

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



Mission Clean Energy group are Development Manager Emma Riley and Head of Development Audrey Copeland, Fire Risk Alliance Michael Ferreira, P.E. and Senior Fire Protection Consultant James Caulfield and Mission Clean Energy Senior Development Engineer Jack Hitchcock. Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

Town officials and residents hear from Mission Clean Energy

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

– There were over 100 people at the Mission Clean Energy presentation of their proposed Battery Energy Storage System on North Blandford Road opposite the Eversource substation.

The 17-slide presentation explained the function, the technology, location, project studies to date, economic benefits to the town and safety.

The project will absorb and store electricity produced

for use when demand is high. The location as outlined in a National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is beneficial next door to the Eversource substation.

NREL specializes in the research and development of renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy systems integration, and sustainable transportation. The report was done in conjunction with the UMASS Clean Energy Extension and Colby College.

The wetlands studies provided information so the project will "avoid impacts



Members of the Blandford Select Board are from left, Ted Cousineau, Chairman Cara Letendre and Jackie Coury.

to delineated waterbodies" in the immediate area. The presentation indicated that "no impacts to habitat and protected species is anticipated." Information about protected species was from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) which said that the project "does not occur within estimated habitat of rare wildlife or priority habitat."

Citing a January BESS fire in California earlier this year, Mission's presentation indicated newer technology

for batteries use Lithium-Iron-Phosphate rather than a "more unstable Nickel-Manganese-Cobalt" battery. Economic benefits from tax revenue were estimated at \$7.5 million based on "comparable Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) negotiations in Massachusetts." The entire presentation is available on YouTube.

A second presentation by Fire Risk Alliance, a safety consulting firm, was next. Senior Fire Protection

ENERGY, page 6

HUNTINGTON

Family seeks clarification to dog hearing article

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Letters from Donna Taylor and her daughter, Magdalene Taylor, to the Country Journal have requested several corrections to an article on their July 30 dog hearing that ran in the Aug. 7 issue.

In her email, Donna Taylor reported that both of her Chihuahuas had, in fact, had their rabies vaccines before the dog fight, which occurred on July 20. She said she had been unable to have them licensed at that time as she had rescued them a few months earlier and the town offices were under renovation, which delayed getting them licensed. As such, all three dogs involved in the incident were unlicensed, although the Taylors dogs did have their rabies vaccine.

Donna Taylor also directed two letters to the

town's Animal Control Officer Jim Helems, with copies to the Select Board, Town Administrator and this reporter. The first was dated Aug. 5 and included a statement of disappointment with the process and with notes in the ACO's incident report disputing or clarifying some of the content.

In her email, Magdalene Taylor requested that we clarify that both Chihuahuas were leashed at the time of the incident, as reported by a witness Tyrone Williams at the hearing. She also stated that the dog owned by John Rheaume, Luna, was not on a leash during the incident.

In Animal Control Officer Helems' incident report, John Rheaume had reported that Luna was on a rope and the Chihuahuas were leashed, but no one

DOG, page 3

HUNTINGTON

Dealer's license passes despite opposition

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Huntington Select Board held a public hearing on Wednesday, Aug. 13 for a Class I Auto Dealer's License application.

Jonathan Groff, owner of Integrity Trailer Sales and Repairs ILC, at 38 Russell Road, was heard regarding his application for a Class I Auto Dealer's License. Abutters to his property were notified of the public hearing using certified letters and three attended: Deborah Supinski-Labonte, Kenneth Labonte and Jim Arnold.

In the absence of Roger Booth, who arrived later and was re-elected chairman of the Select Board, Selectman John McVeigh read the hearing posting. Groff explained that he needed a dealer's license in order to sell trailers in Massachusetts. Although they do not have motors, trailers are registered with the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

In order to sign up with trailer manufacturers to replace his inventory, he needs to be licensed. If he doesn't order through the manufacturers, he will pay a higher price for trailers and that cost will be passed onto consumers.

Neighbor Jim Arnold asked Groff if he planned to sell vehicles; Groff answered that is not his intent.

Deborah Supinski-Labonte and Kenneth Labonte live on a hill across Route 20 from Groff's business and spoke in opposition to the license. Their primary complaint concerned the noise generated at the business beyond the posted hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A diesel pickup truck is on site as early as 5 a.m. and other vehicles are often idling and using the back-up beepers that are common with commercial vehicles. They also hear wood being thrown into the dumpster. Other times, repair work is going on in the garage up until 10 p.m., they said. "We can't keep our windows open to enjoy the crisp mornings anymore," Deborah said, adding that even the garage door sound opening at 9 a.m. is noisy. They asked Groff to keep to his posted hours of operations, which are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m.-noon on Saturdays.

Kenneth Labonte also expressed concern about the safety of tractor trail-

OPPOSITION, page 3

HUNTINGTON

Green bridge project to take five years

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

At a virtual on-line meeting held June 25, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation announced a five-year project to restore the widely known "green bridge" in Huntington that starts at the intersection of Routes 112 and 20 and crosses the West Branch of the Westfield River and the CSX Railroad.

About a half-dozen community members attended the live meeting. MassDOT presenters were Stephen Soma, Project Manager; Mark Devylder, District 1 Bridge Engineer; Peeyush Rohela, Benesch Technical Manager/Associate and Sean Barry, Benesch Senior Project Manager.

At this point, the project is still in the design phase. A contractor has not been selected at this point. The construction is expected to start around April 2026 and be completed within five years and two months.

It is estimated to cost \$26,527,329.33 and will be funded by the Commonwealth; however, Federal sources will be sought if such funding becomes available, which would require a bidding process.

John Goggin from the MassDOT Communications Office explained that every

Massachusetts bridge is inspected every other year. After the last inspection on Aug. 21, 2024, which included determining the bridge's load capacity rating, the green bridge received a rating of 5 or "fair."

"The rating scale is 0 to 9, with 9 being brand new, pristine condition and 0 being failed and not able to be repaired," Goggin explained. Among the bridge's deficiencies were scaling and cracking on parts of the bridge deck, exposed rebar, peeling paint, pitting and missing rivets, rust and collision damage to various parts of the bridge. The most recent upgrades to the bridge occurred in 2013-14.

During the presentation, which can still be viewed on the MassDOT website, speakers explained that they are now working on right of way access and the overall

project design. The scope of work will include structural and substructural repairs, new concrete and railings, cleaning and painting, improving drainage, reconstructing sidewalks, adding a bike lane and improving cross walk visibility.

There will be temporary traffic signals in place to control vehicle access to the bridge using a single lane.

The project is complicated by the need to maintain pedestrian access, access to the Huntington Water & Sewer Treatment plant, access for emergency vehicle and provide a temporary railroad crossing over CSX into the MassDOT yard for emergency vehicles and tankers moving sludge from the treatment plant.

One of those attending the meeting was Harry Rock, Race Chairman for the Westfield River Wild water

Races. Rock explained that they use the MassDOT maintenance yard for parking and to stage the 300 canoes and kayaks that start the classic race from that location. Rock's contact information was collected to discuss this further. The races take place in April and the core construction period is typically May through September, but can be extended at either end if the weather permits, Goggin said. Presenters said this timeframe was important for this project so that the state highway trucks would have unimpeded access to their equipment and materials in winter for maintaining roads.

Those with questions are asked to email MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us and include Project File # 613185 in the subject line.



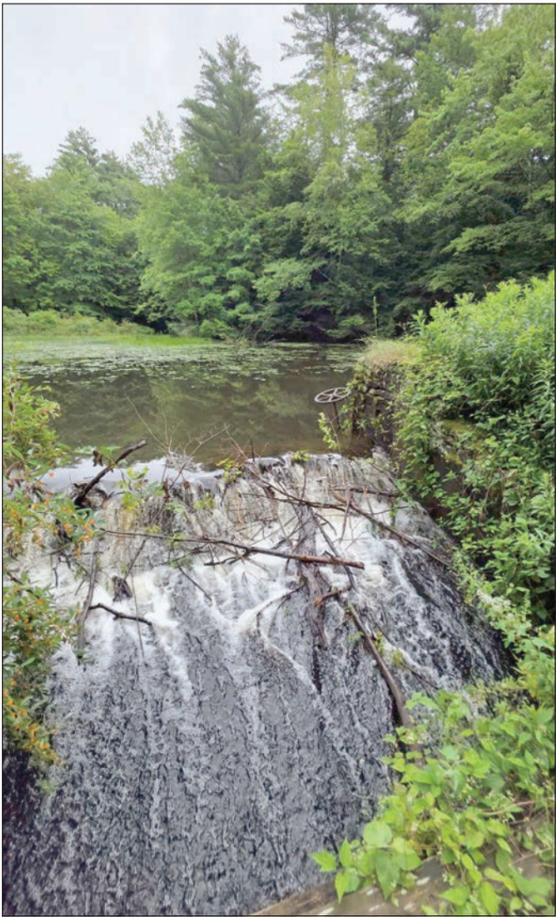
The green bridge near the center of Huntington is expected to undergo renovations and repairs between 2026 and 2031. Turley photo by Wendy Long



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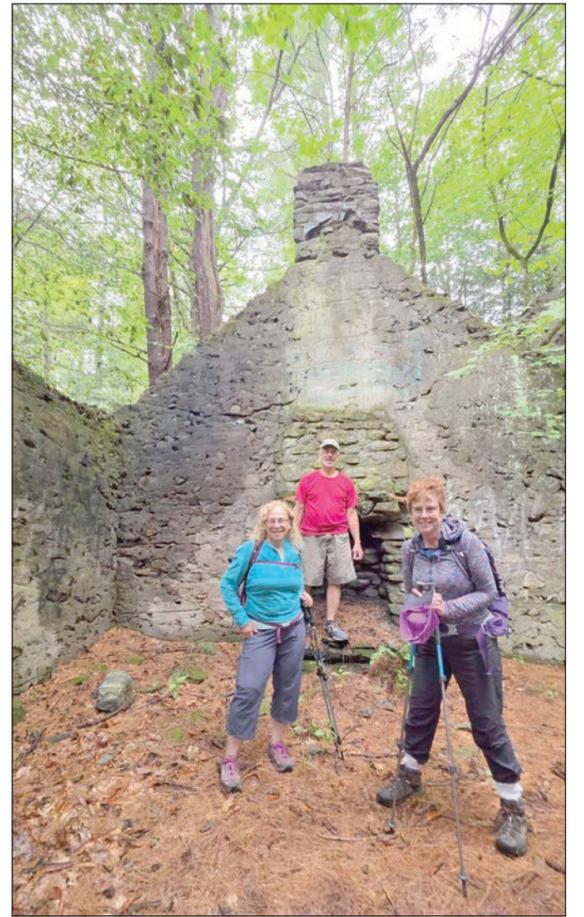
HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



This was the pond that powered Pardon Perry's sawmill located in Beartown State Forest.



Jim Moore stands at the Turkey Hill Trail in Beartown State Forest in Monterey.



Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers stand in front of the Riggs cabin.

Hikers trek to Beartown State Forest

Beartown State Forest was always occupied by farmers and sawmills but after 1905 a few doctors discovered it.

This is the get-a-way of Austen Fox Riggs (1876-1940), an internist who suffered from tuberculosis. During his recovery in 1907, he took an interest in psychiatry and psychology.

"Influenced by the

mental hygiene movement" of the time, he developed his own system of treatment based on talk therapy combined with a structured routine of daily activities that emphasized a balance between work, play, rest and exercise. His exercise was taken here in the woods.

