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Helen Keller

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

August 3, 2023 | Vol. 45, No. 15 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

HUNTINGTON

Gateway summer program has kids tackle real-world problems

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Thanks to a \$210,000 Massachusetts 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant (Supporting Additional Learning Time), 98 Gateway students entering grades 5 - 9 are tackling real-world problems over five weeks this summer.

Science, Technology, eEngineering, Art and Mathematics is the theme for this summer's program, which is free of charge to the students and includes free lunch, daily transportation and a weekly field trip.

The "Explorers," as the campers are called-travel through six different units of fun and exploration daily. They are: Algae and Pond Study; Plants, Pollinators and Farm-to-Table; Fish, Fins and Tales; Wild About Art; Race Cars and Recycling; and Teambuilding. Each unit of study will culminate in a final project by the end of camp.

For the algae and pond study, students have been taking samples from the "gator pond," located behind the middle school. Explorers



Each group of campers has designed and is planting a pollinator garden behind the school.

Photo by Wendy Long

were able to identify a number of microscopic life forms in the water, including a hydra, dragonfly nymph, and water flea, and have also

been identifying the plants that grow around the pond.

This week, they are studying blue-green algae and experimenting to see

what conditions might make an algae bloom grow. As part of this study, they have

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HUNTINGTON

Members sought for task force on aging

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Huntington Council on Aging seeks town residents to serve on the Age and Dementia Friendly Huntington Task Force.

This task force will work with the COA and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission on developing a community assessment and action plan to make the town age and dementia friendly. It will hold meetings and host listening sessions on transportation, housing health, community services and public safety.

"The COA is working with Becky Basch from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) to make our town a great place to live out your life," wrote Kat Peterson, COA Chair in the summer 2023 Huntington Community Newsletter. According to Peterson, the town has 650 residents over age 65, which is 31% of the town's population.

In addition to forming the task force to guide this project, the COA

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LEE/BECKET

MassDOT announces road work on I-90

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting overnight paving and guardrail repair operations on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Lee and Becket.

The scheduled work will require some lane and shoulder closures. In Lee and Becket, paving operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 14.0 to mile marker 21.8, Thursday, Aug. 3 to Friday, Aug. 4, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, Aug. 4 at 5 a.m.

Guardrail repair operations in Lee will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 8.3 to mile marker 10.3, from Thursday, Aug. 3 to Friday morning,

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BLANFORD

Pond passes increase for out of town swimmers

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Russell Pond beach used to be the best place for lazy summer days for many Blandford residents.

The town's Recreation Committee shared the financial responsibility for the cost of lifeguard salaries and upkeep for well over 30 years with Russell until recently. The tickets, sold at the beach, were nominal and could also be used at the Russell Town Pool, which no longer exists.

Now tickets, or beach tags, cost more, especially for out-of-town would-

be swimmers. According to Russell's website, Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield and Montgomery Pond Passes rates are: One Tag for \$80.00; two for \$120; three for \$160, four for \$200, five for \$240, six for \$280 and seven for \$320.

There are no longer any life guards on duty, only attendants, who check to make sure every person on the site has a season pass. The beach is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the area is patrolled by police.

At one time it was pos-

POND, page 7



Russell Pond beach is a popular swimming place in the summer.

Submitted photo

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HILLTOWNS

HILLTOWN POTTERY TOUR SHOWCASES LOCAL ARTISTS



A local potter displays some of the pottery amid a colorful garden of blooms.

Photos by Deborah Daniels



This was one of the stops along the annual Hilltown Pottery Tour held last weekend.



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HILLTOWNS

Dakin Humane Society receives pet beds

SPRINGFIELD – Yankee Mattress Company of Agawam, a local, employee-owned maker of handcrafted mattresses, has found an innovative way to support a local nonprofit organization, Dakin Humane Society while improving its own sustainability goals.

“There is a comfort layer on the top of our mattresses and when we get to the end of the roll, we always have excess material that’s not quite big enough for a mattress,” said Adam Miller, president of Yankee Mattress Company. “Our lead mattress maker, Aaron Bisson, had the idea to use the surplus to make pet beds, instead of disposing of it. Then Bill Lamirande, our vice president of sales, suggested donating the beds to Dakin Humane Society as a way to support the great work they do in our community.”

Lamirande coordinates with the Dakin team to customize the sizes needed, including small beds that fit inside the pet carriers the adopted animals go home in and bigger beds for larger dogs. The number of beds Yankee Mattress creates is based on the amount of excess bedding material they have.

“The more beds we sell, the more pet beds we can create,” said Miller. “This partnership is a creative way for us to reduce waste while supporting a cause we all believe in.”



Yankee Mattress Company makes and donates pet beds to Dakin Humane Society using surplus mattress materials.

Submitted photo

Kaitlyn Holloway, community engagement manager for Dakin Humane Society, said, “We are so grateful for this ongoing donation from Yankee Mattress. We rely solely on contributions from individuals and businesses who care about animals, and these beds allow us to enhance the care and comfort we provide. The idea was a stroke of brilliance.”

Dakin Humane Society provides shelter, medical care, spay/neuter services and behavioral rehabilitation for more than 20,000 animals and people each year.

Clark Art Institute hosts talk on British photographers

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Wednesday, Aug. 16 at 1 p.m. in the Manton Study Center for Works on Paper, the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., presents a free talk focusing on works by nineteenth-century British photographers.

Williams College and Clark Graduate Curatorial Intern Eva Dailey discusses how photography functioned both as a novel artistic enterprise and as archival documentation contributing to the emergence of photo-tourism. The Manton Study Center for Works on Paper houses the Clark’s collection of more than 6,500 prints, drawings and photographs.

In this talk, Dailey explores how the medium played an integral role in the nineteenth century archeological project and will here be considered as a win-

dow into a now irretrievable moment of material discovery.

Capacity is limited. For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events. The next presentation in the Works on Paper Highlights Talk series is Secrets of the Press on Wednesday, Aug. 23 at 1 p.m. in the Manton Study Center for Works on Paper.

The Clark Art Institute, located in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts, is one of a small number of institutions globally that is both an art museum and a center for research, critical discussion, and higher education in the visual arts. Opened in 1955, the Clark houses exceptional European and American paintings and sculpture, extensive collections of master prints and drawings, English silver, and early photography.

MASSDOT

from page 1

Aug. 4, during overnight hours from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. All work is anticipated to conclude on Friday, Aug. 4 by 5 a.m.

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

Drivers who are traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to download the Mass511 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 Twitter @MassDOT to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

Senator Mark lists Hampden County office hours

SOUTHWICK – State Senator Paul W. Mark announces his staff will be conducting office hours in Southwick on two days in August.

Residents of any of the 57 municipalities in the Senator’s Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Hampshire District are encouraged to ask for assis-

tance with issues involving any state agency or to share ideas on current or potential state legislation. Appointments are not needed.

Southwick office hours are Monday, Aug. 14 and Tuesday, Aug. 29 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Town Hall, 454 College Highway.

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OPINION

When should my wife claim her Social Security benefits?



Dear Rusty:

My wife turns 65 in November of 2023. She was born on 11/21/1958. I am a year younger with an 8/1/1959 birthdate. I know my wife is not at full retirement age, but the difference in her Social Security payment is not much and collecting three years of the lower amount far exceeds her waiting until age 68. My question is: because half of my SS is more than her SS, if she retires this year, will she still get 50% of my SS when I retire?

Signed: Planning Our Future

Dear Planning:

Spouse benefits are one of Social Security's trickiest areas, so you're wise to get answers before either of you claim benefits. The short answer is, "No" - if your wife claims her own benefit this year, she will not get 50% of your benefit when you later claim. Here's how it works:

Born in November 1958, your wife's Full Retirement Age is 66 years plus 8 months, which she will attain in July 2025. Born in August 1959, your FRA is 66 years plus 10 months, which you will reach in June 2026.

Your wife will get a "spousal boost" to her personal SS benefit if her FRA entitlement is less than 50% of your FRA entitlement but, if she claims before reaching her FRA,

her monthly payment when you claim will be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement, taking her own benefit early affects her total payment amount as your spouse. If, instead, your wife waits until her own FRA to claim her SS retirement benefit, her payment when you later claim will be increased to equal 50% of your FRA entitlement.

I assume your reference to your wife "waiting until age 68" refers to her age when you claim at your FRA, but there is no reason for your wife to wait past her own FRA to claim benefits because her spousal benefit will not be more if she waits longer. So, the question is whether your wife should claim this year and get a reduced payment when you later claim or, instead, wait until her FRA to claim her own benefit and get her maximum benefit later. And that depends on 1) whether your wife is working, and 2) what her life expectancy is:

1. If your wife is working and claims early SS benefits, she will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much she can earn before some benefits are taken away. The earnings limit for 2023 is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 she is over the limit. The earnings limit lasts until she reaches her full retirement age.

2. If your wife's life expectancy is long (average for a woman your wife's current age is about 87), then maximizing her monthly benefit by waiting until her FRA to claim is likely her smartest choice.

If your wife's FRA entitlement is less than 50% of your FRA entitlement, wait-

ing until her FRA to claim will result in getting her full personal amount first and then later her maximum entitlement (including her spousal boost). If she claims now, her later payment (which includes her spousal boost) will be less than half of your FRA amount. If your wife's life expectancy is at least average, waiting until her FRA to claim will likely yield the highest cumulative lifetime benefits.

