

# Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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HUNTINGTON

## Margaret Sharron sets new record at Mt. Washington car race

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Margaret Sharron of Huntington was named “Queen of the Mountain” in a Sunday, Aug. 9 car race up the auto road of Mt. Washington.

The “Climb to the Clouds” race had 80 entrants and Sharron made history for besting the women’s record by 11 seconds, previously set by her in 2021. She also had the first all-women team to ever compete at the Mt. Washington CTTC, which is the oldest motorsport event in the United States.

“It wasn’t just the biggest race of the season,” Sharron said. “That race hasn’t run in five years.”

It marked the first time that the Climb to the Clouds named a “Queen of the Mountain,” which may have paid homage to Sharron’s all woman rally team. Her co-driver was Jen Holden and crew members were Gaia Marien, Amy Dilks, Sara Dolezel and Seraphim Le.

The co-driver reads the course notes that have been written about the road so that



Margaret Sharron stands on the podium after being named “Queen of the Mountain” at Mt. Washington’s hillclimb, where she and her all-woman team made history on several fronts.

the driver can anticipate what is coming next as they run the course at high speeds. The crew attends to the car before the race and in-between heats when service is allowed.

Sharron made history at this 2026 race on a number of fronts, not only having the first all-woman team in a CTTC race and setting a new

women’s course record, but also having the fastest Audi of the day and taking third overall in the Rally Class.

In accepting her award, Sharron said, “Women in motorsports, let’s support them, let’s honor them and cheer them on” as the crowd chanted, “Mar-gret, Mar-gret, Mar-gret.”

The second-place woman to finish was one second behind Sharron.

The three-day event began with practice runs on

SHARRON, page 3



Margaret Sharron with co-driver Jen Holden racing the Climb to the Clouds up the Mt. Washington Auto Road. Sharron set a new course record for women on Sunday, Aug. 9.

Courtesy photos

HUNTINGTON

## Library Trustees meet Aug. 19

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

At their Wednesday, Aug. 19 meeting, the Trustees of the Huntington Public Library discussed the need to replace long-time Trustee Karen Wittshirk, who will not seek reelection when her term expires in 2027.

Wittshirk has served as a trustee for 20 years. Anyone interested in learning more about the work of the Library Trustees is welcome to attend a monthly meeting, held on the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. in the library.

Trustee meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted on the town of Huntington website. Attending can provide a unique opportunity to learn more about the role and determine whether or not it is a good fit for a potential candidate.

Also of concern to the

LIBRARY, page 2

BLANDFORD

## Select Board waive temporary license fee

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Select Board waived any fee for a temporary license for the Skyline Beer Company to be at the Blandford Fair from Friday, Sept. 4 through Saturday, Sept. 7 at the Monday, Aug. 17 meeting.

The board also approved the placement of a guy wire in the Blandford Burial Ground with a 30-foot protected easement behind the pole where there can be no trees shrubbery or other plantings.

Guy wire

The guy wire and easement area, according to Ted Cousineau, former Cemetery Commissioner, are not on or near any burial sites. He did say there is a foundation in the area, however.

Emergency 911 process

The board then discussed the Emergency 911 process. As head of the Emergency Management Team, Fire Chief Adam Dolby is in charge and may use the R911. Included in this process are the Board of Health, Select Board chair, Police Chief and the board agreed to include Joann Martin on the list of town officials

who can log in and use the service.

The R911 process may be used for any public health emergency, a lot child, a water main break, winter parking regulations, impending weather, or anything that can affect employees of the town.

Senior tax work off

Board member Corinne Shartrand is working on developing Senior Tax Work jobs/descriptions for all departments and will have more information when available. Worker requests for different departments will be posted on the website.

Message board

Chairman Jackie Coury said she wants someone to assist the board with communications by providing UpToDate information for the new message board that will be in the lobby. The board approved the request.

Post Office lease

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera brought the board information on the Post Office lease.

The building maintenance costs are very high year after year and the Post Office lease from 2022 to

SELECT BOARD, page 6

BLANDFORD

## Surveyed residents want swimming site available

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

The town’s Resilient Master Plan supported the need for a local, in town, place to swim.

This was brought to the attention of the town’s legislators to possibly work something out with Springfield Water and Sewer Commission for the use of Blair Pond on Otis Stage Road.

There has been no new information from Sen. Mark’s office as his aid, Jon Gould, who was working on the idea, has not been in the office for several months.

Former State Sen. Adam Hinds was aware of the potential possibilities as Gould was also his aid. Gould had visited the site.

There is accessibility right off Otis Stage Road. The water is right there. A few dump trucks of sand to create a proper beach area, a life-guard stand, picnic tables and perhaps even a gate house would make a “local swimming hole” for Blandford residents,

The town’s most recent Resilient Master Plan, which is on the town website, revealed survey results indicating residents desire for a local, preferably in town, swimming area.

Because the town has maintained Springfield Water and Sewer

Commission’s Cobble Mountain Road since 2011 with no compensation, it was thought this could leverage access to Blair Pond as a swimming area for residents.

Immediately adjacent to Blair Pond, the town acquired Shepard Hill Farm, a 121-acre site on Otis Stage Road for \$1 from Springfield Water Sewer Commission in 2009, but did nothing to improve the area or the buildings on site.

The one-time house and

home for Avalon School is in need of demolition. There are no restorative efforts to be made. The Blandford Fair has an eye on one of the out buildings and it will be moved to the fairgrounds.

In the meantime, the 121-acres have Conservation Restrictions on them, but are available for public use, for hiking, forestry, limited agriculture, meaning no livestock, no new construction. However, maintaining existing structures is permitted.

Blair Pond is not part

of the 121-acres, but almost borders the area via Watson Brook, which flows west to east on the back side of the town-owned land.

There are restrictions on Blair Pond, but the use of the water for recreation would require an act of legislature.

Conservation Commission Chairman Dick Gates said that change would “take an act of God, as any changes to

SWIMMING, page 6



Turley Publications photo by Mary Kronholm

Blair Pond on Otis Stage Road is a possible site for swimming in Blandford.

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# HUNTINGTON

## Library announces programs

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Library Director Amanda Loiselle announces that the Adult Book Club, which took a hiatus over the summer, will resume in September.

The book selection is “Why Fish Don’t Exist: A Story of Loss, Love and the Hidden Order of Life” by Lulu Miller. A 2020 best book selection by such entities as NPR, the Washington Post, Smithsonian and the Chicago Tribune, this book chronicles the work of scientist David Starr Jordan, who identified nearly a fifth of previously unknown species of fish.

