

"Nothing that is morally wrong can be politically right." William Gladstone

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

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BLANDFORD

Opera comes to Blandford

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The quaint town of Blandford is poised to host a captivating evening of music with the upcoming Bel Canto opera at

The White Church.

The performance is Saturday afternoon August 24 at 2 p.m. This historic venue, listed on the national Register of Historic Places, is known for its architecture and intimate atmosphere. The White

Church provides the perfect backdrop for a performance that promises to be both enchanting and memorable. Opera, celebrated for emphasis on beautiful, lyrical singing and dramatic expression, will be brought to life by a

talented cast of performers dedicated to delivering a truly immersive experience.

All the singers are Metropolitan Opera performers, a most talented group of

OPERA, page 11

HUNTINGTON

Responders save canine during town concert

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Vicki Mayhew summed up the events during Huntington's Aug. 1 concert on the town green.

"I think the audience was aware that something was going on, but I don't think they knew what," recalled Mayhew, the event's organizer. Woodford Way—a local duo consisting of Kyle Mangini and Jeff Lynch—was performing and over 100 listeners were enjoying the outdoor venue. As a safety precaution, Police Chief Robert Garriepy stationed his cruiser with lights flashing near the post office, to slow traffic as they drove into town.

Seeing the emergency flashers, a frantic pet owner pulled alongside seeking medical help for his unre-

CANINE, page 7



Huntington's emergency responders took action to save a dog that had collapsed on Aug. 1. The scene took place on the town green while a public concert was taking place.

Inset: Guru, one week after his ordeal, visited the Huntington Fire Department.

Photos courtesy of Huntington Fire Department

MIDDLEFIELD

Middlefield Fair goes attend despite the weather

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

MIDDLEFIELD – If you're an event held for 155 years, a little torrential rain like Tropical Storm Debby won't stop much, except a diesel truck pull.

The organizers of the Middlefield Fair dropped the entrance price to free for Friday night and carried on with the event with the exception of moving the truck pull to Saturday. What

exactly did they do in the downpour? Tracy Gero and Diane Radwich, two of the organizers, said they took the weather in stride and many of the workers decided to brave it out by line dancing to a band called Stompin' Boots.

Erin Judge, the secretary who handled the entries for competitions like biggest zucchini, was taking a break from all the organizing along with her mud-spattered brother, Logan Judge. He had spent Saturday pushing cars

out of the six-inch deep mud in the parking area, where massive oxen waited alongside 4x4 trucks.

For the uninitiated, Middlefield is a mere blink of the eye on Skyline Trail just north of Chester. It once sup-

FAIR, page 9

RIGHT: Quentin Zebo participates in the pie eating contest and he continued eating the pie after the judging was over.

Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel



CHESTER

New carbon activated filter installed

DEP boil water order remains in place

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

CHESTER – A joint meeting of the Chester Select Board and Water Commissioner was held on Monday, Aug. 5 to give an update on the water quality issue in Chester.

As of July 24, the town had been under a boil water order issued by the Mass Department of Environmental Protection. Don Humason, Town

FILTER, page 11



Chester Water Commissioner Bob Daley at Austin Brook Reservoir, which he says should be drained and cleaned of weeds and debris for optimal operation.

Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel

BLANDFORD

Select Board discuss bear, dangerous dog and road issue

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – A problem bear, dangerous dogs and flooding from a driveway, which undermines a road and clogs culverts were the topics of discussion at the Monday, Aug. 12 Select Board meeting.

Other topics included a change in job classification for the Water Department, solar for the Historical

SELECT BOARD, page 6



PAGE 7

Becket.....10	Great Barrington.....6	Pittsfield.....15	Williamsburg.....7
Blandford.....6, 7	Hilltowns.....2, 3	Schools & Youth.....8	Worthington.....12
Chester.....9	Opinion.....4	Southampton.....12	
Classifieds.....14	Otis.....12	Stockbridge.....5	



HILLTOWNS

MassDOT announces I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting nighttime milling, guardrail and bridge work at various locations on I-90 eastbound and westbound now through Friday, Aug. 16.

Lane closures will be in place during the construction operations and traffic will be able to travel through the work zones. The schedule for the work and lane closures is as follows:

In Otis and Blandford milling operations will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 22.0 to 27.0 now through Thursday night, Aug. 15 from 6 p.m.-6 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Aug. 16 by 6 a.m.

Bridge work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 22.5 now through Thursday night, Aug. 15 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Aug. 16 by 5 a.m.

In Stockbridge and West Stockbridge guardrail work will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 1.0 to 7.0 now through Thursday night, Aug. 15 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Aug. 16 by 5 a.m.

Guardrail work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 2.4 to 6.0 now through Thursday

night, Aug. 15 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Aug. 16 by 5 a.m.

Bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 2.0 to 3.0 now through Thursday night, Aug. 15 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Aug. 16 by 5 a.m.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work area.

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

Clark Art Institute exhibits Caribbean born artist monographs

WILLIAMSTON – On Thursday, Sept. 12 at noon, the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., presents “Inside Lethière’s Monograph,” an exclusive free virtual event examining what went into creating the first major monograph on Caribbean-born artist Guillaume Lethière.

Roy Brooks, publication designer at Fold Four, Inc.; Anne Roecklein, managing editor at the Clark and Sophie Kerwin, former curatorial assistant at the Clark, recount their ambitious journey from concept to 432-page cat-

alogue. Guillaume Lethière celebrates the Caribbean-born artist, who became a leading figure in revolutionary France, shedding new light on the reception of Caribbean artists in France during his lifetime. The exhibition is on view through Monday, Oct. 14 at the Clark and then travels to Paris where it will be presented at the Musée du Louvre from Nov. 13 through Feb. 17, 2025.

A Zoom link to join the conversation will be posted on clarkart.edu/events closer to the event.

Heritage walks set for September

The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area announces the 22nd annual autumn Housatonic Heritage Walks in September.

Seventy free, guided interpretive tours will be offered throughout Berkshire County and Litchfield County, Connecticut. The public is invited to participate in these family-oriented, interpretive walks, offered in partnership with the region’s historic, cultural and outdoor recreation organizations and the National Park Service.

The Heritage Walks are the ideal opportunity to experience and learn about the region’s rich and varied local history. Historians, naturalists and environmentalists will lead participants on

explorations through historic estate gardens and town districts, behind-the-scenes cultural site tours, nature walks, trail hikes and tours of many of the industrial-site ruins that were once thriving local industries. There will be Native-American and African American history walks and a bike tour on scenic country roads.

Detailed Heritage Walks brochures are available at libraries, post offices and newspaper rack in major grocery stores in the region.

People may also visit <https://housatonicheritage.org/events/heritage-walks/> for the walks schedule. To receive a brochure by mail, people should email programs@housatonicheritage.org.

Chester Commons Apartments

Now Accepting Applications!

Hilltown Community Development Corporation is currently accepting applications for studio and 1-bedroom apartments at Chester Commons, located in Chester, Massachusetts. The property is in Chester Village, with easy access to local amenities and services.

Chester Commons Features:

- Newly Renovated Units
- Elevator Access
- Off-Street Parking
- On-Site Laundry
- Small Community Room

Heat and hot water are included in the rent!

To qualify, household income must be below 60% of the area median income. Units are supported by a project-based rental subsidy through the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, allowing qualified households to pay only 30% of their annual monthly income towards rent.

Maximum income:

- 1 Person - \$46,020
- 2 Person - \$52,560

Apply now to make Chester Commons your new home!



For more information and application, please contact Hilltown CDC.

Kristopher Severy,
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HILLTOWNS

GSCWM lists Board of Directors and Officers

HOLYOKE/WORCESTER – Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts elected nine new members, including one girl member, to the Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting June 23.

New board members and officers are: Elizabeth Batista of Ludlow; Jennifer Cluett of Charlton; Meagen Donoghue, Jessi Kirby of Easthampton; Cortney Lima of Pawtucket, R.I.; Kimberly McCullen of Sutton; Christopher Schwantner of South Hadley and Finn Albiston of Shrewsbury.

Batista is the Superintendent of Public Works for the City of Chicopee and a Massachusetts registered Professional Civil Engineer; Cluett is the Associate Vice-President for Enrollment Management and Dean of Admissions at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Donoghue is Executive Director at Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority.

Kirley founded JKirley Collective from her passion to create workplaces of dignity and high performance., Lima is the Associate Director of Admission, DEI Coordinator at college of the Holy Cross and

Kimberly McCullen of Sutton is Workforce Development Specialist at College of the Holy Cross.

Schwantner is Chief Engineer of Television for New England

Public Media in Springfield; Silva is Director of Programs and Events for the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and Albiston is a Girl Scout Senior who began Girl Scouts as a Daisy. GSCWM's new board members were elected to serve a two-year term.

GSCWM Board officers include: President/Board Chair: Nicole Messier, Program Manager, Raytheon Technologies; First Vice President: Christine Cassidy, Senior Vice President and Chief Communications Officer, Fallon Health; Second Vice President: Roberta McCulloch-Dews, Vice President of Marketing, Greylock Federal Credit Union; Secretary: Sheryl Zarozny, Vice President Advisory Client Partner, Optum and Treasurer: Ryan Matson, Insurance Producer, Braley & Wellington Insurance Group.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves over 5,000 girls in partnership with more than 3,000 adult volunteers in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester counties. Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them. To join, volunteer, reconnect, or donate, people may visit www.gscwm.org or call 413-584-2602 or 508-365-0115.

Preservation Massachusetts lists local grant recipients

PLYMOUTH – Preservation Massachusetts, in partnership with The 1772 Foundation, announced the recipients of a historic preservation matching grant program in Massachusetts. Preservation Massachusetts is the statewide non-profit historic preservation organization dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth's historic and cultural heritage and The 1772 Foundation plays a leading role in promoting historic preservation nationwide.