But if your wife isn't working full time, by claiming now (vs. at her FRA) she would get her reduced personal benefit for an extra two years. If you divide the amount your wife would collect over those two years by the difference between her current benefit amount and her maximum spousal amount (half of your FRA entitlement), you will see how long it would take for your wife to recover those two years of benefits. And if her life expectancy is less than that length of time, then claiming earlier is likely the right move.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

The daylily, both friend and foe



I have never been a daylily aficionado, but as of late, they are growing on me.

Why I write is because on Cape Cod they are everywhere. The last few days I have seen them paired with shrubs, other perennials and even as a backdrop to carefully placed annuals.

Read on as I resurrect a column from the archives with new and updated factoids.

We've all seen the clumps of orange daylilies (*Hemerocallis fulva*) blooming along roadsides each summer. These remnants of long ago have oftentimes outlived the people who planted them and the farmhouse in which they were planted around.

Arriving from Asia in the late 1800s, the common daylily is now considered invasive because it crowds out native plants. While experts advise not planting daylilies that are known to run amok, there are many cultivars that rightly deserve a place in the landscape.

Two varieties of daylilies presently occupy space in my landscape, one that is a family heirloom, and another that was purchased on a whim.

The lemon lily (*Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus*) was a family heirloom, although I am not sure where it originated. I think it was my grand babci that first gave it to my mother back in the 1950s.

It has been almost entirely choked out of the banking of my childhood home by lily of the valley, but I am lucky enough to have saved a piece and it is thriving in my perennial garden. It is delicate as far as daylilies go, perfectly lemon yellow and subtly scented.

The lemon lily has a short bloom time, a week or less in early June, but it makes a perfect bed fellow to deep purple bearded iris.

Today, thousands of cultivars of daylilies are available, many of which bloom for longer periods of time than the old-fashioned types. They are offered in shades of all colors except blue and pure white.

Miniatures look great in rock gardens, while more beefy types work well to stabilize bankings. The majority blend nicely with annuals, perennials, and shrubbery, as mentioned.

Daylilies belong to the genus *Hemerocallis*-hemero being Greek for "beautiful," and callis Greek for "day." Individual flowers do open and perish in 24 hours or less.

L u c k i l y though, there are usually several flowers per scape (stem), and when one goes by another is waiting to take its place. A desirable variety will bloom for at least two weeks, or will repeat blooming later in the season.

When shopping for daylilies at the nursery simply count the number of buds per scape of the potted plant. The

number of buds (or the number of scars if blooming is nearly finished) coincides with the number of days that particular variety is expected to bloom.

Unfortunately, my lemon lily had a mere four.

If you choose carefully and plan accordingly by including early, mid, and late season bloomers in your mix, it is possible to achieve continuous bloom over a three month period in a mixed border of daylilies.

Many people are opting to plant a single variety for a season's worth of flowers. Different than varieties that rebloom, ever-bloomers offer a nonstop performance from the beginning of their bloom period until frost.

It is said that Dr. Darrel Apps, a geneticist and master breeder evaluated some 11,000 seedlings to end up with a mere few that flower continuously.

Breeding continues, so look for the newest introductions each year. My whim purchase from a few years back is a rebloomer called "Purple D'oro." I bought it because it was blooming in the nursery alongside Gayfeather, orange Helenium, and Purple Coneflower.

They are a power quartet in my summer border for sure, and the rebloom factor surely stretches out the show.

Locate daylilies where they will receive at least six hours of sun a day. Average soil, as long as it drains well, will grow strong plants.

Vigor determines whether clumps need to be separated and divided every few years, or if they can grow uninterrupted for many seasons. Division is best accomplished in early spring or immediately after bloom.

If you take the later approach, just be sure the plant has at least one month of growing time before frost hits. This way it will have an opportunity to root well, anchoring itself before winter freezing and thawing can heave it from the ground.

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



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ISSN NO. 0747-2471

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



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HILLTOWN HISTORY

Where Do You Park It?

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

Summer is the time to get outside and enjoy the great outdoors.

Even a 10 minute rest outside restores our spirit and outlook on life. If you don't happen to have an Adirondack chair handy what do you do? You find a bench because low and behold we still place benches in parks, along rivers and in community spaces.

Still a place to rest your weary bones or ease your troubled mind attitude out there! Isn't that a comforting notion. Unlike the history of Adirondack chairs you don't have to be sick to sit on a bench. Oh yes the wooden Adirondack chair came about from our belief that treating people with TB meant having them sit outside in the fresh air and sunlight.

Benches may just be the cure for our mental fatigue and overload. And what about all that eyestrain staring at screens. You gotta get on a bench and see the big picture!

What is the history of benches? Frederick Law Olmstead (1822-1903) the famous landscape architect gets a lot of credit for creating green space that called for benches, notably in Central Park, New York. This park showcases many different styles of benches and what better place to rendezvous with a spy than on a bench in New York City.

Central Park has 9,485 benches. There are three styles of benches. The most common bench was designed by Robert Moses and Kenneth Lynch for the 1939 World's Fair. They had the prototype up and seating people well before 1939. It was the classic cast iron legs with an art deco design and green wooden slats. They had 8,000 made for the World's Fair. Architects called them show seats because their silhouette was so elegant especially when they weren't

occupied.

That touch of elegance is still copied today. There are those who say they are a tad uncomfortable to sit on, but then some would say a little hidden hostility is necessary in public places. Drunks and homeless people were not encouraged to linger much less sleep on a park bench. This may also be the philosophy behind closely set armrests, placed to discourage a lay about.

Incidentally Kenneth Lynch & Sons have been making Central Park benches since 1936 and they continue to make them today. Robert Moses was the New York Parks Commissioner when he designed the World's Fair bench with Lynch.

Central Park also has wood and concrete benches, rustic (twig style) benches and the Central Park settee bench. This one is more of a utilitarian group bench, where the supports aren't so fancifully designed. There is also a "whisper bench." This grande dame was made of granite in a semi circular design.

When a whisper is spoken at one end of the bench it could be heard at the other end. This bench was dedicated to a NYC Park commissioner Charles B. Stover (1861-1929) who was known to be a social reformer. Smith College in Northampton has a whisper bench on its campus.

Most benches are made of cedar or pine wood with a welded metal frame that is 17 to 19 inches above the ground. Many today are made of recycled plastic.

When planning a bench thought must be given to its location and the weathering it must withstand. Thermoplastic coatings on metal benches reduce the chance of a hot bum. And most benches have to be bolted down because people have a habit of playing on them in unforeseen ways. Tipping them over is always a worry.

The designs today have gone wild such as undulating vertically laid wood-



Some cyclists rest on a bench on the Manhan Rail Trail in Easthampton.

Photos by Deborah Daniels

en slats. It seems NASA scientists have had some down time on their hands. Theft of benches is always a concern, so many benches have had to be tethered in place. An area in need of some design ideas for you entrepreneurs out there.

The Central Park benches may be adopted for a mere 10,000 dollars. The money goes for the benches upkeep and to the Park. A brass plate with your message is applied to the bench, 4,223 benches have been adopted.

The messages have been entertaining such as clever marriage proposals, dedications to nature, commemorations to loved pets and family members. There is one inscribed "Your Tush Here!" Hard to top that one.

Any discussion of benches wouldn't be complete without mentioning Carl Sandberg's (1878-1967) bench in

Galesburg, Illinois. The bench reviews the many roles he had in life as ice harvester, milkman, potter, firefighter, Spanish American war veteran, musician, historian, journalist, editor, author, three time Pulitzer prize recipient and poet.

This all carved into a granite bench with more quotes by him on the sides. The fog coming in on little cat feet certainly helped many a grade school student appreciate poetry. Who dares to sit on that bench?

Honorable mention also goes to Naperville, Illinois with their dragonfly benches. They have 19 decorated dragonfly benches placed all over town to celebrate summer. Hard not to smile while resting on a dragonfly Find a bench outside, relax, observe nature, watch people, better yet watch the stars come out and nourish your soul.



A bench just where you need it beside the train tracks, in Huntington. A bit of a song and prayer bench because it is missing a leg!



Bench seen outside Huntington restaurant.



This is a bench outside a church in Huntington.

AGING

from page 1

has already posted an online survey at <https://tinyurl.com/AFPVSurvey>. Residents are advised they can contact the COA for a paper copy. And, at the spring quarterly birthday celebration, Basch held a listening session to find out from attendees what the strengths, weaknesses and concerns are in town for senior citizens. The task force will organize additional sessions.

The first task force meeting will

be on Thursday, Aug. 17 at 10 a.m. at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

"Many seniors continue to be very active into their later years, while others become challenged by health issues," wrote Peterson. "How can we make our town and the COA activities support your needs and interests? What do you need? What do you enjoy or would like to do?"

PVPC is working with other area communities on these issues, as seniors

make up 20% of the general population. "We are working to better the lives of older adults through policies that create affordable housing, improve transportation options, build community participation, make healthcare more accessible, and so much more," states a message on the PVPC website.

The initiative is funded by a grant from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation and is modeled after a national initiative

designed by the American Association of Retired Persons.

People should either call the COA at 413-512-5205 or email coa@huntington-ma.us for more information on joining the task force by Monday, Aug. 14.

Anyone wishing to know more about the overall program can contact Becky Basch, senior planner with PVPC by emailing bbasch@pvpc.org or calling 802-245-4002.

BLANDFORD

Whalemobile comes to Blandford

HUNTINGTON – The Hilltown Family Center and Hilltown libraries invite families to a special free summer reading celebration event at the Blandford Town Hall building on Saturday, Aug. 19 from 10 a.m.-noon featuring the Whalemobile.

