undermines that goal. If the board wishes to restore trust and encourage broader participation, it must apply consistent accountability to all. Actions have consequences — including at the ballot box. Residents are watching.”

Smelcer then cited the Friday incident the board was well aware of as they were all present.

Cousineau asked if she would serve on the Planning Board and her response was, “I served three years on the Finance board and the reason I got off was because of Cara...she does whatever she wants...”

Cousineau asked why it was not brought before the board as any “bad conduct from board or department

members is usually brought before the board.”

Terri Garfield spoke on behalf of Letendre and said she had “never known a young woman as intelligent, as dedicated and as hardworking and as good a person.”

Regarding Friday’s incident she said she thought it “came about from the harassment, intimidation and bullying...” She added that this had been taking place on line and in person “for a very long time.”

She also said, “and Corinne, you have some culpability in this as well. You ran on a platform that said, ‘It hurts my heart because we are so divided. I’m going to try to bring people together, right? And you did nothing...”

Shartrand responded with the information that she did say something about this. “I sent out a plea, I sent out a very nice plea to everyone to please stop this. You have no idea what I have been going through.” She said her constituents were harassed, and called “loud, angry and unintelligent...on Facebook.”

“Don’t tell me I have been any part of this. I told Jackie and TJ I remained silent. It is not my responsibility to tell people what they can and cannot say...only to be nice...and I did.”

Cousineau said “We have to stop talking about it...move forward. As long as this animosity is going on it’s going to hurt the town.”

Coury said she saw what was going on and asked that it be out of the building, then into the hall, and had no idea “what the reason was.” Her directive to take it out of the building was not heeded and the argument continued in the hallway outside the Select Board chambers.

Cousineau concluded with, “The subject is over and done.”

The public comment segment can be seen on the town’s YouTube clip in its entirety. It is about the last half-hour of the July 20 meeting which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiMScVOK9HI> .

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BLANDFORD

Blandford Historical Society Presents ... *Did you know?*

BLANDFORD – For a town whose story begins with a bell from Glasgow, Scotland that never arrived, Blandford certainly ended up rich in bells.

First, an update to the previous column about the historic 1902 Meneely bell displayed in front of BHS.

American Legion

Veteran leader Doug Emo reached out with additional information, which we independently verified. He said the American Legion purchased the Second Congregational Church in North Blandford for \$1 in 1950, owned it for the next 20 years and when the building was sold in 1970, donated the bell to the Historical Society.

Emo also shared recollections from Legion members John Tucker and Gordon Cady, both involved in the 1950 purchase. They recalled that when the building was sold in 1970, the bell was specifically excluded from the sale, despite the new owner's wish to keep it.

Jim Swol, who worked for Forish Construction, brought in a crane to remove it.

Doug said many of the

World War II veterans were still active in the Legion when he joined. They loved the church, using it for meetings, Christmas parties, card games, and awards and scholarship presentations. Eventually, the Legion sold it because it was difficult to heat and needed a lot of work.

Holbrook Bell

High in the belfry of The White Church hangs another Blandford treasure, an 1835 Holbrook bronze bell with a remarkable pedigree.

It was cast by one of America's premier bell foundries, founded by Major George Holbrook (1767–1846), who learned the craft in Paul Revere's Boston foundry, where he worked for half his life before establishing his own foundry in 1816 at age 49.

Revere died just two years later, in 1818. The White Church bell was cast during the company's golden years, when Major Holbrook worked alongside his son, Colonel George Handel Holbrook (1798–1875), who later succeeded him.

A gifted musician and member of Boston's Handel and Haydn Society, Colonel



The bell found by the Shea family in the woods off Blair Road.

Holbrook revolutionized American bell-making by applying scientific harmonic tuning. His innovations transformed bells from simple signaling devices into musical instruments celebrated for their rich, harmonious tone.

Holbrook bells are prized

and can be found at Harvard, Yale, Brown and Dartmouth.

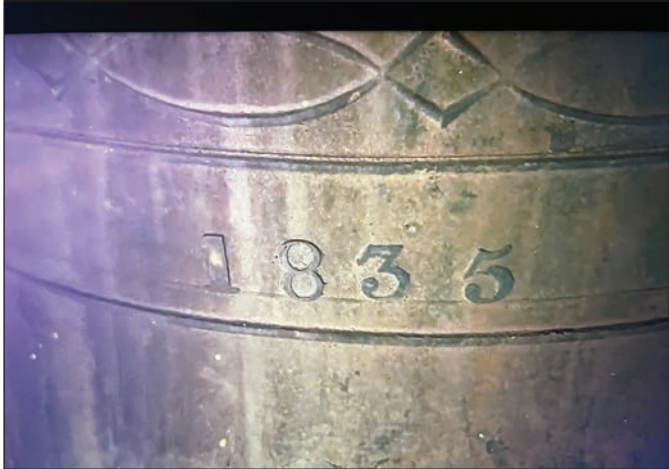
Thanks to the careful stewardship of BHS and the support of generous donors and fundraising events, this bell, now about 191 years old, still rings on special occasions, most recently in honor



The Holbrook Bell in the belfry of the White Church.
Photos Courtesy of Blandford Historical Society



Historical Society Chips Norcross climbed the spire to the White Church belfry, seen here just above the bell.



This is a closeup of the Holbrook bell at the White Church showing the the date.

of America's 250th birthday.

Blair Road Bell

We're not done yet.

The Shea family, former Blandford residents who lived on Blair Road about 30 years ago, stumbled upon a bell in the woods while hiking near their home. Measuring just four inches in diameter, it bears no markings and looks as good as the day it was found. At the time, they were told there may once have been a schoolhouse nearby.

Now that's a story for another day.

Coming Up

People are invited to The White Church for An American Sampler with soprano Sara Paar and pianist Marcia Eckert Saturday, Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and the Bel Canto Opera with Eve Queler and emerging opera superstars Saturday, Aug. 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Then mark the calendar for Blandford's Second Annual Ghost Walk, on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 2–4 p.m. at Hill Cemetery, across from The White Church.

COA offers two monthly luncheons

BLANDFORD – The Council on Aging lunch program returns to two monthly luncheons in August.

The first noon time treat is Friday, Aug. 14. This is a treat with real baked Muffuletta sandwiches, a la the original New Orleans version, which was originally 100 years earlier in Italy.

A light summer salad, chips, homemade pickles accompany the sandwiches and then there's dessert.

The second luncheon set for Friday, Aug. 28 is a baked potato party with myriad toppings for the spuds. Some will be chili, barbecue sauce, shredded chicken, bacon bits and more.

COA Director Margit Mikuski asks that attendees consider a \$5 donation to help keep the program going. People may call 413-848-4279, extension 400 and leave name and number of people dining on either day.

Game day is the first Friday from 2-4 p.m. in the COA room. All are welcome.

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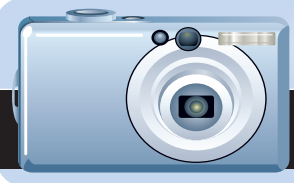
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Matters

By Russell Gloor



I was cheated; I delayed claiming SS but didn’t get my full benefits

Dear Rusty:
I’m 70 now and took my Social Security benefits at age 68.
Social Security would not allow me to take all my increased percentage earned by waiting until age 68 to claim. My local Social Security office said I would get an increased amount but not my full age 68 amount because it was “not an option;” they said I could take it only the way “they said.” That’s our illegal government.

Signed:
Feeling Cheated

Dear Feeling Cheated:

Regarding your comment that SS “would not allow” you to take all of your “increased percentage,” I assume you are referring to a Social Security rule which applies whenever benefits are claimed after full retirement age (FRA) but before age 70. That rule says that the Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs), which are earned when someone delays claiming until after their Social Security full retirement age, are applied only in January of each year. What that means is that whenever benefits are claimed mid-year after FRA but before age 70, only the DRCs earned through the end of the previous year are immediately applied, and any additional DRCs earned during the current year are not applied until January of the following year. The only exception to that rule is if someone applies for benefits to begin in the month they turn 70 (or after) when all earned DRCs are applied immediately.