In this latest grant round, the 1772 Foundation worked with statewide historic preservation non-profit organizations, including Preservation Massachusetts, to administer 1:1 matching grants of up to \$10,000. At their quarterly meeting, the trustees of The 1772 Foundation awarded \$125,000 in grants to 16 Massachusetts projects, based on recommendations from Preservation Massachusetts. Grants will fund exterior work on historic buildings across the Commonwealth.

Local grant recipients are: Berkshire County Historical Society

for Arrowhead in Pittsfield, Sandisfield Arts and Restoration Committee aka The Sandisfield Arts Center for the Montville Baptist Church in Sandisfield and the W.E.B. Du Bois Center for Freedom and Democracy, Inc., for the Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church in Great Barrington.

Preservation Massachusetts was established in 1985 as Historic Massachusetts, Inc. The organization is the statewide non-profit organization that actively promotes the preservation of historic buildings and landscapes as a positive force for economic development and the retention of community character. The organization is supported entirely by grants, fundraising events and the support of their membership. In keeping with their mission, they work in partnership with national, state and local organizations and individuals across the Commonwealth to advance an understanding, appreciation and utilization of historic places. More information about Preservation Massachusetts may be found online at www.preservationmass.org.

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OPINION



Will my wife get a spousal benefit from me?

Dear Rusty:

I will be turning 70 (yikes) this coming November. I will begin taking my Social Security benefit at that time. My age 70 SS benefit will be approximately \$4,500 per month. My spouse (who is currently 74) began receiving her SS benefits about 10 years ago before her Full Retirement Age. She receives approximately \$1,900 per month.

My question is, based on my expected SS monthly benefit of approximately \$4,500, would my spouse be eligible for an increase in her monthly SS benefit? I've read some articles about this topic, but none of them seem to be on point so I thought I'd reach out to you.

Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking:

Congratulations on choosing a claiming strategy, which will maximize your Social Security. Waiting until age 70 to claim guarantees you will get the most you can personally receive for the rest of your life, along with annual Cost of Living Adjustments. But the spouse benefits available to your wife when you claim are not based on your age 70 amount. Rather, spouse benefits are calculated using Full Retirement Age amounts. Here's what that means:

If your age 70 benefit will be about \$4,500 then your FRA amount was likely around \$3,450. If your wife claimed at, say, 64, then her FRA entitlement would probably have been around \$2,200. Your wife will only get a spousal boost if 50% of your FRA amount (not your age 70 amount) is more than her own FRA entitlement. From what you've shared, 50% of your FRA amount would be about \$1,750, which is less than your wife's FRA entitlement and her current age 64 amount, which means that she would not be eligible for a spousal boost to her own amount from you.

Spouse benefits can be tricky, because they're based on FRA entitlements, regardless of the age at which benefits are actually claimed. That is not so, however, for surviving spouse benefits. If you were to predecease your wife, her benefit would be your entire \$4,500 amount, instead of her own smaller current amount. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount each of you are currently receiving, not on your amounts at your full retirement age.

I hope this answers your question, but we're always here if you need any further assistance.

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

Corrections policy

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

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



A question that will encourage blooms for a non-blooming peony

A reader wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady regarding Peony culture: "I hope you can offer some suggestions for me. I have a couple peonies that my mother-in-law gave me. I just kind of put them in the back of our property. They are sad in that they do have foliage but no flowers. I want to transplant. My question is, where do I plant them and at what time of the year?"

You are in luck! Peonies are best planted in the fall, September or October in our area.

This timing will give the plants an opportunity to develop a healthy stand of feeder roots before the ground freezes. Choose a location that receives six or more hours of sun a day.

Without knowing the exact size of your plants or if you will be able to lift and move the whole clump, it's hard to advise on the exact size of the hole. Just make sure there is ample room around the plant so that the roots will be able to extend out easily.

If your soil is average, the addition of a balanced fertilizer may be all that is necessary at planting. Soils that are lean should be improved prior to planting by amending the hole with roughly equal parts good soil and aged compost or manure.

Peonies prefer a pH of 6.0-7.0, a wide enough range to accommodate most home garden situations. If your soil is more acidic than that, bring up your pH by adding lime.

Peonies fertilized at planting time require no additional food until the following fall. Bear in mind that too much nitrogen will encourage lots of leaves but few roots and flowers, and I know you are looking forward to flowers!

For that reason, choose a fertilizer that is lower in nitrogen than the other nutrients. After the third season fertilize after blooming, as well as in the fall.

An established peony is drought resistant, but if spring rains are scarce, a weekly watering will also help to promote good flowers.

Heavy peony flowers, especially the old-fashioned types will no doubt bow down to the ground in the wind and rain unless staked. I usually pick some for the vase in the bud stage in an attempt to avoid this task, but nevertheless it makes the plant nice and tidy and should be accomplished.

Middle weight bamboo stakes inserted into the ground on the outer edge of the plant cut to three-quarters its height, work well. Run two rows of twine or jute at one third and two thirds up the bamboo, respectively.

Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening as you go. If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don't tighten so much that it looks unnatural.

One year my peony buds wilted and dried up just prior to bloom. The culprit was botrytis.

Good hygiene can reduce the risk of this fungus invading your garden. Each fall simply cut the stems of herbaceous peonies down to the ground.

Haul them off to the trash, don't compost. If watering is necessary, do so early in the morning and water at the plant's base rather than overhead to keep foliage dry.

Any stems that show signs of wilting should be cut away and thrown in the trash as well. Disinfect clippers in between cuts.

I hope that this additional information will help you to achieve the long-awaited flowers that you are hoping for! It may take a year or two for transplanted peonies to get adjusted and do their thing, but once set they will bloom happily for decades!

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

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the *Country Journal*, please email countryjournal@turley.com.

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HILLTOWN HISTORY

Butter was 19 century gold dairy product

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

Every farmer had a cow whether or not he was a dairy farmer back in the day. He needed his own milk supply and the cow kept him in milk.

According to my resident dairy expert, she gets just about five gallons of milk from Chaser, her one dairy cow. She milks Chaser just once a day and this provides an ample supply of milk for her family of five and the milk piggies she raises. Pigs raised on milk make far better pork chops, evidently.

Then delving into a bit of bovine raising history, it turns out at the turn of the 19th century, they weren't raising cows for milk, oh no. It was the butter they made from their herd's milk that was the cash crop.

How was butter made you ask? Once the milk was collected, it was allowed to rest in shallow pans where the cream rich in fat would rise to the top. They would then skim the cream off the milk and set it aside at room temperature to sour a bit. The cream thickens faster when it is allowed to sour for 24 hours.

Milk is mostly water with a 3% fat content in whole milk. The cream that is to be churned is 30-40% fat and the final product of butter is 80% fat. So the cream is turned into a churn where it is beaten to break up the fat globules. With continued beating the cream gets frothy like whipped cream and then turns into a thick pudding-like state. Finally all the fat globules combine into lumps of butter and the excess water or buttermilk is poured off. The butter is rinsed with water and seasoned with salt, which helps to preserve the butter and pressed into molds.

It takes 2-3 gallons of milk to make one pound of butter. However some cows produce milk with a higher butterfat content. Jersey and Guernsey cows are considered the best cows for making butter because they produce richer milk.

Butter varies from pale yellow to deep gold in color. This color is due to the amount of beta carotene in the cow's diet. Beta carotene is a natural pigment in plants. It is also an antioxidant that combats aging in our cells.

So when a cow is grazing on lush green grass with lots of beta carotene in it as there is in the spring and summer, the butter will be a deep golden color. While butter made in the fall and winter will be pale yellow because the cows are eating more hay and less green grass. Which brings me to a rather surprising discovery; farmers added coloring to the cream to turn the butter a deeper yellow Memorial Hall museum in Deerfield has a brown glass, cork topped bottle labeled "Winter Butter June Tint with Thatcher's Orange Butter Color." Dr. Hervey D. Thatcher was a chemist/druggist in Pottsdam, New York, who developed butter coloring in 1881. His recipe was to add two teaspoons of his orange color to ten gallons of cream and then proceed to churn it into butter. The 1893 Chicago World's Fair had a booth touting the virtues of giving their, winter, spring and fall butter a touch of orange coloring to bring it to a June appearance and thereby commanding the best price for their butter. A 25 cent bottle could color 500 pounds of butter. Twenty-seven million people attended that fair.

What was in his formula? It is not know for certain, but one theory is that it contained annatto which are seeds from the achiote tree. This tree grows in Mexico and Central and South America. The seeds were ground up into a fine powder. It was common to add this to cheddar cheese during the 1800s because people believed that the best quality cheese, ergo the most yellow colored cheese came from grass fed cows. Annatto is a natural food dye widely used today as a colorant in food and cosmetics. It is used to color margarine and butter, Velveeta cheese, Cheetos and Goldfish crackers



Memorial Hall Museum in Deerfield with 3 butter churns on display on a cabinet shelf in the museum.



Shown are a milk can and an old fashioned water fountain that cows would push the lever with their nose and water would run into the bowl for them to drink.



A bottle of Thatcher's Orange Butter Color, June Tint is displayed at Memorial Hall Museum in Deerfield.



A Holstein and a Jersey cow, from left, eat from the feed trough.

Turley photos by Deborah Daniels

and many other products a deep yellow. Its flavor is described as earthy with a slightly sweet peppery taste. It was also known early on that sweet paprika and turmeric in equal parts were a substitute for annatto in recipes. Annatto is and was a common ingredient in Latin cooking. So was it annatto or paprika and turmeric spices that was in Thatcher's butter dye?