He founded the "Stockbridge Institute

for the psychoneuroses," renamed "The Austen Riggs Foundation" in 1919. ("Beartown Mountain" by Bernie Drew)

For fresh air, Riggs in 1916 acquired several parcels of land in Beartown on Beartown Mountain Road. The two-room fieldstone cabin has a view of the old sawmill pond that powered Pardon Perry's sawmill.



The remains of Dr. Austen Fox Riggs, two room stone cabin located on Beartown Mountain Road in Beartown. Submitted photos

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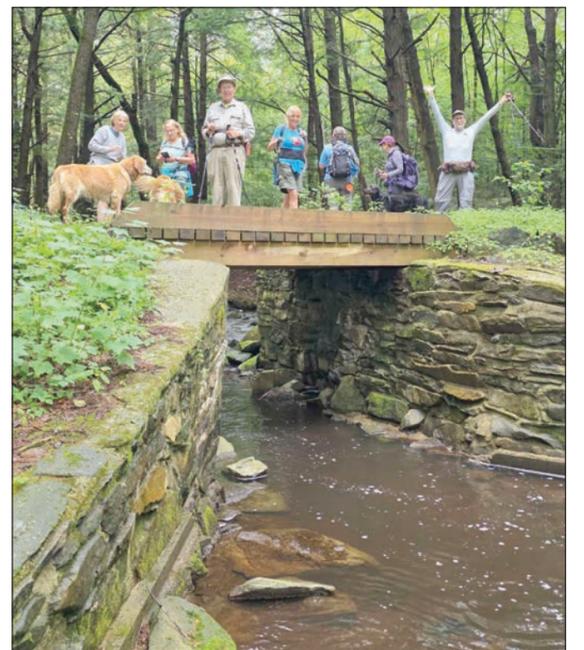
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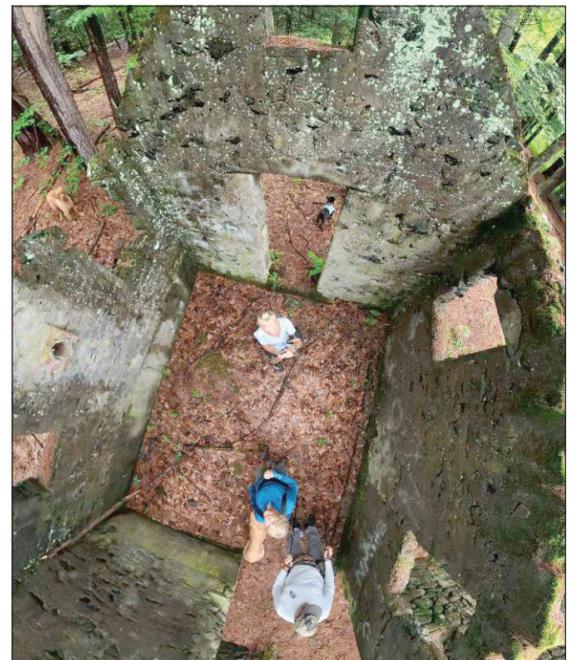
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Corps built this bridge on the Sky Peak Trail.



This is an overhead view of the remains of the Riggs stone cabin.

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HUNTINGTON

Select Board appoints new treasurer

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – In regular business at their Aug. 13 meeting, the Huntington Select Board negotiated a contract with their new treasurer, Ryan Mailloux.

Huntington's new Treasurer Ryan Mailloux negotiated his contract with the select board and Town Administrator Jennifer Pelouin. His initial term will run through June 30 with an option to renew for FY'27. His starting salary will be \$25,000 and comes with no benefits, health insurance, nor paid time off. The group agreed to an initial set of goals and a timeframe for each benchmark.

They approved the purchase of a MacBook Air and Quickbooks for his work. His initial schedule will be Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in order to work with the Town Accountant. He and Pelouin will both be bonded and have access to all town accounts. Mailloux's start date was Thursday, Aug. 14 and they will make a decision about his continuing into Fiscal Year 2027 by March 1, 2026.

Home and green burials

Board of Health members, Kathleen Peterson and John Bergeron, presented a draft policy on Home and Green Burials, with steps for how individuals can be approved for burial on their own land. This will need to involve the Town Clerk and Conservation Commission for both input and implementation. If approved (once the policy goes into effect) the burial has to be recorded on the deed. While the state now allows this alternative to cemetery internment, it does not recommend a headstone on private property and warns that this could lower property values. McVeigh suggested they also look at requiring a biodegradable shroud; Peterson added that there are also special woven baskets for a burial device.

Certified letters would have to go to the abutters of a proposed home burial, with the cost born by the applicant. By law, a home burial is denied if the death certificate reveals the per-



Ryan Mailloux

son died of a communicable disease. Booth said he needs more time to review the draft and would like to put this on an upcoming agenda and invite the Town Clerk.

Budget concerns

Pelouin also reported that the new rates for the County Group Insurance Trust will cause a deficit of \$7,132.50 for covering the town's participating employees and funding for retirees is short by \$886.50. On a brighter note, the vocational schools numbers are in and there are only four freshmen going to Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School and two to Westfield Technical Academy. Assuming no further students are accepted, who might be on a wait list, this will result in an expected surplus to the town of \$121,023.94. Booth stated the funds could go into free cash or moved earlier in the year if they hold a special town meeting, but he'd like to see as much as possible

earmarked for the education stabilization and Gateway roof funds.

Other business

In other business, Superintendent Brad Curry presented updates from the Highway Department. A job description for the new Town Hall Floater/Select Board Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk Assistant was approved and was posted Aug. 14 with a hoped for start date of Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Highway Worker David Przybyla has requested a pay increase to \$3 per hour; this was tabled until Przybyla can attend a meeting to discuss.

A new member for the Conservation Commission was approved. Two letters from Donna Joy Taylor to the Select Board, Animal Control Officer, Town Administrator and Wendy Long were acknowledged.

Pelouin also reported that the punch list items on the new library windows have been completed and they can now release the final payment. She also said that program attendance at the library is up significantly over last year.

HILLTOWNS

DOT announces I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces it will be performing overnight and daytime paving, shoulder work, and bridge repair work operations on I-90 eastbound and westbound in the towns of West Stockbridge, Stockbridge, Becket, Blandford, Montgomery and Russell.

In West Stockbridge and Stockbridge, paving and shoulder work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 0.0 to mile marker 7.8 now through Thursday night, Aug. 21 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning.

In Becket, bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 17.0 to mile marker 17.5 Thursday night, Aug. 21 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning. Bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 20.0 on Thursday night, Aug. 21, from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

In Blandford, bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 26.2 nightly now through

Thursday night, Aug. 21, from 7p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

In Montgomery and Russell, bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 35.9 to mile marker 36.5 on Thursday morning, Aug. 21, from 6-11:30 a.m.

Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers traveling through the area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com 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.

OPPOSITION

from page 1

ers crossing Route 20 to enter Groff's drive, which he felt was dangerous given the excessive speed that many drivers use in that area. "We like you and Emily (Groff's wife), but we have to live here, too," Labonte said.

Groff answered that they were trying to be industrious because it cost a lot to set the business up, to live and to raise families. He added, "I understand the concern and that's a very reasonable concern."

Supinski-Labonte asked if the license could be granted while limiting when he can operate. McVeigh answered that it is a commer-

cial property that is located in a business district and by law legal business hours are 7 a.m.-10 p.m. "Knowing Jon, I know he will work with you on this," McVeigh said, adding he believed they could not impose limitations.

Possible solutions were discussed, including having the garage door closed when repairs are being done beyond posted hours, having the truck that leaves in early morning be lined up the night before so it doesn't have to back up and disabling the back-up beepers on vehicles moving around outside business hours.

Groff admitted that the

business had already grown. "It's turned from a place of some action to a place of a lot of action," he said. He will pass the word to all of the men who are involved in the business. "We will do the best we can," Groff said.

The license was approved and will come up for its annual renewal on April 21, 2026. Supinski-Labonte asked, "Who do we talk to when there's excessive noise?" to which Groff responded, "I want you to talk to me." McVeigh also asked the Labontes to come back and talk with the board about the speeding on Route 20.

DOG

from page 1

was holding those leashes. Helems' report stated "I do believe John's dog was attached to rope/lead at the bottom of the second floor stairs. And the Chihuahuas approached the Husky/pit mix." This report was read during the hearing. Helems affirmed that the Taylor family dogs are allowed to

be unleashed while on their own private property.

Magdalene said that the article stated that her sister Monica Taylor refused medical attention; however the article stated that, "Monica Taylor reported that she had sought medical care and opted not to undergo

a set of rabies shots on advice of her physician." Magdalene clarified that Monica was first treated at the scene by EMTs and later visited Baystate Noble in Westfield on two occasions to receive antibiotics and various vaccinations in treatment for the dog bite.

WORTHINGTON

Cultural Council accepts grant proposals

WORTHINGTON – Effective Tuesday, Sept. 2 through Thursday, Oct. 16, the Worthington Cultural Council is accepting applications from organizations, schools and individuals for grants that support cultural activities in the community in 2026.

Applicants may submit requests online by visiting <http://www.mass-culture.org/Worthington>. Projects must have an identified local venue

and have a projected completion date to be considered. Applicants should be in touch with their preferred venue to confirm interest, a letter of recommendation from the venue manager is strongly encouraged.

Information and local guidelines can be found by visiting <http://www.mass-culture.org/Worthington> and by emailing worthingtonculturalcouncil@gmail.com. The Worthington Cultural

Council is supported by an annual appropriation from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The purpose of the local and regional cultural councils is to support public programs that foster a rich cultural life in communities across the commonwealth. Previously funded projects have included storytelling at the Worthington Library, Hilltown Theater Anonymous and the Sevenars Concert Series.

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GUEST COLUMN



I'm still confused about Medicare Part A and Part B enrollment

Dear Rusty:

I'm 64 and still working full time, and plan to continue working at least until I'm 70 ~ it's a good job, and I enjoy it.

My job comes with health insurance, so I don't really need additional coverage, but I understand I will be required to sign up for Medicare Part A anyway when I turn 65 next year. What I don't understand is Part B: A colleague of mine, who is a little older than I am, said she signed up for Part B because a penalty will be incurred if we wait until we retire from our jobs and actually need the additional insurance. I'm not sure she's right. Can you explain what I should do?

Signed:
Confused About Medicare

Dear Confused:

We're happy to assist you with understanding this. First, enrolling in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization service) is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65. If you do not plan to take your Social Security benefits yet, you can defer enrolling in Part A until you claim Social Security. But Medicare Part A is also free to those eligible for Social Security, so there is little reason not to enroll in Part A at age 65 and, when you claim Social Security, you will be automatically enrolled.

Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is different. Part B is always optional because there is a premium associated with it (standard premium is \$185/month in 2025), but nearly everyone over age 65 requires healthcare coverage. If, however, you are employed and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants), then you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your creditable employer coverage ends. And you can do so without incurring a "late enrollment penalty" for enrolling in Part B outside of your Initial Enrollment Period. When your creditable coverage from your employer ends, you will enter an 8-month Medicare "Special Enrollment Period," which permits you to enroll in Part B without penalty.

Thus, as long as your

employer coverage is "creditable," you can defer enrolling in Part B without penalty. FYI, you can also enroll in Part B a couple of months prior to your employer coverage ending, asking that your Part B coverage starts when your employer coverage ends, to avoid any gap in healthcare coverage. Note you will likely need your employer to provide you with proof of creditable coverage when you later enroll in Part B.

A couple of extra thoughts:

If you require prescription drug coverage when your employer coverage ends after age 65, you only have 63 days to acquire that drug coverage without incurring a "Part D" (drug plan) late enrollment penalty. So, if needed, you should not wait to get insurance coverage for prescription drugs after your employer coverage ends.