This collaborative event organized by the Hilltown Regional Literacy Committee is comprised of The Hilltown Family Center and area libraries including the Porter Memorial Library, the Hamilton Memorial Library, the Huntington Public Library, the Russell Public Library and Grace Hall Memorial Library. Participants can sign up for a time to go into the 30-foot-long whale replica and learn about these gentle giants from an expert.

When they come to the Whalemobile for their 30-minute selected time slot, they will go inside Nile—the life-sized inflatable humpback whale, learn about how whales and humans are similar and different and have a chance to touch baleen, teeth, and bones. There will also be another station set up that patrons can interact with, play games or color pictures.

Funding for the Whalemobile is

made possible through a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care through the Hilltown Community Health Center's Hilltown Family Center ParentChild+ Program. To reserve a time in the Whalemobile, people may email Nicole Daviau at ndaviau@cwmar.org. For information regarding this program, people may email Susan LeBarron, Hilltown Family Center Coordinator, at slebarron@hchcweb.org or call 413-667-2203.

The Hilltown Family Center in Huntington houses many of the Hilltown Community Health Center's community programs and services, and offers an extensive list of resources for parents, caregivers, and families. The Family Center programs are built around the belief in nurturing strong families, by helping them to strengthen their flexibility and resilience. Programs help families establish strong social connections and give concrete support in times of need, recognizing family's strengths and understanding that being a parent is part natural and part learned.

Library book club meets Aug. 19

BLANDFORD – This is the one-year anniversary of the return on the Porter Memorial Library's Book Club, which meets monthly.

The next meeting is Saturday, Aug. 19 at 11 a.m. at the library to discuss "Major Pettigrew's Last Stand" by Helen

Simonson.

Copies are available at the library during regular hours, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2-6 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



Director Nicole Daviau, from left, Katie Hudson, Lucia Sullivan, Amyla Payne, Michele Crane, Jackie Coury, Patty Daviau, Beth Lanzoni, Dale Sparr and Mary Powers participated in a lively discussion of "The Glass Ocean" by White, Williams and Willig and related non-fiction books. The club meets monthly and includes an additional five members.

Photo by Mary Kronholm

BLANDFORD SENIORS ENJOY COA PICNIC



Peter Langmore managed the spatula and tongs to grill hotdogs and burgers at the annual Council on Aging picnic Friday, July 28, and was ably assisted by Thomas Ackley. Everyone ate well and finished lunch off with the notorious Root Beer Float and watermelon.

Photo by Mary Kronholm

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 'DIVES INTO READING'



Library Director Nicole Daviau wearing her Crabby Hat in keeping with the Summer Reading Program theme of Dive into Reading escorts young readers to the library for their special program, Divers.

Photo by Mary Kronholm

White church to hold sing-a-long and pot luck

BLANDFORD – The White Church, 1 North St., will hold a sing-a-long and pot luck dinner on Sunday, Aug. 6 at 5 p.m.

The pot luck dinner will follow the singing. All are welcome to attend.

CHESTER

Hamilton Memorial Library announces upcoming events

CHESTER – New at the Hamilton Memorial Library is Ancestry.com and is available to patrons.

The library has one computer dedicated for a library edition of Ancestry.com so people should call to reserve a time slot.

The Writers Club for any level, in any stage of the creative process, are welcome to join in supporting each other through the writing journey. The club meets the second Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. each month. The next meeting is Wednesday, Aug. 9. This is a change

from the previous month.

Kids-Story Time and Creative Movement meets on Thursday, Aug. 10 at 11:30 a.m. during the regular story time. Laurel Lenski who holds a Bachelor of Science in Expressive Art Therapy and an Associates in Art in dance leads the session.

Nature Matters Inc. will be at the library Saturday, Aug. 12 at 11 a.m. for the special summer reading finale. Jen Leahey and her adorable animal friends will be at the library. She shares her knowledge and wisdom of the natural

world.

The Monthly Book Club meets the third Wednesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. At the Wednesday, Aug. 16 meeting the club will discuss the novel, "The Private Patient" by P.D. James.

Legos in Motion with Tayo will take place Thursday, Aug. 17 at 1 p.m. for ages eight to 17. Participants will have fun combining gears, engineering and imagination as they build their own, take-home movable creation. Space is limited and children and youths must register.

Teen Scene is a new program held

every Tuesday at 4 p.m. Teens will meet make-up/skin care specialist, Kisha, on Tuesday, Aug. 22 to share her skills just in time for the new school year. Everyone will receive a goody bag with samples. Teens should register by Aug.17

Story time, craft, and snack is held every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. for preschoolers. The Lego Club meets every Thursday at 1 p.m.

People may visit website at www.hamilton-library.org or on Facebook at Hamilton Memorial Library and Instagram @chesterlibrary.

GREAT BARRINGTON

Berkshire Agricultural Ventures welcomes Patrick Grego

GREAT BARRINGTON – Berkshire Agriculture Ventures, a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting local agriculture and resilient food systems in the Berkshire-Taconic region, announces the appointment of Patrick Grego as its full-time Communications and Development Associate.

Grego comes to BAV with a solid background in nonprofit communications. After moving from Brooklyn to Hudson, New York in 2021, Grego served as a Communications Coordinator at Time and Space Limited, a community arts center in Hudson and later as Communications Assistant at The Olana Partnership.

Grego has a passion for storytelling. His writing has been published in several regional newspapers including the Times Union and Chronogram's River Newsroom. He recently won the New York Newspaper Publishers Association award for distinguished feature writing.

"We are thrilled to welcome Patrick to the Berkshire Agricultural Ventures team," said Rebecca Busansky, Executive



Patrick Grego

Director of BAV. "We are excited to work with him to help share the stories of our farmers and amplify our work in the food system. His enthusiasm provides great promise in advancing our work to create a thriving local food economy."

"I am honored to join Berkshire Agricultural Ventures and contribute to their impactful work in sustainable agriculture," said Grego. "I believe that supporting local farmers and promoting environmentally friendly practices is crucial for the health of our community and our climate. I am excited to help raise awareness and foster connections that drive positive change."

Berkshire Agricultural Ventures has been a driving force in the Berkshire region, providing farmers and food producers with vital resources, technical assistance, and financing opportunities. The addition of Patrick Grego to the team will further strengthen the organization's ability to engage the community, expand its network, and advance its mission of creating a resilient and sustainable food system for all people.

POND

from page 1

sible to go to the pond without a tag and pay a day rate, which was considerably less than even the cost of a season's tag and apparently this is no longer possible. Visitor pass information or cost is not included on the town's website

However, Chairman of the Russell Board of Selectmen Thomas Kulig believes it is possible to obtain a visitor's pass and said it was a question for the collector. A call to the town's Tax Collector Wendy Brunet was not returned prior to publication.

Russell residents' cost for Russell Pond tags is as follows: one tag, \$40; two for \$60, three for \$80, four for \$100 five for \$120, six for \$140 and seven for \$160. Russell residents' cost is considerably less than for out of towners. A family of four from one of the above towns cost is double what Russell residents pay.

Blandford has attempted unsuccessfully to assist in costs for Russell and budgeted \$5,000 for last fiscal year to

that end, but Russell was not interested.

The Blandford Select Board, according to Chair Cara Letendre "remains interested in collaboration to help reduce the price for Blandford residents and re-establishing the working relationship with Russell."

Russell Selectwoman Gloria Farrell explained that the subject has come up twice, once last year and once this year, with the understanding that Blandford would like its residents be charged the same price as Russell residents.

Farrell said that Russell did not want to get involved with the accounting mechanism and its additional work but, "If Blandford residents purchased their passes from Russell at the posted price, they in turn could be reimbursed by Blandford for the additional cost."

That way Russell Pond would still benefit from the sale of beach tags and Blandford residents would pay the lower cost.

Kulig confirmed Farrell's response.

PROGRAM

from page 1

learned that blue-green algae kills fish and lowers the oxygen levels in water, needed to sustain life. They have also learned that the algae in the gator pond is duckweed and is not the dangerous type.

The plants, pollinators and farm-to-table unit continues the work of last year's after school program in maintaining a vegetable garden behind the school, and establishing a pollinator garden alongside. Once students were given the dimensions of their pollinator garden, they had to design a walkway between plots and calculate the size of each group's planting area.

Under a partnership with Rocking Horse Farms in Huntington and Wing and a Prayer in Cummington, and using a \$2,000 Ag in the Classroom grant, students have purchased plants and learned the importance of pollinator plants in sustaining a healthy bee, insect, bird and food population. Food that is harvested from the vegetable garden will be donated to the Chester Council on Aging for their Brown Bag Luncheons.

"I'd like to be able to build on this every year," said Martha Clark, Program and Communications Coordinator for the district. "We'll start working this fall in the after school program on plants that will flower next spring."

In fish, fins and tales, students have been learning about three different animals that were given prosthetics in order to survive: an elephant that needed a prosthetic lower leg that could sustain its weight; an eagle that had to have a beak replaced and a dolphin that needed a prosthetic tail to swim properly. Students are then using the engineering process to design their own

mock prosthetics and their culminating project will be to design a prosthetic tail prototype for a fish native to the Westfield River, a branch of which is located across the road from Gateway.

Using a \$6,100 grant from Westfield bank, the field trip accompanying this unit will be a whale watch out of Gloucester. As part of a unit on team building, the campers went to the Ramblewild Aerial Park for the day and worked together to complete the ropes course. Explorers are also using Project Adventure equipment and activities to complete a daily team building activity. Each group will also design an activity that will promote team building.