He faced incredible hardship including the destruction of his taxidermied fish by lightning, fire and the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake. In studying Jordan’s work to rebuild his research from scratch, author Miller looked at what made him persevere when chaos intervened and life unraveled.

In her research, she also described a dark side to Jordan. The book is told in the context of Jordan’s work and juxtaposed with Miller’s own personal life falling apart. Copies may be picked up at the library while supplies last, requested through interlibrary loan or downloaded via Libby. The book club will meet on Thursday, Oct. 1 at 4 p.m. to discuss this book.

Regional storyteller and musician Davis Bates will present A Celebration of Songs & Stories on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. “Family Stories,” a recording he released in 1996, received a Parent’s Choice Magazine Gold Award and was also



Photos Submitted

Award winning storyteller and musician Davis Bates will do a family program on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. in the Huntington Public Library.

honored by the American Library Association’s Booklist magazine..

He regularly performs at libraries, schools and community centers throughout Western Massachusetts. Known for guiding listeners to carry stories gleaned from books, as well as their own family histories and cultural traditions, this program will appeal to all ages.

Returning in September are two block printing workshops, on Thursdays, Sept. 10 and Sept. 24, each from 4-6 p.m. Registration is required as only eight slots are available at each workshop.

The program is free and materials and instruction will

be provided by the library. Permission slips are required for participants under age 18.

Regular monthly programs will continue through September, with Story Hours on Mondays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m., Coworking Coffee Hours on Wednesdays Sept. 9 and 23 at 11 a.m. and the HCHC Family Center Playgroup at the library on Friday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m.

Also the Book Swap Club will meet on Sept. 8 at 4 p.m. and the monthly game night will be held on Thursday, Sept. 17 from 4-6 p.m.; free pizza will be provided to those who pre-register on the library’s website: [huntingtonpubliclibrary.org](http://huntingtonpubliclibrary.org).

## COA lists upcoming events

HUNTINGTON – The Council on Aging announces a full schedule of educational presentations, health and wellness programs, entertainment and community celebrations for September and October. Residents and community members are invited to join them for these informative and enjoyable events.

On Wednesday, Sept. 2 from 1-2 p.m. there will be an ice cream social and wound care presentation.

Senior will enjoy ice cream while learning more about wound and ostomy care and self-care.

This is a presentation by New England Wound & Ostomy Care. Enjoy a sweet treat while learning.

On Wednesday, Sept. 9 from 1-2 p.m. there will be a presentation on Blue Cross Blue Shield Prescription Plans. Brian Guagnini, BCBS Medicare Field Outreach Consultant, will be available to answer questions and provide information about Blue Cross Blue Shield prescription plans.

On Saturday, Sept. 6 from 1-3 p.m. the COA will celebrate Grandparents Day. Seniors may bring

the family and celebrate Grandparents Day with ice cream, crafts and a double obstacle course! Adults and children from any community are welcome to attend this free event. The celebration will be held rain or shine.

On Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 1-2 p.m. the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition’s Nursing Team will present important information about step safety and caring for your feet.

On Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 1-2 p.m. local author Steve Cormier as he discusses his recently published book, Good Golly ... Missed Trolley. The presentation will explore the trolley era, from its beginnings to “the end of the line,” and examine how the trolley system directly impacted the Hilltown area in many ways, both positive and negative.

On Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 2 p.m. after the author presentation the movie “Fly Away Home” will be shown. Popcorn will be provided.

On Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m.-noon is the Huntington Health Fair. It includes representatives

from local health organizations.

The Health Fair will feature flu vaccinations, massages, a medical equipment donation drive and a free prize drawing.

On Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 2 p.m. Jack & His Guitar will provide an afternoon of live music.

On Wednesday, Oct. 7 from 1-2 p.m. Brian Guagnini of Blue Cross Blue Shield Dental Blue 65 Medicare Field Outreach Consultant, will return to answer questions and provide information about Dental Blue 65.

On Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. the COA celebrates fall birthdays. BINGO will be played.

The Council on Aging welcomes residents and community members to participate in these programs and activities. Whether they’re interested in health and wellness, local history, music, movies or simply spending time with friends and neighbors, there is something for everyone.

For more information, people may call Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283.

### HUNTINGTON HAS A NEW FARM STAND



Turley Publications photos by Deborah Daniels

There is a new stand in Huntington featuring veggies. Tom is the proprietor and is known as “herb whisperer.” His tent has the name in English and in Native American as well.



Submitted photos

The Demarco brothers enjoy blueberry picking as participants of the Huntington Recreation summer camp.

## Recreation Committee sponsors blueberry picking

HUNTINGTON – Blueberry picking at Jameson’s High Meadow

Farm took place recently sponsored by The Huntington Recreation Committee on two

separate dates.

One date offered a discount for Huntington residents

The blueberry picking, sponsored by the Huntington Recreation Committee, was great.

who signed up and the other was for participants of the Recreation summer camp.



## LIBRARY

from page 1

Board was the recent repair to the library’s roof. It was estimated to cost \$400 but came in at \$500.

Discussion ensued on working with the town to look at whether or not the repair of a town building’s roof should come out of a program’s budget or if the town should have a planned maintenance program for its buildings and budget line item to cover such unexpected costs.

In other business, Library Director Amanda Loiselle announced that she has advertised for two part-time circulation desk positions. Those jobs will remain posted until filled.

Progress has continued on the strategic plan and an updated job description for the custodian was presented and unanimously approved.

Trustee Erica Wheeler reported on a recent workshop she attended on measuring a town’s “Return on Investment” for libraries.

It offered suggestions on how to quantify what library budgets save town residents.

Loiselle mentioned that a number of town officials regularly use the library’s copier for town business, for which the library is not reimbursed.

They have a donation can but many patrons do not contribute. Charging the public for copies would require that the funding be turned over to the town’s General Fund. The board also discussed auditing their website for accessibility issues for anyone with visual impairments.

The Trustees moved into a meeting of their Library Foundation where they discussed a Carmel Memorial that would honor Chick Carmel and his contributions to the town and library. The Huntington Public Library receives \$1,000 each year from the Carmel Trust.

They decided to use that fund to pay for special projects that people do for the library, such as the mural inside and this year’s planting project on the grounds. A special certificate that will accompany such awards was also approved.