If you now have a Health Savings Account through your employer, you should discontinue any HSA contributions well before (perhaps as much as six months before) your enrollment in Medicare Part A. That's because Part A is not considered a "high deductible" insurance plan (a "high deductible" plan is a requirement for having a Health Savings Account). If you do not have an HSA, you need not be concerned about this. If you do, we can also provide you with more info on this.

I hope this answers your questions, but we are always here to assist if you need anything further. Contact us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org or at (800-750-2622).

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-advisor or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

OPINION



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader defends PV Planning Commission

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission or PVPC does have an agenda.

That is to supply a service to the 43 communities of the Pioneer Valley. We are the provider of numerous services. We offer education in, zoning, planning, conservation, with classes and updates in laws, bylaws, writing bylaws and grants. We also work with environmental groups on state and local levels. We work with cities and towns on road, dirt roads, transportation and drainage problems.

We help do grant writ-

ing for communities that don't have the people to write grants. We do screening for town officials, such as Town Administrators, Town Managers and other town offices and functions.

We work with state and local and other planning districts on projects. As do Berkshire Planning and other Planning districts through out the state. We do survey's for state, local and businesses.

We also handle the distribution of funds for community projects, amounting to millions of dollars.

These are just a few of

the things we provide and there is so much more. To say we can't be trusted, tells me they have not taken the time to check us out.

I have been involved with PVPC for about ten years. I also am on the executive board of directors for the last five years. I am proud of the services that PVPC supplied for our community. I am disappointed that some in our community feel we at PVPC can't be trusted

Ted Cousineau
Executive Board
Member of PVPC
Blandford

GUEST COLUMN

Rust is no joke

This time of year I always get a few questions from gardeners who wonder what type of disease is afflicting their treasured hollyhocks.

Sadly, it's affecting mine too. Read on for more information on this malady.

Two years ago I planted Hollyhock seeds indoors. The plants grew wonderfully that first year with nice deep green basal foliage.

Being biennial in nature, year two is when they came into their glory with incredibly beautiful pink flowers on towering six to seven foot spikes. Now it's year three – a gift when biennials are concerned.

The plants started out fine and then I noticed a few raised orange-brown spots on the leaves. By season's end, the plants are pale in color and covered with the rusty orange spots.

Most of the lower foliage has been destroyed and has dropped to the ground.

My hollyhocks are suffering from a fungal problem by the name of rust. It first appears as waxy orange blisters, known as "pustules" on the undersides of the lower most foliage. On the surface of the leaves small, orange-yellow spots form.

Hollyhock rust rarely kills its host, but it can make plants look quite unsightly. In a severe infestation like mine, premature leaf drop occurs.

Next spring, if I dare to

grow hollyhocks again, I'll have to do it in a different part of my landscape and escape any spores that the soil is harboring.

The best way to control hollyhock rust is to remove infected leaves and discard them in the trash. The quicker you act, the better.

Other members of the hollyhock family (Malvaceae) are prone to this disease as well, so scour your perennial bed for spotted leaves on Lavatera and Malva (Tall Mallow and Musk Mallow) and dispose of them.

A common weed that goes by the name "cheese weed" or "cheeses" is also a Malva and likewise is susceptible. Cut down on the chance of infestation next year by removing all foliage and debris from these plants prior to winter. Even go as far as to remove the bark mulch beneath them to further reduce the spore population.

Proper cultural practices also make a difference in combating hollyhock rust and most plant diseases. First, give perennials adequate space from one another to allow for good air flow.

In the case of hollyhocks, I'd recommend about

18 inches. We can't control when and how often it rains, but when we supply the moisture timing and application count.

Water around the base of the plants, without it touching the foliage, and do so early in the morning so that leaves have a chance to dry before nightfall.

Apply new bark mulch each spring to cover spores that may be waiting in the soil. And lastly, when planting new seedlings, locate them as far away as possible from previously grown plants even if they didn't have a serious infestation.

Although I've never tried this myself, I have read a few testimonials from gardeners who had luck applying corn meal to their soil in an effort to control soil borne fungal diseases such as rust. Reportedly it stimulates beneficial organisms that feed on pathogens. Two pounds per one hundred square feet is recommended. Even if it doesn't work, it probably won't hurt.

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



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Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by **noon Friday** to be considered for the following Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the

newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's

Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

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

OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

High Lawn Dairy has long history

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

Tooling around Tuesday morning on a Sunday drive we found ourselves in Lee.

We discovered High Lawn Dairy Farm just across the Housatonic River high on a hill, 535 Summer St. Here Jersey cows are raised on 1,500 acres of mostly wild woodland with 700 acres dedicated to grazing pasture and farm buildings. You truly feel looking out from the hilltop as if you are in the Swiss Alps. It is spectacular scenery.

The land was first owned by Elmadorus Clark and there is little known about him other than his remarkable name. Elizur Smith (1812-1889) a shrewd man bought the land for \$7,500 in the 1850s and combined it with several properties he already owned in Lee and Lenox. He had made his money in the paper making business and decided to dabble in horse breeding, horse trotters to be exact. He developed the farm into a well known horse breeding ranch. Alcantara, a brown stallion, was his most famous champion trotting horse.

Berkshire Downs, a thoroughbred racing track in Hancock, that was rumored to have connections with organized crime was not created until 1960, lest you be confused by the horse racing theme here, but be assured there was much interest in horse racing by the landed gentry from very early times.

One W.D.Sloane came along and bought 148 acres of farmland from the heirs of Elizur Smith in 1892. He came from a wealthy family, who made their money in carpet and furniture sales in New York City. He proceeded to acquire other area farms.

He gave his daughter Lila



The High Lawn Dairy Jersey young stock are at the feed trough. The silos built in the Holland and France architectural style circa 1902 are seen in the background.

Field High Lawn Farm as a wedding gift when she married Colonel Helm George Wilde. They did build a dairy farm. They had admired the architecture in Holland and France and hired an architect to design buildings for the farm in the Dutch and French style. The round towers were water towers. The first Jersey cows came to the farm around 1910. Fire struck and destroyed some of the farm in 1914. It was rebuilt and 45 Jersey cows were hard at work making milk. There was a second fire in 1957 that consumed the cow barn and three other buildings. The farm buildings were rebuilt and the herd of Jersey cows increased to 180 cows with milk delivery increased to six times a day from once. The rumored theory for this was to reduce the taxes on the property as a working farm.

Why were Jersey cows selected for the farm? So you are in the know this breed was first bred on Jersey Island in the English Channel. It is a small statured cow that has milk with a high butterfat and protein content. It also has a higher calcium and B12 vitamin content than other cow

milk as well as a higher proportion of A2 milk protein. This is the milk you are seeing in the grocery store advertised as easier to digest and less likely to cause lactose intolerance. There is science to back up this claim. So the Jersey breed of cow was carefully selected for its milk making ability.

High Lawn has embraced dairy farming as their mission and remains in the Wilde family. They grow their own hay and its silage (grass, alfalfa and corn that is fermented as animal feed) is made and stored on the farm, in those silos. High Lawn uses robotic milking machines, where the cows come in at will to be milked once they are on "full tank." Their udders are washed and the vacuum is attached and the suction cups drop off once milking is complete. They also pamper the ladies with heated water beds to rest on. Since they have been delivering fresh milk since 1923 they know a thing or two about keeping cows happy and down on the farm. Drink a toast to the ladies at High Lawn Farm delivering a beverage that will keep your bones strong for life.



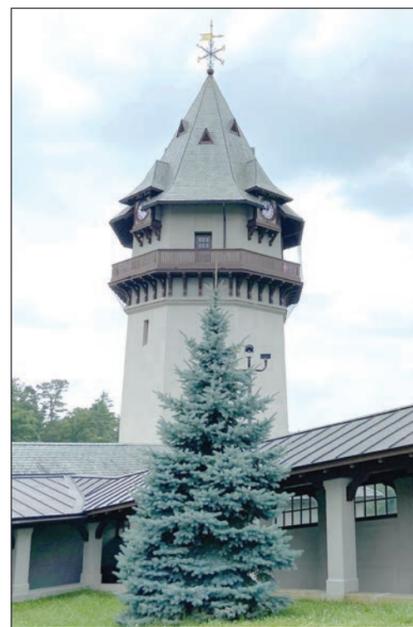
Some of the buildings at High Lawn Dairy in Lee, showing the Holland and France influence on the architecture.



A close up of some of the Jersey young stock eating silage. Turley photos by Deborah Daniels



The milking herd in stanchions in the barn. Silage is in front of them.



This is just one of the buildings at High Lawn Dairy in Lee.

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.

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413.275.3232
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hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com
Sunday Mornings 10 a.m.

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burgychurch.org
Facebook: First Congregational Church of Williamsburg
YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w
Office Hours: Tuesdays through Friday 9 a.m. - noon
Days and Hours of Services: Sundays at 10 a.m.

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

Worthington Fire District DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Some homes have high levels of lead

This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it.

Our water system exceeded the lead drinking water action level. We routinely monitor for lead in water in homes likely to have elevated lead levels, including homes with lead service lines or lead solder. We are required to collect 10 samples between June 1, 2025, and September 30, 2025. Two (2) of these higher risk homes had elevated lead levels. The results of these routine samples for lead indicate a level of 0.07225 mg/L (or 72 parts per billion). This level exceeds the lead action level of 0.015 mg/L (or 15 parts per billion). This means that more than 10 percent of the lead samples collected were above the lead action level.

What does this mean?

Our system's water mains that carry the water to you are made mostly of copper and PVC and therefore do not add lead to water. However, lead can get into tap water through the service line that connects your home to the water main if it is made of lead. Lead may also come from lead solder used to connect pipes in home plumbing, and from some faucets and fixtures.

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.



What should I do to reduce my exposure to lead?

- Use only cold, fresh water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula. Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold. For more guidance on the use of filters, cleaning aerators, how to flush your water lines to reduce lead in drinking water exposure, and how to have your water tested, see this MassDEP webpage [https://mass.gov/info-details/guidance-for-single-family-residents-at-risk-of-lead-in-drinking-water-exposure]
- **Do not boil the water to remove lead.**
- **Our PWS has certified to MassDEP that it has no lead service lines.** However, in an overabundance of caution, please check whether your home has a lead service line. IF YOU DO, HAVE IT REMOVED.
- Please contact the Worthington Fire District for more information about your home's service lines, how to have it removed, or for information about plumbing materials in your home that may contain lead.
- **Contact your health care provider if you have any health-related questions or contact your local health department to find out if your child needs to be tested for lead.**

What is our system doing?

Our public water system is taking the following actions to address the situation:

- A water treatment system review, investigating the homes with elevated lead levels for lead/tin solder, potentially replacing old, outdated fixtures and/or brass shut off valves, and routine flushing at homes with elevated lead levels. Confirmation and diagnostic testing will be conducted in the coming weeks.

For more information, contact John Sullivan at 413-238-5344 or 413-575-2457. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. This notice is being sent to you by Worthington Fire District. PWS ID#: 1349000 Date Published: 8/21/2025

BLANDFORD

Net zero legislation began in 1997

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The achievement of net-zero or the reduction/elimination of dependency on fossil fuel all started in 1997, but was set in stone in 2008.

Deval Patrick served as the 71st governor of Massachusetts from Jan. 4, 2007, to Jan. 8, 2015.

This is his legacy.

The Governor's website at the time, 17 years ago, reported that on Aug. 13, 2008, "Governor Deval Patrick signed two important bills further positioning Massachusetts as a leader in clean energy and environmental stewardship: the Green Jobs Act, which will support development of the clean energy technology industry that will move Massachusetts toward the green economy of the future, and the Global Warming Solutions Act, which will make Massachusetts a national leader in climate protection."