The engineering and design process is also evident in the racecar recycling project, where students have created a track that cars made from recycled materials will need to navigate. Camp will end with a recycled racer rally to note the differences between designs and materials used.

And the culminating activity in "wild about art" will be the installation of two murals depicting the wildlife (animals, fish, reptiles, birds and insects) native to the Westfield River Watershed. The murals will be mounted on the back of the softball and baseball dugouts facing Littleville Road, so they will be evident to passers-by.

Additional field trips tied to these units include the Connecticut and Springfield Science Museums and Shelburne Falls Bridge of Flowers. Camp ends Thursday, Aug. 10 and the groups will showcase their final projects and outcomes as camp comes to a close.

HUNTINGTON

Duo Mondo to bring Cuban passion to the North Hall Stage

HUNTINGTON – Duo Mondo will perform "Songs of Freedom" from Cuban composers on the Historic North Hall, 40 Searle Road, stage on Sunday, Aug. 13 at 2 p.m. as part of the 13th Annual Historic North Hall Arts Festival, presented by the North Hall Association.

The performance is free, but donations are accepted. Acclaimed cellist Rebecca Hartka and grammy-nominated guitarist José Lezcano have been performing internationally since 2014 and will play repertoire written by composers expressing a longing for liberation, whether from poverty, captivity or

heartache.

From Cuban composers such as Cervantes, Piazzolla Tangos, to Massenet's Meditation and works by Hartka and Lezcano themselves, the program will be rich in passion and self reflection.

All program updates will be listed on northhallhuntington.org.

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



Duo Mondo will perform on the North Hall Stage in Huntington on Sunday, Aug. 13.

Submitted photo

COA looking for residents to serve on Dementia Friendly Task Force

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging seeks Huntington residents to serve on the Age and Dementia Friendly Huntington Task Force.

The task force will work with the COA and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission on developing a community assessment and action plan for making the town age and dementia friendly.

The task force will hold meetings and host listening sessions on transportation, housing, health, community services and public safety.

The first task force meeting will be on Thursday, Aug. 17 at 10 a.m. at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road. People should contact the COA at 413-512-5205 or coa@huntingtonma.us for more information by Monday, Aug. 14.



Explorers from Gateway's summer program take water samples from the "gator pond" behind the school. As part of their studies, students have learned that the pond has a healthy ecosystem.

Submitted photo

LEE

Lee Outlet Mall hosts baseball exhibit

LEE – There is a free exhibit about baseball at the Lee Outlet Mall. It is a Smithsonian quality exhibit, inspired by the Pittsfield baseball league's long history of play. It is definitely worth seeing.



This section of the exhibit highlights Jeff Reardon. Photos by Deborah Daniels



There was an exhibit devoted to women in baseball.



One of the many baseball memorabilia on display at the exhibit at the Lee Outlet Mall.

NORTHAMPTON

Cooley Dickinson Hospital earns baby friendly designation

Dickinson Hospital has been re-designated as “Baby Friendly” by Baby-Friendly USA, the national authority responsible for certification of the global Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, supported by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund.

The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative is a worldwide program aimed at ensuring that all mothers and infants receive the best possible start in life by fostering an environment that supports breastfeeding and encourages the essential bond between mother and child.

The award recognizes that Cooley Dickinson is adhering to the organizations’ international standards and evidence-based practices, which have been

shown to increase breastfeeding initiation and duration. The hospital implements the organization’s “Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding” and the “International Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes.

“This designation is a tribute to our commitment to ensuring that everyone who delivers a baby at Cooley Dickinson is given the resources, information and support needed to help them and their baby get the best, healthiest start in life,” said Dr. Lynnette Watkins, president and chief operating officer. “Cooley Dickinson has long been a leader in the care of parents and newborns, and this is yet another example of that.”

The positive health effects of

breastfeeding are well documented and widely recognized by health authorities throughout the world. The Surgeon General’s 2011 Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding stated that: “Breast milk is uniquely suited to the human infant’s nutritional needs and is a live substance with unparalleled immunological and anti-inflammatory properties that protect against a host of illnesses and diseases for both mothers and children.”

Cooley Dickinson is part growing list of more than 20,000 Baby-Friendly hospitals and birth centers throughout the world. These facilities provide an environment that supports breastfeeding, while respecting every patient’s right to make the best decision for themselves

and their family. Cooley Dickinson emphasizes that they support the choices made by all patients, including those who do not breastfeed.

“We understand that each patient’s journey is unique, and our commitment to providing support, regardless of their feeding choices, is unwavering,” said Childbirth Center nurse manager Karen Przybyszewski.

Cooley Dickinson offers a range of resources and educational materials that cater to both breastfeeding and formula-feeding parents ensuring that each person is empowered to make the best decision for themselves and their baby.



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MONTGOMERY

Montgomery honors Jane Thielen

By Wendy Long
Correspondent;

MONTGOMERY – Long-time town official Jane Thielen was feted with a party in her honor on Saturday, July 22 at the town hall.

As she concluded a 48-year career with the town, where she served as town treasurer, tax collector and select board secretary, Thielen was honored by about 40 people who attended—representing 21% of the total population in town (838).

Librarian Paula Stipek-Long said, “People kept coming up at the party and saying she was one of the reasons they moved to town,” adding that Thielen had been so helpful with the forms and processes encountered by new residents.

Thielen first took the job of tax collector in FY75, replacing long-time collector, John Camp.

The town also honored Thielen on the sign in the center of town, which read, “Thank you Jane Thielen for 48 years of service to our town.”

The gathering was organized as a drop-in style open house, with attendees bringing food to share and donating for a gift.

Thielen declined to run again for her office, which officially ended on June 30, although she has been seen in town hall supporting the newly elected tax collector and treasurer, Renee Carnevale.



Jane Thielen, who retired as Montgomery’s Town Treasurer after 48 years of service, was honored with an open house on July 22.

Submitted photos



A sign in the center of Montgomery honored Jane Thielen’s service to the town.

WILLIAMSBURG

Senator Mark lists August office hours

WILLIAMSBURG – State Senator Paul W. Mark announces his staff will be conducting office hours in Williamsburg on two days in August.

Residents of any of the 57 municipalities in the Senator’s Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire District are encouraged to ask for

assistance with issues involving any state agency or to share ideas on current or potential state legislation. Appointments are not needed.

His staff will be in Williamsburg the second Tuesday, Aug. 8 and fourth Tuesday, Aug. 22 from 1-3 p.m. at the Town Offices, 141 Main St., Haydenville.



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OTIS

Otis artist to exhibit at Becket Art Center

BECKET – Gail Gelburd, an Otis artist, will be featured at the upcoming exhibition “Impress” at the Becket Art Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road.

Her work will be on display Thursday, Aug. 24 through Monday, Sept. 11, from noon-4 p.m. An artist reception will be held Saturday, Aug. 26 from 2-4 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Gelburd will be displaying more than 20 works of art that are a part of her series entitled “Nature Personified.” She said, “The majesty of our environment may sometimes be missed while the destruction of nature may also seem insignificant. But we are all connected, like the roots of trees, the stream of water, we grow together; we do need each other to exist....My art layers the trees and waterfalls, streams and sunlight with the human spirit and form, so that we might appreciate this interconnectedness.”

Using archival digital photographs, encaustic paints, sometimes wood and fiberglass, Gelburd’s art works can be two or three dimensional. She always starts with photographs of nature, be it of the Berkshires, India, Africa or Greece. Most of the works in this exhibition feature waterfalls and rivers from the Berkshires.

The Becket Art Center will also include works by Roger Duffy (pen and ink), Douglas Gilbert (graphite/charcoal), and Deb Lohmeyer (photography) during the same time period.

For more information, people may visit www.becketartcenter.org, email office@becketartcenter.org, call: 413-623-6635.

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

Qualifications should include:

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

Please send resume and writing examples to:

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

PITTSFIELD

Downtown Pittsfield host Kids Paint and Sip

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. will host a free Kids Paint and Sip and Scavenger Hunt on Friday, Aug. 4 from 5-7 p.m. in the outdoor seating area next to Hot Harry’s and in front of the Marketplace Cafe, 37 and 53 North St.

This free animal-themed Paint and Sip is best suited for ages 5 to 12, although younger and older children are welcome. All materials, instruction, snacks and juice will be provided. Children are welcome to drop in anytime over the course of the event and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Free Kids’ Scavenger Hunt for art will be held on Friday, Aug. 4 from 5-8 p.m. during the First Fridays Artswalk. Children who complete the hunt will receive a coupon for a free ice cream. A copy of the hunt can be picked up on Aug. 4 at the Kids’ Paint and Sip begin-

ning at 5 p.m. Kids should return to the site of the Kids’ Paint and Sip no later than 8 p.m. with a completed Scavenger Hunt to claim their prize.

This event is part of the Aug. 4 First Fridays Artswalk. For more information, people may visit www.firstfridaysartswalk.com or call Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. at 413-443-6501.

Download the Downtown Pittsfield app in the App Store or on Google Play to follow a virtual walking tour of art on your cell phone.

First Fridays Artswalk is brought to you by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and the Downtown Pittsfield Cultural Association and is supported in part by a grant from the Mass Cultural Council and a grant from the Pittsfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. receives grant award

PITTSFIELD –Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. was awarded a \$65,000 grant from MassDevelopment to fund three projects in the city: (1) “The Lab” at the Boys & Girls Club of The Berkshires, (2) the Pittsfield Community Design Center (“Urban Room”) and (3) Let it Shine! A Celebration of Public Art: Mural and Music Festival on Saturday, Sept. 9.