Next time you open a stick of butter contemplate whether the cow was grazing in green grass heaven or munching hay dreaming of spring grass? And don't

dismiss the power of butter, it is rich in Vitamin A,E and K and a good source of linoleic acid. It has saturated fat and cholesterol which we are urged to eat in moderation, but there is research ongoing that these may not be the smoking gun we thought they were. Certainly we have only to look at the French diet rich in butter that is not yielding massive numbers of cardiac deaths to know there is more here to be learned. Go ahead enjoy some buttered toast and bring on the glow of gold.

STOCKBRIDGE

Hilltown Hikers hold group hike Sept. 21

STOCKBRIDGE – Western Mass Hilltown Hikers will hold a group hike in Bullard Woods Stockbridge on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 10 a.m.

The group will meet at the parking lot located on 4 West Hawthorne Road, by the Bullard Woods Trailhead. The hike rating is easy 3.5 mile loop, mostly flat terrain with bridges and tree roots on dirt.

They will walk among old growth trees and lakeside trails.

In 1954, this land was given to the Stockbridge Bowl Association by Mrs. William Norton Bullard, one of the original members. Trails lead to the shoreline and continue to the Tanglewood connector and Gould Meadows The woods were originally part of the estate surrounding the Highwood manor house where Mr. and Mrs. William Norton Bullard lived. The house is now part of Tanglewood and is open to the public.

Robert Leverett and John Knuerr,

assessed the woods in 2004. They identified a new state record white oak at 115.3 feet high, 6.9 feet diameter. They also found a white pine that was more than 133 feet high, a tulip tree 124.4 feet, a shagbark hickory 114 feet and a black cherry at 100.8 feet. This hike is a true hidden gem with old growth, Stockbridge Bowl and the music of Tanglewood playing nearby.

Participants should register per car by visiting <https://westernmasshilltown->

[hikers.ticketleap.com](https://westernmasshilltown-hikers.ticketleap.com). Maps and bottled water are provided.

Participants should be prepared for rocks, roots and some uneven ground. They will hike rain or shine. Friendly dogs are welcome. Suggested donation is \$10; hike is volunteer lead. More details are available by visiting www.hilltown-hikers.com. People may email westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions.

BLANDFORD

Library has special visitors

Couple visit 90th state library

By **Mary Kronholm**
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – “It’s inspiring to see how libraries bring people together from across the state, exploring new community and making connections,” said Porter Memorial Library Director Nicole Daviau.

Merry and Gary Pellegrino from West Brookfield made an unexpected visit to the Blandford library on a recent Saturday afternoon. This turned out to be the 90th library they have visited in Massachusetts.

It all started last year with a visit Merry’s home town library in Northborough. This inspired a trip to Cape Cod in April. “Rates are good off-season,” Merry noted. The couple visited 12 libraries there and their library adventure was off and running.

Merry keeps a Library Journal, tracking their visits, noting surprises, openness, welcoming and always creating connections with their stories of other library visits. Along with the journal, she has amassed a collection of stickers from all their previous visits. Some are bookend labels while some are DVD or CD labels with the names of the libraries and others are just sam-

ples of what libraries have on hand.

Frankenstein stickers were the big seller from PML along with a chart of library statistics, a sampling of book marks stamped with the library’s name and an assortment of brochures.

The couple had just returned to their own Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in West Brookfield the book about Western Massachusetts libraries.

This inspired Merry, and when Gary saw her “get the map out,” he knew they were heading out.

She figures “the radius” knowing how far afield they will go and Saturday’s tour started at the Westfield Athenaeum.

Instagram tracks the tour. More stops are on their list. They haven’t seen North Adams or Williamstown libraries but according to Merry, they have visited many in south and central Berkshire towns. The plan is to come again and see more.

It was just unforeseen to have an “out of the blue” visit, according to Daviau.

“They made time to visit our little library and brought their stories of other library visits. It was sort of a ‘cross pollination’” she said.

Historical Society features Jethro Jones story Sept. 1

BLANDFORD – Jethro Jones was a free Black man, a Revolutionary War hero and one of the nation’s first Black master tool makers. And he lived in Blandford.

The late Donald Shepard scoured the volume of Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution from Blandford by Sumner Wood, a Porter Memorial Library resource. Taken to the town for a vote, the name of the road off Blair Road was changed to Jethro Jones Road to honor his service to his country.

This year, his story can be found in the Historical Society’s Sugar House on the Fairgrounds during the 155th Blandford Fair.

His great-great-great-granddaughter, Jocelyn Jones Arnold, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, will be available to recount his history. There will be a pop-up discussion on Sunday Sept. 1 at 2 p.m. The Sheffield Historical Society is a partner in the display.

Zilch Powers to perform Aug. 17

Blandford’s Thomas Deitner, whose stage name is Zilch Powers will perform at Hutghis at the Nook at 8 Franklin St. in Westfield on Saturday, Aug. 17 at 8 p.m.

The solo performer will present original music and lyrics in his genre, self-styled and self-defined as New Ultra Cyber Blues. And much of it is dance-

able according to the composer.

He will incorporate electronic elements using synthesizers to create his edgy and futuristic atmosphere to a blues foundation. His music is a blend of old and new creating something unique and reflecting today. His music runs the emotional gamut. There is a \$5 cover charge.

GREAT BARRINGTON

Leslie Odom Jr. presents program on Democracy

GREAT BARRINGTON – The final conversation of the Reflections on Democracy series takes place on Thursday, Sept. 19 from 6-8 p.m. the Du Bois Freedom Center, Saint James Place, 352 Main St.

The center will welcome Tony and Grammy award-winning artist and

author, Leslie Odom, Jr., who will be in conversation with their visiting scholar on democracy, The Honorable Reverend Michael Blake. This program is free, open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Advance registration required by Friday, Aug. 16.

Town Clerk lists voting information

BLANDFORD – Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo reminds registered voters, who want to vote early in person that this can be done in her office on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

A second opportunity for early in person voting is Monday, Aug. 26 from 5-7 p.m. The last day to register to vote

to be eligible to vote in the Tuesday, Sept. 3 primary is also Saturday, Aug. 24 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-5 p.m.

The deadline to request a mail-in ballot for the primary is Monday, Aug. 26 at 5 p.m. For any questions, people may call Jemiolo at 413-848-4279, extension 203.

SELECT BOARD

from page 1

Society building, Cannabis growers plans and an approval for a liquor license.

Bear problem

Town Administrator Christina Ferrera brought the problem of a bear on Kaolin Road to the Boards’ attention. The bear lives across the street from a dumpster with no protective cover. The dumpster is open and the bear has made it his dining area. She said regulations covering dumpsters will be enforced town-wide and include locking devices, location on the user’s property and more. There is also a fine for non-compliance.

At the end of the meeting Lisa Wojcik of Kaolin Road addressed the board with details of the bear and its daily routine, which included a visit during a family weekend gathering at her home.

In addition to the dumpster feeding spot, she said that someone on the road is feeding the bear discarded food. The animal is fearless, according to Wojcik and ignores loud noises and anyone trying to frighten it away. The Department of Environmental Protection advised removing the food source.

DEP said the bear cannot be euthanized nor relocated as Blandford is already a low population area.

The dumpsters are the problem. Town Administrator Ferrera contacted the dumpster providing firm; there has been no permit for the offending dumpster.

Dog issue

The select board declared two dogs as dangerous dogs at the July 29 board meeting. The dogs belong to Cynthia Thomas and Josh Frappier of Wyman Road. Remington is a three-year-old female brindle lab/dane/pit mix and

Ruger is a six-year-old male black and tan German Shepard/Husky mix.

The couple was not at Monday’s meeting at which they were to report on compliance with the stipulations the board voted on July 29. According to Ferrera, they are out of compliance and she will check with town council to see what next steps can be taken. There has been no follow through on anything, a single quote for fencing, not three, no documentation of steps taken.

Eileen and Dick Gates were present, along with neighbors Ryan Benge and Sarah Desilets. Benge suggested that the couple reach out to the community for help constructing the fence required but Ferrera said the time has passed for that since the requirements include a six-foot high fence, posts cemented in, two feet under ground and an additional barrier.

Questions about what happens next included having the town kennel the dogs were raised. Ferrera said that apparently none of the town’s stipulations have been met and there has been not follow through or follow up from either Frappier or Thomas. A letter of non-compliance will be sent. In the meantime, the board restated calling 911 immediately if the dogs were seen out.

Nye Brook Road issue

Under new business, Nye Brook Road residents Mark Boomsma and Tricia Bergland told the board how a new driveway floods the road during rain storms and how an Asplundh Tree Service truck had ended up off the road and created a trench that now accumulates water and when it rains, not only is the road flooded with debris from the driveway, but the newly created trench fills with water and has started to undermine the road. The request is to fix the

problem; to reroute the water and repair the ditch. Letendre told Boomsma and Bergland, “We’ll make sure it’s a priority.”

Referencing ash trees, the board asked about cutting down the dead ones on Herrick Road. Boomsma, in his Tree Warden capacity, told the board that he does not have sufficient funding to remove them but has scheduled work on Beech Hill Road for example. Letendre asked that he provide the board with a list of his “top priorities.”

Cyber security grant

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera reported a cyber security grant work is in progress and a quote will be forthcoming. The town’s IT provider Novus had provided a list of required updates, which have been budgeted. A meeting with the Executive Office of Economic Development brought out concerns about reporting. As a result, she is working with Jackie Coury to draft an “approval to apply for grants process so the town will be aware of who is applying for what” funding opportunities.

Fencing for Veteran’s Park

Michael Wojcik had been working on getting prices on fencing for the Veteran’s Park at Town Common, apparently unbeknownst to the Select Board. According to Ferrera, he did approach the Finance Committee, but not the Select Board. It was proposed by Chair Cara Letendre that he approach the Select Board with the project to be included in the next fiscal year’s budget. “We can’t just start a project and get money that’s not budgeted,” she said.