Further, "The Green Jobs Act will provide support for the growth of a clean energy technology industry, helping Massachusetts meet

goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Backed by \$68 million in funding over five years (\$43 million from the Fiscal Year 2007 surplus and \$5 million per year from the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust), this legislation gives initial authorization for \$5 million in RET funding next year as well as \$1 million each in for seed grants to companies, universities, and nonprofits; workforce development grants to state higher ed, vocational schools and nonprofits; and low-income job training (Pathways Out of Poverty); plus \$100,000 for a study of the clean energy sector comments."

There have been many iterations and changes in the interim but the Green Community status and next the Green Community Leader designation was established by the Massachusetts General Laws, Ch. 25A section 10 also in 2008.

The aforementioned action was prefaced by the 1997 session act, Ch. 164, the Electric Industry Restructuring Act, as the first of many initiatives to change how Massachusetts residents access energy.

NATURE SHOWCASES SUMMER COLORS



This monarch butterfly gathers nectar from a Blandford flower bed.
Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

Residents and town officials comment on presentation

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The following statements reflect thoughts regarding the Mission Clean Energy presentation Monday, Aug. 11 at Town Hall. Residents and town leaders were asked if there were any comments made to them about the presentation and what was their sense of what Mission had to say.

From Cara Letendre, Select Board Chair

I am glad that the meeting was well attended and appreciated that a number of residents came out to listen and gather information. I am hopeful that we get a good turnout at the September 22 meeting where people will be voting on non-binding articles to help steer the Select Board.

From T.J. Cousineau, Select Board Member

I have not received any comments about Monday's meeting. Yet, I do believe the meeting went well, however I don't think that BESS (Mission Clean Energy) gave us all the answers we were looking for. They did

say they would get back to us with answers to questions they couldn't answer, at a later date.

From Jackie Coury, Select Board Member

A couple of people did come to the table and say thank you and thought the meeting went well, but only a few.

My only comment would be: We know a number of residents were disappointed that we could not get to all the questions that were submitted, however, this is just the first of a number of meetings we will be having with Mission Energy for our residents and the various department heads.

We will continue to focus on the questions that were provided and work to get them answered for everyone as it relates to the insurance questions, financials, safety concerns, engineering, fire support, etc. We appreciate everyone's engagement and continued support.

As a reminder, the non-binding vote regarding whether to support or not

PRESENTATION, page 7

ENERGY

Consultant James Caulfield followed along with the slides which included information on the construction of batteries, failure causes, lessons learned from them resulting in new, higher standards and how they have changed.

Intervention and containment involve cooling adjacent containers, monitoring for plumes as a precursor to thermal runaway.

A battery fire will go out on its own as the energy burns; the intensity of the burning battery depends on the amount of energy stored. Once the energy is all released, there is no more fire.

Caulfield cited again the newer, more stringent standards for Battery Energy Storage Systems.

Responding to the question of why the comparison between house fires and battery fires, Ferreira (with Caulfield) in an email said, "We provide a comparison to house fires because the average person is generally familiar with house fires and has a frame of reference for their severity. In contrast, the average person may not have a similar understanding of what a BESS fire looks like and the publicly available information regarding BESS fires tends to either over-report their severity or focus on only the most extreme or outlier events. We provide a side-by-side comparison in our public presentations to contrast the size of the plume coming from a single container BESS fire, which would be the most extreme expected outcome for outdoor BESS facilities designed to current standards, with that of a fully involved house fire to provide a visual reference as to the relative severity of the event."

Fire Risk Alliance has worked with Mission for about a week-and-a-half.

When the meeting was opened to the town boards present, Conservation Commission member Colleen Doyle asked the number of projects in the works. Mission's Audrey Copeland provided a list of projects in multiple state that are in infancy stage. Mission has been in operation for about two-and-a-half years, and projects take about five



Paula Bilodeau made the first resident comment when discussion was opened.



Jason Parent speaks at the recent presentation in Blandford.



Jon Berman also spoke at the presentation by Mission Clean Energy.



Dick Meczywor asked the last question of the evening.



Other boards represented at the meeting, from left, Conservation Commission Colleen Doyle, Board of Health Jennifer Girard, Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera, Fire Chief Adam Dolby, Vice Chair Planning Board Edna Wilander and Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Kim Bergland consulting Select Board members Cousineau, Letendre and Coury

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

years to complete.

Doyle encouraged Mission to go to the Conservation Commission, and this was echoed by the other boards at the table. She also noted that the plans had changed as had the type of battery.

According to Copeland, the project has already undergone six months of study, "we're ready to go," she said.

Engineer Jack Hitchcock explained drainage and water runoff.

In the event of an emergency, there will be a local response plan, and the batteries will be monitored 24/7. Mission will work with the local fire department.

The project is not contingent on the Eversource expansion according to Copeland.

Other questions ran the gamut from the Board of Health on procedure to the Planning Board on ground protection.

Select Board member TJ Cousineau asked why Blandford, "Why come to us?"

Copeland said Mission has not gone to the state.

Continuing, Cousineau wanted to know what the benefit for Blandford will be.

Mission wants to tie into the transmission system to participate in the energy mar-

ket. Referring to the benefit for Blandford, Copeland said that during the winter, "It's not just a small portion of the grid," but the entire grid needs to stay online and their batteries will help "keep the lights on" during the winter.

Cousineau said if the town is without power, it's because of downed lines, but this is something different.

Mission suggested a \$7.5 million dollar benefit to the town over 25 years. "We're volunteers," said Cousineau, adding that the timeline from a Westfield monitoring site to getting firefighters on site was long. "This is going to change the infrastructure of our town...I don't see any benefit to the town at all." He suggested funding the fire station.

Copeland said that any benefit to the town would have to be negotiated.

Cousineau said, "We have to accept it. We want something back."

Insurance coverage was another issue, and Select Board member Jackie Coury asked again, why was Blandford chosen.

Copeland said it had taken over a year to find Blandford.

Opening the floor to residents' comments, Paula Bilodeau suggested looking for defunct sites, such as the

mills in Russell "instead of defoliating our lands." As a new member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, she said she was shocked to find the town had to amend the zoning bylaws to meet state criteria, and that the legislature has deemed that Battery Energy Storage Systems are permitted in every community in the state. And this adversely affects small towns. This drew a round of applause.

The response from Mission was that it was hard to find land elsewhere.

Jon Berman said he had little faith in a company that couldn't spell the name of the town correctly. "Every detail matters," he said. He would like Mission to provide a certificate of insurance immediately. Mission does not have insurance yet.

Gordon Avery wanted to know where the water would come from as the town's water can provide 150,000 gallons of water at maximum. "If we have a fire of that capacity, what do we do? If the system runs dry, pipes will collapse," he said, citing the age of the water system.

Copeland said that current practice is not to use water to put out (a battery) fire.

Caulfield said water is used as a cooler.

cyber security measures, and heard from Copeland on the products used that could distinguish attacks, errors and periodic emergency response planning.

Terri Mitas backs up to the substation; she asked what time of year the walk through for wetlands and endangered species was done. Mission has been through the property and adheres to the state's wetlands regulations. Copeland said, "We are avoiding the wetlands."

"We know what you get, what do we, the town, get out of the deal?"

Copeland responded, "We will work with the town of Blandford on the property tax agreement that provides benefits to the local town. We will work on an agreement with the fire department for services."

Richard Meczywor had a comment and asked the last question before the meeting ended. He asked, "We know what you get, what do we, the town, get out of the deal?"

Copeland responded, "We will work with the town of Blandford on the property tax agreement that provides benefits to the local town. We will work on an agreement with the fire department for services."

Select Board member Coury, before the presentations began, proposed a request for a committee to be formed which will be focused on the 3 projects: Eversource Expansion, Solar Field Builds in town and BESS.

She recommended this committee should consist of one member from the Fire Department, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Zoning, Water, the select board and 1 or 2 residents and have a budget to cover legal fees of at least \$200,000.

The board took no action on the proposed committee.

ENERGY PROJECT AVAILABLE ON TOWN WEBSITE

BLANDFORD – Everything available regarding Mission Clean Energy: Battery Energy Storage System on North Blandford Road, Blue Wave: Solar Facility with B.E.S.S. at Peebles Brook LLC, 89 Chester Road and their second project at Gibbs Brook LLC, 30 Huntington Road, Eversource: Blandford Substation Expansion as well as the latest news and updates on any and all proposed energy projects is available on the town website at townofblandford.gov/proposed-energy-projects/

from page 1

WESTFIELD

Stanley Park to hold 5K run/walk

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park will be hosting the 13th Annual Run Stanley, which has grown into a fun yearly tradition for the whole family, whether they like to run, walk, roll or bark.

This all-inclusive event will be held on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. at Stanley Park, 400 Western Avenue. This event includes the 5K trail run/walk, a 5K K9 trail run/walk, the Munchkin Run hosted by Dunkin' Donuts,

and The Stroll & Roll. The Stroll & Roll is a wheel friendly 1-mile non-competitive walk through Stanley Park's accessible pathways.

There is also the Stanley Cup School Spirit trophy for the school with the most participation in Run Stanley. Form a team and get friends and family involved. When you register, be sure to enter your school name!

Run Stanley 2025 continues our fundraising

efforts to benefit the care of the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary. People may join the community of runners, walkers, hikers, dog owners and nature lovers of all ages who care about Stanley Park for a fun event that will help to improve the safety and accessibility of its wildlife trails. Registration is now open. People can register by visiting <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/RunStanley>.

BECKET

Yoked Parish to hold chicken BBQ

BECKET – On Saturday, Aug. 30, the Yoked Parish of Becket will host a chicken barbecue from noon-2 p.m. at the church on YMCA Road.

The meal will raise funds for the Yoked Parish

of Becket Community Outreach Emergency Fund.

People can eat in, take out or picnic on the grounds. Drinks are included if picnicking on the grounds.

Meal will include 1/2 chicken, corn on the cob,

potato salad, green bean salad and homemade blueberry crisp with whipped cream for dessert. Cost is \$18.

Rain date is Sunday, Aug. 31. People may call 413-623-8300 or 413-623-6455 for reservations.

BUCKLAND



A float pulled by oxen stand in front of the Odd Fellows Building in 1895.

Courtesy photo

Historical Society to hold open house Aug. 24

BUCKLAND – The Buckland Historical Society will hold an Open Houses on Sunday, Aug 24 from 1-4 p.m. at the Buckland Historical Society Museum, 20 Upper St.

The museum, located in the center of town, is a former circa 1865 School House, which now houses three floors of artifacts and town records. The historical society build-

ings also includes The Wilder Homestead, a furnished 1775 saltbox with five fireplaces, a restored 1780 English barn and a Shoemaker Shop, located at 129, Rt. 112.

MONTEREY



This is two views of the mystery garden, which will be the tour sight for the Bidwell House Museum fundraiser on Sunday, Aug. 30 from 3-6 p.m. Tickets are required.

Submitted photos

Mystery garden tour support Bidwell House Museum

MONTEREY – A rare private garden tour supports the Bidwell House Museum on Sunday, Aug. 30 from 3-6 p.m.

This is Bidwell House Museum's limited admission fundraiser, at a private, mystery garden in Monterey. Tickets include a glass of prosecco or sparkling water, to enjoy while they leisurely wander through the greenery. The casual event is drop-in any time between 3-6 p.m. A rare treat for the master gardener, plant-lover, or anyone who enjoys the quiet beauty of a lovingly designed botanical wonderland, this garden has not been opened to the public in many years.

"What fun," said

Heather Kowalski, executive director of the museum. "When the fundraiser hosts and garden owners suggested a mystery reveal, we knew we had come into a wonderful opportunity."