### SUN RISES OVER LAKE NORWICH



Turley Publications photo by Deborah Daniels

On Wednesday, Aug. 19, the sun comes up over a calm Lake Norwich in Huntington.

## HILLTOWNS

## MassDOT announces I-90 roadwork

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

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

In Lee, bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 westbound at mile marker 8.3 on the nights of Thursday, Aug. 27 from 7 p.m.-5 p.m. the following morning.

In Blandford bridge painting will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound nightly now through the morning of Friday, Aug. 28, from 7 p.m.-5 a.m.

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

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

For more informa-

tion on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit [www.mass511.com](http://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.

# HUNTINGTON

SHARRON

from page 1

each half of the course: the top half on Friday and bottom half on Saturday. Practice times determined the starting order for the entrants, who began one minute apart in a thrilling race to reach the 6,288 foot summit.

On race day, each driver took two full runs one in the morning, one in the afternoon up the 7.6 mile auto road. Each racer's best run posted their time for the day.

This year's race was dedicated as the "Paul Giblin Memorial Climb to the Clouds", in memory of an organizer who ran the race for many years. This was the first time the race had been run since 2021. Sanctioned by the Sports Car Club of New Hampshire, the Mt. Washington race first ran in July 1904: seven years before the first Indianapolis 500 and 12 years before the first Pike's Peak hillclimb in Colorado. It ran sporadically from 1904 to 1961, then resumed in 1990 and ran annually to 2011. Since then it has only run four times.

All women team

Many of Sharron's races have taken place in Canada and for a time she was the only woman driver in the entire country. She said nobody wanted to co-drive with her at rally races and she ended up with a different male co-driver at every event. She decided to advertise for an all woman crew and Jen Holden applied as a mechanic. Holden would later switch to become Sharron's co-driver. Sharron now also has four female mechanics on her crew, who make car repairs and change tires during events. Marien is 19 years old and just finished mechanic school in Canada; Dilks is a mechanic in New York, Dolezel is actually a catering chef who competes in snowmobile grass drags, and Le is a sheet metal fabricator for the Air Force in New York state. For Sharron, 2026 is the year of Women in Motor Sports and the team goes with Sharron to every rally race.

Sharron says her hero is Michelle Mouton, the only woman to ever win the Pike's Peak International Hill Climb in 1985. Driving an Audi, she broke the course record and posted the fastest time of the day becoming the only woman to ever be named "King of the Mountain" at Pike's Peak.

Origins of Frog Racing

Sharron co-owns Frog Racing with her husband and competitor Emmanuel Cecchet. The two started racing in 2013 with autocross events, where drivers quickly drive their regular car on a closed parking lot around an obstacle course to learn car control. By the end of that season, they learned about rallycross, where you do the same thing but on dirt, mixed surfaces or in a field.

The next year the pair started doing hillclimbs, competing in Vermont on courses that run up Okemo, Burke,

Ascutney and Philo, where she drove her daily Audi A4 2.0 turbo. It was there that they learned about the existence of the Mt. Washington hillclimb, which dwarfed the other races in both distance and elevation.

Sharron started doing rally sprints in 2015 and competed in Canada in 2016. That race had a closed dirt road where you basically drive as fast as you can to complete one section of the race, then move onto the next stage and race again. There may be 15 – 22 stages in all and they have to total at least 100 miles. Rally sprints sometimes take two days to compete, driving 15 hours a day including at night, she said. Training for endurance is key, and Sharron believes that women have an edge there. But the course, she says, is rough.

"It's not like a track," Margaret said. "You don't have a nice surface. There's trees everywhere."

They also started doing ice racing in the winter time, where organizers plow a 1 mile track onto a frozen lake. Ice racing is done with 25-30 cars competing with studded snow tires and often takes place in the Adirondacks on Lake George, Lake Algonquin and Lake Luzerne.

While she races year-round averaging one race a month, it is becoming an expensive hobby for the couple. Landing a sponsorship would go a long way toward staying in the game.

Cecchet is the mechanic on their cars and his YouTube tutorials on this work are widely viewed. Frog Racing got its name because Cecchet hails from France and their personal story is akin to the fable of the frog and the princess.

Respectively, his car is the "Frogster" and hers is "Princess." They have a following on Instagram and Facebook but have not yet reached the pinnacle needed to draw sponsors. As such, they had to create tee shirts and 3-D models made to scale of the Vermont hillclimb race courses to sell in a vendor booth at the CTTC to help raise their entrance money.

It goes without saying that they've kept their day jobs. She is an allergy nurse practitioner at Pioneer Valley Allergy. He is a senior research scientist in computer science at UMASS.

This year, Margaret is the primary racer as Cecchet crashed into a tree in a race two-years ago. Both men

in his car survived but his co-driver was severely injured; it took rescuers over an hour to free them.

Cecchet's injuries, which included a badly broken leg, have lightened his racing schedule for now, although he competed in Pike's Peak in 2025. Before the crash, the two often raced against each other and even shared the podium in 2021.

Top of mind for Sharron is competing at Pike's Peak, the pinnacle of hillclimb racing. It is the second oldest hillclimb race in the country. Elevation of the starting line for Pike's Peak is 3,000 feet higher than the Mt. Washington summit and the course is roughly twice as long. Racers get one run on race day, not two.

The entry fee is \$3,750 and taking part in the training runs ahead of the race costs \$1,250 per day. Those practices start at 3 a.m. and racers have to be off the mountain each day by 9 a.m. They also need to house and feed themselves for two weeks to get there, practice, race and return. At this writing, they're not sure if they can bring the crew; there is no co-driver at this race. Not counting the car, the budget to do Pike's Peak could run \$35,000.

"It's a dream," Cecchet admits. "But it's attainable."

They explain that in the racing world they are poor. They have no sponsors and everything in their cars is stock that they bought off of Craigslist. Their philosophy is to only modify what they need to.

They had two modifications on Princess before the Mt. Washington climb: the suspension system and a special hood with vents to allow for better air flow and water cooling to keep the car from overheating.

Special parts were, you guessed it, 3D printed by Cecchet. To date, their social media presence has not drawn the interest of sponsors, not even to sponsor an all woman team. Not yet anyway.

"I wonder if they're kicking themselves now," Sharron mused.

For more information, including a stunning video of the Climb to the Clouds from inside Sharron's car, visit their website frog racing.us, and follow them on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Their website also contains a GoFundMe link to raise money for a documentary on Women in Motorsports racing.