So, if you applied for your benefits to begin when you turned age 68 mid-year in 2024 (but before the end of that year), you would initially only get DRCs earned through the end of the previous year (through December 2023), and the DRCs earned in 2024 wouldn’t have been credited to you

until January 2025. Which means you now actually do get your full percentage of delayed retirement credits earned by waiting until age 68 to claim, but you did not get them all until January 2025. Essentially, those extra benefits earned from the beginning of 2024 to the month your SS benefits started were delayed until the beginning of the following year.

We run into this complexity fairly often here at our AMAC Social Security Advisory Service, which is why we counsel those who contact us about waiting longer to claim are aware of this rather obscure rule. Not to defend your local SS office, but they are required to pay benefits according to the established Social Security law. Thus, they were required to inform you that paying you the full age 68 benefits effective immediately when you applied was not an option. It wasn’t personal; they were just following the rules.

I know this explanation doesn’t dissuade you from “feeling cheated,” but I hope understanding how SS works in this case assures you it wasn’t personal – SSA applies the same rules to all beneficiaries.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

LETTER

It’s time to retire ‘Maryland’s third senator’

Sen. Chuck Grassley visits all 99 Iowa counties every year (not every six years) as does his colleague Sen. Joni Ernst. The media has dubbed this tour ‘The Full Grassley.’

Sen. Amy Klobuchar goes to all 87 Minnesota counties annually and Sen. Chuck Schumer shows up in all 62 New York counties each year.

Our junior senators from Ed Brooke to Paul Tsongas to John Kerry all made it a point to get to each and every part of the Commonwealth.

We have 14 counties (one of which – Nantucket – is a single town) and yet there are dozens of communities from the hill-towns of western Mass to North Quabbin and the Blackstone Valley that Sen. Ed Markey can’t be bothered to set foot in.

Since joining the US

Senate in 2013, he’s never visited almost all of the rural towns in the five western counties. This is unacceptable.

The fact that he spends more time in his Chevy Chase mansion rather than in Cheshire, Chesterfield and Charlton is why he’s earned the disparaging moniker as Maryland’s third senator.

Markey also doesn’t answer his constituent mail. Looking to know where he stands on an issue or if he’ll co-sponsor a piece of legislation? Well, good luck waiting for a reply to your query.

On Sept. 1, I’ll be voting for Rep. Seth Moulton. Moulton’s been in our area more in the last nine months than Markey ever has.

Matt L. Barron
Chesterfield

OPINION



GUEST COLUMN

The joys of the harvest season

It’s been a fun week in the garden! I love it when the harvest starts to roll in.

This week I picked broccoli, kale, green beans and zucchini. I also replanted a few crops in hopes of a second harvest prior to the first frost.

Read on to hear about my adventures.

You may remember my column from a few weeks back, where I was having a hard time getting “into it” this year. I guess like building any relationship, the more time you spend, the more time you may want to spend as things start to progress and go well.

Anyway, I am happy with my garden again and it feels good to spend time out there. Back to the harvest.

I enjoy harvesting broccoli. It’s always fun to see just how big you can get the heads to grow before they want to flower.

The first one I cut was maybe six inches in diameter. Not bad, but the second one was closer to nine inches.

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



More heads will be ready in the coming weeks. After that I will be harvesting side shoots.

This year, cabbage moths were kept at bay by using a tightly woven bug netting draped over the plants and supported by wire hoops and secured at the base by old wooden planks or stones. So far so good; no worms of any kind in the water left over after steaming.

Kale is broccoli’s cousin and is subject to the same pests. Because of that I also grow it under the netting.

I’ve been harvesting the kale for well over a month and we already have several bags of it in the freezer. I am starting to rethink my use of plastic baggies, but for now the leaves are washed, patted dry then ripped into

pieces and stuffed into baggies pushing out as much air as possible. When my husband makes his vegetable juices and stews, all he does is empty the contents into his creation.

I noticed that the older leaves of the kale were starting to have a yellow cast, so I got out the organic granular fertilizer and gave the plants a sprinkle and a good watering. Hopefully that will reinvigorate the plants for picking well into the fall.

My bush bean seeds got planted late; well after Memorial Day. The harvest is just starting. I will be sure to pick often to keep the plants producing.

I have been saving my own bean seeds for a few years now. It’s easy, just harvest the dry pods of “the ones that got away.” Make sure they are crispy dry.

Break open the seed pods and store the seeds with a packet of desiccant (usually in a bottle of vitamins or with leather shoes) in a jar. If you are growing

GARDEN, page 5

A Belchertown resident shared this photo of a glossy ibis he took at Lake Wallace.

The glossy ibis is a medium-sized wading bird, 18.9 to 26 inches long, with compact body, long neck, long legs and long, curved bill.

The plumage appears dark, almost blackish, at a distance or in poor light. Up close, the body is maroon with wing coverts showing a metallic green, bronze and violet tones.

Juveniles are a duller brown color with some white streaking on their neck.

Glossy Ibis occur in flocks, both at nesting colonies and when foraging.

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

They typically feed by lowering the bill into water, mud or soil, to feel for prey.

In addition to consuming animal matter, plants may constitute a major portion of their diet during some seasons.

They frequent almost

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We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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WEB
countryjournal.turley.com

PHONE
(413) 283-8393

ADDRESS
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EDITORIAL POLICY

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rice fields. Over much of its range,

When flying, the glossy ibis has its neck stretched forward and legs straight behind it. The glossy ibis does not call often, but may make murmuring sounds while foraging.

During the breeding season, glossy ibises will court one another by preening and touching bills. Males and females will work together to build a large nest.

Nesting in tight colonies, glossy ibis nests are often no more than 2 feet away from each other. The female will lay three to four eggs and

BACKYARD, page 5

Message from Pastor Tom

By Pastor Tom Crouse
First Congregational Church, Blandford

In 2 Corinthians 4 Paul writes of our having this treasure in jars of clay.

The treasure is Christ, the gospel all that it is, our adoption, our being children of the living God. Point being that we are described as jars of clay.

A couple things to note about jars of clay at the time Paul writes this description. First jars of clay were for common use. In a home they would be in the kitchen and the toilet area as well as by the door.

So there would be many in a house used for the common things in life. They were also very fragile, easy to crack and break.

It didn’t take much for them to wear out. The next interesting thing is that they were made by hand. The potter would shape mold and determine the use of the clay.

The exciting truth shouts at us today, as scripture tells us He is the Potter and we are the clay.

And He has entrusted us with Himself, knowing that we are common, nothing special, ordinary people. Not only that He knows we are fragile and prone to break.

In fact we break a lot, and at times spend more time broken than not. And yes He knows this about us because He made us with His hand.

And He continues to put us back together again and again and again, never upset always with love and care picking up the broken pieces and putting us back together.

If it were me I would not choose jars of clay for such a treasure. But His ways are not our ways.

We are told why He does this in 2 Cor 4. and it is so show that the surpassing power, greatness and glory belongs to Him and not us.

He gets the glory and we

get the amazing grace and joy of being safe in the hands of the potter. To understand this it to unlock the key to joy.

My fellow common, broken traveler, we are made and held and cared for by His hand. He never leaves,

He just keeps putting us back together, with love and gentle care. He shows His power through our fragility and we receive love grace and mercy each and every moment of every day.

What a gift to such undeserving jars of clay like us. Celebrate, enjoy and rest in the loving hands of the potter today.

CHESTERFIELD

ASHMERE PROJECT

from page 1

the renovated Main Dining Hall was not only the place for eating, but also used for a dance, yoga classes and the place to go for games on rainy days.

They returned twice to Berkshire U Drive to rent six boats and enjoy Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield. Andy, the owner, also took folks out on his jet ski, Moyers said.

Historically, the Ashmere Project creates and performs an original musical at camp. While they plan to return to that endeavor in 2027, this year they instead

attended a documentary about the Ashmere Project at the Academy of Music in Northampton. “Beautiful Face” was directed by Stella Street Guggenheim, who filmed the Ashmere Project’s summers of 2024 and 2025. The film goes into the lives of five community members, including their lives outside of the camp.

They held a red carpet event for the premiere on July 10 with over 100 people attending. Moyers noted that many attendees were from

the town of Chesterfield, who again came out to support the Project.