Water Department

The Water Department asked for and received board approval to upgrade their clerical position from secretary to

administrative assistant. This includes an additional ten hours a week for new additional tasks which include working on the metering and new rate system for water users, grant applications, additional work with Massachusetts Rural Water. The regulations for the Water Department Enterprise account were also discussed as was the water main on Old Chester Road which needs to be covered.

Historical Society

Historical Society President Chips Norcross advised the board of the society’s plans for increased Americans Disabilities Act improvements to the town-owned building and that grant funding is sought. He also spoke about proposed solar for the roof of the building, which requires an engineering study which must be done before anything can be constructed. There is no cost to the town for this. He also told the board of the upcoming events and programs.

Planning Board

Planning Board Chair Paul Martin asked the board to again waive permitting fees for Belle Fleur, the cannabis cultivation entity on Otis Stage Road. The board approved the waiver but not unanimously. Member Theodore Cousineau dissented.

Other business

There will be an inspection of the Town Hall sprinkler system which was started last year but not completed. The Building Inspector will do a thorough inspection of Town Hall.

The Council on Aging vehicle has been deemed unsafe for travel Ferrera is looking for grant opportunities to replace it. The board approved a one-day liquor license for Skyline Brewery for the Blandford Fair.

BLANDFORD

Dale Buchanan presents 'wow' program

BLANDFORD – Dale Buchanan is an innovative performer who blends modern technology with classic elements in his performances.

He presented a “Wow” program Saturday night at The White Church playing well-known tunes, “Johnny Be Good” and “Taking Care of Business” among others as well as his own compositions.

His use of lighting reminiscent of strobe lights from the disco era lets the audience know he enjoys creating a vibrant and energetic atmosphere. Lights flew across the walls and ceiling in bright neon hues of blue, red, green and white combinations. Watching Pete Sparks bob his head in time to the music, or others keeping time drumming fingers or tapping toes demonstrated the energy.

The incorporation of three digitized versions of himself on screens added a futuristic and immersive layer to the

performance, indicating his interest in merging new technology with live experience. All four musicians were perfectly synced, different in appearances and all playing different instruments; keyboard, drum set and guitar.

This approach made for a multi-dimensional performance, where the audience experienced different aspects of his artistry simultaneously. The use of brilliant colors and strobe-like lighting contributed to the visual impact, making it a memorable and dynamic show.

For those who missed the Dale Show on Saturday, he will perform at the Blandford Fair on Friday, Aug. 30 from 7-9 p.m. on the main stage.

Dave Buchanan performed at the White Church in Blandford on Saturday, Aug. 10.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm



WILLIAMSBURG

Lions Club hosts car show Aug. 17

WILLIAMSBURG – The Williamsburg Lions Club will hold their annual fund-raising car show on Saturday Aug. 17 with registration opening at 8 a.m. and the show at 9 a.m.

Rain date is Sunday Aug. 18. The show is at 10 River Road (off Route 9) in Williamsburg, in a grass field. All makes and models of vehicles are welcome.

The proceeds of the show will go to Lions charities, such as Mass Lions Eye Research Fund and Emergency Sight and Hearing. There are trophies for “Peoples Choice” and others for “Sponsors’

Choice.”

There will be live musical entertainment throughout the day with two food vendors supplying great food.

Registration opens at 8 a.m. The show starts at 9 a.m. “Peoples Choice” voting ends at noon. Winners will be announced at 1:30 p.m. After the trophies and awards, the vehicles will parade around Williamsburg center, giving people a chance to see and hear the vehicles in action.

For more information, people may call Roy Beals at 413-559-0488.



Williamsburg Lions Club Treasurer Roy Beals parks his 1970 GTO “The Judge” next to the billboard promoting the Aug. 17 Car Show in Williamsburg. This vehicle and many others will be at the show.

Photo courtesy of Jenn Burdick Photography

CANINE

from page 1

sponsive dog. Garriepy swung into action, launching a life-saving effort that involved the fire department, Blandford veterinarian Hazel Holman and even local restaurant Comfort Kitchen.

Chester resident Frank Giuffre had already been dealing with his 4½ year old pit bull, Guru, at home. Giuffre had found the dog in some distress in his yard and was unsure if the dog was choking or experiencing heat stroke. He dumped water on the pup to cool him and brought the dog indoors where his symptoms worsened. At one point, the dog appeared to stop breathing and Giuffre said he began chest compressions. Believing that the dog would not survive a trip to the emergency veterinary clinic in South Deerfield, Giuffre loaded the dog in his vehicle and headed toward Huntington to try to find help.

“It was literally the hands of God at work,” reflected Giuffre, a viewpoint that wasn’t far from the police chief’s.

“You couldn’t ask for a better response,” said Garriepy. “It was an amazing effort of responders and if just one piece of that puzzle wasn’t there, we would have lost the dog.”

Garriepy began CPR with Giuffre, but quickly realized they needed additional help. He looked up toward the nearby fire station, realizing that the town’s firefighters and first responders were assembling for their weekly meeting. He radioed them and Selectman John McVeigh was first on the scene with several others close behind. The fire department provided a pet mask that allowed them to give the dog oxygen and began cooling the dog with water.

Looking around the crowd of con-



Members of the Huntington Fire Department stop for a photo with Guru, the dog they helped save. Other helpers included Hazel Holman, DVM; Police Chief Robert Garriepy and the staff at Comfort Kitchen restaurant.

Photo courtesy of Huntington Fire Department

cert goes, Garriepy said he saw former Hilltown EMT and current Bay State Emergency Physician Seth Gemme. Gemme told him he had no veterinary emergency experience, but had seen Hazel Holman, DVM of Blandford Animal Hospital, in the crowd. She guided the rest of the response, which included the fire department’s bariatric cooling blanket, used to create a “tub” to hold the water to bring the dog’s temperature down. Local restaurant Comfort Kitchen was even involved by donating ice to keep the water cool. Holman was able to start a saline IV and the dog began to

stabilize.

In time, Giuffre was able to load the dog and continue onto the emergency clinic, but described the trip as harrowing. Guru had survived but was not acting like himself. He was aggressive, barking, howling, and even appeared to have lost his vision; Giuffre feared that a lack of oxygen had caused brain damage. But they made it to the clinic, where Guru was given a sedative and kept overnight for assessment and treatment. It appears the root of the problem may have been a seizure, which the dog was not known to have had before.

One week later, the Huntington Fire Department gathered for its weekly meeting but had a special visitor. Guru and Giuffre stopped in to thank the personnel, who had worked so quickly and effectively to save the dog’s life. The dog was timid at first, but warmed up following patient attention from the firefighters.

For his part, Garriepy is a little surprised at the public response to the event. Facebook posts and pictures have received over 800 comments and “likes.” “These guys save lives every week,” the chief said. “This time it just happened to be a dog.”

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

SCHOOL

Springfield Technical High School to hold reunion Sept. 28

SPRINGFIELD – The spirit and comradery of Springfield’s Tech High School is alive and well as they gear up for another exciting reunion on Saturday, Sept. 28 from noon-6 p.m. at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany St.

The reunion is open to all Tech classes and friends. An outside barbecue will be held rain or shine under the lodge’s pavilion and a special tent. The barbecue will include hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and peppers, salads, dessert and more. There is a cash bar. There is free parking and it is handicap accessible.

A fun-filled afternoon will include a live band and dancing, corn hole and bocce games, raffles and time to reminisce with friends over the years and make new friends as well. Donations will be accepted for raffle prizes.

According to committee chair Mike Borecki, “Last year we had a terrific turnout of over 300 people and we anticipate a larger group this year. We’re thrilled that the Tech Spirit is alive and well and look forward to many years to come.”

Seating is limited and tickets are \$25 each. All are on a first come, first served basis. There is open seating. For tickets, people may call Mike Borecki ’72 at 413-351-6572, Dawn Duncan ’71 at 413-896-3930, Paul Montefusco ’69 at 413-596-6607 or Matt Villamaino ’67 at 413-896-2206. Those interested in volunteering should call Mike Borecki at 413-351-6572. Located on Elliot Street in Springfield, Technical High School was founded in 1906 and closed in 1986.



Committee members for the Sept. 28 Every Class Tech Reunion stand in front of their welcome banner at the Elks Lodge #61. They are from left, Mike Borecki ’72, Paul Montefusco ’69, Dawn Duncan ’71, and Matt Villamaino ’67. Missing is Joan Learned ’56.

Submitted photo



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FAIR

from page 1

canned goods gleamed in the sunlight of Saturday while attendees inspected prize winning tomatoes and those big zepplin-sized zucchinis.

Erin Judge, fair secretary, started coming to the fair when she was 16 and now volunteers throughout it. "It's an important part of the community and a way to see friends and neighbors in a place that can be pretty isolated," she says. And while many of these agricultural fairs have struggled in recent years,

she is encouraged. "We're seeing new entrants to the exhibition hall. There is a new generation of young people in town."

A crowd of a few hundred watched the rescheduled diesel truck pull while families gathered for the children's pie eating contest. An attempt to interview Quentin Zebo about his experience in the pie eating contest did not happen as his mouth was full of chocolate cream pie.



Middlefield Fair organizers Diane Radwich and Tracy Gero.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel



How much can a diesel truck from the '80s pull?



A vintage tractor attests to Middlefield's agricultural roots.



Brother and sister volunteers Logan and Erin Judge have been coming to the fair since they were teens.



Tractors not only competed in a pulling contest, they were essential at getting cars out of the mud left from all the rain from Hurricane Debby.



Freya and Courtney Guthrie took a break from bouncing at the jousting blow up.