# Lou Purinton, transfer station supervisor, retires

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Lou Purinton, Supervisor of the Huntington Transfer Station, retired on Tuesday, Aug. 18 after serving for ten years in that position.

He had come to the Transfer Station about a month before being named supervisor. Previously, he had an 8-½ year stint in the Army followed by a 31-year career as a heavy equipment operator..

Town officials held a surprise luncheon for Purinton on Saturday, Aug. 15 that included lasagna and Belgian cream puffs. Attending were Select Board Chairman Roger Booth, Board of Health members George Peterson, John Bergeron and Kat Peterson and Linda Cernik, Program Administrator/Manager from the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative.

Transfer station staff members were also present, including Purinton's daughter Josandra Slattery, Jim Arnold, and Kenny Wickland.

"I was very surprised and happy. I didn't expect anything, really," Purinton said about the lunch.

"We are very grateful to Lou for his dedication to excellence," said Board of Health member Kat Peterson. "He maintained the site with attention to detail, cleanliness, and with a friendly disposition. We hope his new adventure and journey south are rewarding."

Purinton said that working with the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative was very gratifying. "I learned a lot about recycling and the environmental things that we had to do to comply with the state. I got a good education by going to their meetings," Purinton said.

Lou, as he is known



Photo by Roger Booth

Board of Health Chairman George Peterson with Huntington Transfer Station Supervisor Lou Purinton, at a special lunch honoring Purinton's retirement effective Aug. 18.

to most of the town's residents, said there was nothing he didn't like about the job, saying he ran the transfer station as he would have a unit in the army. Priorities were things like keeping everything neat and clean and having all staff attend staff meetings.

"I enjoyed it, I really enjoyed the people that came in," Loud said. "I am going to miss it but it is time to move on."

Purinton said that he will move to South Carolina this month to be with his grandson, David Terrian, David's wife and their daughter who moved down earlier this summer. He said he plans to do some hunt-

ing, fishing and sight-seeing in his new surroundings.

Slattery and Wickland will now be co-supervisors of the Huntington Transfer Station. Slattery has worked at the station for the past four years and Wickland joined the staff about a year ago. He said he sat down with them and wrote up a standard operating procedure on how he had run the transfer station, so as not to leave them in the lurch.

Purinton had a final statement in his interview. "I'd like to thank the Board of Health for all of their support, and thank the people that worked with me for putting up with an old cuss like me," he said.

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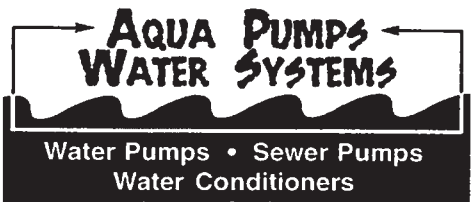
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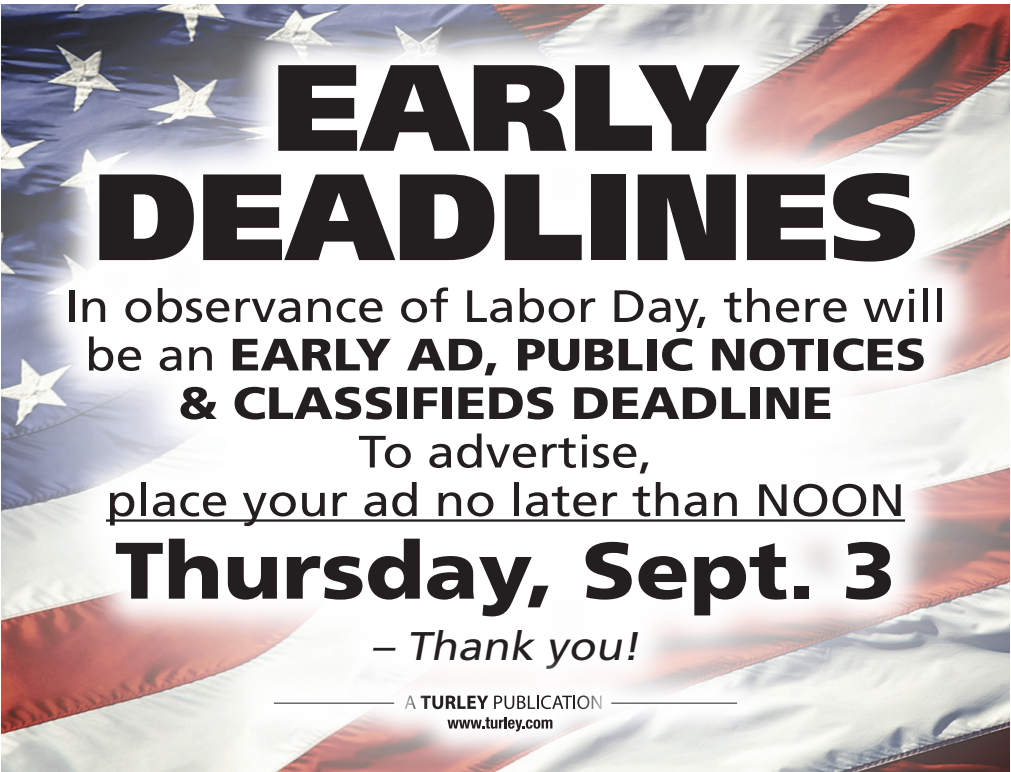


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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY  
*Matters*  
By Russell Gloor



We were bitten by Medicare’s IRMAA this year; What should I so?

Dear Rusty:

My wife and I file our taxes jointly.

In 2024, I took an IRA Required Minimum Distribution, which was significantly more than I was required to take.

My Medicare premiums were not affected in 2025 and our Social Security payments were not reduced. Then, our joint filing in 2025 kept us below the IRS’ “Modified Adjusted Gross Income level. Yet in 2026 our Medicare payments increased and our Social Security payments were reduced.

If my MAGI is below the maximum for 2025, will my regular SS payments/Medicare reductions be restored in 2027? Is there any action I need to take to ensure this will happen or will our Medicare payments and reduced SS payments be our new norm?

Signed: Worried Retiree

Dear Worried Retiree:

FYI, your Medicare premiums in 2026 were affected by the large RMD you took in 2024, which caused a Medicare provision known as the “Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount ” to apply for 2026.

When determining the Medicare Part B premium for next year (each fall), Medicare uses the income you reported to the IRS two years prior to calculate your Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium for upcoming year.