"As so many small museums and historical nonprofits, we have seen a decrease in financial contributions recently," Kowalski said. "This fundraiser is vital to preserving an important piece of New England history. What better way to help than by spending a late summer afternoon strolling through a truly spectacular garden?"

The garden location will be revealed to ticket holders on Monday, Aug. 25. There are a limited number

of accessible parking spaces onsite. Main event parking is offsite and requires a pleasant, half-mile walk, so wear comfortable walking shoes.

All funds raised support the preservation of the Bidwell House Museum, an antique home built in 1760 for the Rev. Adonijah Bidwell, the first minister of Township No. 1, complete with a historic collection of furniture and homewares and six miles of trails open all year, on 194 pristine acres.

People may visit bidwellhousemuseum.org/event/mystery-garden-tour-to-benefit-the-bidwell-house for tickets. To make a gift in lieu of attendance, people may visit bidwellhousemuseum.org/donate.

BLANDFORD

PRESENTATION

from page 6

support, as a community, the 1) Eversource Expansion Project, 2) the Commercial Solar Fields and 3) the BESS Project will be during a Special Town Meeting which is tentatively scheduled for Monday, Sept. 22. If that date changes for any reason, we will post it on our Town Website.

From Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera

I'm glad residents had the chance to engage with Mission Clean Energy and gain a clearer picture of the issues at hand. What we must remember is that the State has eroded local government autonomy over siting and permitting of these facilities. This is not a reflection of anything we have or haven't done at the local level, it's a direct result of State decisions, and that's where efforts to appeal should be directed.

From Lisa Bruno

While touting Massachusetts growing energy demands, complete with having minimal environmental impacts, Mission Clean Energy, a two-and-a-half-year-old company that is funded by WAFRA out of Kuwait, has not gone to our Conservation Committee. Wetlands and Environmental impact studies on endangered wildlife were hastily done in previous seasons and overlook long-term impacts on both.

They rely on batteries sourced primarily from China and South Korea. The inadequate insurance coverage for catastrophic events, the burden on taxpayers for additional legal and expert fees and decommissioning strategy up in the air, show ultimately, they are prioritizing corporate profits over local safety and sustainability.

From Jon Berman

My understanding is that a private equity firm (WAFRA, a subsidiary of The Public Institution of Social Security of Kuwait) is funding this company (Mission Clean Energy) to put in battery compounds in communities that don't have enough funds to fight back so that they can supply electricity to the artificial intelligence data centers that generate the most money for the equity firm, and the startup battery company doesn't have answers or a plan for anything in detail yet other than the "Commonwealth of Massachusetts said we could" and, apparently having a land owner willing to sell out the community for their own financial benefit (this last part was not in the meeting but was relayed to me after by a resident).

The town's best inter-

ests may be served by demanding a Certificate of Insurance from the Mission Clean Energy company and the private equity company so that the carrier(s) of their insurance can be informed that there is no real emergency response from a volunteer firefighting unit if there isn't anyone available for a variety of potential reasons. In this discussion, it was discovered that, unsurprisingly, they don't actually have insurance bond yet, so they shouldn't be doing anything in the town.

From Dick Hamel

The BESS presentation by Mission Clean Energy was very professional and answered most of my concerns. It was interesting to hear about the lessons learned from previous Li-Ion battery explosions and fires. The latest battery housing and spacing, along

with remote monitoring, auto response to overheating and gas venting to prevent explosions is encouraging.

I learned why our town and that particular site was chosen. The company needs a power substation with a particular grid available and

a nearby piece of property far enough from any residences. With that in mind they began contacting land owners within close proximity. I understand at least one property owner refused to lease any part of their land.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of LABOR DAY,
there will be an
EARLY AD DEADLINE
To advertise,
place your ad no later than NOON
Thursday, August 28
– Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

CUMMINGTON

Hampshire County held 4-H Fair

CUMMINGTON – The Hampshire County 4-H Fair took place July 19 at the Cummington Fairgrounds.

The barns were filled with livestock, the exhibit hall boasted arts and crafts, polished trucks sparkled in the sun and families bustled around collecting stickers on a scavenger hunt. The fair, which has been revamped in the past two years, highlights the achievements of youth in the Western Mass community.

“Post-Covid we weren’t sure we could keep the fair going,” states long time Hampshire County 4-H Fair Committee member Heather Mason. However, with the help of energetic volunteers, grants from the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation and other local sponsors, the fair has made a spectacular comeback. Under the fundraising leadership of 4H volunteer and

parent April Judd, the committee has brought the fair back to financial security so that the youth can be celebrated and recognized for their project achievements.

In the dairy barn, 4-Hers ready for the show by clipping, washing, brushing and polishing their cows. In showmanship class, youth are evaluated on their ability to “show off” their heifer through their grooming and training ahead of time and style strutting through the ring on show day. Grand Champion Showman went to Vera Hollowell of Norwich Lake Farm in Huntington with her Brown Swiss heifer Angel. After a morning of rushing and preparing, Hollowell smiled ear to ear as she was presented the purple rosette and gave Angel a huge pat on the neck.

The scene was similar across the fairgrounds as youth presented their beef

cows, working steers, sheep, goats, rabbits and chickens to the judges for inspection. Spectators witnessed 4-Hers earning blue, red, and white ribbons, but what they really saw was the culmination of the hard work and dedication these young people poured into their projects all year. For many of the 4-Hers they have bred and raised their own animals and developed show-worthy livestock through years of careful planning and care.

Visitors navigated the fairgrounds being pulled by enthusiastic children collecting stickers in a scavenger hunt created by Committee Youth Representative Carson Bisbee. On their quest fairgoers admired paintings, ceramics, lego creations, and cakes crafted by youth in the exhibit hall. Next, the hunt took families to the Mass State Police K-9 demo, Youth create-a-craft center

and many kids planted seeds to enter in the Cummington Fair Hall later in the summer. A favorite stop for many attendees was the fair’s 2nd annual Touch-a-Truck organized by committee member Zackery Zawalski, a former 4-Hers and exhibitor at the fair.

The Fair Committee is ecstatic to see attendance increase over the last two years. Bringing more families into the fair helps educate the general public about the benefits of 4-H and local agriculture. With continued fundraising efforts and grants from organizations like the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation and Massachusetts 4-H Dairy Advisory and local businesses who donate annually, the fair is able to increase premiums and prizes which continues to draw in more participation.



This team of horses pulled a wagon at the Hampshire County 4-H Fair held in July at the Cummington Fairgrounds.

Submitted photo

CHESTER

FCC worships Sundays

CHESTER – First Congregational Church of Chester holds their Sunday service Aug. 24 at 10 a.m.

The scripture reading

for the week is the Gospel of Luke, chapter 13, versus 10-17.

Pastor Susan Borsella will preach about keeping

the Sabbath holy.

The church is an open and affirming congregation.

Everyone is welcome.

Hikers hold group tour Sept. 7

CHESTER – Western Mass Hilltown Hikers will hold a group tour of the Chester and Becket Railroad and the Granite Line on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 1 p.m.

Participants should park on Hampden Street at the Chester and Becket Trailhead Chester. The hike rating is easy, 2.5 miles in and back and on mostly flat terrain on dirt. There are options for more guided tour with handouts.

They will walk on a section of the Chester and Becket Railroad. It was built in 1896 as a 5.25-mile spur off the Boston and Albany Railroad to deliver granite from the Becket Quarries to the Chester finishing works. Both Chester and Becket issued bond stock in the quarry company to help in building this line because there was money to be made from the “Chester Blue Granite” for monuments and

gravestones.

This railroad was blasted out of the steep and winding side of the Walker Brook Valley. The first locomotive to run on this line was a wood burner, eventually upgraded to a coal burning locomotive. Hikers will see the remains of a wooden trestle still standing on the trail and also learn how this route was used in Chester’s Emery and Granite industry. Optional continuation on the rail bed to the Boston and Albany Connector (3 miles).

Donations for the newly conserved Chester Granite Company Finishing Works property are greatly appreciated. The group will hike rain or shine. Registration is required by registering per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water are provided.

Well behaved dogs are allowed. This event is

volunteer lead. Suggested donation is \$15. More details are available by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com.

People may call or text 413-302-0312 or email westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com if they have any questions. As always be prepared for rocks, mud and roots, bring trekking poles

For those who want to hike every weekend year-round, they should consider becoming a Hilltown Hiker member. They can sign up on www.HilltownHikers.com.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Tees, hoodies, hats, patches and bags will be for sale by donation at the event. See all our events, maps, blog and photos by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com. Keep the beautiful places clean and carry in and carry out.

RUSSELL

RCC seeks funding proposals

RUSSELL – The Russell Cultural Council has set an Oct. 16 deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

Applications must be made online by visiting www.massculturalcouncil.org. According to Council spokesperson Lorrie Bean these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in our community including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, or performances in schools, workshops, and lectures.

The Russell Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the Russell

Cultural Council will distribute about \$5,700 in grants. Previously funded projects include: Littleville Elementary School, Blandford Historical Society, Russell Library, Russell Council On Aging, Sevenars Concerts, Blandford Art Show, North Hall Association are just a few of the most recent recipients for the 2025 program.

Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.massculturalcouncil.org.

CHESTERFIELD

COA to hold bereavement support group

CHESTERFIELD – The Council on Aging will hold grief group for adults to offer a safe space for grieving adults to share, remember and connect with others.

Cooley Dickinson Hospital Hospice bereavement coordinator Shelly

Bathe Lenn will lead this weekly group. They will meet Wednesdays, Sept. 10, Sept. 17, Sept. 24, Oct. 1, Oct. 8, Oct. 15 and Oct. 28 from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Chesterfield Senior Center downstairs meeting room, 40 Main Road.

There are no limits on how, where or when the death occurred. Space is limited to 5- 8 participants.

For more information or to register, people may either call the Chesterfield COA at 413-296-4007 or email coa@townofchesterfield.com.

EASTHAMPTON

bankESB promotes Carlos Costa to facilities maintenance operations officer

EASTHAMPTON – Financial Group’s family of banks, which includes bankESB, bank-Hometown, North Shore Bank and Abington Bank, a division of North Shore Bank. Carlos earned an associate’s degree in law enforcement from Holyoke Community College.

Costa of Ludlow has nearly 20 years of facilities experience and joined bankESB in 2006 as a maintenance specialist. With this expanded leadership role, he will oversee the daily operations of the facilities departments for his assigned region within Hometown

bankESB recently promoted Carlos Costa to facilities maintenance and operations officer, based at its 36 Main St., office.



Carlos Costa

Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton. They have \$1.9 billion in assets and offer a complete line of consumer and business deposit and lending products and services through 11 branches located throughout Western Massachusetts.

Founded in 1869 as

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of LABOR DAY, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON**

Thursday, August 28

Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

NOTICE

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

WESTHAMPTON

WPL list September programs

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Public Library, 1 North Road, is open Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The library is closed Monday, Sept. 1 for Labor Day. People may visit the town website or Facebook or Instagram @ WesthamptonPublicLibrary for library updates. To place a request for curbside pickup, people may email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386.

Recurring programs are computer help with Bob Miller on second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon; knitting group Mondays at 6 p.m., yoga Mondays at 6 p.m., Scrabble group Tuesdays at 2 p.m., book group four Tuesday at 7 p.m. (September meeting is on Sept. 30), Walk-in Wellness Clinics with Westhampton's Public Health Nurse first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m., coffee and chat Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon and Tech Connect drop-in tech help Thursday, Sept. 25 from 2-4 p.m.