In July 2023, MassDevelopment awarded \$500,000 in grants to nine organizations, including Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., for public-facing projects in Gateway Cities that support arts-and culture-based economic development and neighborhood revitalization, such as public art, arts programming and events, space activation, collaborative workspaces, mentoring and educational opportunities in the arts, and more. The funding was awarded through the fourth round of MassDevelopment’s Transformative Development Initiative Creative Catalyst Grant program, a competitive opportunity for eligible Gateway Cities.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and partners will use its grant to support (1) the creation of a technology lab at the Boys & Girls Club in Pittsfield that seeds an entrepreneurial hub for teens in the district and forms a new pipeline between Berkshire Innovation Center and North Street; (2) the build-out of a brick-and-mortar space for the Pittsfield Community Design Center, an “Urban Room” which serves as a body for planning and executing tactical urbanism strategy and community-focused planning, featuring equipment like paint, planters, recycled furniture, pallets, and tires with seating and lounge areas for meetings, brainstorming, and exhibitions; and (3) implementation of the “Let It Shine” mural installation and celebratory festival that will put two building-scale murals in the pedestrian core of Pittsfield and will get the community involved in installing three

smaller participatory murals.

MassDevelopment’s TDI Creative Catalyst Grant program is made possible by the Barr Foundation, which since 2019 has awarded \$4.4 million to MassDevelopment to create and administer arts-based programming that directly supports the expansion of cultural and creative industries in Gateway Cities.

MassDevelopment’s Transformative Development Initiative (TDI) works with cross-sector partnerships in targeted commercial districts in Gateway Cities in order to engage community members, implement local economic development initiatives, and spur further public and private investment. Since 2015, MassDevelopment has invested \$20 million in TDI districts through tools such as technical assistance, real estate investments, grant programs, and fellows who work in the districts. That investment has directly influenced over \$100.2 million in public and private investments in the districts and assisted an additional \$219.9 million.

Defined by the Massachusetts General Laws, Gateway Cities are small to mid-sized cities in Massachusetts (population of between 35,000 and 250,000) that anchor regional economies around the state, with below state average household incomes and educational attainment rates. The Legislature defines 26 Gateway Cities in Massachusetts, including Attleboro, Barnstable, Brockton, Chelsea, Chicopee, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Peabody, Pittsfield, Quincy, Revere, Salem, Springfield, Taunton, Westfield, and Worcester.

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

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

Qualifications should include:

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

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

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

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

OPPORTUNITY

newspaper correspondent

Turley Publications seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

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BECKET

Select Board seeks bylaw review committee members

BECKET – The Select Board seeks applications from registered voters in the Town of Becket for three members to serve on the Bylaw Review Committee.

The Committee shall review the Town's General Bylaws to ensure their consistency with any applicable law and the Town Charter and may propose amendments or new sections of the General Bylaw to the Select Board for inclusion on a Town Meeting Warrant.

Interested Becket voters are asked to submit an Appointment Application to the Select Board. The application may be obtained from the Administrative Assistant by visiting the Town Hall, by emailing adminasst@townofbecket.org and at the Forms and Documents page by visiting the town website www.townofbecket.org. The bylaw describing this committee is available on the Bylaw Review Committee page of the town website.

Becket Athenaeum lists events

BECKET – A discussion on the value of community journalism moderated by Don Morrison will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St.

Refreshments will be served and masks are optional. Participants are Ronald Bernard, Founder and Board Member of The Sandisfield Times; Ellenor Downer, editor of Country Journal and Stephen Moore, editor of Monterey News. They will share their own experiences. RSVP to bit.ly/BA-journalism.

Library story times are held Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. On the second Saturday of the month, the craft project is replaced by creative movement with

Laurel Lenski. RSVP appreciated to bit.ly/BA-storytime.

A movie night for adults will be held Tuesday, Aug. 8 from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The Cookbook Club meets Monday, Aug. 14 at 6 p.m. The cookbook is "Recipes from an Italian Summer." Participants should email info@bwlibrary.org to register and request a cookbook. They will prepare a recipe to share from the cookbook.

Buildwave, a hands on building game will take place Saturday, Aug. 19 from 11 a.m.-noon at the library for grades K-6. Space is limited and registration is required by visiting bit.ly/BA-build.

A tiniest of Becket mysteries resolved

By Adrienne Metcalf

You may remember the last nearly three foot snowstorm of 2023.

It came all of a sudden, dumped a ton of wet snow and by very dent of sheer volume took weeks to fade away. Between the three foot mark and bare ground it melted first in pockets around darker stones and trees that warmed in the increasing sun.

It was just such a morning of warm sun and the almost audible sound of snowmelt that I ventured to our greenhouse to check on the plants that overwintered. I felt good, enjoying the pattern of snow dappled with dark patches and the sun's inevitable win.

I was lost in the reverie when I noticed, just as I was about to open the greenhouse door, a large chunk of metal lying on the ground. What the hell? Squarish, 12" or so, machined, curved, part of something mechanical, it sat on a patch of bare ground, propped against a small standing stone at the corner of the garden.

It was completely surrounded by fields of snow covering the gardens. I was stunned, looked around, as if someone had snuck in and placed it there and were still lurking at the edge of the forest, enjoying my dilemma.

No tracks. I looked around again, but this time my head tipped up and I searched the sky, as if the offender was circling above. Ha, finally my mind kicked in. It had to, by all of Nature's immutable laws, had to have dropped from the heavens.

We humans rarely look up, known fact. The sky is boundless, unknowable, and when something drops out of it, all manner of possibilities arise. The sky is falling.

I picked it up. It was heavy. It had a broken protuberance and a bit of a metal spring on it. This was definitely not a piece of our farm equipment. I looked up the hill toward Quarry Road, easily 100 feet away, no tracks and too far to have come from the road.

Back to the sky. Airplane? Satellite? I looked up one more time as if the countenance of some mischievous god was going to show itself. "Joel!" I called out to my husband in my best farmhouse yell.

He traipsed over and we both handled it, turning it over and over, glancing from the road to the sky to the woods. Joe, who is reliably logical, said not a satellite; no burns on it signifying re-entry. Ok, good, we're narrowing the unknowable down by one click.

Farming has taught me to be logical and pragmatic in the way of seasons, growing, equipment, how to care for things and life and that there is always an answer. Things dropping from the sky was beyond my pay grade.

We brought it in the house, I went back to tending plants in the greenhouse

uneasy with being reminded there is so much beyond my control. Upon return to the house, Joe piped up, someone might need to know about this. Oh yes, there is a world outside our farm.

So, I called Bradley International airport: we are under one of their flight paths. Bradley sent me to the Connecticut State Police covering Bradley. They sent me to the FAA, Aviation Safety Inspector, Bradley Flight Standards District Office where I talked with Tom. Tom was friendly, professional and above all, curious.

I sent him a picture. We made an appointment for Tom and a co-worker to make an early spring jaunt to come see the piece. Cool, maybe we'd be part of solving some problem that would save lives as the missing airplane part was essential...to something, somewhere.

The day arrived; the sunny spring morn was wakening with life as the snow was diminished to small patches in shaded corners. A small white car arrived, official license plates and all. Now we were cautiously curious, having spent the last several years with misgivings and confusion about government and people alike.

Two middle aged men stepped out, clipboards in hand. Warm handshakes and we revealed the piece. They studied it, one to another. "Too heavy" was Tom's first comment. They seemed puzzled and asked to see the landing spot.

We crossed the yard to the spot with chickens clucking in support. They took photos and notes and we all looked at the woods, the road and the sky as we explained Bradley flight paths. Joe and Tom chatted about C130's and their flight paths over our house using the nearby quarry as a test for bombing runs. We stood a good long while, mutually befuddled as the piece brought us all to a standstill of unknowing.

Clearly, they puzzled over the weight, explaining that airplane aluminum is much lighter. Perhaps it came out of a cargo plane, as we learned several fly with their hatches open. Comforting!... but plausible.

The shared mystery opened the human connection and soon we were talking about Tom's dream to have a farm and chickens and that their job often requires being first on scene of crashes. How silly our mystery metal object seemed in light of the weight they bore regularly. Answers absent, Tom took the piece after giving us an official receipt of custody. He was determined to solve the mystery.

Several weeks passed when I got a call from Tom. He reluctantly admitted they had no idea what it was, where it came from and how it landed in our yard. We chatted that it could have been there for months, arriving before one of the snowstorms and being buried. I could tell he was disappointed, in himself. He took pride in solving mysteries. He had taken



It was a spring loaded part and must
Submitted photo

it to Bradley, to various military branches and even to the cargo companies who fly with open hatches.

Nothing. "Did I want it back?" he asked, insisting it was a conversation piece. "Sure", more out of respect for the work he had put in. Did I want it shipped or he could bring it up to us. At least an hour away, I remembered the peace he mentioned feeling here and the things he must see that might never leave his mind's eye. "Yes", bring it up to us. In the last moment, not sure of what prompted it, I said he might want to check with the highway garage in Becket if he were coming up any way.

The next day, Tom called. Mystery solved, the piece came off one of the town trucks. How anticlimactic.

have let loose and sailed over 100' or maybe 50' and slide across the snow to rest against my standing stone. The Highway Department wanted it back. He would bring it back to the town garage, take pictures of the truck that it came off and the case would be officially closed. He was pleased.

I was amused and shook my head that the dreams of sleuthing and heroic plane disaster averted melted with the last of the snow. Life goes on in Becket, just one tiny mystery solved and a few friends and neighbors moved from the shared delight of unknowing to irony. Yet another episode in Becket's history at this end of town.