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CHESTER

Tom Tying talks about reptiles

CHESTER – Hamilton Public Library presented a program with Professor Tom Tying from Berkshire Community College on Thursday, Aug. 8.

Children also got to pet a garter snake and look at a rattlesnake skeleton.

Library Director Maureen Suriner holds a large sea turtle shell.

Courtesy photos



Professor Tom Tying places a tiny tree frog from his finger to this young girl.



The children were fascinated by a mudpuppy in water.

John Burns to speak on invasive plants

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library has an upcoming program with John Burns “Burnsie” of Burns Environmental on Tuesday, Aug. 20 at 6 p.m. in the Council on Aging room in the Chester Town Hall.

He will be giving a talk on local

invasive plants, how to manage them and maybe even eat them. People may RSVP by calling 413-354-7808 or emailing chesterlibrary@gmail.com, but it is not necessary. This program is sponsored by the Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee.

Domestic violence task force has booth at Littleville Fair

Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence The Task Force was at the Littleville Fair in Chester. they asked young people questions including: How

do you want to be treated? What is your hope for relationships in our community? How do you show respect?



This girl wrote an answer to the question what is your hope for relationships in our community?

Submitted photos



This young girl answered how do you want to be treated?



This boy wrote his answer to the question what is your hope for relationships in our community?

Residents urged to attend hazard mitigation public meeting

CHESTER – The Town of Chester is developing an update to their Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This plan details all the natural hazard risks that may impact the town and includes a list of potential actions to mitigate those risks. The town of Chester encourages all residents and business owners to come to a public meeting to share their ideas and gather their feedback regarding, which hazards present the greatest risks, which areas of town are most susceptible to damage and what they would like to see done to mitigate these risks?

Residents cannot stop winter storms, heavy rains, high winds or earthquakes, but they do not have to suffer severe consequences. The town of Chester hopes residents will join the second and final Public Meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 20 from 6-7 p.m.

Town leaders have formed a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee and this committee is developing the Hazard

Mitigation Plan Update. A Hazard Mitigation Plan, approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and adopted by the town, allows the town to apply for pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation grant funds.

Development of this plan includes public participation. Public participation is essential to the development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan that represents the interests of all residents and mitigates risk to all natural hazards and the impacts of climate change.

The meeting will be held in-person at the Town Hall and via Zoom on Tuesday, Aug. 20 from 6-7 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81753220628?pwd=oTKdUElUk5ZCo6H0bTejzvUE9KJuiF.1> is the Zoom link. Meeting ID: 817 5322 0628, Passcode: 377496.

For questions regarding this plan, people may call Don Humason, Jr., Town Administrator at 413-354-7760 or email TownAdministrator@TownofChester.net.

HUNTINGTON

Town Clerk lists state primary schedule

HUNTINGTON – Town Clerk Michelle Fieldstad-Booth announces the schedule for the State Primary, Tuesday, Sept. 3.

The last day to register to vote for this election is Saturday, Aug. 24. The Town Clerk Office will be open on Saturday, Aug. 24 for Voter Registration

from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and for early in-person voting Aug. 24 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. Other early in-person voting dates are on Monday, Aug. 26 from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 27 from 9 a.m.-noon and Wednesday, Aug. 28 from 4-8 p.m. Any questions, people may call the Town Clerk at 413-512-5209.

FILTER

from page 1

Administrator, presided over the meeting with comments by water commissioners, Jim Zimmerman and Bob Daley.

“The really good news is that the new carbon activated filter which was funded by a grant is operational,” said water commissioner Bob Daley. “We are flushing that filter to get it clear and reduce turbidity.” He asked that an additional \$5,000 be allocated to get sand from an appropriate supplier expedited so that the second of three 42-inch sand filters would be replaced. “It’s a small price for health and safety and getting it two weeks quicker will continue to move us towards water quality,” he said.

Daley also detailed work done at Horn Pond, the second of two reservoirs, which had not been operational due to a blocked filter screen. “We now have the ability to switch to Horn Pond,” Daley said. “For four consecutive days we have been working up there by hand and with a boat. The deeded access road was impassable. We cleaned the screens and found out that part of the 750 foot PVC pipe, a 50 foot section, had been detached and had floated up to the surface.” Daley had been hoping to get a diver up to the pond to go to the deepest part and find the intake and make sure it’s not broken. One of the meeting attendees offered to help with contacts for a local diver.

When will the boil water order be rescinded? Daley noted that he did not know and that a Mass DEP protocol had to be followed, but that their reporting somewhat lagged behind what water operator Jim Gobeille was seeing. “As long as DEP has the boil order on, we cannot declare it safe.”

The meeting was held at 3:30 p.m.

and some attendees complained about the short notice for the meeting and the hour it was held. They also expressed confusion over distribution of water to the 250 customers including the three local restaurants that were affected by the problem. Of particular concern were the issues of the distribution of bottled water and communications. The bottled water, much of which had been supplied by the Big Y, was being given out from the fire station on Route 20 but was hampered by a lack of volunteers. “Water distribution will be shut down due to a lack of volunteers,” said Humason. He asked people to donate their time to give out the water. Any town members willing to help should contact him through the town website. As to communication, the town no longer has the ability to do robocalls as towns like Huntington can do, Daley noted and “MEMA would not do the call as it did not meet their threshold.” He and volunteers like Liz Massa went door to door for two days advising of the problem when it first occurred.

“In two to three weeks’ time, we plan to hold a water commissioners’ meeting, which will be well advertised,” said Daley. We encourage all to attend and bring up their concerns. We need to move together as a team. I am hoping we can use this as a teaching moment and determine what the next 25 years of the water department will be. What we have right now is not sustainable.” His suggestion is that Chester partner with another local town with similar size water needs and infrastructure and share personnel and resources. He says that Blandford would be a good fit.

Huntington COA lists upcoming events

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging will host a Make Your Own Sundae and Art Project event on Tuesday, Aug. 20 at 1 p.m. at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

A program on tick borne diseases and a blood pressure clinic will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 21 from 1-2 p.m. at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road. The program and clinic will be provided by the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition’s Nursing Team and hosted by the Huntington Council on Aging. For more infor-

mation, people may call Huntington COA Caregiver Support/Outreach Coordinator Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283.

The annual Grandparents’ Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 1-3 p.m. on the Town Common, 24-26 Russell Road. The event will feature a bounce house, craft activities, ice cream and snacks. Both events are free and open to all ages. For more information, people may call Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283.

Last concerts of season to be held Aug. 15 and 22

HUNTINGTON – On Thursday, Aug. 15 from 6:30-8 p.m. the group Off The Record, returns to the town green almost five years to the date.

Off The Record is a five-piece band featuring music from the 60s, 70s and up. The bake sale will be run by Hilltown Lions Club of Massachusetts, who provide services for the hilltowns.

On Thursday, Aug. 22 fr6:30-8 p.m will be the final week of the summer concerts. The group Chalk Dust will make their debut in Huntington, closing out the series. Chalk Dust is a western Massachusetts party band made up of all teachers, playing rock, country and more. Bake sale will by the Hilltown

Community Ambulance, providing EMS coverage to Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Montgomery, Russell and Worthington.

The town green is located at the intersection of Routes 20 and 112. Additional parking is available at the municipal lot on Prospect Avenue. Performances will be moved inside Stanton Hall in case of inclement weather. The hall is handicapped accessible. Bake sale each week supports local non-profit groups. No pets are allowed. Concerts are free and sponsored by The Huntington Community Events Committee.

BECKET

Becket Federated Church to celebrate ordinations

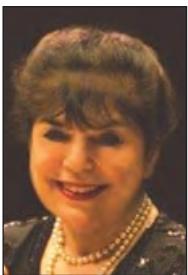
BECKET – The Becket Federated Church, 3381 Main St., will celebrate the ordinations of Associate Pastor Kathleen Vsetecka and Associate Pastor Linda Shaw on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 3 p.m.

The ceremony is by Pastor William Mulholland. A reception will follow in the Parish House next door.

All are welcome to attend.

OPERA

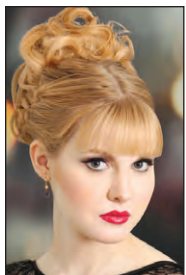
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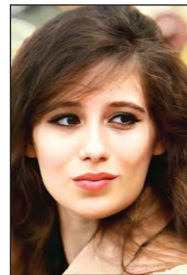
Eve Queler



Douglas Martin



Madison Marie Macintosh



Solene Le Van



Latonia Moore



Steven Andrew Murray



Daniel Sutin

vocalists and will be accompanied by Maestro Eve Queler and Douglas Martin on the antique Boston made Henry Miller grand piano.

Queler is known for her work in the opera world, particularly her leadership with the Opera Orchestra of New York. Her interpretations of both classic and contemporary operatic works have earned acclaim for dynamic conducting style and her ability to bring out the finest details in orchestral performance.

Martin is an accomplished pianist celebrated for his collaborative work in both solo and chamber music. His expertise and nuanced playing have made him a sought-after accompanist and soloist, with a reputation for bringing sensitivity and technical precision to a wide range of musical repertoire.

Performers include: Madison Marie McIntosh, a distinguished mezzo-soprano known for her rich, warm voice and engaging performances. With a career that includes performances at prestigious venues and collaborations with esteemed orchestras, McIntosh is praised for her compelling interpretations and her ability to bring depth to a variety of roles.

Solene Le Van, a gifted soprano whose performances are characterized by her elegant vocal technique and expressive artistry. With a growing reputation in the opera world, she has been recognized for her ability to bring both technical skill and emotional intensity to her roles.

Latonia Moore, who has graced Blandford several times, is celebrated for her powerful and emotive voice, her performances on major opera stages

have earned her acclaim for both dramatic interpretation and vocal prowess. Moore’s repertoire spans a wide range of roles, showcasing her versatility and commanding stage presence.