If you exceed the base “IRMAA” income threshold two years ago, then your Medicare premiums for the next year will include a supplemental amount on top of the “standard” Medicare premium for that year.

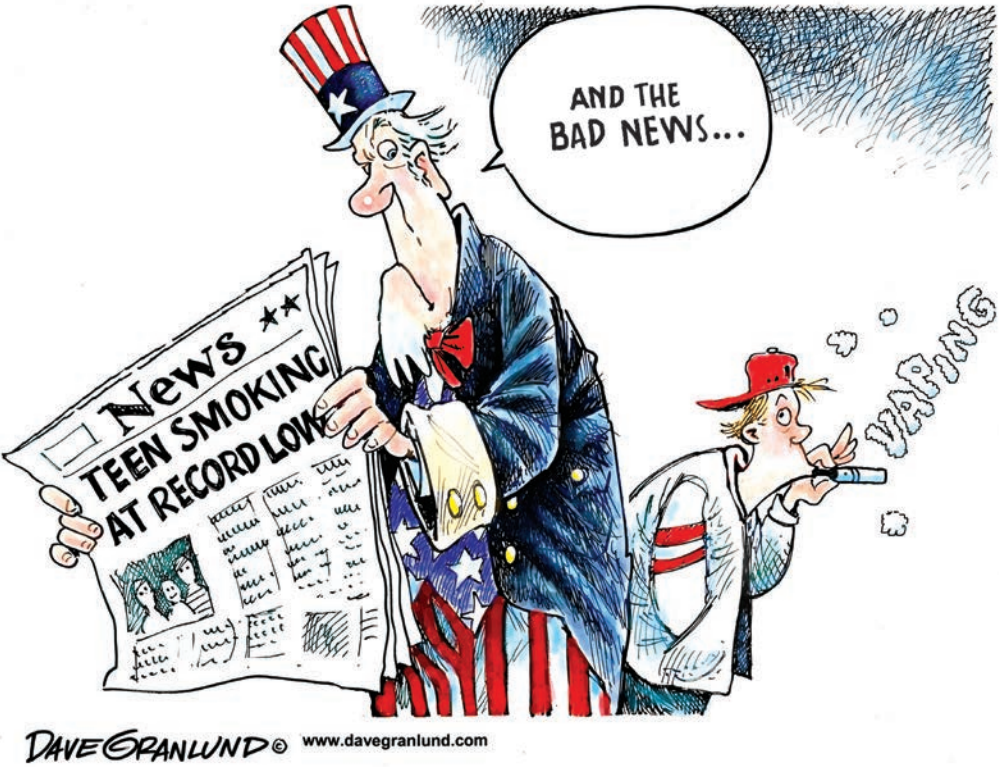
The amount of the supplement depends on

how much you exceed the base IRMAA threshold by (FYI, the base IRMAA threshold for 2026 for a married couple filing jointly was \$218,000). If your 2024 income exceeded that initial IRMAA threshold, you paid a higher Medicare premium, which also reduced your SS monthly payment because Medicare is deducted from your SS benefit. IRMAA uses a sliding scale to determine how much more than the standard Medicare premium you will pay.

However, that will all automatically correct itself going forward. In other words, when determining your premiums for 2027, Medicare will look at your 2025 income. If your 2025 MAGI is less than the base IRMAA threshold, you and your wife will both automatically revert to paying the standard 2027 Medicare Part B and Part D premiums.

You don’t need to take any action for that to happen; it will all be automatic.

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



GUEST COLUMN

Preservation questions are popular this time of year

Dawn, who gardens in Tolland, asked a few questions of the Garden Lady this past week.

You see, this is the first year in three years that Dawn has a had a productive garden. Her former garden was too far from the house to be tended. It was tricky to irrigate and animals often found their way through or under the fence.

Dawn’s hard work ended up being a hearty meal for woodchucks and more. Now, with raised beds close to her house, she is grateful for a bountiful harvest.

First, she wanted to be reminded how to roast tomatoes.

I enjoy roasting my cherry tomatoes; it’s a great way to use them up when they produce like gangbusters.

Depending on the size, I either cut them in half or quarters and put them no more than two rows deep in a roasting pan. I sprinkle a teaspoon or two of extra virgin olive oil over the tomatoes and then I add half an onion and two-three cloves of garlic.

After mixing all the ingredients together, I bake at 400 degrees for about an hour, stirring midway. You know when it is done when

the skins pucker and there is very little liquid left. Now you can either eat it this way, say over pasta or rice, or you can zip it up with a few basil leaves and you have made your own sauce.

No need to de-seed or remove the skins. Just think, all that added fiber and goodness, with less work to boot!

You can tailor your roasting to suite your own taste buds as well. Some folks add chopped peppers or eggplant.

Certainly you can use any type of tomato, too and add additional herbs or spices.

Speaking of peppers, Dawn also wanted to know how to roast peppers. It’s a little different from tomatoes.

Peppers roast best when they are fully ripe – i.e., when they have changed color. I have mentioned it before, but my favorite roasting pepper is “Carmen,” a long bell pepper with thick walls.

Simply wash the fruits

and position them whole in a single layer under the broiler, turning frequently until they bubble up and char slightly. This can also be accomplished on a gas grill or as my husband will attest, over the flame of your kitchen gas stove.

Once charred, place them in a paper bag or covered container. The steam will soften the skin to the point it can be rubbed off, revealing yummy, thick flesh.

Pull off the stem and remove the seeds and voila! Roasted red peppers are yours to freeze.

I just blot mine dry and put them in single servings in plastic freezer bags. The fruit is easily thawed by placing the bag into a shallow basin of water; likewise, you can pop the pepper popsicle on to a plate and let it thaw in the fridge.

Roasted peppers are fantastic on homemade pizza or blended into hummus.

I shared with Dawn that I was making pickles. She went on to say that hers never turn out well, so I texted her a copy of a recipe given to me by a dear coworker over 20 years ago. I am still making them.

I’m not sure who originally gave Ron the recipe,

GARDEN, page 5



Photos by Elizabeth Frederick  
This adult male Eastern bluebird is seen at the entrance of a bluebird house checking on his brood.



The fledgling male Eastern bluebird blends in with the ground cover. Blue feathers are visible.

I received an email from a Hampden resident, who sent two photos of Eastern bluebirds – one adult male and a fledgling.