A private showing and fundraiser is already planned on Martha’s Vineyard this year. The film will also be screened in other cities and may be entered in some film festivals so it cannot stream until those events happen.

Information on this and other news will be posted to their website ashmereproject.org/. Moyers explains that the film has a tremendous potential to not only showcase the Ashmere Project but to

also change the conversation about people who have disabilities.

It gives an accurate representation of the lives of the people it showcased, and “shows the public, doesn’t tell them.”

Now that camp is over, work weekends will resume starting the weekend of Friday, Aug. 14 and continuing on Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 14, Oct. 17 and hopefully conclude the weekend starting Nov. 6 or until the water has to be turned off.

Projects will include fixing some of the trails from the wear and tear of their first season, improving accessibility to new locations and buildings and painting and replacing floors in several cabins to reduce opportunities for critter access. Anyone willing to help is invited to sign up on the website, as organizers want to provide enough food for everyone.

They will continue to look at opening slots up to local people, although much is dependent upon the match of a person’s care needs with volunteer skills and experience. Moyers said that they are also looking at long weekends for Family Camps, but this will depend upon their financial situation.

“The more donations we receive, the more we can do,” Moyers noted, adding that all of the volunteers have day jobs. Donations may also be made on their website.

They hope to rent out the buildings and grounds next year to other groups that have like-minded missions. Two of the project volunteers are also holding their wedding there in 2027.

PITTSFIELD

Art exhibit takes place Aug. 7

PITTSFIELD – The Spiritual Essence of Water, the art of Gail Gelburd and Tenzin Wangchuk explores these universal themes through an immersive exhibition featuring the artwork of Berkshire artist Gail Gelburd and Tibetan artist Tenzin Wangchuk.

This event takes place Friday, Aug. 7 from 5-8 p.m. at the Sancum Gallery, 148 North St. as part of Fridays Artswalk Gelburd’s richly layered mixed-media works, inspired by waterfalls

in the Berkshires and around the world, combine photography, encaustic, sculpture, illuminated installations and fabric to evoke water’s beauty, power, and spiritual presence. Her work invites viewers to reflect on the connection between humanity and the natural world.

Complementing the exhibition are sacred Tibetan sand paintings by Tenzin Wangchuk, a former senior monk and artist for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. His intricate works are rooted

in the spiritual traditions of Tibetan Buddhism and have been shared with the community through his long friendship and artistic collaboration with Gelburd.

Presented by Sanctum Gallery, a program of Healing Hearts Sanctuary, the exhibition will also feature artist talks, guided meditations, music, and other community programs throughout the month.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

Book swap and old time games Aug. 22

CHESTERFIELD – In honor of our Nation’s 250th birthday, Friends of the Chesterfield Public Library will host Old Timey Games and Book Swap on Saturday, Aug. 22 from 1-3 p.m. on the library lawn, 408 Main Road.

If inclement weather, the event will be held in the Old Town Hall. Children aged preschool to grade 6 should bring a lightly used book or two to swap for another.

They will have opportunities to learn to play games from our nation’s past. Games that our forefathers might have played include graces; hoop and stick and bilquet will be featured.

People may call Zoe Greenwood at 413-358-6567 with questions.

WORTHINGTON

Road work continues on East Windsor to Lindsey Hill roads

WORTHINGTON – Crew # 1 Morais Construction continues reconstruction of the roadway beginning at East Windsor Road to Lindsey Hill Road, placing dense graded crushed stone on the roadway.

Work hours Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. One-way alternating traffic will be in place with traffic officers directing traffic.

With the full road reconstruction underway on the middle section of the project,

way beginning at East Windsor Road to Lindsey Hill Road, placing dense graded crushed stone on the roadway.

Work hours Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. One-way alternating traffic will be in place with traffic officers directing traffic.

With the full road reconstruction underway on the middle section of the project,

motorist may want to consider the detour from East Windsor Road to the center of Peru.

It adds approximately 7-12 minutes to the trip depending on where they’re headed, but it’s time they can count on rather than a possible wait and rough road in the construction areas.

It’s a little twisty, but signs are up and it’s well marked.

BACKYARD

incubate them for 20-22 days.

Glossy ibises can be found across the globe. Their range has greatly expanded in the 20th century in North America.

This species has gone from a rare and local Florida species to regularly breeding as far north as Maine and occasionally along the east coast of Canada. The first Massachusetts nests were found at coastal sites in 1974.

The oldest recorded glossy ibis was at least 21 years old and lived in Virginia between 1971 and 1992.

Sutton birds

Recently, my brother and sister-in-law hosted a pool party. My brother, Ted, puts out grape jelly for the Baltimore orioles and a nectar feeder for the ruby-throated

ed hummingbirds on his deck.

Birds included male and female ruby-throated hummingbirds for the nectar feeder. Baltimore orioles, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker and a scarlet tanager came to the deck.

They also have a pond that abuts their backyard. They have a pair of mute swans on the pond. They raised a family for several years in a row.

Great blue heron

I often see a great blue heron wading in Long Pond in Rutland. Every time I drive along Route 122 by the pond, I look for the heron.

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



Juvenile glossy ibis
Photo by Doug Moore

GARDEN

open pollinated or heirloom, non-hybrid varieties will reliably get the same variety back again. They don’t cross pollinate with neighbor beans.

This week I was happy to harvest four zucchinis with more coming. It’s funny that already I see freebies at the end of driveways on my commute. I truly hope I have an abundance.

To avoid “boat-sized” squash, pick them small, say six to eight inches long.

The seed cavity won’t be too big that way and you will encourage the plant to keep producing.

No doubt the vine borer will do in my early sowing soon enough, but never fear, I have sown additional seeds under cover to hopefully have a later harvest once this one expires. I try and keep them covered until the plants bloom, at which time the cover needs to be removed so that the flowers can be pollinated and fruit can form.

I hope you are enjoying the start of the harvest season as much as I am.

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

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



Chester Baptist Church

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

First Congregational Church of Blandford

Pastor Tom Crouse
91 Main St., Blandford, MA 01008
413-269-5055
Website: fccblandford.com
Sunday service 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Chester

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

First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

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

Hilltown Community Church

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

Holy Family Parish

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

New Boston Congregational Church

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

Pioneer Valley Assembly of God

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

Pioneer Valley Mennonite Fellowship

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

Westhampton Congregational Church, UCC

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

HILLTOWNS

Gas price increases above \$4 per gallon

WESTWOOD – Northeast gasoline prices are spiking back above \$4 a gallon after renewed hostilities between the United States and Iran once again put global oil and gas supplies under pressure.

Crude oil prices climbed more than \$11 last week as tensions continue to escalate across the Middle East following the July 8 breakdown of the ceasefire agreement that had calmed oil and gas markets.

By the close of markets on Friday, the price for a barrel of West Texas Intermediate settled above

\$81 and Brent crude finished at \$88 in reaction to fresh U.S. and Iranian attacks and both sides announcing the closure of the critical Strait of Hormuz passageway.

Higher crude prices aren't the only factor putting pressure on pump prices. Domestic gasoline inventories fell to 12-year lows, according to the latest figures from the Energy Information Administration.

Despite strong production from U.S. refiners, supplies of gasoline decreased by 1.5 million barrels last week to their lowest summer levels since August 2014,

the EIA reported. Steady, but not spectacular, domestic demand and record gasoline exports have constrained supplies all summer.

Last week, domestic demand settled at 8.8 million barrels a day just shy of the benchmark of nine million barrels a day that markets interpret as a signal of stronger demand. That line has been crossed just three times since mid-May. In comparison, demand surpassed 9 million barrels a day five times last year and six times in 2024 over the same period.

“For months, the sta-

tus of the Strait of Hormuz has heavily influenced oil and gas markets and the latest developments in the war have shown again how quickly that influence can impact what drivers pay at the pump,” said Mark Schieldrop, senior spokesperson for AAA Northeast. “Where prices head next will depend on a combination of gasoline inventories, demand and the war with Iran.”

The average gas price in Massachusetts is up 13 cents from last week (\$3.90), averaging \$4.03 per gallon. Today's price is four cents

lower than a month ago (\$4.07) and 98 cents higher than this day last year (\$3.05). Massachusetts's average gas price is three cents higher than the national average.