SOUTH WORTHINGTON

Sevenars presents the 6th concert of its 55th season

SOUTH WORTHINGTON – Sevenars Academy, 15 Ireland St., just off Route 112, will host its sixth concert of the Sevenars music Festival 55th anniversary season on Sunday, Aug. 13 at 4 p.m.

There is no admission, but donations are welcomed at the door. The musical trifecta of Carol Wincenc, flute; Rebecca Young, violist and Joy Cline Phinney, pianist will perform.

Together in a program of trios and duos these superb musicians will offer Sonatas by Poulenc and Brahms, "Legends" by Grammy-winner Valerie Coleman, Ibert's Interludes, a Duo by Devienne, Amy Beach's Romance Op. 23, Fauré's Morceau de Concours and Bartok's "Roumanian Dances."

This 2023 season in particular is

made possible in part by the Local Cultural Councils of the following towns: Agawam, Buckland, Chester, Concord, Cummington, Everett, Gardner, Goshen, Huntington, Lee, Montgomery, Northern Berkshire, Otis, Russell, Springfield, West Springfield, Westford, Westhampton, Wilmington and Worthington. These LCC's are local agencies which are funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For FY 23 Sevenars was also grateful to be one of just three organizations in Western Massachusetts to be awarded a Cultural Facilities Fund grant from MassDevelopment to help fortify the foundation of the Sevenars concert hall.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

HCC STEM scholarship deadline extended to Aug. 15

HOLYOKE - Students enrolled full time in chemistry, biology, engineering, mathematics, physics or other STEM fields at Holyoke Community College now have until Tuesday, Aug. 15, to apply for a National Science Foundation scholarship of up to \$10,000 a year.

Through HCC, the National Science Foundation Scholarship offers on average \$6,500 per year to qualified full-time students and prorated amounts for part-time students.

New and current HCC students are encouraged to apply. The application deadline for the fall 2023 semester has been extended until Aug. 15, 2023.

Students chosen for the NSF scholarship become members of HCC's STEM Scholars 2.0 Program, also known as SCoRE.

STEM Scholars are expected to maintain enrollment in a STEM program, be in good academic standing,

complete an associate degree at HCC, and/or transfer to an accredited STEM degree program at a four-year institution. The scholarships are renewable every year students continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

Beside the financial awards, STEM Scholars become part of a learning community that fosters a sense of belonging and academic success, and includes mentoring, research, and honors experiences; community service; and internships.

The application and eligibility guidelines can be viewed at hcc.edu/stem-scholarship.

STEM disciplines include biological sciences, physical sciences, math, computer and information services, geosciences, and engineering.

The program is led by HCC math professor Ileana Vasu, coordinator of the STEM Scholars program. She can be reached at ivasu@hcc.edu or 413-552-2438.

Three County Fair awards scholarships

NORTHAMPTON - The America's oldest on-going agricultural Fair, the Three County Fair, has announced this year's Class of 2023 scholarship award recipients.

Applicants are scored on academics, extra-curricular activities, application presentation, future study plans and involvement in agriculture, including the annual Labor Day weekend Fair. The Fair awarded its first scholarship in 1867.

"The Fair manages a number of exemplary applications making the selection process very difficult. We are pleased to continue providing scholarship opportunities and wish the recipients the very best in their chosen fields of study," said Three County Fair President, Tom Smiarowski.

The Fair manages the prestigious Raymond & Josephine Duda Scholarship. The Duda Scholarship was established in 2014 by Raymond and Josephine Duda of Easthampton, who operated one of the area's largest dairy farms.

This year's \$1,000 Duda Scholarship winner is Suzanne van Geel of Hatfield. She graduated from Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton and will be attending Delaware Valley University in Pennsylvania pursuing an Equine Science/Management degree with plans for a career in horse breeding. van Geel volunteers each Labor Day weekend in the Three County Fair's Baby Barnyard and has been active with

Future Farmers of America, 4-H and work at Luther Belden Dairy Farm in Hatfield.

Six other area high school students were also selected to each receive a \$500 scholarship from the Three County Fair, including Avery Brooks of Westhampton, Liliana Pollard of Worthington, Nancy Mueller of Russell, Samantha Baker of South Deerfield, along with Kaitlyn Nowak and Matthew Brady both from Northampton.

Avery Brooks of Westhampton graduated from the Williston Northampton School and will attend the University of Hartford for prosthetics and orthotics.

Liliana Pollard of Worthington graduated from Smith Academy and will attend Holyoke Community College majoring in forest ecosystem science.

Nancy Mueller of Russell graduated Gateway Regional High School and will attend Elon University.

Samantha Baker of South Deerfield graduated from Frontier Regional High School and will attend Springfield College majoring in health science.

Kaitlyn Nowak of Northampton graduated Northampton High School and will attend Westfield State University majoring in elementary education.

Matthew Brady of Northampton graduated from Northampton High School and will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in horticulture.

Colleges, Universities announce Dean's Lists

Bryant University Smithfield, RI

Making spring Dean's List are: Catherine Bean of Westfield, Tyler Champagne of Westfield, Ryan Cimini of Westfield, Sophia Corcoran of Westfield, Karli Lajeunesse of Westfield, Cameron Lisowski of Westfield, Selena Negron of Easthampton, Emma Pedolzky of Westfield, Jordan Perry of Westfield, David Roundy of Westfield, Anthony Schabowski of Westfield and Kyle Scherpa of Westfield.

Champlain College Burlington, VT

Making spring Dean's List are Sarah Constantine of Easthampton and Cole Patrick of Easthampton.

Dickinson College Carlisle, PA

Making the spring Dean's List is Sofia Getoff-Scanlon of Easthampton.

Purchase College Purchase, N.Y.

Making spring Dean's List is Rowan Perkins of Williamsburg.

Tufts University Medford

Making spring Dean's List are: Ruby McElhone Yates of Easthampton, Natalie Nicoletti of Williamsburg and Annika von Schoeler-Ames of Williamsburg.

University of Hartford West Hartford, CT

Making spring Dean's List are: Ashelyn Baran of Westfield, Margaret Philpott of Westfield, Abigail Cervonayco of Westfield, Sophia Singer of Westfield, Aaron Champagne of Westfield, Cara Urbanski of Westfield, Benjamin Parsons of Sandisfield and Madison Degrandpre of Easthampton.

RUSSELL

Russell COA seeks vendors for annual tag sale

RUSSELL - On Saturday, Sept. 16, the Russell Council on Aging will host its annual Tag Sale from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on the lawn outside the Senior Center at the Russell Town Hall, 65 Main St. and across the street in Veterans Memorial Park.

Now is the time to clear out the clutter before the holidays. People can reserve a 12-ft. x 12-ft. site for just \$20, which includes the town of Russell tag sale permit fee. Vendors must supply

their tables, chairs and tents if desired.

People may mail their name, contact information and payment to Russell COA, P.O. Box 407, Russell, MA 01071. They may call Carrie Florek at 413-862-6217 or e-mail coa@townofrussell.us with further questions.

All proceeds will benefit programs and activities for the Russell Council on Aging. In the event of rain cancellation, payments will be returned. There is not a rain date.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Someone in your life says they're making changes, but when you look closely it seems like much of the same. A little encouragement on your part can help this person along.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
Look for the double meanings in conversations you're having with coworkers. They could be trying to tell you something, so read between the lines.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
It's probably best to keep your head down for the next few days and just go about your normal routine, Libra. Don't get pulled into anyone's drama or offer your take on things.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Good news is on the way. This will leave you floating on air for some time afterwards. Surround yourself with the people you love this week so that they can share the good fortune.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Tread lightly if you broach a difficult conversation with someone close to you. These are tricky waters you are navigating and you want to maintain the relationship.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you are typically good at reading others' moods, so use that skill this week when placed in a sensitive situation. It will help guide you on what to say and what to keep quiet for now.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, it is time to be more proactive about getting what you want. Make a list of the things that most interest you right now, and then devise a plan to make things happen.

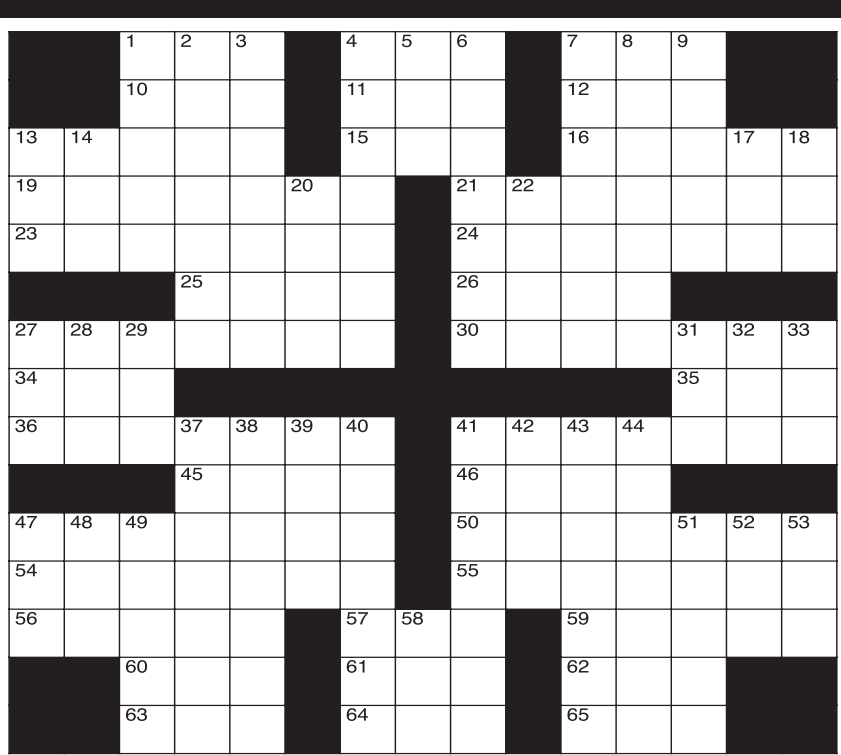
AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
There is a lot that you have been juggling for some time. Unless you take a break or ask for help, one of those balls are going to fall and that could have a domino effect.