She states, “I live in Hampden, for the past several years we have been blessed to have a pair of bluebird’s nest in our yard. They have had three broods



in my  
BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

of babies each year including this year.”

The fledgling in the above photo is a male. The photo was taken shortly after fledging. Wing feathers, wing coverts and tail feathers are essential in determining the sex of young bluebirds.

By day ten to eleven days after hatching, feather colors are noticeable. The blue tail in males and gray in females become apparent. In the male, the short tail at fledging is bright blue. Times may vary but by day 13 the tail color is apparent.

Both sexes have a gray spotted back and chest. They also have a white eye ring.

By the time a bluebird is 19 to 24 days old, the male has blue wing coverts and the female gray ones.

At five weeks old the young male has blue wing feathers and a bright blue tail. The female’s primary wing feathers are blue, but

concealed. The base of her tail is blue and the rest bluish gray. Spots are still present on back and breast.

Young bluebirds continue to depend on their parents for food until six weeks old. Siblings tend to forage nearby until they join flocks of young birds. Some first brood birds even help raise their parents next brood if their parents have a double brood season.

Between July and October young birds begin to replace their juvenile plumage. Blue and brick red feathers begin to appear. By mid to late October all juveniles finish molting into their first adult plumage.

Leucistic crow

I met a New Braintree resident at the Oakham Post Office this week. He said he saw a crow with one white wing. Leucistic birds are birds that have abnormal plumage coloration due to a

genetic mutation that causes a partial loss of pigmentation.

They may have washed out feathers or blotches of white feathers. While rare, they are found in many bird species around the world.

Whippoorwills

A Brimfield resident emailed, “I thought you’d be interested to learn that I still have several whippoorwills calling at dusk in the lower Haynes Hill/Paige Hill area of Brimfield.”

She stated, “I’ve only lived here four years, but they are here every year!. They start calling about 8:30 p.m.”

She stated, “My grandparents owned a house that bordered Reedy Meadow in Lynnfield. We heard Whippoorwills there. So cool to have them calling from my front and back yards at the same time.”

While on vacation as a child on Lake Winnisquam, my dad, brother and I would hear them calling while fishing for horn pout at night. I used to hear them in Oakham, but I not heard one in years.

Owls hooting

I do hear barred owls hooting back and forth at night. Sometimes they are quite loud and can be heard even with the windows closed.

Juvenile red-tailed hawk

I received an email from a reader who saw a juvenile red-tailed hawk in her front yard. She stated, “It was quite beautiful. It had a small rodent for its dinner. It was really close to my front door, I’ve never seen a hawk so close to me.”

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



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Country Journal

We Want to Hear From You

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

Mail letter to Country Journal, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or mail your letter to: countryjournal@turley.com.

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



By Julie Midura  
Guest columnist

We recently brought our 1-year-old grandson, Dustin, to a local woodland area. After carrying him for miles, we lifted him out of the child carrier so that he could stretch his legs. Not yet walking independently, he grasped each of my index fingers, then carefully moved along the trail on unsteady feet.

A white birch tree just off trail caught his eye, and he steered me towards it. Once we reached it, he let go of my fingers and leaned his hands against the tree. His tiny fingers fell upon a loose piece of dry bark.

His eyes widened and a glow of surprise came upon his face when the bark slipped from the tree into his hand.

Dustin looked at it, examining it with curiosity. Then, with all the seriousness a 1-year-old can muster, he reached up and pressed the fragment back against the gnarled tree.

He held his hand over the bark for a moment, like

Nature through the eyes of a child

someone gluing one object to another. Once he seemed certain he had mended the trunk, he pulled his hand away.

Unsurprisingly, the piece of bark fluttered to the ground.

Dustin bent down, picked up the wayward piece of tree, and once again pressed it back against the trunk.

This time, he patted it carefully. But when he withdrew his hand, down went the scrap of wood once again.

Undeterred, Dustin repeated the process over and over and over again, certain that if he just kept trying, he could reattach the broken scrap of tree skin back onto the birch tree. But in spite of his tenderness and quiet determination, gravity won every time.

I stood beside him and watched. Half amused and half contemplative.

There was a lesson here, I was certain. Not for Dustin, but for me.

Dustin displayed no frustration. He was not aggravated or impatient. He just kept trying. With an open heart and a beautiful spirit. And a determination that somehow, he could fix the world around him.

I don't know how long Dustin would have spent trying to reattach the bark to that birch tree. I finally scooped him up and settled him on the dirt path.

He immediately reached for a nearby stick. He picked it up. Turned it. Stretched out his arm to show it to me – looking up at me with wonder in his wide eyes. Smiling as though he had discovered the greatest treasure on earth.

He poked a dry leaf.



Dustin explored nature with his grandparents.

Drew lines in the dirt. Stirred the pine needles.

Absent of batteries, on-off switches, flashing lights and instructions – he held the stick as though it was a prized possession.

I felt an urgency to continue moving. There were trails waiting to be explored. Miles waiting to be walked. A time frame to be adhered to.

Instead, I lowered myself cross-legged and settled on the pine needle path next to Dustin. And there we remained, lingering in a place where time has forgotten what it means to rush.

Years from now, my grandson won't remember this day. He won't remember the rough texture of the twig he held. The beautiful white birch tree he attempted to mend.

He won't recall the day sunlight streamed through



Submitted Photos  
Dustin, age 1, held a piece of birch bark in his hand.

the trees above him, as the grandparents who love him sat beside him while he discovered the natural world around him.

Regardless, perhaps he would leave the forest carrying something with him that would remain. Perhaps the forest was filling something inside of him that would not come from actual recollection, but was being planted nonetheless, before he could even form a sentence.

The twig came home with Dustin – a treasure he refused to let go of when I placed him back in the child carrier. The wayward scrap of bark, however, remained on the forest floor, where it would eventually return to the earth.

But long after the bark has dried, the unspoken lessons will remain.

GARDEN

but here it is for anyone wanting to use up an abundance of cucumbers. I've made it with full size cukes as well as picklers.

I would recommend that you fill your canning jars, be it quart or half gallon, with the cucumbers first. They can be packed tightly.

Then, add plain water to the jar all the way to the rim. Dump the water out into a large measuring cup to see just how much liquid you need.

Then you can adjust the other ingredients to the ratio in the recipe. I learned this trick the hard way after wasting ingredients because I didn't need quite a double recipe.