AAA Northeast's July 20 survey of fuel prices found the current national average is up 13 cents from last week (\$3.87), averaging \$4 per gallon. Today's national average price is five cents higher than a month ago (\$3.95) and 86 cents higher than this day last year (\$3.14).

Today, Indiana and Mississippi have the low-

est prices in the nation at \$3.35 and \$3.57, respectively. California and Hawaii hold the highest prices in the nation this week at \$5.49 and \$5.41, respectively. Massachusetts holds the 19th place on the list of highest gas prices in the nation.

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6.9 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, financial and auto-related services.

Jennifer McPherson becomes vice president of human resources

SPRINGFIELD – Freedom Credit Union named Jennifer McPherson as its new vice president of human resources.

She brings more than 20 years of human resources leadership experience in the financial services and health-care industries to the organization.

“Jennifer's experience and leadership will help us continue investing in our employees, who are at the heart of the service we provide our members,” said Glenn Welch, president and CEO of Freedom Credit Union. “Her expertise will strengthen our organization as we continue to grow while remaining committed to delivering the personalized service our members expect.”

In her role, McPherson oversees recruitment, compensation, benefits, compliance and human resources operations. She partners with leadership to attract, develop and retain top talent while fostering a workplace culture that supports exceptional service for Freedom's members.

Before joining Freedom Credit Union, McPherson



Jennifer McPherson

served as HR operations manager and HR business partner at Farm Credit Financial Partners, Inc., where she managed compensation, benefits, payroll and employee relations. She also served as total rewards manager at Health New England and spent nearly a decade as an HR generalist at Pioneer Valley Federal Credit Union.

McPherson's experience in talent development, organizational culture and strategic human resources will help Freedom continue attracting and retaining a

skilled workforce dedicated to serving members and supporting the communities the credit union serves.

McPherson was recognized as a Credit Union Magazine Credit Union Rock Star in 2017 and holds SHRM Certified Professional and Professional in Human Resources certifications. A lifelong Western Massachusetts resident, she is active in community service initiatives focused on financial literacy, education and workforce development and is pursuing a degree in human resource management at Bay Path University.

Originally chartered in 1922 as the Western Massachusetts Telephone Workers Credit Union and renamed in 2004, Freedom Credit Union is a 9-branch, full-service financial institution. Freedom Credit Union has conveniently located Massachusetts branches in Chicopee, Feeding Hills, Greenfield, Ludlow, Northampton, Turners Falls, West Springfield and two in Springfield, as well as a Loan Production Office in Enfield, Connecticut.

Freedom Credit announces promotions

SPRINGFIELD Freedom Credit Union announces several updates within its Information Technology department including the hiring of Jason Cutroni as assistant vice president, information security officer and the promotions of Eugene Marceau Jr. to information technology officer and Luke Sopot to network administrator.

“Investing in talented technology professionals is essential to protecting our members, supporting our employees and positioning Freedom Credit Union for continued growth,” said Glenn Welch, president and CEO of Freedom Credit Union. “Jason brings valuable experience in information security, and Gene and Luke have consistently demonstrated the expertise

and leadership that make them deserving of these promotions.”

As assistant vice president, information security officer, Cutroni leads the credit union's information security program, overseeing cybersecurity risk management, incident response, vendor risk and business continuity planning. Before joining Freedom Credit Union, he managed business continuity, disaster recovery and physical security programs for Workers Federal Credit Union.

Marceau was promoted after 13 years as network administrator. In his new role, he oversees the information technology department, leading staff development, project management and the implementation of technology initiatives across the organization.

Sopot, who joined Freedom Credit Union three years ago as a computer network technician, now serves as network administrator, where he manages the organization's network infrastructure and helps ensure the performance and security of its systems.

“Jason, Gene and Luke each bring unique strengths to our organization, and we're excited to see the impact they will have as we continue to enhance the technology and security that support our members every day,” Welch said.

Originally chartered in 1922 as the Western Massachusetts Telephone Workers Credit Union and renamed in 2004, Freedom Credit Union is a nine-branch, full-service financial institution.

MassDot announces 1-90 bridge repairs

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

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

In Stockbridge, bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound at mile marker 7.5 on the night of Thursday, July 30 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

In Blandford bridge painting will be conducted on I-90 westbound at mile marker 26.2 nightly beginning now through the morning of Friday, July 31 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m.

Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work areas. Drivers traveling through the area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real time conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

Armbrook Village holds Alzheimer's Association support group

WESTFIELD – The Alzheimer's Association support group meets on Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 6 p.m. at Armbrook Village Senior Living and Memory Support Community, 551 North Road.

Caregivers and family members are invited to enjoy light refreshments and to share their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with their loved ones.

The public is welcome. To join this group, people may call 413-568-0000 or email reception@armbrookvillage.com. Groups are held on the last Wednesday of the month.

MONTEREY

Bidwell House Museum lists August events

MONTEREY –The Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, announces its annual fundraising party on Saturday, Aug. 8 from 4-7 p.m. at the home of Paula and Joe McNay in Richmond. Handcrafted Catering will provide delicious appetizers and drinks, a small string quartet will provide the music and the museum will honor long-term Board member and volunteer Kathryn Roberts. All funds raised go towards preservation of the historic house, creation of educational

programs and maintenance of the 194 acre property. Tickets are required.

On Saturday Aug. 15 at 1 p.m. Michael Rafferty will present a history talk on “The Unknown Heroes of Bunker Hill” at the Monterey Meeting House, 449 Main Road.

The Museum's final history talk lecture of the 2026 season will focus on the unsung heroes of the Revolutionary War. During the Battle of Bunker Hill, Samuel Ashbow and a dozen

of his fellow Mohegans held off the first two waves of British infantrymen, though his name was forgotten until recently.

Rafferty has worked to make sure that Ashbow's legacy will become part of the story at the Bunker Hill Monument. Admission is \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members for in-person and free for members and \$15 for non-members to attend via Zoom. Pre-registration is required to attend via Zoom.

MIDDLEFIELD

Middlefield Recycling Poster Contest Results

MIDDLEFIELD - \$100 cash prizes were awarded to RJ Supa (adult division) and Levi Gerry, (Youth division). Both are proud residents of Middlefield.

In the Adult Division,

- Charlene Gero earned second place,
- Vicki Reed and Carol Wagg shared third place honors.

All posters will remain on display at the Middlefield Town Hall for public viewing and may also be exhibited at the Middlefield Fair.



The contest was initiated by Noreen Suriner, Judy Hoag, and Susan Schneller to help educate townspeople about the cost of not recycling. For every dollar earned in fees at the Town Transfer Station, taxpayers pay four dollars to cover hauling, staffing, and other expenses. With better recycling, taxes could be reduced.

Thanks to generous contributions from townspeople, nine participants created thoughtful, innovative, and often humorous posters showing how recycling benefits both our planet and our local taxes. This creative effort to highlight landfill issues proved not only informative but fun.

Congratulations to the winners:



Submitted photos

RJ Supa, Charlene Gero, Vicki Reed, Carol Wagg Swift, and in the Junior Division, Levi Gerry

Other participants included:

Owen Christleton, Susan Schneller, Tim & Maureen Parker, Curt

Robey, and Anne Marie Viscounti.

Special thanks to everyone who contributed prize money and treats, and to our judges: Brent LeBeau, Theresa Lefebvre, and Sandy Bergeron.

MONTGOMERY

Music in Montgomery announces August performers

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

MONTGOMERY – Dale Rogers, organizer of the monthly Music in Montgomery series announces the August line up.

Co-hosted by the Montgomery Public Library and Gray Catbird Pottery Studio, Music in Montgomery takes place at Montgomery Town Hall, 161 Main Road, every Thursday, starting at 3 p.m. This event is open free of charge to all who are interested

August performers include Kara and Jerry Noble, Larry Southard, Ed Bentley and Friends; returning this month are Dennis Avery and Friends.

Pianist, guitarist and composer Jerry Noble opens the month on Thursday, Aug. 6 with his wife, bassist Kara Noble. Jerry recently performed with cellist Matt Haimovitz at the Mohawk Trail Concerts in Charlemont and was part of the opening of the 2026 Sevenars concert

series in Worthington.