Yoga is drop-in, first-come/first-served and registration is not required. Please check Facebook and the town calendar for updates on yoga at the library. CFCE Playgroup with Naomi

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. (Sept. 16, Sept. 23 and Sept. 30), story time with Emily Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. starting on Sept. 24,

Teen Craft Night Thursdays at 6 p.m. starting on Oct. 16, LEGO Club first Thursday; Craft Club second Thursday, Nintendo Switch Happy Hour third Thursday and Comics Club fourth Thursday.

August and September artist Jeanne Henry Hoose will exhibit her work in the community room gallery during library operating hours. There will be an art reception on Thursday, Sept. 18 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Jeanne Henry Hoose grew up in Central New York. She moved to Western Massachusetts in 1979 with her husband and they stayed here to raise two sons. She had a career as an early childhood special education teacher. Since retiring in 2015, she began to pursue painting and drawing.

Estate Planning Workshop will take place Thursday, Sept. 4 at 6:30 p.m. Space is limited. People should RSVP by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/westhamptonworkshop>. This is presented by local attorney Kim Pisinski.

On Thursday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. join the Hilltown Permaculture Club for a community round-table discus-

sion, with the aim of inviting speakers and presentations for their upcoming meetings. Their goal is to educate about the biome and how people can live harmoniously in it. This meeting is open to all who share a hope to increase local ecological and cultural knowledge by sharing stories and talents. If people have an enthusiasm for permaculture they want to share or know somebody who does come

They should email hilltownperm@gmail.com if they'd like to prepare a presentation.

On Monday, Sept. 29 at 6:30 p.m. Hannah Davis, Westhampton's Regional Energy Advocate, will show how local residents can access energy-saving programs through the Community First Partnership and Mass Save. This presentation will outline resources available to Westhampton residents including no-cost Home Energy Assessments, rebates and support for renters, landlords, and income-eligible households.

This is part of a series of programs brought by Pioneer Valley Library Collaborative for Climate Prep Week. There will be more information on other climate preparedness programs at local partner libraries coming soon! Please check the library webpage and Facebook for announcements.

SOUTHAMPTON

Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting Sept. 2

SOUTHAMPTON – Residents, businesses, and surrounding community members are invited to learn about and provide input on the town of Southampton Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This public meeting will be held during the Select Board meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Southampton Town Hall, 210 College Highway.

The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to assess Southampton's natural hazard risks and provide an action plan to reduce the town's vulnerabilities. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is being completed by the

town with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Upon completion, the plan will be submitted to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and FEMA for review and approval. A FEMA approved HMP makes the community eligible for federal and state mitigation grant funding.

The meeting will include a discussion of natural hazards and climate impacts in Southampton, the draft plan and the proposed mitigation actions. Municipal officials and PVPC staff will be avail-

able to answer questions and respond to comments about the plan and planning process. The meeting provides an opportunity for community members to share thoughts and provide input. All members of the public, representatives from surrounding communities, and other interested parties are invited to attend the event.

The draft Hazard Mitigation Plan is available by visiting <https://www.townofsouthampton.org>. For more information about this event, people may email PVPC's Mimi Kaplan at mkaplan@pvpc.org or call 413-781-6045.

WILLIAMSBURG

Meekins Library hosts apron exhibit

WILLIAMSBURG – During August and September the Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., will hold an exhibit of aprons in the Neil Hammer Gallery.

Daria D'Arienza, Meekins Library Archivist, Rochelle Wildfong, Assistant Director, and Beverly Bullock, Director have curated a Family Apron Collection, alongside vintage household goods and crafts, adding physical historical references to the aprons on the walls. Aprons have always

been practical. They are also often beautiful. Hand or machine stitched with love and care, reflecting the creativity, sewing, quilting and embroidery talents of their makers. Valued for the stories they tell, they've been saved over time.

In families, great-grandmothers, grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters and even fathers and grandchildren wore aprons. And, we all wear favorite aprons today. The hand-crafted aprons have been handed down from

great-grandmother to grandmother to mother to daughter. They have been made in school, or in our homes by mothers, sisters and friends. They have been gifts given to us and to our families. And they have been specially purchased as matched sets, for grandmother and grandchildren to enjoy baking together at home.

Every family has their stories. People are invited to come to the Meekins Library, add their apron story to the guest book and enjoy.

PITTSFIELD

First Fridays Artswalk in downtown Pittsfield concludes on Sept. 5

PITTSFIELD – The First Fridays Artswalk in downtown Pittsfield concludes its five-month season May through September on Friday, Sept. 5 from 5-8 p.m. as part of the city of Pittsfield's First Fridays at Five.

Participating venues on Friday, Sept. 5 include Berkshire Art Center, Clock Tower Artists, Framework by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., Hotel on North, Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, Marketplace Cafe, NUarts gallery + studios, Ralph Froio Senior Center, Roots and Dreams and Mustard Seeds and the Soda Chef. People may download the Downtown Pittsfield App in the App Store or on Google Play for virtual walking tour of art on a cell phone. Direct link: <https://downtownpittsfield.stqry.app/list/56470>.

The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, 28 Renne Avenue, will feature "We Are America Too: The Journey Continues," Sept. 5 to Sept. 26. The "We Are America Too / Nosotros También Somos América" exhibition features the artwork of more than twenty-five

immigrant and first-generation American artists, local, regional and from across the U.S., each interpreting the theme "We Are America Too" through expressions of their diverse paths of migration and belonging. The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts is open Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and by appointment. There will be an opening reception on Friday, Sept. 5 from 5-8 p.m.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and Framework will feature a brand-new "Pittsfield Paintbox Artist Exhibition" featuring four local artists at Framework by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., 437 North St.

Featured artists are Susan Gail Catelotti, Melissa Matsuki Lillie, Anastasia Drayton, and Eternity Joy Alice Williams. There will be an opening reception with the artists during the Sept. 5 First Fridays Artswalk from 5-8 p.m. The exhibition will be on view Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sept. 5 through Sept. 25, by visiting the Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. offices.

The Pittsfield Paintbox

Program is a program of the city of Pittsfield's Office of Cultural Development. The Paintbox Program celebrates local artists, enlivens the streetscape and discourages vandalism of utility boxes throughout the downtown. Four Paintbox designs will be installed in Pittsfield this summer by the artists in this exhibition at Framework by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.

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

The Marketplace Cafe, 53 North St., will feature "For the Love of Landscapes" by artist Jill McLean for the month of September. The show will feature a selection of watercolor sketches from Jill McLean's 100 days of landscapes series. Jill McLean is an artist living in Pittsfield. There will be an Opening Reception with the artist during the September 5 First Fridays Artswalk from 5-7 p.m.

The Clock Tower Artists at 75 South Church St. will

host an open studios event on Friday, Sept. 5 from 5-8 p.m. Clock Tower Artists Open Studios will feature original paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures. Artists with Open Studios at the Clock Tower on Sept. 5 include Karen Carmean, Deborah H Carter, Lucie Castaldo, Joan Palano Ciolfi, Randy Foulds, Marion Grant, Nava Grunfeld, Caroline Kelley, Mollie Kellogg, Eric Korenman, Bruce Laird, Lisa Loustaunau, Mark Mellinger, Linda Procione, Shany Porras, Sally Tiska Rice, Ilene Richard, Audrey Shachnow, Stanley Singer, Ariel Smith, Jordan Stone, Sharon Walthew, Stefanie Weber and Carmel Wilson.

The Ralph Froio Senior Center, 330 North St., will feature "Woven Stories" during the Sept. 5 First Fridays Artswalk from 5-8 p.m. "Woven Stories" is a heart-felt quilt exhibition by older adult quilters who gather at the Ralph Froio Senior Center to create, connect and express themselves through fabric. Each piece in the show reflects personal narratives, shared

memories and the enduring creativity of the community's elders.

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

Hotel on North, 297 North St., will feature "Rear View," New Paintings by Stacey Silkey Sept. 2 through Oct. 31. There will be an opening reception with the artist on Friday, Sept. 5 from 5-8 p.m. during the First Fridays Artswalk and additional work will be located next door at RARE 297.

The September "Art in the Park" artist at First Fridays at Five will be Carly Holmes. She is a lifelong resident of Pittsfield, will be popped up in Palace Park (near 122 North St.), inviting the community to watch her paint live and discussing her process with all who are interested.

In the case of inclement weather, "Art in the Park" with Carly Holmes will be inside the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts at 28 Renee Avenue. "Art in the Park" is supported by the Feigenbaum Foundation.

The Berkshire Art Center, 141 North St., will host Free Drop-In Art Making during the First Fridays Artswalk from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Roots and Dreams and Mustard Seeds, 119 Fenn St., will present eco-friendly products by Aisha B. and the Cosmic CoArt Cooperative's Cosmic Butterfly Procession project at a reception from 5-8 p.m. during the First Fridays Artswalk.

Artist and artisan Aisha B. will be showcasing her natural handcrafted eco-friendly products which include reusable concrete candles, zero-waste soaps, clay jewelry, canvas art, and more alongside the Cosmic CoArt Cooperative's Cosmic Butterfly Procession project. The Cosmic CoArt Cooperative is a multi-talented artist cooperative that strives to thread together common strengths through the living arts.

First Fridays Artswalk is supported in part by The Feigenbaum Foundation. To check out the schedule, people may visit lovepittsfield.com/first-fridays.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF BLANDFORD PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF CONTINUANCE OF JUNE 4, 2025, PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to MGL, Ch. 40A Sec. 9 the Blandford Planning Board will continue its June 4, 2025 Public Hearing at the Blandford Town Offices, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 at 6:05 pm on Wednesday, August 27, 2025. This hearing is scheduled under the following Blandford Zoning By-Laws: Section VIII – Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Section IX – Site Plan Review and Special Permits. The Hearing is to consider the application for a request for a Site Plan Review and Special Permit for Peebles Brook, LLC, solar photovoltaic installation with battery energy storage system, located at 89 Chester Road (Map 108, Parcel 19.1) in Blandford, MA 01008.

The Project proposes the construction of a 4.04 megawatt (MW) direct current (DC)

single-axis tracking solar photovoltaic (PV) installation with a battery energy storage system (BESS). The project will involve construction of a gravel access road and minor grading for stormwater management features on 32.6 acres, that is currently zoned as Agricultural. The completed application and plans are available for public inspection at the Town Offices or on the Town of Blandford's website: <https://townofblandford.com/planning-board-project-details/>

You may also make an appointment to view a hard copy of these forms at the Town Hall by e-mailing the Planning Board Chair at: planning@townofblandford.com.

Please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008. Failure to make recommendations on the matter for review shall be deemed lack of opposition thereto.

Edna Wilander, Vice Chair
08/14, 08/21/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS25P0478EA

Estate of: Eileen Beryl Delano Also Known As: Eileen B. Delano Date of Death: March 11, 2025 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Carol J. Myrick of Worthington, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Carol J. Myrick of Worthington, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to

be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 08/21/2025

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT Town of Chesterfield Notice of Public Tree Hearing

Notice is hereby given pursuant to MGL c.87, §3 concerning the cutting of Public Shade Trees; a Public Tree Hearing will be held on Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 422 Main Road, Chesterfield. The purpose of this Hearing is to allow public input regarding the proposed tree

removals on Damon Pond Road. Tree removal is requested due to the upcoming North Road & Damon Pond Road Reconstruction Project. The twenty-one (21) trees are marked with orange ribbon, located starting three poles from North Road and ending opposite Don Emerson Rd., and are various types ranging in size from 9" to 30". They include: Five-Sugar Maple Trees-(2 at 22", 1 at 18", 26" and 30"); Two Maple Trees (1 at 10" and 1 at

15"); Three Ash Trees (1 at 10", 18" and 20"); One Beech Tree at 8"; One Hop Hornbeam Tree at 10"; Two Black Birch Trees (1 at 18" and 16"); One Cherry Tree at 16"; Five Red Maple Tree (4 at 14" and 1 at 10"); and Spruce Tree at 20", which is dead. For questions call the Tree Warden at 413-238-5976.