**Ron's Pickle Recipe**  
*Ingredients:*  
14-16 cucumbers  
8 teaspoons pickling spice

6 dill tops  
6 cloves garlic  
2 teaspoons sugar  
4 tablespoons Kosher salt  
1 cup vinegar  
5 cups water  
Instructions:  
Combine all ingredients into canning jars. Shake and leave on counter for 36 hours. Refrigerate for two days before eating. Will keep in the fridge for a few months although the flavor will intensify with storage.

Enjoy the harvest as much as Dawn is!

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

from page 4

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 on page 4 or 5.

News, photo publication policy

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

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

**Deadline is Friday at NOON.**



Chester Baptist Church

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

First Congregational Church of Blandford

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

First Congregational Church of Chester

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

First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

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

Hilltown Community Church

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

Holy Family Parish

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

New Boston Congregational Church

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

Pioneer Valley Assembly of God

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

Pioneer Valley Mennonite Fellowship

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

Westhampton Congregational Church, UCC

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

# BLANDFORD

## BLANDFORD COUNTRY CLUB LIST CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS



Submitted photo

The annual Blandford Country Club championship winners are, front row from left, men's division Chuck Murawski, women's division Sue Wesolowski and senior division Craig Moltenbrey and back row head professional Jim DiRico.

## BLANDFORD COUNTRY CLUB LISTS PRESIDENT'S CUP WINNERS



Submitted photo

The winners of the annual Blandford Country Club President's Cup are, from left, Michael Morneau in men's division and Lynn McCann in women's division and Jim DiRico, head golf professional.

## SELECTBOARD

from page 1

2027 is for \$13,081 a year. Prior to that it was \$12,450 from 2017 to 2022. Coury will gather expenses to determine the cost of the use of the building by the Post Office and discuss negotiations of a new lease in executive session on Monday,, Aug. 31.

### Maintenance worker

Ferrera wanted the board to know that prior to Covid, maintenance worker John Hoppe worked 24 hour a week which dropped to four to six hours a week now. "I think it's worth having a conversation with him," she said regarding what he does and compensation.

### Fire station

There was a conversation regarding the potential construction of a new fire station and if that happens, when would it be. Chief Dolby is looking for a much-needed fire truck, according to Ferrera, but to get one to fit in the existing building would require a much more expensive custom-built truck than one ready-made.

### Bicentennial Park

The question of emptying the trash barrel at Bicentennial Park came up next. Apparently dog-walkers dispose of animal feces in the barrel, which should not be happening. There will be signage put on the barrel to disallow this practice.

Coury wants to know whose job it should be to empty the trash. "Who should really own it?"

This will be added to the list to discuss with Hoppe.

### Other business

Reminders from Coury included open meeting law obligations, posting agendas, the office furniture tag sale now set for Oct. 2, 3 and 4. The sound quality of the meetings and recordings is still a work in progress.

Coury then thanked Richard Meczywor for his "deep dive" into the town's rights under Chapter 61A and the right-of-first-refusal issues associated. Coury said the information has been forwarded to town counsel.

During the Public Comment segment, the question was asked about the Aug. 6 meeting announcement Coury made regarding the new time for board meetings. Going for-

ward they would be at 4 p.m.

This was not on the agenda, there was no motion, no discussion or a vote, something according to Roberts Rules that the chairman cannot unilaterally decide.

Coury asked if Roberts Rules were a bylaw. It was explained that Roberts Rules of Order had been historically voted by the Select Board to follow. These rules of conducting business are similar but different from Town Meeting Time rules of conducting business at Town Meetings.

Asking if this could be "fixed now" at the meeting, the response was positive. A motion was made, seconded and open for discussion on the new meeting time with the option for other days.

Dave Hopson asked, "Why was the change made?" and Coury replied that prior to the current board, there were board members who were working. "This give people the opportunity to be home with their families."

Hopson said "If you with people to participate in the meeting who work, it's pretty hard to get here, so you're not doing this for the public input. Cousineau added that all the board members were retired and an earlier meeting time was better.

Ferrera offered her opinion that starting at 6 p.m. frequently left the board members still working until quite late. With an earlier starting time meetings might end earlier.

Susan Racine asked about the box in the gym located near the rear door to the hallway, which she hits moving chairs out on the trolley.

The explanation given was that it is a generator which was thought to be compatible with fire suppression and provide backup electricity, but this is not the case. The generator is in a safe place where it won't get wet. Ferrera said, "We do need to do figure something out."

One last question was if the board intended to vote the members/membership of the Community Development Committee as suggested by counsel. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

## Blandford Historical Society...

## Did You Know?

If people lived in Blandford in the Post-Revolutionary era and needed to get married, collect a debt, settle an argument or get their neighbor's pig out of their field, there was a good chance they would find themselves before Jedidiah Smith Jr.

And they wouldn't have gone to a courthouse. They would have headed up Beech Hill to his house.

Smith was a Revolutionary War soldier, farmer, lumberman, cider-maker, distiller, selectman, state representative and justice of the peace. One historian described him as a "chief functionary" in town which is another way of saying he had a hand in just about everything.

### Loyalist Father, Patriot Son

Born in Granville in 1752, Smith was the eldest son of Rev. Jedediah and Edith Smith. Ten more children followed.

His Yale-educated father served as Granville's pastor for more than two decades and was a documented slave owner. Over time, doctrinal disputes and his steadfast loyalty to the British Crown made him increasingly unpopular.

In 1776, Granville removed him from his pulpit. He packed up his wife and younger children and headed for a Loyalist settlement in Natchez, Mississippi, where he died of fever shortly after arriving.

Jedediah stayed behind. He had already chosen the American cause. In 1775, he enlisted and first served at Fort Ticonderoga.

After the Revolution, he settled in Blandford, farming, working in lumber, making cider and distilling spirits. He also served as selectman and

represented Blandford in the Massachusetts General Court—the state legislature in 1795 and 1796.

### Judge Smith

His years as a justice of the peace when he was known as Judge Smith give us a glimpse into everyday life in early Blandford.

An old account describes attorneys, sheriffs and witnesses heading for Smith's Beech Hill home, lawyers carrying well-stuffed saddlebags. There, Smith dealt with debts, property disputes, brawls and townspeople getting on one another's nerves.

In 1810 alone, Smith handled 76 civil suits, nearly all involving Blandford residents. Many were over only a dollar or two with court costs sometimes greater than the amount at stake.

His ledger shows some annoyances haven't changed much. After waiting at home for James Lloyd, Smith wrote:

"Detained me at home to do business and did not come and agreed to give me fifty cents."