The two are also part of the Sparky Jazz Quintet with Chris Devine on violin and flute, Bob Ferrier on guitar and Jon Van Eps on percussion.

“Sparky” will mark the Sevenars jazz finale on Sunday, Aug. 16.

Aug. 13 marks the return of Dennis Avery and Friends. Dennis is a dobro and steel guitar player who frequently performs with guitarist Rob Adams as the duo R&D.

With John Clark they form the trio The Uncles, known for three-part harmonies, country, jazz, folk and rock. Avery also joins in with the Brookside Project Band from time to time.

On Aug. 20, Larry Southard takes the stage. This frequent performer at the Otis Farmer’s Market is often seen with violinist Lesley Friedman Rosenthal and mandolin player Kurt Hansen.

In various formations, they’ve recently performed at the Route 8 Pub in the

Becket General Store and the Jacob’s Ladder Tavern.

Rounding out the month is Ed Bentley and Friends on Aug. 27. He covers a wide range of country, bluegrass, rock and folk favorites.

Ed opened the Westfield Farmers Market in June and is often seen with Jane Martin Pelletier and Ron Campagna; the trio recently returned to The Daily Grind in Southwick. Rumor has it that guitarist Gary Kotros might also join them in Montgomery.

Concerts are free but it’s even more fun when people bring baked goods to share. Donations are accepted for the refreshments, with money split between the Montgomery Volunteer Firemen’s Association and the Town Library.

Donations are also accepted to tip and thank the fabulous musicians who perform each week. For more information, people may call Dale Rogers at 413-875-5205.



Dennis Avery (far right, shown with his band The Uncles) returns to the Music in Montgomery lineup on Thursday, Aug. 13. He will perform with some of his friends so it's anybody's guess who will join this month.

Submitted photos

CHESTER

‘Amchitka’ premieres at Chester Theatre Company

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

CHESTER – “Amchitka,” a new play by local playwright Mark St. Germain, is currently playing at the Chester Town Hall Theatre in Chester and will run until Saturday, Aug. 8.

This philosophical thriller follows three scientists at a monitoring station at Amchitka, a volcanic island 170 miles off the coast of Alaska that was used for underground nuclear testing in the 1960s. While there, the trio finds themselves cut off from the outside world as a mysterious event seems to be underway.

During their 2025 season, Chester Theatre Company staged another of St. Germain’s plays, “Magdalene,” which tells the story of the clash between Peter and Mary Magdalene that altered the course of Christianity.

St. Germain also has strong ties with Great

Barrington Public Theater, where he sits on their Board of Directors and where he presented a reading of “Amchitka” last summer.

This is his 20th play to premiere in the Berkshires. “Amchitka” is directed by Julianne Boyd, who was the Founding Artistic Director of Barrington Stage Company. A longtime collaborator of St. Germain’s, Boyd has also directed the world premieres of his plays “Dr. Ruth, All The Way,” now titled “Becoming Dr. Ruth,” “Dancing Lessons” and “The Best of Enemies.”

The play stars Kelly Lester (“Milk and Honey” and “Cabaret”) as Diana Adams, a senior Department of Energy staff member stationed on Amchitka and leader of the three-person team. Hero Marguerite (“A Hundred Words for Snow” and “Big Big Sky”) plays the role of Connie Carson, a botanist on loan from the International Botanical Association. Will Maizel (“Room Service” and

“Julius Caesar”) rounds out the cast as Nate Platt, a biologist on loan from NASA.

As this production of “Amchitka” is its world premiere, the rehearsal process has been instrumental to its continued development. Getting to hear the cast give voice to their characters has helped St. Germain refine the script.

“It really focuses the play when you hear the words spoken,” he said. “Especially if they’re good actors. You can’t pretend it’s the actor’s fault – it has to be yours.”

Lester describes working on a premiere as one of her favorite things to do. “It’s wonderful to be able to read the words that our amazing playwright wrote,” Lester said. She agreed that the actors may have uncovered things for him that he might not have heard in his head when he was writing.

Maizel, who has never worked on a play during its development phase, has found the process to be very

fascinating. “We, in rehearsal everyday, aren’t just the actors,” he said. “We’re actually part of the collaboration of creating Mark’s vision as a whole.”

This is the fourth of five plays in Chester Theatre’s 2026 season, all of which grapple with questions about

the future of humanity and the world. Maizel said that Amchitka does not shy away from making large moral statements.

Furthermore, the science fiction aspect of “Amchitka” creates the distance necessary to offer the audience a new way to

examine the current situation as a species, he added.

“Amchitka” runs until Aug. 8 at the Chester Town Hall Theatre, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester. Tickets can be purchased by visiting chestertheatre.org or by calling 413-354-7771.



The cast of Chester Theatre Company's latest play “Amchitka” takes place at the Chester Town Hall, running through Saturday, Aug. 8.

Submitted photos

Hamilton Memorial Library lists upcoming events

CHESTER – Hamilton Memorial Library, 15 Middlefieldd Road, Suite 7 Summer Reading Program is well underway.

Adult patrons, every time they stop in and take out a book or DVD they earn a chance to win a gift certificate for Barnes & Noble.

Music lessons, solar beetle program and build a terrarium programs are full. Due to its popularity, they are taking names for possible future lessons, of those interested in the music program who were unable to get a spot. Program information is available on the website by visiting chester.cwmars.org.

People should call 413-354-7808 to RSVP for events/availability.

Story and fun time takes place every Thursday at 11 a.m.

Riverside Reptiles “Jeepers

Creepers” program is Saturday, Aug.15 at 10 a.m. Back by popular demand, participants will finish off the summer reading program with this fun, interactive reptile event which is always a big hit. RSVPs are helpful.

The summer book club choice is “Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a leading researcher in the field of biology as well as an active member of the Potawatomi nation.

“In Braiding Sweetgrass,” she intertwines these two modes of awareness the analytic and the emotional, the scientific and the cultural to ultimately reveal a path toward healing the rift that grows between people and nature. The discussion takes place on Wednesday, Aug.19 at 4:30 p.m. Extra book copies are available.

LITTLEVILLE

from page 1

There will be a petting zoo and family jungle all weekend, free face painting, Ed Popielarczyk’s Magic Show and Balloon Sculpting, a children’s pedal tractor pull, Janoah the Jester, a children’s potato sack race, and a children’s mini horse pull and free for all.

Family activities will include children and adult pie eating contests on Saturday at 12:30 p.m.; Arcadia Wildlife Birds of Prey (same day/time), Canvas painting with Piece of my Art Studio while supplies last, a K9 demo on Sunday and a petting zoo and family jungle all weekend.

Live music includes line dancing with Stompin’ Boots on Friday from 6-9 p.m.; Chris Merenda and the Wheel from 11a.m.-3 p.m. and October Mountain from 5-9 p.m. on Saturday and Pitoniak Brothers from 9-11:30 a.m. and Whiskey Traveler from noon-3 p.m. on Sunday.

In addition to food trucks offering all of the fair favorites, barbecie chicken will be served in the dining hall on Saturday and

a turkey dinner offered on Sunday.

Raffle tickets have been sold all year to support the Littleville Fair and sales will close at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Four great prizes are being offered. Tickets for a 70 qt. Pelican cooler and a folding picnic table may be purchased for \$5 each or five for \$20. Tickets for a Stihl 20-inch MS 271 chainsaw and a Savage Arms Axis 2 Pro will sell for \$10 each or five for \$40.

The fairground has continued to undergo improvements and renovations, thanks to numerous sponsors, fundraisers and grants from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and the Hampden County Improvement League. As a result, there is improved drainage on the grounds, a paved road from the entrance to the dining hall and restorations (booths, walls and electric) to the Exhibit Hall.

At press time, final details on the schedule were still being worked out. People may visit the fair’s website at littlevillefair.org for a complete schedule of events and times.

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Email:jamie@turley.com

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Huntington Public Library offers summer events

Summer 2026 features a “Dungeons and Dragons” themed journey. This year’s handbook contains a broader map and instead of moving between mythical villages, readers move through the “guild halls” (libraries) of surrounding towns.