Steven Andrew Murray is a versatile baritone with a reputation for dynamic vocal ability and stagecraft. His roles in opera and musical theater are noted for their depth and clarity, making him a sought-after performer in both traditional and contemporary works.

And Daniel Sutin, a talented tenor recognized for his expressive vocal quality and impressive range. His performances in both operatic and concert settings have garnered critical acclaim, highlighting his ability to convey emotion and connect with audiences through his powerful and nuanced singing.

The White Church, with its classic New England charm and acoustic brilliance, is an ideal setting for this Bel Canto production. The church’s serene environment and striking interior will enhance emotional depth, creating an ambiance that allows both the performers and the audience to fully engage with the music. Attendees can look forward to a rich tapestry of arias and duets, showcasing the sublime vocal techniques and intricate melodies that define the Bel Canto style.

The White Church has become a haven for opera enthusiasts and newcomers alike. The event promises not only a feast for the ears but also an opportunity to experience the profound connection between music and place. The combination of exceptional artistry and the church’s unique charm combine to make this Bel Canto opera the highlight of the cultural calendar, inviting all to share extraordinary musical excellence.

Tickets are available on the website, thewhitechurch.org, for a \$40 donation and may also be purchased at the door. Seating will start at 1 p.m.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council supports this event through the local cultural councils of Otis, Montgomery, Russell, Tolland and Blandford.

GOSHEN

Goshen Town Clerk announces election information

GOSHEN – Town Clerk Kristen Estelle announce the last day to register to vote for the State Primary is Saturday, Aug. 24.

There will be in person voter registration available in the Town Clerk's Office, 40 Main St., on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. People can also register to vote by visiting www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/.

Voters have three options for casting their vote for the State Primary. they may vote in person on election day, Tuesday, Sept. 3 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. in the John James Memorial Hall.

They may vote early in person on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or Monday, Aug. 26 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the John James Memorial Hall.

They may vote by mail. Every registered voter should have received a prepaid post card from the Secretary of the State's office, asking if they'd like

to vote by mail. If they'd prefer to vote in person, just discard the post card. No action is needed. If they do want to vote by mail, the town clerk must receive their application by Monday, Aug. 26 at 5 p.m. in order to have their ballot mailed to them.

If they didn't receive the vote by mail post card, they can apply via the State's online portal by visiting www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailInBallot.aspx.

Vote by Mail ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by close of the polls on election day in order to be counted. Ballots that arrive after that time, even if they are post-marked on or before Election Day, will not be counted.

People may email Town Clerk Kristen Estelle with any questions or concerns at clerk@goshen-ma.us or call 413-268-8236, extension 107.

OTIS

Town clerk announces election information

OTIS – The Otis Town Clerk announces there will be a voter registration session on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. at the Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road.

The last day to register to vote and/or to change party enrollment for the Tuesday, Sept. 3 State Primary is Saturday, Aug. 24. Early and absentee ballot deadline to apply for a mailed early ballot or absentee ballot is

Monday, Aug. 26 at 5 p.m.

The deadline to apply for an Absentee Ballot if voting in the Town Clerk's office is Friday, Aug. 30, at 5 p.m. The Town Clerk will be open on Friday, Aug. 30 from 3-5 p.m.

These deadlines are for the State Primary on Sept. 3. People may call Lyn at 413-269-0100, extension 112 for assistance.

'The Juckets' to perform at Otis gazebo

OTIS – A free concert featuring "The Juckets" will be held Sunday, Aug. 18 from 4-6 p.m. in the gazebo located near the Otis Town Hall.

"The Juckets" is an Americana and bluegrass band based in the Berkshires.

People should bring a blanket, lawn chairs, bug spray, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. This concert for the whole family is sponsored by the Otis Cultural Council.

WORTHINGTON

Worthington COA plans cruise to Thimble Islands

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Council on Aging plans a Thimble Islands Cruise aboard the "Sea Mist" with luncheon at San Marino's Ristorante on Monday, Oct. 14.

Participants will depart at 9:30 a.m. from the Worthington Congregational Church for the Connecticut shoreline and return at 7 p.m.

At Stony Creek Dock, the group will board the "Sea Mist," a 44 foot vessel designed for comfortable cruising through shallow waters. They will relax and enjoy a 45-minute narrated cruise around the Thimble Islands. Discovered in 1614 by Adrien Block, these islands were used for everything from quarrying granite to hiding Captain Kidd's treasure. The infamous captain sailed to the Thimble Islands in 1665 and some say they can still feel his presence today.

Before the cruise, they will dine

at San Marino's Ristorante Italiano. Serving the Waterbury area for over 30 years, the restaurant offers casual Italian dining. The menu features a choice of: eggplant Parmigiana, chicken Francese or filet of sole. It includes a garden salad, vegetables, family style pasta, dessert, coffee, tea and pitchers of soda.

Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, Sept. 10. Cost is prepaid \$50 for Worthington senior residents age 60 plus and \$131 prepaid for non-resident seniors. The cost includes taxes and gratuities. People should make check payable to: Town of Worthington and mail to COA, P.O. Box 7, Worthington, MA 01098.

People should include their phone number, meal choice from list above and emergency contact name and phone number. People may call Phyllis Dassatti at 413-238-5962 for more information.

SOUTHAMPTON

Kestrel Land Trust assisted in 387 acre conservation land purchase

SOUTHAMPTON – The Mountain Waters Project, spearheaded by Kestrel Land Trust and its local partners, has reached its first milestone by protecting an initial 387 acres of an expected 1,000-acre forest conservation effort in Southampton and adjacent towns.

Named for Pomeroy Mountain, as well as the waters that flow through its surrounding forests, feeding the Manhan and Connecticut Rivers, the Mountain Waters Project is supported in part by \$1.25 million in funding from a MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Landscape Partnership Grant awarded last fall.

In June, Kestrel assisted the town of Southampton with the purchase of 151 acres off of Fomer Road from landowners Norton Garfinkle and Sally Minard. This land will be open to the public for passive recreation, managed by the Southampton Conservation Commission, with a conservation restriction held by Kestrel Land Trust. The conservation restriction will allow for the creation of formal public parking and trails in the future.

Just over the town line in Westhampton, Kestrel Land Trust purchased an abutting 122 acres from Garfinkle and Minard, with a conservation restriction held by Mass Audubon. This land will also be open to the public, accessible through the town of Southampton's land and will be managed as wildlands, meaning no logging or resource extraction will take place. The forests will continue to offer refuge for wildlife and the forests will be allowed to mature, maximizing carbon storage as a natural solution to address climate change.

Kestrel Land Trust Conservation Manager Bridget Likely said, "We are grateful to our partners in this project, as these lands are ranked the highest for climate resiliency, while providing valuable habitat connectedness and landscape diversity. A local naturalist has also documented a number of unique and rare plant species here."

Landowner Sally Minard said, "Norton and I are thrilled by the success of Southampton in preserving these 273 acres he acquired 50 years ago. While a young Amherst College professor from New York City, Norton became interested in the area's woodlands. With the few acres we kept, we extend our long connection to the area and our congenial neighbors. Congratulations to the citizens who supported the Mountain Waters project, keeping the woods and streams open to be enjoyed by their families into the future."

Sierra Simmons, Southampton's Community Preservation Committee Chair said, "Southampton has been for-

tunate to be a participant and beneficiary in this monumental conservation effort. I'm proud that we were able to leverage our residents' tax dollars via Community Preservation Act Funds (only 12% of the total project cost) to garner both state funding and private contributions, which will ultimately preserve hundreds of acres in our town for open space and recreation."

A third parcel conserved during this first phase of the Mountain Waters Project consists of 114 acres in Southampton, which was owned by Scott and Lori Cebula. In June, the Holyoke Water Works purchased this forested land to support protection of the city of Holyoke's drinking water supply, located within the watershed of the Tighe-Carmody Reservoir.

"HWW was fortunate to partner with Kestrel Land Trust, who proved to be instrumental in orchestrating the acquisition of the property, in addition to being a financial contributor and catalyst in the process," said Matthew Smith, Source of Supply and Treatment Superintendent, Holyoke Water Works. Smith said the parcel plays a vital role in source water protection, which is a requirement mandated under the regulatory authority of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. This purchase satisfies a critical component for compliance under HWW's Land Acquisition Program and annual filtration waiver requirements. To protect the reservoir's water quality, this parcel will not provide public recreational access.

The landowners who sold their forest to HWW recognized the importance of conserving land to provide clean drinking water to thousands of city residents. "We felt that conserving our land was very important, after it being in our family for over 60 years," said Scott and Lori Cebula. "When we learned about the Mountain Waters Project, we knew this was something that we wanted to be part of, because we were not only protecting 114 acres of land in Southampton, but we were also providing clean drinking water to Holyoke. We met in Holyoke, started our family in Holyoke and brought our two boys up in Southampton. This was a win-win for our family. We love both areas and are very happy to protect land and provide clean drinking water now and for future generations."

Several more land protection efforts are anticipated to be completed in the 2025 fiscal year of the Mountain Waters project, including the protection of Glendale Ridge Vineyard in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, as well as a new MassWildlife wildlife management area in Montgomery.