Chris Ryan,
Chesterfield Tree Warden
08/21, 08/28/2025

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of LABOR DAY, PUBLIC NOTICES EARLY AD DEADLINE Place your public notice no later than NOON

Thursday, August 28

– Thank you!

REGION

Clark Art Institute screens 'Rififi'

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Thursday, Sept. 18 at 6 p.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., presents a screening of "Rififi," the first in a series of films celebrating Mariel Capanna's year-long public spaces installation *Giornata*.

Inspired by Capanna's practice of imposing time constraints upon herself while painting, this five-part series showcases films by directors who worked within time constraints. After making such American noir classics as "Brute Force" and "The

Naked City," the blacklisted director Jules Dassin went to Paris and embarked on his masterpiece: a twisting, turning tale of four ex-cons, who hatch one last glorious robbery in the City of Light.

"Rififi" is the ultimate heist movie, a mélange of suspense, brutality and dark humor that was an international hit, earned Dassin the best director prize at the Cannes Film Festival and has proven wildly influential on the decades of heist thrillers that have come in its wake. Its most famous scene imposes

a time constraint on the bank heist, one that must be carried out in absolute silence. Run time: is 1 hour, 55 minutes.

All films in this series are free and screened in the Manton Research Center auditorium on select Thursdays at 6 p.m. Accessible seats are available. For information, people should call 413-458-0524. For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events. The next screening in this series is Alfred Hitchcock's "Rope" (1948) on Thursday, Sept. 25.

Clark Art Institute hosts concerts

WILLIAMSTOWN – Over Labor Day weekend, The Knights return to the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., to present two free concerts for music lovers of all ages.

The first is an outdoor concert on Saturday, Aug. 30 at 4 p.m. on the Fernández Terrace. The second is an indoor, family-friendly concert on Sunday, Aug. 31 at noon in the Manton Research Center auditorium. Both performances complement the Clark's A Room of Her Own: Women Artist-Activists in Britain, 1875-1945 exhibition, which spotlights women artists working in Great Britain, who created spaces for themselves and others in a field that was dominated by men.

In celebration of the A Room of Her Own exhibition, the orchestra's pro-

gram on Saturday, Aug. 30 includes a work by celebrated British female composer Dame Ethel Smyth, a piece written for and premiered by the acclaimed English female violinist, Marie Hall and Felix Mendelssohn Octet for Strings. People may bring a picnic and your own seating. Rain moves the performance to August 31 at 4 p.m.

At the family concert on Sunday, Aug. 31, music lovers of all ages will delight in a family-friendly concert that celebrates world-class music and complements the A Room of Her Own exhibition. In this accessible afternoon performance, children and their parents/grandparents/caregivers discover the limitless imaginative possibilities that exist in classical music. This performance is designed specifically for

younger audiences and is intended to provide a fun and engaging introduction to classical music.

Based in New York City, The Knights are a collective of musicians dedicated to transforming the orchestral experience and eliminating barriers between audience and music. Led by an open-minded spirit of camaraderie and collaboration, they seek to engage with contemporary culture through vibrant performances that honor the classical tradition and their passion for musical discovery.

For accessibility concerns, people may call 413 458 0524. For more information, they may visit clarkart.edu/events. These performances are presented through the generous support of the Sea Island Foundation.

Clark hosts talk by Michael Ann Holly

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 5:30 p.m., the Clark Art Institute's Research and Academic Program hosts a free talk by Michael Ann Holly exploring what phenomenology, the study of structures of consciousness as experienced from the first-person point of view, might contribute to the understanding of canonical works of art.

Holly is the Starr Director Emeritus of the Clark's Research and Academic Program. The event takes place in the Manton Research Center auditorium at Clark Art Institute, 225 South St.

Michael Ann Holly directed RAP and taught in the Williams College/Clark Graduate Program in the History of Art from 1999-2016. Previously,

she cofounded and chaired the Visual and Cultural Studies Program at the University of Rochester (1988-1999).

Accessible seats are available; for information, people may call 413-458-0524. A 5 p.m. reception in the Manton Research Center reading room precedes the event. For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

NAMI holds free family to family education program

HOLYOKE – National Alliance on Mental Illness Western Massachusetts offers their NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program in person, starting Saturday, Oct. 25 from 9 a.m.-noon in Holyoke.

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, eight-session educational program for family, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program. This means that research shows that the program significantly improves the

copied and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition. Pre-registration is required by emailing Bonnie Pueschel at BpishL21@gmail.com, visiting nami-wm.org/support or calling 413-426-7644.

NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by NAMI-trained family members, who have been there and includes presentations, discussions, and interactive exercises.

NAMI, is the nation's largest grassroots mental

health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental health conditions. NAMI-WM is an affiliate of NAMI Massachusetts. NAMI Western Massachusetts and its dedicated volunteers, members, and leaders work tirelessly to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy, and support programs for people in our community living with mental health conditions and their loved ones.

Gas prices decrease one penny

WESTWOOD – Northeast gasoline prices are staying mostly put or easing slightly as oil prices flirt with seasonal lows and petroleum markets brace for increased supply from OPEC+ nations in the coming months.

Crude oil prices fell between \$3 and \$4 a barrel last week, touching prices not seen since mid-June after OPEC+ members, for a fifth straight month, agreed upon another production increase – this time of more than 500,000 barrels a day in September. The decision by the group marks the complete unwinding of the 2.2 million barrel-a-day cuts instituted in 2022 in an effort to prop up oil prices that cratered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lower oil costs helped negate potential price impacts caused by last week's domestic supply and demand data released by the Energy Information Administration, which showed inventories continue to tighten as stockpiles of crude oil and gasoline declined by 3 million barrels and 1.3 million barrels respectively. In the

Northeast, inventories of gasoline fell by 800,000 barrels from the prior week, the EIA reported and now sit 900,000 barrels below last year's levels.

Demand for gasoline, meanwhile, dipped 112,000 barrels a day to 9.04 million barrels a day, a figure considered disappointing for a summer week, but still 74,000 barrels a day higher than the same week last year. Demand in 2023 was 260,000 barrels a day higher, according to EIA data.

"Oil and gas markets are being pulled in different directions and ultimately edging lower as the potential for increased global oil supply takes focus," said Mark Schieldrop, senior spokesperson for AAA Northeast. "Increased production by OPEC+ countries in the fall could accelerate the traditional seasonal decline in gasoline prices we usually see in late summer."

The average gas price in Massachusetts is down a penny from last week (\$3.07), averaging \$3.06 per gallon. Today's price is a penny higher than a month ago (\$3.05) and

37 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.43). Massachusetts' average gas price is seven cents lower than the national average.

AAA Northeast's Aug. 11 survey of fuel prices found the current national average down two cents from last week (\$3.15), averaging \$3.13 per gallon. Today's national average price is three cents lower than a month ago (\$3.16) and 31 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.44).

Today, Mississippi and Oklahoma have the lowest prices in the nation at \$2.69 and \$2.71, respectively. California and Hawaii hold the highest prices in the nation this week at \$4.50 and \$4.46 respectively. Massachusetts holds the 23rd place on the list of highest gas prices in the nation.

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

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Gateway schools reopens Aug. 28

New staff and initiatives happening

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The 2025-2026 school year begins during the last week of August with staff returning Monday, Aug. 25 through Wednesday, Aug. 27 and schools opening for students on Thursday, Aug. 28.

Student drop off and pick up times are 7:05 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. for Gateway Regional School and 8:25 a.m. and 3:35 p.m. for Littleville and Chester Elementary Schools. Schools will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1 in observance of Labor Day. The complete school year calendar is posted on the Gateway website by visiting grsd.org/.

This school year sees a number of personnel changes, as the district welcomes Dr. Melissa Matarazzo as its new Superintendent this month. Kristen Smidy's last day will be Aug. 31 as she works with Matarazzo through the transition. Other personnel changes include: former Administrative Assistant Stacy Stewart has been named the Director of Human Resources, Joan Tuttle from Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has been hired as the new Director of Grants

and Accountability, and former teacher of the visually impaired/orientation and mobility specialist Amy Mason has become the new Business Manager. And former student, teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal Todd Gazda returns to Gateway as the interim principal at Chester Elementary School for this school year.

Gazda reports that he is bringing a personal connection to the community and a commitment to creating a joyful, student-centered learning environment at Chester Elementary School. He says the school's focus this year will be on building strong relationships and fostering a welcoming, supportive school environment. He wants every student to feel a sense of excitement about learning, belonging and pride in their school. Also this year, the school will move forward with their River Trail project, funded by a grant from Westfield Wild & Scenic. This will give students access to a new outdoor learning space along the river to expand hands-on, nature-based learning opportunities at the school.

Littleville Elementary School Principal Melissa McCaul reports that they are thrilled to introduce World Language and Culture as a new special subject for all students. This will not only

expose students to languages and global traditions but will include a strong focus on art as a way to explore and celebrate cultures from around the world. Also, the school is launching a new whole-school program called the Be Kind People Project, which will support their efforts in building a strong, respectful and caring school community. Finally, McCaul says that they are incorporating more recess time into the school for grades K-1 to allow more play-based time to develop social skills.

Gateway Regional School Principal Dr. William Sullivan reports that grades 6-8 will build upon last year's Exploratory Program, which offered ten courses. It will be significantly expanded this year to feature more than 25 options, allowing students to explore career interests and develop new skills. Choices will range from Introduction to Tourism and Film Studies to Sports and Statistics, Web Development, Early Education and Care and welding. Each exploratory runs for a quarter and is designed to spark curiosity and help students discover future pathways. Students in grades 8-12 will now take part in NEST-a new, daily 24-minute advisory period designed to foster community and prepare students for life beyond high school. Activities will include community-building exercises,

college and career planning, friendly competitions, academic support and more, ensuring that every student has a place to connect, grow and thrive.

Finally, Sullivan said that new graduation requirements will be implemented this year. Graduates must meet four requirements: course of study requirements, competency determination, demonstration of learning and habits of a scholar. The course of study outlines requirements for students, including those who are in one of Gateway's vocational pathways (welding and early education and care). Competency determination can be met by passing MCAS in English, math and science. Demonstration of Learning will begin with the Class of 2028 (this year's 10th graders). They will use their NEST periods to develop an end-of-year presentation on their coursework, evidence of meeting the competency determination, evidence of meeting requirements for the "Habits of a Scholar" in grades 9 and 10, goals for life after graduation, action steps for reaching those goals and requests for their coursework for their junior and senior years. They will present to school administrators, counselors and select teachers and parents/guardians are also encouraged to attend.

Pupil Services Director Kurt Garivaltis reports that former Brailist Kristie Poehler has become the Teacher of the Visually Impaired and former high school paraprofessional Heather Hannigan has been named the new Brailist to sustain its innovative program for students with visu-



Gateway schools reopen on Aug. 28 and have many new initiatives planned for the 2025-26 school year.
Turley photo by Wendy Long

al impairments. Gateway is starting its second year in implementing the state's new Individual Education Plan that Garivaltis says is "strength-based, family focused and written in language that is easy to understand for anyone without a professional education degree."

Garivaltis also reported that the district received disappointing news regarding the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative grant, which was to have been used to expand Gateway's early childhood programs. Instead of the expected \$500,000, the district was level funded at \$250,000 for the coming school year. While this scrapped plans to add a dedicated early childhood speech pathologist and offer tuition assistance to help the two family daycare programs expand, they are still able to move forward with other initiatives.