The fourth and final workshop in the Path of the Keystone Roads series with Storyteller Kevin will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 12 starting at 4:30 p.m. This dynamic and engaging workshop on table-top storytelling games

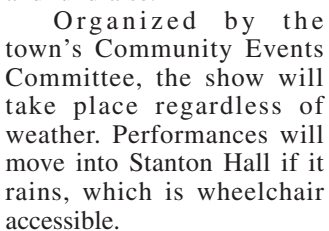
As part of honoring epic adventures, the library will host an author talk with Andy Myers on his book, "Celebrating National Treasures: A Senior Triathlon" on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. The book shares Myers three journeys: hiking the Appalachian Trail,

Of course, the library is still hosting its regular schedule of groups and other events. Story hours will be held on Saturdays and Mondays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. except for Monday, Aug. 17 when they will offer

The monthly Game Night will be on Thursday, Aug. 20 from 4-6 p.m. Register in advance to receive pizza and refreshments.

To register for activities or for more information, people may visit the Huntington Public Library website at huntingtonpubliclibrary.org.

This week's local non-profit is the Huntington Fire Association, which will offer food for sale. Each week, a different non-profit serving the hilltowns sells



Music lovers are invited to bring their lawn chairs (but not their pets!) to enjoy this, and other, free performances every Thursday. Stay “in the know” about things going on in Huntington by following the Huntington MA Summer Music Series/C. E. Committee page on Facebook.

*Sadley missed by Mom and family,
especially his three beautiful granddaughters,
Aleigha, Zoey and Aubrey that he never got to meet.*

Each coupon book is worth \$25 and can be used to buy farm fresh produce at local farmers markets. If people are interested, they can call Kerry at the COA office at 413-268-8236, extension 118.

Contact Wendy wdelcamp@turley.com or 413.283.8393

[illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES

**LEGAL NOTICE
THE CHESTER
BOARD OF HEALTH
Hearing on conditions of
15 Maple Street, Chester.**
The CHESTER Board of Health will conduct a public condemnation hearing on **Wednesday, September 9, 2026 beginning at 5:00PM.** Location: Chester Town Hall 15 Middlefield Rd. Chester MA. Room in basement. The purpose of the hearing is to review the condition of 15 Maple Street and determine if a condemnation order should issue. Board of Health 413-354-7781 BoardofHealth@townofchester.net 07/30/2026

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Town of Middlefield
188 Skyline Trail,
Middlefield, MA 01243**
Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of selective building demolition, installation of a new building electrical service and transfer switch, relocation and upgrade of existing electrical panel to 200 amps, installation of additional electric outlets, lighting and emergency lighting, construction of an access door to the crawlspace, construction of a new two-storey addition to include a new lift to the second floor, the installation of insulation in the crawlspace, construction of four roof systems to protect exits and accessible ramp, installation of new windows and related work included in the

plans and specifications. The estimated project cost is \$725,000. There will be a base Bid for work and four Add Alternates included in the Bid documents. The add Alternates will include:
Add Alternate 1: Identify the cost to paint the exterior of the building. See Spec. Section 0911 Exterior Painting.
Add Alternate 2: Identify the cost to furnish and install the electrical generator as shown on the Electrical Plans.
Add Alternate 3: Identify the cost to furnish and install a new interior electrical panel (near the furnace room, lev.1), as shown on the Electrical Plans.
Add Alternate 4: Identify the cost to furnish and install 8 new single bulb lights in the Crawl Space, as shown in the Electrical Drawings.
Bid documents will be available commencing on July 23, 2026, by contacting the Town Assistant Administrator, Mark Doane at middlefield.assistant@gmail.com or by calling the Middlefield Town Hall at 413-623-2079 ext.2. Bids can also be picked up and dropped off at the Select Board Office in person, from the Middlefield Administrative Assistant on Mondays from 9:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Wednesdays from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Fridays from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. The Select Board Office is located in the Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, MA 01243. There is no cost for the first set of Bid

Documents. A Pre-bid Site Visit will be held for all interested parties on July 27, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. at the front entrance to the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, MA 01243. The Filed Sub-Bid deadline and opening is Monday Aug. 3, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. at the Middlefield Town Hall located at 188 Skyline Trail. Completed Sub-Bids and General Bids can either be dropped off at the Middlefield Administrative Assistant Office located in the Middlefield Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, MA in sealed, marked envelopes or they can also be submitted electronically by email to the Middlefield Town Assistant Administrator, Mark Doane at middlefield.assistant@gmail.com.
Filed Sub Bids will include Painting and Electrical and must be received at the office of the Selectboard, Town of Middlefield or submitted by email to Mark Doane at middlefield.assistant@gmail.com until 2:00 P.M. on Monday, August 3, 2026. At that time, Filed Sub Bids will be opened and read. A copy of the results will be sent to all Bidders that have requested Bid Documents.
General Bids must be received at the office of the Selectboard or submitted by email to Mark Doane at middlefield.assistant@gmail.com by Monday, August 10, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. General Bids will be opened on Monday Aug. 10, 2026, at 2:00PM at the

Middlefield Town Hall located at 188 Skyline Trail. Review of Bids will take place immediately after Bids have been opened. The project will start immediately after award (approximately August 12, 2026) and shall be completed no later than April 5, 2027.
Note: Massachusetts Prevailing Rates are required to be paid on this project. Questions can be directed to Curt Robie, Member, Select Board by calling 413-623-2079, 413-374-2082, or by email: middlefield.cdr@gmail.com. 07/23, 07/30/2026

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1454EA
Estate of:
Joyce Edna Meacham
Date of Death: 09/02/2016
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Tasha Lynette Meacham of Chester, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Tasha Lynette Meacham of Chester, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/10/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and

may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 13, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/30/2026

**TOWN OF WORTHINGTON
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC TREE HEARING**
Notice is hereby given pursuant to MGL c.87, s.3 concerning the cutting of public shade trees.
A public hearing will be held on **Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 6:30 PM** at the Town Hall, 160 Huntington Road, Worthington, MA.
The purpose of the hearing is to allow public input regarding a request by the Town of Worthington to remove numerous trees on Lindsay Hill Road beginning approximately .4 miles west of Ridge Rd./ Buffington Hill Rd. intersection and continuing west approximately .4 miles to the top of the hill.
Work on this section of Lindsay Hill Road is needed to improve drainage and to facilitate year-round maintenance. Trees to be removed are marked with white paint and are of various species ranging in size between 2" and 28".
07/23, 7/30/2026

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

STCC announces dean’s list for spring 2026

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College announces the spring 2026 Dean’s list.
Local students making Dean’s list are: Marlon E. Arauz Easthampton, Irish M. Bartolomei of Easthampton, Owen M. Bourbeau of Easthampton, Bridget A. Cauley of Easthampton, Colby J. Clapper of Easthampton, Ryan T. Cowan of Easthampton, Morgan E. Denis of Easthampton, Kaiden G. Dion of Easthampton, Catherine M. Hennessey of Easthampton, Weston O. Hill of Easthampton, David H. Ferland of Easthampton, Amanda Groblewski of Easthampton, Ivanna Kabushka of Easthampton, Tiudy C. Kamau of Easthampton, Anna Marie D. Light Easthampton, Keane Lowell

of Easthampton, Anthony D. Manganaro of Easthampton, Timothy J. O’Keefe of Easthampton, Maria Ortega of Easthampton, Katherine Paradis of Easthampton, Ava G. Roberts of Easthampton, Emily M. Rodriguez of Easthampton, Eva S. Romero of Easthampton, Heather L. Antonelli of Florence, Claire Blakely of Florence, Benjamin Fowler of Florence, Sara Paiva of Florence, Jonathan J. Mendez Palacios of Florence, Catherine Plaza of Florence, Karen M. Plaza of Florence, Molly P. Smith-Eilenberg of Florence, Kristofer D. Thibedau of Florence, Alexander Podel of Haydenville, Megan L. Courtney of Huntington, Giordano L. Caldieri of Northampton, Dimitra A. Chatman-Gray of Northampton, Sarisa Ford of Northampton, David