NOTICE

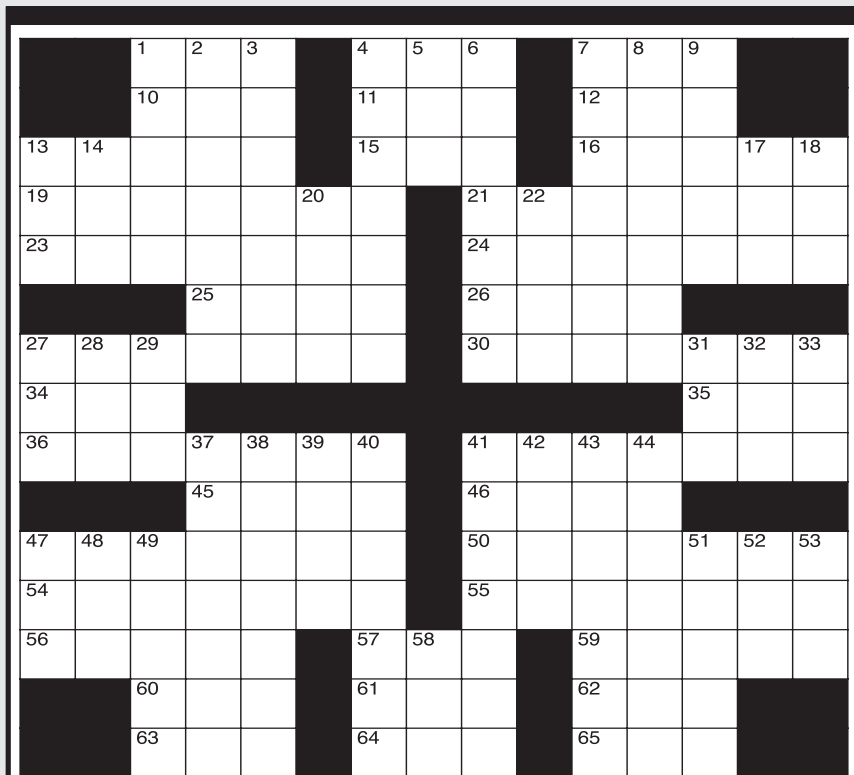
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Major American automaker (abbr.)
- 4. Pressure measurement
- 7. Two-year-old sheep
- 10. Indigenous person from Laos or Thailand
- 11. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 12. Actress de Armas
- 13. Not moving
- 15. Cool!
- 16. Bog arum genus
- 19. Perceptible by touch
- 21. Type of test
- 23. Monetary units
- 24. Collection of various things
- 25. Sum of five and one
- 26. Type of sword
- 27. Hates

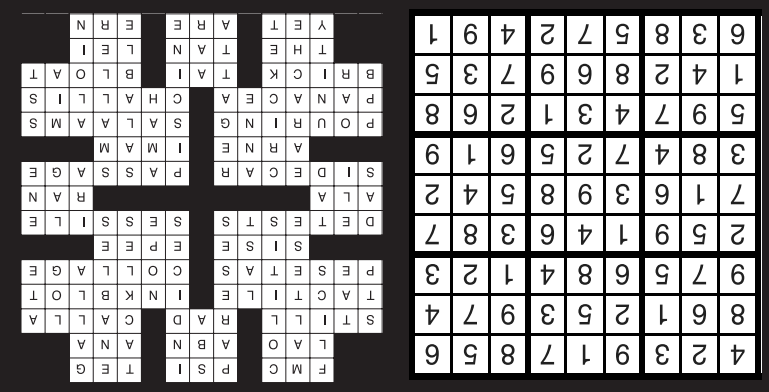
- 30. Immobile
- 34. Pie __ mode
- 35. Moved quickly
- 36. Passenger's place on a motorbike
- 41. A way through
- 45. Former US Secretary of Education Duncan
- 46. Leader
- 47. Flowing
- 50. Greetings
- 54. Remedy
- 55. Soft lightweight fabric
- 56. Building material
- 57. Sea bream
- 59. A way to cause to be swollen
- 60. One and only
- 61. People get one in summer
- 62. Wreath
- 63. Thus far
- 64. They __
- 65. Sea eagle

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Policemen (French)
- 2. Toy dog
- 3. Inflamed colon disease
- 4. Can't move
- 5. Helps little firms
- 6. Lists of names, subjects, etc.
- 7. Takes down
- 8. Makes possible
- 9. Wife of Julius Constantius
- 13. Engine additive
- 14. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- 17. Written account
- 18. Consumed
- 20. Something the first shall be
- 22. No (slang)
- 27. Gov't lawyers
- 28. Peyton's little brother
- 29. Small amount
- 31. Investment

- vehicle
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Head pain
- 38. Popular sport in England and India
- 39. King Charles's sister
- 40. Boat race
- 41. About fish
- 42. Maidservant
- 43. Able to be marketed
- 44. Tinier
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Paddle
- 49. Oneness
- 51. Bitter chemical
- 52. Not around
- 53. Very fast airplane
- 58. Swiss river

answers



THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you hold the key to success right now, so everyone wants to be in your corner. Take things in stride and maintain your focus while accepting all the support.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22
Someone in your social circle could be shielding the truth and it may frustrate you. But you can't come out and accuse this person without proof.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23
Be mindful of other people's situations before you engage with them, Libra. What may be a good time for you will not necessarily be ideal for those around you.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20
Remember, Capricorn, others are not just listening to what you say, they are reading into your actions. Make sure you are genuine in both your words and gestures this week.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, it is important that you streamline your workflow this week; otherwise, you may not meet the deadlines imposed upon you. Start implementing a new strategy.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23
An important relationship could be coming to an end for you, Leo. You could try to salvage things, but you have to look at the bigger picture and determine if it is good to move on.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, someone in your life has proven worthy of more attention. Give this person a little extra love in the days to come, and direct your focus to having a good time.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18
You may have to take the first step in rekindling an important relationship, Aquarius. Are you ready to be the catalyst?

GEMINI

May 22/June 21
This is the week to take the road less traveled, Gemini. Blaze your own trail, get out into the wilderness and possibly expand your horizons. A spontaneous idea like this can pay dividends.

VIRGO

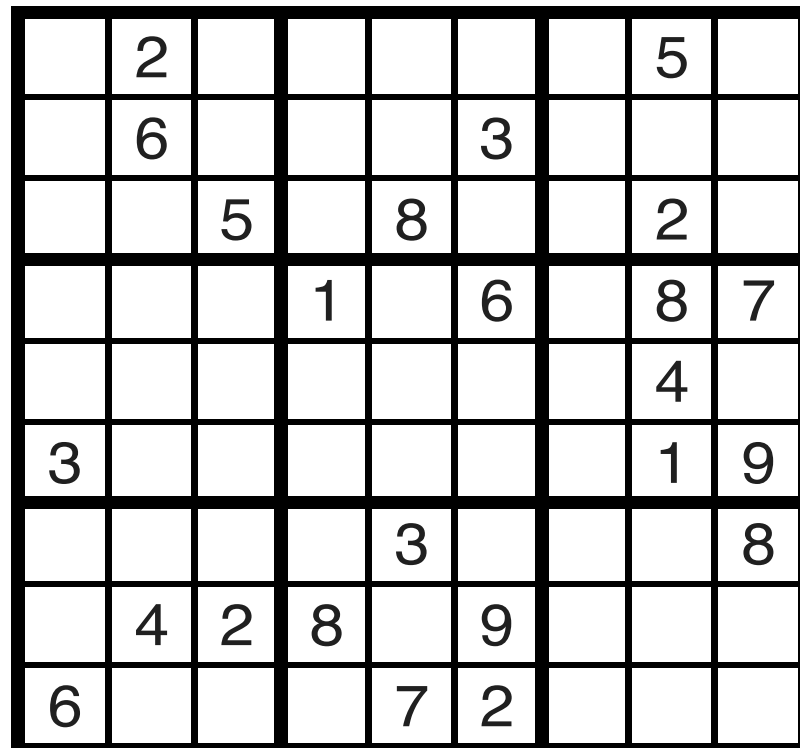
Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you have been coasting along without a firm direction for too long at this point. While it may have been working for you, you will soon fare better with a more concrete plan.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21
Social activities seemingly bloom around you this week, Sagittarius. There could be so much going on that you don't know where to get started. Perhaps let friends lead the festivities.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20
There is not much you can do about financial issues, Pisces. Make an effort to start spending less, which may be the catalyst for a real examination of your budget.



SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

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

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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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 The Trustees of the Otis Library seek applicants for a **Library Director Position.** The position pays \$21-\$25 per hour commensurate with experience. The Director can expect to work between 25-30 hours per week. An application packet is available by emailing otislibrary@cwmarso.org or at the **Otis Library at 48 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253. (413) 269-0109.** The application deadline is **September 13, 2024.** *The Otis Library Board of Trustees is an equal opportunity employer.*

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

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

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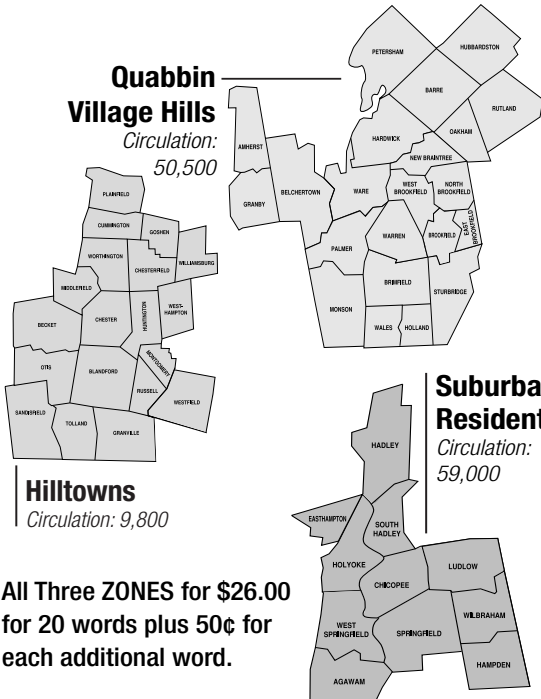
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PITTSFIELD

First Fridays returns Sept. 6

PITTSFIELD – The First Fridays Artswalk in downtown Pittsfield returns on Friday, Sept. 6 from 5-8 p.m. as part of the City of Pittsfield's First Fridays at Five.