GEMINI
May 22/June 21
Problems may seem bigger than they really are. Step back, take a few breaths and then look at things from another perspective. Ask for a second opinion as well.

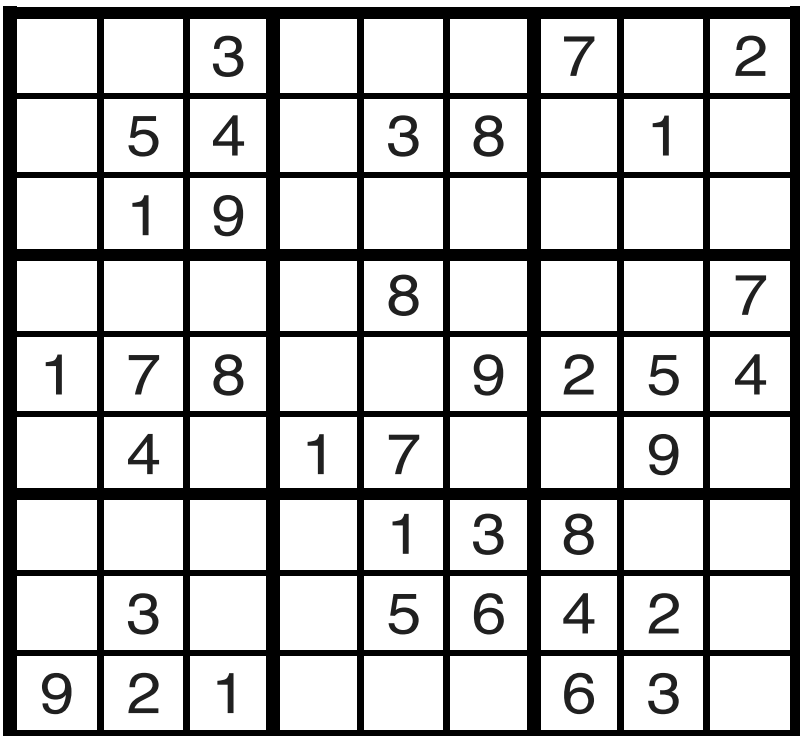
VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
There is a lot of socializing going on in your life right now, Virgo. Enjoy the excitement while it lasts and maximize all of the events you can attend. Things may start to slow in a few weeks.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
Figure out which stance you want to take right now. Are you seeing the glass half full or half empty? Perception can affect your daily life in many ways.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you have every right to express your opinions. Others will just have to accept what you say even if they don't agree with it.



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indicates tire pressure 4. Request 7. Clairvoyance 10. 007's creator 11. Adult male 12. Scandinavian god of battle 13. Cloths spread on a coffin 15. Breeze through 16. Ladyfish genus 19. It's good to take them 21. Noble-governed territory 23. Members of U.S. Navy 24. Card game resembling rummy 25. Affected by injury 26. Member of a Semitic people 27. Left 30. Woman's cloak | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plant of the nettle family 2. Fit to be sold 3. Rather 4. Collected 5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal 6. Patella 7. Ageless 8. Lists of course requirements 9. Pokes at 13. TV network 14. They ___ 17. Cooking hardware 18. U.S. Army title 20. Iron-containing compound 22. Swiss river (alt. spelling) 27. Former French coin 28. Electronic countermeasures 29. Taxi | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 34. S. American plant 35. Prohibit 36. Offense 41. Dish soap brand 45. Ottoman military commanders 46. Ancient Greek City 47. Makes unhappy 50. Discuss again 54. Medical instrument 55. Promote 56. A beloved carb 57. Tag the base runner to get him out 59. Prehistoric people 60. Large African antelope 61. Vehicle 62. Georgia rockers 63. Scientific instrument (abbr.) 64. A major division of geological time 65. Attempt |
|---|---|--|



SUDOKU

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

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answers

A	V	T	R	V	E	R	M	T	S	
E	R	A	C	V	A	N	G	U	N	G
C	M	L	O	B	A	V	E	B	R	A
S	E	U	O	S	E	G	N	I	H	A
E	U	E	G	U	E	S	N	E	D	D
E	L	E	V	A	S	V	G	V	A	S
D	A	D	E	C	A	S	G	E	R	A
N	B	A	V	C	A	S	G	E	R	A
S	E	S	E	I	T	E	D	E	D	C
V	T	S	V	N	V	C	E	S	E	S
M	O	D	L	E	A	S	H	T	B	R
P	O	S	L	L	S	L	S	L	S	P
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E	S	P	K	A	V	S	I	S	I	P

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OBITUARIES

Joseph G. Clendenin, 33

RUSSELL – Joseph G. Clendenin, 33, of Russell, loving son, brother, uncle and friend passed away at home on July 25, 2023.

He was born in Holyoke to Gregory J. Clendenin and Paula M. (Sanford) Tennyson. He attended the Granville and Southwick school system. He worked in the home improvement and asphalt business. He was an avid outdoorsman, fishing, hiking, being in the woods and working in his sawmill (summer/winter) whenever he had the chance.

He loved spending time with family and friends. He is survived by his mother Paula M. Tennyson of Russell, his father Gregory J. Clendenin and wife Lisa



of Granville, his brothers Michael Clendenin of Montgomery, Richard Oathout of Russell, his sister Samantha Oathout of Westfield, Uncle Bill Sanford and wife Sarah of Stephentown, Aunt Judy Lennon and Dave of Middlefield, his cousins Matthew Lennon/Kaleb Lennon, Paul Sanford, Jesse Sanford, Eric Dean/Avah Dean and his beloved niece Alexandra Mendonca. Joe and his contagious grin will be greatly missed by all of his family and friends.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, Aug. 4, 2023 from 4-7 p.m. at the Firtion Adams Funeral Home, 76 Broad Street, Westfield, MA 01085. www.firtionadams.com.

DEATH NOTICES

CLENDENIN, JOSEPH G.
Died July 25, 2023
Services Aug. 4, 2023

MYRICK, SHEILA MAE
Died July 27, 2023
Service Aug. 6, 2023

ZIMMERMAN (CHAPMAN), KAY
Died July 27, 2023
Services August 5, 2023

OLEJARZ (FOURNIER), THERESA ANN
Died July 24, 2023
Services Aug. 5, 2023

UNDERWOOD, WILLIS M.
Died July 28, 2023
Services Aug. 5, 2023

Theresa Anne Olejarz (Sears, nee Fournier), 68

With family at her side, Theresa Anne Olejarz (Sears, née Fournier) received her final A+, at the age of 68, when she died July 24, 2023 in Springfield, after making every possible effort to beat leukemia. Terry is survived by her husband, Robert Olejarz, her daughter Tammy Goodhue (Jason Goldschmidt), her son Daniel Sears (Kevin Ahearn), her bonus daughter Lindsey Barnhardt, her grandchildren Isaiah, Zoran, Genevieve, Graham and Jasmine, her sisters Mary Lou Chmura (Phil) and Linda Wright (Bill), her brother Lawrence Fournier (Cheryl), her first husband Lawrence Sears, her nieces Marcy, Amber, Stephanie, and Jackie, her extended family, and her many friends and golf buddies. Terry is preceded by her parents Donald and Barbara Fournier (née Hague) and her lifelong best friend and spirit guide Mary Farrar (née Barr).

Growing up in Huntington, Terry was a quiet, studious child and teenager, who was also a smidge mischievous and had fun with her siblings and her chosen families the Barrs and the Pikes. She graduated from Gateway Regional High School at the top of her class as a member of the National Honor Society and proud recipient of the DAR award.

Terry immediately began her career in 1972 when, upon graduation, she became the Superintendent's Secretary. After a stint co-owning and operating The Craft Studio with her sister Mary Lou, Terry continued her career in school business administration as Treasurer for Gateway Regional while raising two children and going to school nights and weekends.

Terry earned a Master's degree with honors from Cambridge College in 1991 and advanced her career



in the Ware and East Longmeadow school districts, holding Business Manager and Assistant Superintendent positions.

During this time, she and her friends, the Women in Charge, could be found working hard and/or making a little trouble. After retiring the first time in 2015, Terry also worked for Pope Francis Preparatory School and held part-time consultant positions in other districts as well.

Terry was an exceedingly good wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend.

Along the way she built a "modern family." In 1973, Terry married her high school sweetheart, Larry, with whom she raised Tammy and Danny.

In 2002, Terry married her golf partner, Bob, with whom she raised Lindsey and enjoyed life with their beloved dog Baron. Later, Terry was very closely bonded with Zoran and Isaiah from the moment they were born. In addition, she was honored and thrilled to have Jasmine, Genevieve and Graham in her life.

Her unconditional love and admiration as a proud grandmother was felt by all. Terry welcomed, supported, celebrated, and fiercely loved, regardless of biological connection, race, sexual orientation, gender identity or golf handicap, no matter how or when people came to be part of her family. Those who were loved were likely to receive a compliment, a word of encouragement, a generous gift, her time and maybe even a playful flipping of the bird. Everyone loved her shenanigans, especially the ones that involved dancing.