Hetzner of Northampton, Karina L. Rivera of Northampton, Abigail Walker of Northampton, Michelle M. Doucette of Pittsfield, Nicholas J. Hassett of Pittsfield, Ana Monsalve of Pittsfield and Raia E. Robotham of Pittsfield.
Other local students making Dean’s list are: Jessica Beaudry of Russell, Ivan Chepurenko of Russell, Melina V. Korchevskiy of Russell, Nico A. Paulson of Russell, Benjamin S. Apodaca of Southampton, Elizabeth M. Barcomb of Southampton, Jason W. Jones of Southampton, Ron D. Madsen of Southampton, Rebecca A. Mooney of Southampton, Jacob B. St Pierre of Southampton, Nathaniel J. Berrian of Westfield, John Blake of Westfield, Valeria M. Cruz Bonilla of Westfield,

Anzhelika Botyan of Westfield, Veronica Y. Botyan of Westfield, Amanda M. Bruno of Westfield, Evan Cardenales of Westfield, Cemre M. Cayan of Westfield, Tanya M. Cayo of Westfield, Amelia Ciubotaru of Westfield.
Edward J. Colo of Westfield, Alina Danyuk of Westfield, Anita Danyuk of Westfield, Hilari Demas of Westfield, Nicholas R. Diaz of Westfield, Mark Dobek of Westfield, Illya Domin of Westfield, George B. Dompreeh of Westfield, Robert Donnelly of Westfield, Jenna L. Folsom of Westfield, Stefan Goretskiy of Westfield, Jayne M. Gosselin of Westfield, Rylie M. Gour of Westfield, Maraya Green of Westfield, Prakriti Chhettri Gurung of Westfield, Sangmyoung Han, Kiana K. Henriquez,

Brandon L. Hodgdon, Sage J. Howes, Reem Ibrahim of Westfield, Sonna Jiana of Westfield, Brian R. Kimball of Westfield, Khristina I. Kukharchuk of Westfield, Aaron Liu of Westfield, Tina Liu of Westfield, Veronika Lukin of Westfield, Jose J. Marquez of Westfield, Noah H. Martin of Westfield, Hector O. Miranda of Westfield, Nikita Misiruk of Westfield, Darvin A. Munger of Westfield, Danny Nesen of Westfield, Yuliia Okhrimenko of Westfield, Mendeleita Pacius of Westfield, Victoria Paine of Westfield, Angela Panasiuk of Westfield, Ava M. Pease of Westfield, Randy Perez of Westfield, Andre B. Postell of Westfield, Milana Povar of Westfield, Krista M. Quaglieri of Westfield, Mateo C. Reyes of Westfield, Mackenzie B. Roberts of Westfield, Dayanara Rosado

of Westfield, Jennifer A. Sanchez-Karch of Westfield, Samantha M. Santos of Westfield, Viktoriia Sereda of Westfield, Brianna K. Sgambati of Westfield, Elena L. Silvia of Westfield, David J. Spice of Westfield, Benjamin A. Tatro of Westfield, Elicia T. Tracey of Westfield, Meghan M. Wert of Westfield, Darian S. Wheelock of Westfield, Philip Yurovskiyh of Westfield, Timothy Yurovskiyh of Westfield and Hailey Bergeron of Westhampton.
To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college level credits in the current semester, or a total of 12 or more combined college-level credits earned during the fall and spring semesters, and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average.

Colleges and universities announce Dean’s list

Dean’s list
College of Holy Cross
Worcester
Olivia Lawry of Westfield, Class of 2026
Jackson Mettey of Easthampton, Class of 2029
Megan Moran of Westfield, Class of 2029
Lilly Patton of Washington, Class of 2026

Ohio University
Athens, Ohio
Sierra Allen of Montgomery

Salve Regina University
Newport, Rhode Island
Chelsey Ghareeb of Easthampton
Gianni Soucy of Easthampton
Kasimir Supinski of Cummington

Tufts University
Medford
Annika von Schoeler-Amers of Williamsburg

University of Massachusetts
Amherst
Nicole Mary Hannigan of Chester
Liliana Manley of Chesterfield
Tevin Thomas Osborne of Chesterfield
Jeremy Robert Dus Cummington
West William Joseph Williams of Cummington

Ami N Breton of Easthampton
Sophia Raven Baker of Easthampton
Syed Haseeb Yasir Bukhari of Easthampton
Amanda Marie Bronson of Easthampton
Emmalee Victoria Connly of Easthampton
Sagen Foster Crowell of Easthampton
Aurelia Rose Dunlap of Easthampton
Jackson K Frechette of Easthampton
Benjamin Guertin of Easthampton
Marcus Hickley of Easthampton
Hailey Higgins-Figueroa of Easthampton
Cadence Alana Hiller of Easthampton
Elijah Howe of Easthampton
Devin M. Lemay of Easthampton
Skler Andrew Lloyd of Easthampton
Ordell Wilnot Luetschwager of Easthampton
Alexander John Major of Easthampton
Hannah Marilyn Neumann of Easthampton
Evan M. O’Malley of Easthampton
Sonam Namkhai Ottaviani of Easthampton
Aymane Oulbeid of Easthampton
Cameron Mark Powers of

Easthampton
Justice James Rogers of Easthampton
Amelia Grace Rouleau of Easthampton
Barinder Kaur Saini of Easthampton
Jackson Charles Scott of Easthampton
Paul Eugene Siefert Jr. of Easthampton
Jenna Mary Wooster of Easthampton
Gabriel August Zellen of Easthampton
Mason Roy Neveu of Goshen

Jacob Penn of Huntington
Rowan Lily Boyer of Otis
Catherine Consolati of Otis
Mya M. Martin of Otis
Daniel Hunter Comeau of Plainfield
Olivia MacIver of Russell
Kota Rinaldi of Sandisfield
Kira Jade French of Williamsburg
Sarah Guiel of Williamsburg
Mikayla Marie Tanner Joyner of Williamsburg
Isabella Kosiba of Williamsburg
Charles Thomas Por of Williamsburg

Shane Michael Prusak of Williamsburg
Anna Marie Shadrick of Williamsburg
Charles Gustav Strate of Williamsburg
William Henry Towler of Williamsburg
Matthew Scott Wilhelm of Williamsburg
Jonah T. Graves of Worthington

Vermont State University
Randolph Center Vermont
Emma Bean of Montgomery
Rick Pitoniak of Westfield



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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

PLAINFIELD

GREAT BARRINGTON

SANDISFIELD

Plainfield firefighter’s barbecue takes place Sept. 6

PLAINFIELD – The Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters Association thanks those, who have purchased their barbecue tickets already and urge those needing tickets not to wait until the day of the event.

Tickets are on sale from any current Firefighter, EMT or PVFA member now or stop by the Public Safety Complex on Thursday evenings after 7 p.m. or call 413-695-3569.

The barbecue at Plainfield Park on North Central Street, will take place- on Sunday, Sept. 6, rain or shine. In addition, the annual firefighter’s “giant silent auction” will once again take place during the afternoon festivities. Tickets are available at the food tent and raffle winners will be announced following the dinner being served.

Live entertainment throughout the afternoon,

provide by support from the Plainfield Cultural Council features the “Curtis Rich Review,”, who includes a Plainfield resident.

The firefighters hope to bring back an old favorite at previous barbecues- “tug of war rope pull” with losing teams being soaked by a charged fire hose.

As always, the dinner includes a half-barbecued chicken, local corn-on-the-cob and baked potato, all cooked on the fire association’s large barbecue pit the morning before the 1 p.m. serving time. Also on the menu is homemade Cole slaw, dinner roll, slice of watermelon and a beverage. Cost is \$20/ per adult and \$10 per children 12 and under.

The annual firefighter’s barbecue is a major fundraiser for the volunteer Fire and EMS department, who protect property and lives.

BCRA holds music festival

G R E A T BARRINGTON – Berkshire Community Radio Alliance , a non-profit, announces Sound/Art, the Third Annual WBCR-lp Experimental Music Festival pm Saturday, Aug. 8 from 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

The Festival will take place live in WBCR-lp’s studio at 320 Main Street, and will be simultaneously broadcast at 97.7FM and streamed at www.berkshireradio.org.