They will continue to partner with the YMCA, Westfield Infant Toddler, and the Hilltown Family

Center. Together, they will work toward an early childhood wrap-around program (YMCA), having a bi-weekly playgroup at Gateway for children too young for preschool (WIT) and having a similar playgroup at Chester Elementary School twice a week (Family Center).

Technology Director Christopher Parker announces this year's theme in the Tech Department is Artificial Intelligence Integration, specifically with regards to Google, which he said has made many exciting changes to their education platform for this year. Specifically, they have added their AI Platform Gemini to almost all of their core programs. As a result, teachers will have, at their fingertips, access to Gemini and NotebookLM to help build lesson plans and create topic specific, age appropriate materials to enhance learning. "We are very excited to roll out AI following the newest guidance from DESE on AI in education," Parker said.



HOLLENBECK COMPLETES BOOT CAMP

BLANDFORD – Benjamin Hollenbeck, a Private in the Army National Guard completed Boot Camp at Fort Leonard Wood in St. Louis, Missouri.

He is the grandson of Susan and Ron Racine, Grace Hollenbeck of New Hampshire and is the son of Jamie Racine and Dan Hollenbeck of Burlington.

Pvt. Hollenbeck graduated from Shawsheen Valley Technical High School having studied electrical engineering. He has completed one year at UMASS Lowell and will begin his sophomore year at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont where he will continue his studies in electrical engineering.

He will return to Fort Leonard Wood next summer.

Susan Racine of Blandford is shown with her grandson Pvt. Benjamin Hollenbeck at Boot Camp graduation at Fort Leonard Wood in St. Louis, Missouri.
Courtesy photo

Kick off school year on Aug. 28

WORTHINGTON – On Thursday, Aug. 28 from noon-2 p.m. the kick off event begins immediately following school dismissal at R.H. Conwell Elementary School.

CORI certified help-

ers will be on site so children can stay without a parent/guardian. This will be a friendly kickball game. Everyone in the community is welcome and encouraged to attend whether they are playing or cheering. Snacks

and refreshments are provided. This is not a school sponsored event. The event is hosted by Worthington Park and Recreation and sponsored by the Worthington Council on Aging. Rain date is Friday, Aug. 29.

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD

Highway Department

Equipment Operator/General Laborer JOB POSTING

The Town of Middlefield is soliciting letters of interest and resumes from qualified candidates for the position of Equipment Operator/General Laborer in the Town Highway Department.

Nature of work: Work includes the operation of light and heavy equipment including dump trucks, sander, snowplows, tractors, loader, grader, backhoe and gasoline powered equipment and hand tools.

The new employee will be required to respond to emergency situations including snow and ice control, downed trees and other emergency work as required. Work is continually performed outdoors in all types of weather and may require the ability to be on call on a 24/7 basis, 365 days per year.

The prospective candidate should have the following education, experience, knowledge, and abilities:

- Graduation from high school or equivalent
- Possession of a Massachusetts CDL operator's license, Hydraulic hoister's license class B, and OSHA-10 Certification. Class A Preferred.
- Thorough knowledge of the principles, practices, tools, material, supplies, and equipment used in public works maintenance and construction

A competitive salary of \$30 per hour and benefits will be offered based on experience.

Candidates may call the Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery at (413) 464-2229 with questions on the position or by stopping at the Highway Department located at 4 Bell Road, Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Send Cover letter, resume & three (3) references with contact information to: Middlefield Hwy Dept., P.O. Box 177, Middlefield, MA 01243.

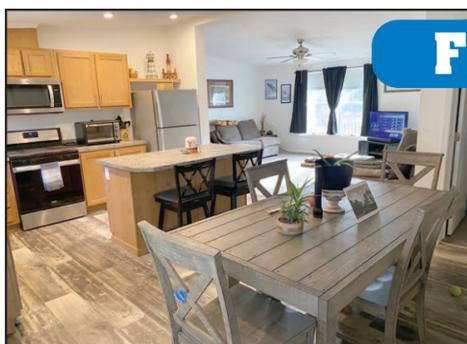
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DEATH NOTICE

FRED USHER SISSION, JR.

Died: July 27, 2025
 Celebration of Life: Saturday, Aug. 23 at 11 a.m.
 at the First Congregational Church of Blandford,
 91 Main St., Blandford
 Donations can be made in memory of Fred to the
 Faith Baptist Church, 5501 Middle Rd., Prince George, Va.

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

NORTHAMPTON

Cooley Dickinson Hospital receives American Heart Association stroke award

NORTHAMPTON – Cooley Dickinson Hospital received a 2025 “Get With The Guidelines” quality achievement award from the American Heart Association for excellence in treatment of stroke.

The honor was given with “Gold Plus” distinction, the highest level of the award given by the AHA. The award recognizes Cooley Dickinson’s commitment to the association’s in-hospital program that ensures patient care is aligned with the latest research and evidence-based guidelines.

“The Get with the Guidelines award is a true reflection of the dedication and effort of our entire team, who go above and beyond national guidelines to set their own high standards in stroke care,” said Sundeep Shukla,

MD, MBA, FACEP, Associate Chief Medical Officer at Cooley Dickinson.

“This achievement reflects our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, evidence-based care to our stroke patients, and it honors the dedication, compassion, and expertise of our entire team,” added EMS & Stroke Program Coordinator Ben Hogan, BS, EMT-Paramedic. “Achieving this level of recognition demonstrates that we consistently meet and exceed rigorous standards for treatment and outcomes. Thank you for all that you do each day to serve our patients and community.”

Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death, and a leading cause of disability, in the United States. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to

the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs, and brain cells die. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability, and accelerating recovery times.

“We are incredibly pleased to recognize Cooley Dickinson for its commitment to caring for patients with stroke,” said Dr. Steven Messe, volunteer chairperson of the American Heart Association Stroke System of Care Advisory Group and professor of neurology and director of fellowships of neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. “Participation in ‘Get With The Guidelines’ is associated with improved patient outcomes, fewer readmissions

and lower mortality rates – a win for health care systems, families, and communities.”

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

Cooley Dickinson Hospital (cooleydickinson.org) is a not-for-profit, acute care hospital that offers community-based programs and services in Northampton, Massachusetts. A member of Mass General Brigham, Cooley Dickinson has been advancing the health of people in the Pioneer Valley since 1886.

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60				61				62		63		
64				65				66				
67				68				69				

CLUES ACROSS

- Mongolian politician
- Coconut palms
- Rounded knob
- Japanese city
- Covers in soft material
- Walk around
- Ancient region in Syria
- French painter
- Grandmother
- Cow part
- Rocky peak
- Secret plan
- Sings to one's lover
- More (Spanish)
- Father
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Hat
- In agreement
- A person's brother or sister
- Evil spirit
- Monetary units
- Partner to cheese

CLUES DOWN

- About Sun
- A place to dance
- Performer __ Lo Green
- Beach accessory
- Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- Partly digested food
- Pooch
- Honorific title added to family name
- Salts
- Lichens genus
- Lowest point of a ridge
- Type of sword
- Albanian language
- Gold measurement
- Italian seaport
- Longtime late night host
- Extremely angry
- U. of Miami mascot
- Mid-month day
- Omitted from printed matter
- Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

- Two-toed sloth
- Cooking ingredient
- Iranian city
- Publicly outs
- Steep-sided hollow
- Spoke
- General law or rule
- Extravagantly theatrical
- Very fast airplane
- Arm bones
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- __ fide: legitimate
- Gemstone
- Counsels
- Top exec
- Cool!
- Touch lightly
- Extract money via taxation
- Dyes
- Cloying sweetness
- Soft drinks
- Capital of Guam
- Chemical compound
- The bill in a restaurant
- Car mechanics group
- Late comedian Newhart
- Health care for the aged
- Wise individuals
- A passage with access only at one end
- Trim
- Former OSS
- The upper surface of the mouth
- Edible lily bulbs
- Type of reef
- Vaccine developer
- Mottled citrus fruit
- A place to store lawn tools
- Rare goose native to Hawaii
- Hollywood pig
- Musician Clapton
- Take a chance
- Spanish soldier
- Mark Wahlberg comedy

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20
 You are unstoppable. Your confidence will be shining brightly for all to see, and the right people are bound to take notice. Expect to tackle some projects.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21
 Taurus, small comforts will bring big happiness to you this week. Plus, your natural charm will draw others in. A surprise in your home life will make your heart soar. Enjoy the moments.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21
 Gemini, your words will be magical this week whether you're pitching ideas or chatting with friends. There's not much you can't say that people will not hear and take to heart.

CANCER

June 22/July 22
 Cancer, this week you may be building something meaningful, whether it is in love or work. All of the steps you are currently taking will help establish security and happiness in your life.

LEO

July 23/Aug 23
 Your creativity is on fire. People are drawn to your warmth and charisma. This is a great time to start something new or share a talent with others.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22
 Something that felt out of place begins to align perfectly right now, Virgo. You might be tapping into your inner wisdom, and it's guiding you toward some much-needed success.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23
 Libra, new connections will be coming your way, meaning that you may have different avenues for social connections. Get out and meet people as much as you can.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22
 Your drive is unmatched right now, Scorpio. Whatever goals you have established you are pushing through faster than would seem possible. Stay focused, but celebrate your progress.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21
 Adventure is calling, Sagittarius. You might be planning a trip or diving into a new study subject. This week a fire will be lit and your optimism is contagious.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20
 A breakthrough in your life may be brewing. You are increasingly making smart choices that can offer long-term dividends. Stay open and trust the process.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18
 Connections with others are a primary focus for you this week, Aquarius. Whether you are exploring love, friendship or new business opportunities, fresh energy comes into play.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20
 You are in your element this week, Pisces. A creative idea or unexpected kindness makes the week extra special. Focus on some self-care and keep giving off positive vibes.

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

answers

K	E	N	E	L	E	S	E	D	I			
S	I	B	I	L	E	C	O	N	E	T		
I	R	A	V	A	V	I	C	O	N	E	H	G
R	E	B	A	V	A	C	O	N	S	U	S	
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9	3	8	4	1	2	5	7	6
6	8	3	7	4	9	1	2	5
1	5	9	6	2	3	7	4	8
4	7	2	1	8	5	6	9	3
8	6	7	3	9	4	2	5	1
5	2	4	8	6	1	9	3	7
3	1	6	2	5	7	8	9	4

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILBRAHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Wilbraham Housing Authority seeks highly qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director. Responsibilities include the administration of 69 Chapter 667 Elderly housing units and 9 Chapter 705 Family housing units. The Executive Director reports to a five-member Board of Commissioners. Work schedule shall be a minimum of 22 hours per week during normal business hours, flexible as needed. The estimated salary range \$46,177.00 To \$54,326.00 is based on the Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities' Executive Director Salary Schedule. The ideal candidate must have two years' experience in a housing, community development, public administration or a closely related field. Knowledge of the principles and practices of housing management, finances and maintenance systems in public or private housing. Excellent written and verbal communication skills required. Willingness to work with people of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a Public Housing Manager from an approved organization desired, and may be substituted as a property manager or similar classification by a nationally recognized housing or real estate organization such as an EOHLA-approved Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator Certification Program or HUD. Two-year full time post-secondary education in a related field may substitute for up to one year of experience. Applications will be accepted until 12pm, August 29, 2025. Please submit cover letter, resume and contact information for 3 references to: **Mr. Peter Manolakis, Chairman Executive Director Search Committee, Wilbraham Housing Authority, 88 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Contact: Peter Manolakis (413) 519-8195**
Wilbraham Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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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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