Participating venues on Friday, Sept. 6 include Berkshire Art Center, Berkshire Black Economic Council, Clock Tower Artists, Dottie's Coffee Lounge, Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., Hotel on North, Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, Living in Recovery, Marie's North Street Eatery and Gallery, Marketplace Cafe, Methuselah Bar and Lounge, NUarts gallery + studios, Roots and Dreams and Mustard Seeds, Soda Chef, THECOLLAB, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Pittsfield.

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

The Clock Tower Artists at 75 South Church Street will host an open studios event on Friday, Sept. 6, 5-8 p.m. Clock Tower Artists is the largest and most diverse contemporary, working artists' group in Berkshire County. During the First Fridays Artswalk/First Fridays at Five, a free art shuttle to and from the Clock Tower Artist Studios will run from 5-8 p.m., every 15 minutes from City Hall on Allen Street. The Art Shuttle is provided and operated by RSVP Volunteers.

The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, 28 Renne Avenue, will present "Out of the Stidions: Artists of the Lichtenstein" Sept. 6-27. There will be an opening reception with the artists on Friday, Sept. 6, from 5-8 p.m.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pittsfield, 175 Wendell Avenue, will feature "The Art and Soul of Autumn" by Autumn Phoenix Photography for the month of September. There will be an opening reception with the artist on Friday, Sept. 6, from 5-8 p.m.

THECOLLAB, 163 North Street, will feature "Stepping Out" by Sadiya, Sept. 1 -30. The art for 'Stepping Out' is original work by Howard University Rising Senior Sadiya Q-G. This marks her first solo show in the Berkshires. By the time the opening arrives, Sadiya will be back at Howard University, continuing her African American Studies major, concentrating on the African Diaspora. There will be an opening reception on Friday, Sept.

6, from 5-8 p.m.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and Framework, 437 North Street, will feature the "Let It Shine! Emerging Artist Showcase" for the Sept. 6 First Fridays Artswalk.

The Berkshire Art Center, 141 North St., will continue to offer Free Artmaking Drop-Ins on the First Friday of the month from 5:30-7:30 p.m., year-round.

The Marketplace Cafe, 53 North Street, will feature the mixed media works of Gail Gelburd in "Meditations" for the month of September. "Meditations" explores the universality of the human spirit and the environment in which we exist. There will be a reception with the artist during the September 6 First Fridays Artswalk from 5 to 7 pm.

Gail Gelburd has a PhD in Art and Eastern Philosophy. She has been a professor, curator, author, and artist who has exhibited extensively. Most recently she has been shown at the Berkshire Museum, Cape Cod Museum of Art, Berkshire Botanical Gardens, Photoplace Gallery of Middlebury College, Sandisfield Art Center, Becket Art Center, TSL Gallery in Hudson NY, and had a solo exhibition at Art on Main Gallery in West Stockbridge. She was also included in the Designer Showcase at Cassilis Farm in New Marlborough. Her work has been shown and collected in California, Colorado, New York, Connecticut, Vermont, Los Angeles, Goa India, Skopelos Greece, and Melbourne Australia, as well as throughout Massachusetts.

On Friday, Sept. 6 from 5-8 p.m., NUarts gallery + studios, 311 North St., will open their Hall Gallery to the public featuring the works of resident artists.

Roots and Dreams and Mustard Seeds, 119 Fenn St., will feature local artist Matthew Brinton during the First Fridays Artswalk on Sept. 6 for one-night only from 5-8 p.m. Living in Recovery, 75 North Street, will feature artworks by Anika Grey and Stephanie "Sesame" Campbell on Friday, Sept. 6 from 5-8 p.m.

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

Berkshire Conservation District receives \$80,000 grant

PITTSFIELD – The Berkshire Conservation District received \$80,000 in grant funding by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, based on the Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan.

The district will also use these funds to purchase a 5'6" no-till seed drill, expanding their equipment rental program, alongside the existing 12' no-till drill purchased in 2019. Offering two sizes of no-till drills to farmers in the Berkshire region will make the program more accessible to farmers with 40-50 horsepower tractors. In addition, the grant funding will allow the district to increase staff time to manage additional rentals and collaborative programming.

The award of this grant will fund educational programming across the county from first and third graders learning about soil microbes to soil scientists speaking with farmers about fertilizer use, to peer-to-peer farmer dinners. Partnerships that have formed through the writing of this grant with Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Second Chance Composting, Living Soil Company, Magic Art Puppets and

Sound, Mumbet's Freedom Farm and others will help BCD's efforts reach a wider range of community members.

"People come to Berkshire County to connect with food, the land and the arts. The innovation, determination and spirit of our farmers is what keeps local food on the table. With these programs we are seeding the connection to our land and those who steward the land, and hopefully inspiring the next generation, as well, to stay engaged with our natural world." said Ambrose Clausen, the District's Program Manager.

Other District programs focus on increasing and improving habitats for pollinators on public and private lands, as well as a fall Native Plant Sale. More information on all programs can be found at berkshireconservation.org/programs.

The Berkshire Conservation District is a division of state government established under state law to conserve and wisely manage natural resources. Conservation Districts identify natural resource concerns in their communities, then coordinate public and private services and financial support to address those concerns. For more information, people may call the District's Program Manager at 413-347-9503 or email Programs@BerkshireConservation.org.

Downtown Pittsfield Inc relocates

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. has officially relocated its office location to the heart of Downtown Pittsfield at 431 North St., former home of Jan Perry Realty. DPI invites their members and the public to a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 10 a.m.

There will be light refreshments and an opportunity to meet DPI staff and Board Members. The Ribbon Cutting will be immediately followed by an Open House until 5 p.m.

DPI is managing the Framework co-working space at 437 North Street, offering rentals of semi-private offices, a classroom, and a board room to DPI members and the public. Those attending the Open House are invited to tour these spaces.

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

DPI is a membership organization consisting of property owners, businesses, residents, cultural and entertainment venues, restaurants and non-profit organizations who have joined forces to increase economic activity by promoting downtown as a great place to live, work, and play.

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



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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Hikers paddle to island on Upper Goose Pond

LEE – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers gazed at the tiny island in Upper Goose Pond for many years from the shore on foot,

They decided to get there and the only way was by boat, but not a big powered boat. The key is there is a narrow and shallow causeway between the Upper and Lower Ponds. This cause-

way also holds the old Native American Elwell Burial Ground.

The group's solution was a kayak to get there. Before the 1960s, the small island on Upper Goose Pond in Lee was kept cut back from all vegetation and trees, now it is a tiny forested island with blueberry bushes.

Still remaining today is a concrete

pier in the center on the highest point of the tiny island. There were four camps on Upper Goose Pond, the owners of the middle camp were recreational astronomers and the pedestal was for a telescope.

The island is now owned by the National Park Service. The only way to get to this island is on foot via the

Appalachian Trail or by kayak or paddle board from the boat launch is on Ridge Street on Lower Goose Pond in Tyringham. The adventurer paddler can make the six mile round trip to the island from the launch and back.



A view of the island on Upper Goose Pond.



Tom Hoffman looks out onto Upper Goose Pond from the island.

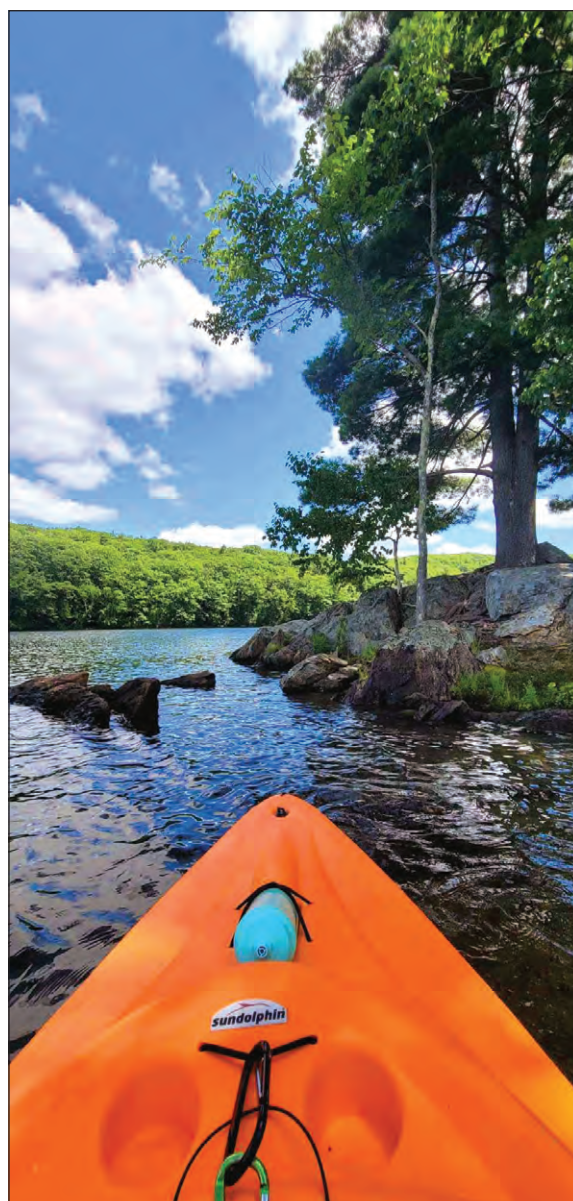
Submitted photos



Kayakers on Upper Goose Pond island leave the island for the paddle back to their launch point.



Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers are seen in kayaks paddling to the tiny island on Upper Goose Pond.



A kayak approaches the tiny island on Upper Goose Pond.



Greg Deily stands behind the pillar once used as a telescope mount.