Artists will be performing a variety of experimental and eclectic music genres including electronica, noise, ambient, drone, live coding, and more

Performers will be coming from all over New England, New York, and as far away as

Philadelphia.

Artists featured include: Larry Legend, Chris Dooley, Wednesday Knudsen, Stiff Curls, Parashi, Frank Hurricane, The Third Entity, Neonach, Spreaders, Nick Ring, Moon Pox/Allegra Geller, Electric sound bath with Steve No.

Admission is free; donations gratefully accepted. Limited seating is available in the radio studio or audience members will be able to enjoy the performances from the sidewalk in front of the station.

The Festival is being produced by Berkshire Community Radio programmers Jason Palmieri and John Prusinski with assistance from other WBCR-lp volunteers.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

American Story in Song takes place Aug. 29

SANDISFIELD – The American Story in Song, a program by Jon and Li Waterman takes place at the Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road, on Saturday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. . Admission is free;

donations are welcome. The program is supported in part by a grant from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Country Journal

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull god

5. Romanian monetary unit

8. Santa's helper

11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal

13. Sea eagle genus

14. Broad volcanic crater

15. Minneapolis suburb

16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.)

17. Exchange rate

18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea

20. Men's fashion accessory

21. Craft material

22. Offerings

25. Early

30. Large room

31. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. Large, stocky, lizard

4. Rumanian river

5. Missive

6. Stout-bodied moths

7. Brings out

8. Bird of prey

9. King of Thebes

10. Cleaving tool

12. African antelope

14. Three are particularly famous

19. Satisfy

23. C. European river

24. Dictator

25. Portion of (abbr.)

26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

27. Consume food

28. Woman (French)

29. Scrape or wear away by friction

34. Popular vegetable

35. Pacific Standard Time

36. Brazilian state capital

37. Paddle

39. Cause to become insane

40. Drier and flakier

41. Mimic

42. ESPN host Kimes

44. One who moseys

45. Secret political clique

46. Behind the stern of a ship

47. Supernatural force

48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches

51. Swiss river

52. Grayish white

53. Engrave

54. UNC's chief rival

58. Midway between south and southeast

THIS WEEK’S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, your bold approach is magnetic right now. If you have a big idea that you've been waiting to share, present it now. Everyone is ready to listen.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22

Your social circle is a great asset. Reach out to a friend you haven't spoken to in a while. You might find the conversation sparks a great new collaborative idea.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23

Right now you are able to resolve lingering tensions with ease, Libra. Lean into your diplomatic nature; you have the power to turn a complicated situation into a win-win for everyone.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20

Your creativity is off the charts right now. You might find that you are better positioned to problem-solve when you're doing things unrelated to the task at hand.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21

Think about how you can treat someone else to something nice, whether it is a gift, time spent with you or whatever it is that they desire. Build the foundation for a stronger friendship.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23

Your hard work is finally getting the recognition it deserves. Don't be afraid to accept any praise that comes your way. You will inspire others with your natural leadership and confidence.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22

The connections you nurture this week will prove incredibly lucky for you, Scorpio. You will come across as deeply authentic, which can draw people to you like a magnet.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18

It is a wonderful time to redecorate the garden or spend quality time with family, Aquarius. Nurturing yourself will give you the stamina to tackle the world outside of your home.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21

This week is all about clearing out the old to make room for the new, Gemini. Begin decluttering your physical space and then move on to clearing out your mind.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, whether it is picking up a new hobby or diving into a book you have been meaning to read, you are craving knowledge this week. Your mind is hungry for growth, so feed it.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21

Getting details handled early on will clear the path for a much more open week as the week-end approaches, Sagittarius. Take to the task at hand now and reap the rewards later.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, people are generally interested in what you have to say this week, so be sure to speak up. Your message may inspire others.

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SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

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

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!

answers

E	H	R		R	E		I	T	V
S	K	O	V		E	G	V	F	M
S	N	T	O	V		I	N	V	E
D	E	H	V		B	T	V	B	A
				N	E	M	V	E	M
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V	I	S	N	M	V		S	D	V
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7	9	3	2	1	8	6	9	4
4	7	2	8	3	1	9	9	6
8	1	9	6	9	7	4	3	2
9	3	6	4	2	9	7	1	8

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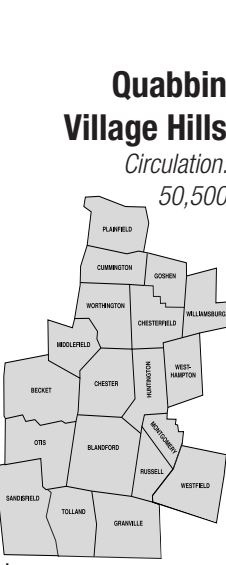
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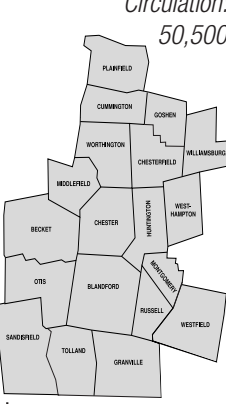
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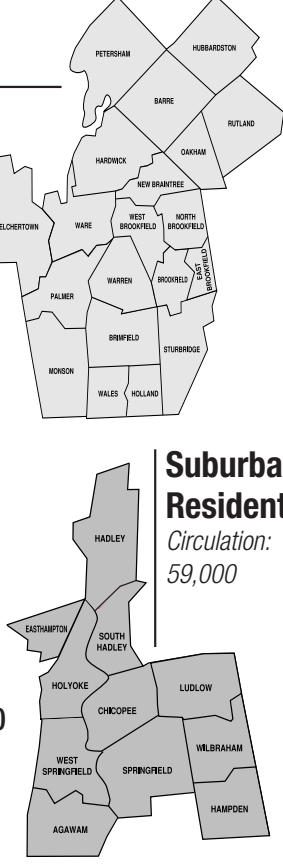
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Department of Conservation and Recreations recently put on a new roof at the old bathhouse and latrine and cleared problem trees.

CCC built Boulder Park

In 1933 President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Emergency Conservation Work Act, popularly known as the Civilian Conservation Corps.

This federal New Deal program provided employment for young men and veterans during the Great Depression. The program's aim was to improve the nation's forests and recreational resources. From 1933-1942 the CCC in Massachusetts employed a total of 100,000 men in 68 camps.

The CCC program in Massachusetts had seven primary activities: camp construction, road building, silviculture, fire hazard reduction, pest control,

wildlife management and recreational development.

The program not only touched the lives of the enrollees, but also left a lasting legacy of forest improvements and recreational resources. More than 75 years later, many of the facilities built by the CCC throughout the state are still in use.

The origins of the Commonwealth's park system date to 1893 with the purchase of three public-funded properties in the metropolitan Boston area, and to 1898 when Mount Greylock became the state's first wilderness park.

As the forest and park system expanded, much of this land was undeveloped, inaccessible to a public

interested in outdoor recreation. Until 1933, only a few state properties offered picnic areas or campgrounds.

With the creation of the CCC, there would be coordinated development, through the Park Service and US Forest Service, of a nationwide state parks program, setting standards for park development, planning and advancing forestry work for future generations.

Special guest DCR Interpretive coordinator Alec Gillman gave us a history lesson on one of the hidden Hilltown history gems. One of the most lasting contributions of the CCC was the construction of park recreational facilities.

In June 1933, the 113th Company of the

CCC, began work in the Southern Hilltowns region of Massachusetts, resulting in a number of facilities in and around Chester, including Boulder Park.

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

Thank you to DCR for the new roof, clearing trees and cleaning up the pond area, wow. Support our state parks and learn more at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/departement-of-conservation-recreation> let them know our Hilltown Parks are important and the history here is like no other.



Many information panels line the trail like this one in front of the pavilion.



DCR interpretive coordinator Alec Gillman shows the group the stone work the CCC built at Boulder Park.



Hikers make their way on the American Disabilities Act trail.
Submitted Photos



The Hilltown Hikers learned all the tasks the Civilian Conservation Corps workers had and the tools they used to build our state forests.



The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers pose for a group shot at the entrance to Boulder State Park in Chester.