Striving for excellence wasn't limited to supporting family or academic and career pursuits. Terry was also an avid golfer obsessed with improving her game. She

enjoyed the simple pleasures of walking the course, competing and trying to best herself.

Through golf, she made many friends and acquaintances, spent many wonderful days and traveled with Bob, increased her confidence and acquired her Birdie Babe nickname. A highlight of her golf career was sinking a hole-in-one in 2008.

Terry approached her advanced cancer diagnosis in late 2021 much the same way she approached other parts of her life with a goal to do her very best. And she did. During months of cumulative hospitalizations, many difficult procedures and treatments including a stem cell transplant and countless transfusions, she followed instructions, did more than was asked of her, never complained and never gave up hope. She beamed with pride when her providers frequently told her she got an A+. Terry living longer than expected was a surprise to her medical team, but not to her family and friends. Terry loved a challenge and loved exceeding expectation. She will be missed.

Terry's family would like to express gratitude for the teams of doctors, nurses, social workers, phlebotomists, special pizza servers and others at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, D'Amour Center for Cancer Care, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Baystate Medical Center. Their care and compassion were profoundly appreciated.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023 from 1-3 p.m. at Forastiere Smith Funeral and Cremation at 220 North Main St., East Longmeadow with a 3 p.m. memorial service to follow.

In lieu of flowers, Terry's family suggests making a donation in her name to Dana Farber Cancer Institute or donating blood or platelets at Baystate Medical Center in her honor. For more details and to share condolences people may visit www.forastiere.com.

Sheila Mae Myrick, 62

HUNTINGTON – Sheila Mae Myrick, age 62, passed away in her home at Hamlin Court, Huntington on July 27, 2023.

She was born in Northampton, spent most of her childhood in Agawam before moving to Middlefield

After graduating from Gateway Regional High



School in 1979, she worked at Western Massachusetts Hospital in the maintenance department before taking an early retirement.

The Graham Hilltown Community Funeral Home, 27 Russell Road in Huntington has honorably been entrusted with Sheila's care and service request. Please visit hilltownfuneralhome.com

Kay (Chapman) Zimmerman, 83

WESTFIELD – Kay (Chapman) Zimmerman died peacefully at Westfield Gardens in Westfield with her loving husband at her side.

Many knew Kay from Huntington High and her years working for the Gateway Regional School system where she retired. Kay focused her life on raising her children until she met James, who she has spent the last thirty years with enjoying love and life.

A big joy in her life was hosting family functions and get togethers for holidays and her favorite the Westfield River Canoe race. Kay loved to quilt and crochet and then shared her projects with friends and family. She looked forward to attending craft shows and she would never miss the annual Orchid show at Smith College.

Kay was a member of the Montgomery Community Church. She has lived in Montgomery, Huntington and Chester.

She leaves behind a lot of loved



ones. Her husband James Zimmerman; her children Beau T. Reed, Robin Gray (Reed) and Dwayne A. Long; her grandkids, Lisa M. Gray, Hannah I. Mitchell (Long), Robert P. Reed, Bridget I. Long, Mary Elizabeth Reed; one great-granddaughter Chloe G. Mitchell; siblings Joyce Dupelle (Chapman), Richard Chapman, Edward Chapman and Roger Chapman.

She is predeceased by her son Jody E. Reed (d. 1963) and her brother, Wayne Chapman (d. 2012).

Calling hours for Kay will be held on Saturday, Aug. 5 from 9-11 a.m. at the Graham Hilltown Community Funeral Home, 27 Russell Road in Huntington, followed by a service at 11 a.m. with burial at Center Cemetery in Montgomery. For online condolences please visit hilltowncommunityfuneralhome.com

Donations may be made in lieu of flowers to Cure Alzheimer's Fund, 34 Washington St., Suite 200, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481.

Willis M. "Jed" Underwood, 52

SOUTHAMPTON – Willis M. "Jed" Underwood, 52, passed away on Friday, July 28, 2023 surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Westfield to Nancy (Brown) Underwood and the late Willis M. "Skip" Underwood, III.

He was a graduate of Gateway Regional High School and he received an Associate's Degree in Nursing from Edison State College in Fort Meyers, Florida. He was employed as a registered nurse for the Palliative Care Program at Colley Dickinson VNA and Hospice.

Jed was a "Jack of all trades" and loved to tinker in the garage, fixing, building and repairing things for family and friends. He also enjoyed camping, four wheeling, dancing and was always the life of the party.

He is survived by his beloved wife



Amy B. (Webb) Underwood, his loving children, Sara R. Underwood and Evan M. Underwood, all of Southamptton, his caring mother, Nancy Underwood of Westfield, his sister Carolyn Wyckmans and her husband Robert of Easthampton, and his brothers, Corey R. Underwood of Montgomery and Dennis W. Underwood of

Westfield, many extended family members, friends and co-workers.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023 at 1 p.m. in the Firtion Adams Funeral Service, 76 Broad St. Westfield. Visiting hours will precede the service from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the funeral home.

In Lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Cancer Connection, 41 Locust St. Northampton, MA 01060. www.firtionadams.com

Night of mothing postponed to Aug. 5

PITTSFIELD Join Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT), Matthew Rymkiewicz, and Carla Rhodes for a night of mothing (i.e., using a light to attract and look for moths) on Saturday, Aug. 5 for a hands-on experience and become a Community Scientist by contributing scientific data about moths. This event

was originally scheduled for July 29, but it was postponed due to thunderstorms. This event invites people of all ages and backgrounds to learn about, observe, and document moths as a way to celebrate National Moth Week.

This free educational event is organized by Berkshire Environmental Action Team.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Chester Water Commission Public Hearing

The Chester Water Commission will hold a public hearing on **September 06, 2023 at 6PM** in the COA room in the Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester to discuss the water rate for FY2024, as well as the status of the water enterprise fund, and provide an update on current and future projects to improve water plant and distribution system operations. 07/27, 08/03/2023

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS Worthington School District

August 1, 2023
NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS 2023

This notification is to inform parents/guardians and former students of the Worthington School District's intent to destroy the Special Education records of students who were no longer receiving Special Education services as of 2016. These records will be destroyed in accordance with the state law

unless the parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student notifies the School District otherwise by **SEPTEMBER 1, 2023**.

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

district or completes his or her education program at age 22.

After 7 years, the records are no longer useful to the district, but they may be useful to parents/guardians or former students in applying for Social Security benefits, rehabilitation services, college entrance, etc. The parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student may request records by calling: R. H. Conwell Elementary School at 413-238-5856 or emailing Emily Lak at elak@hr-k12.org 08/03, 08/10/2023

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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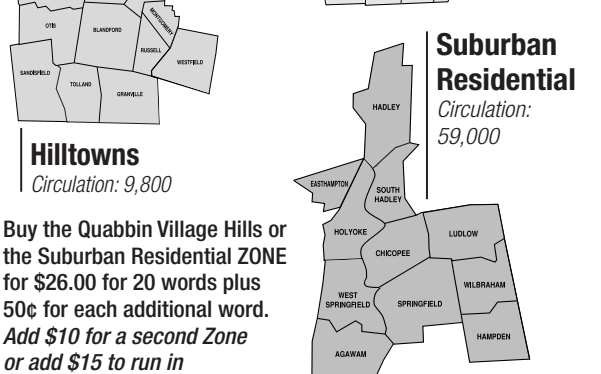
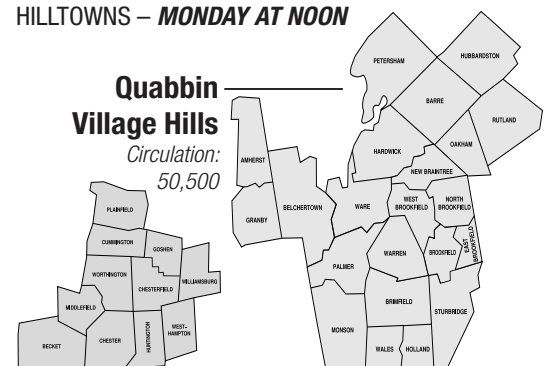
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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$29.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Trail takes hikers through Fowler-Earnes Sanctuary

The Hilltown Hikers trekked back in Hilltown History on old Ryan Road from both Washington and Middlefield.

The most interesting find was a mailbox in front of an old cellar hole, which made for great conversation. West Road in Middlefield, hidden Hilltown history here on old Ryan Road once part of the network of early colonial roads expanding travel and settlement from Becket, Washington to Middlefield.

Old Ryan Road once crossed Coles Brook as seen by the stone abutments. One of the first settlers here was William

Taylor, he came to Middlefield with his father in about 1773. In 1781 he purchased for his farm lot 13, 1 Div. W. Prescott Grant, which is located on West Hill just north of the south road to Becket. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

This large section of land is now conserved by Orenda Land Trust called the Fowler-Earnes Sanctuary. In total 1,481 acres of land are conserved including old farm fields. The farmsteads are long gone and the forest has grown in but the stone walls and fruit trees still stand.



This mailbox along West Road in Middlefield was an interesting find for the hikers in the hike through the Fowler-Earnes Sanctuary.



Hilltown Hiker Greg stands inside an old cellar hole. Another hiker stands by a mailbox by the cellar hole. *Submitted photos*



The stone abutments still stand for the old bridge from Middlefield to Washington.



Coles Brook was one of the stops for the Hilltown Hikers.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 13, 2023.**

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

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

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