Apparently, being stood up was annoying in 1810, too.

### A Lively Town

Early Blandford had its lively side. One account describes a crowd gathering at dusk to watch a fight and identifies a town doctor as a "chief brawler." Militia training days brought singing, drinking and carousing. Judge Smith helped sort out the disagreements that followed.

He also performed marriages and was a friend of Samuel Sloper, a Revolutionary patriot who participated in the Boston

Tea Party and later settled in Blandford.

Smith died in 1819 at age 66 and is buried in the Old Burying Ground beside his wife, Rhoda and some of their children.

His gravestone calls him "Jedediah Smith Esq." At the time, Esquire was a title of social standing often attached to the names of men who held respected public offices, not a law degree.

But behind that simple inscription is quite a story: a Revolutionary soldier with a Loyalist father, a farmer who became a judge, and a front-row witness to everyday life in early Blandford.

One life, so many sto-

ries and one more reason Blandford is a small town with a big history.



Photo courtesy of Jane Rohman  
This is the gravestone for a premier civic leader Jedediah Smith Esq. in Blandford's Old Burying Ground.



Photo Courtesy of Blandford Historical Society

The Jedediah Smith House was on Beech Hill.

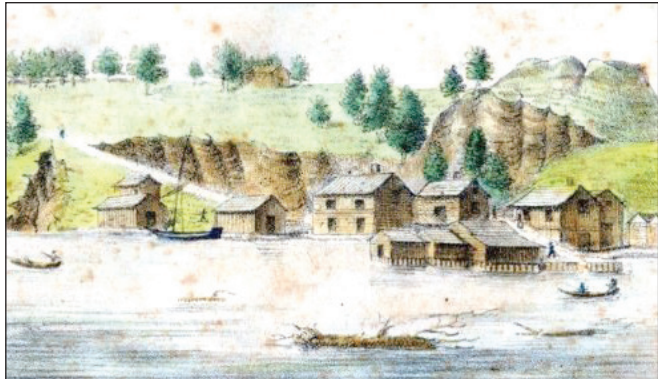


Photo Courtesy of Larry Head

Loyalist settlement in Natchez along the Mississippi River where Elder Smith was most likely buried.



Courtesy photos by Jane Rohman

Jedediah Smith, portrayed by Scott O'Connor, told his story at last year's Ghost Walk. Here, he stands alongside fellow ghost, Revolutionary War veteran and farmer, Giles Tracy, portrayed by Tom Fielding.

## SWIMMING

from page 1

Conservation Recreation would require a good reason."

Is a local swimming

area, at the request of residents, a suitable reason? Only time and pressure from residents, will tell.

## MOUNTAIN LION



Submitted photo

This early morning visitor on Gibbs Road looks like a mountain lion. But the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife says on their website, "There is no evidence of a reproducing mountain lion population in Massachusetts." But the critters apparently do visit from time to time. To confirm an actual mountain lion sitting for the DFW requires proof; scat, so DNA can be analyzed or a photo thereof and a paw print. The beast was spotted in the south field of the late Rita Templeman's home about 11:30 a.m. on a day last week.

BLANDFORD

Blandford Fire Department takes part in Jaws of Life training

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Blandford – The Blandford Volunteer Fire Department engaged in a Jaws of Life training session last week at the Blandford Highway Salt Shed on Chester Road.

According to department members, the refresher training session was being conducted now because there will be two Demolition Derbies held as part of the annual Blandford Fair over the upcoming Labor Day weekend and the equipment may be necessary to help with possible vehicular collision extractions.

The Jaws of Life have been utilized in prior demolition derbies. Department members reviewed basic extraction skills necessary for vehicular collision patient extractions. A motor vehicle was prepared to simulate a vehicular accident in which the jaws of life would be necessary. The skills reviewed for this training session were scene size-up, recognition and management of hazards, securement and stabilization of vehicle by disconnecting the electrical system and using cribbing or chock blocks, gaining access to patient if and when basic entry methods are compromised and patient assessment, care, and extraction.

Moving forward, jaws of life training will continue to be an ongoing session for the department as the skills necessary are continually reviewed and improved upon involving more advanced scenarios.

Along with their continued weekly trainings, the Blandford Volunteer Fire Department members are also beginning to make preparations for their annual pancake breakfast being held



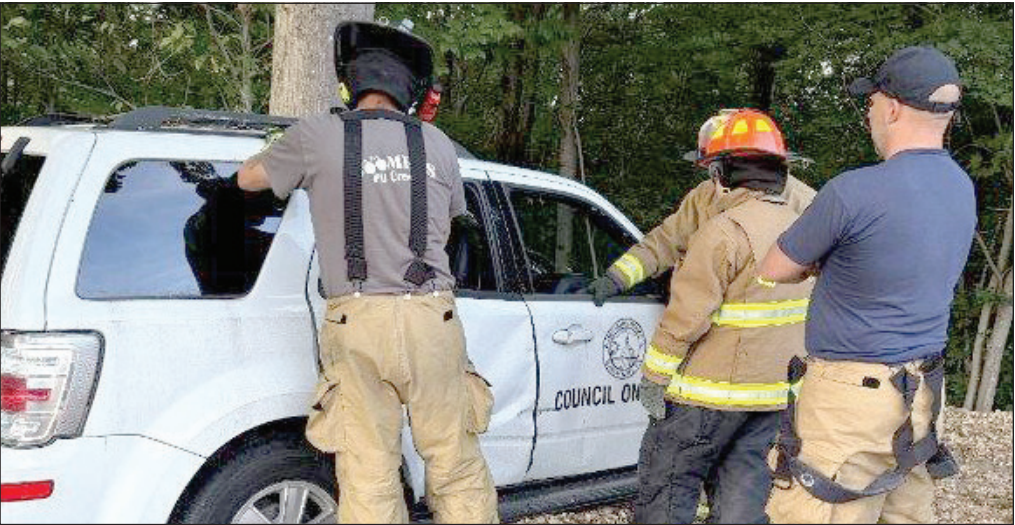
They first check under the hood.

this year on Saturday, Dec. 5.

Other Blandford Fire Department upcoming events include the Boot Drive being held on Saturday, Sept. 5 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and an Open House/Push-In ceremony for the new brush truck, date to be announced soon. Mark your calendars to come out and support your local fire department.



They successfully open of the vehicle.



Department members size up the situation as Chief Adam Dolby looks on.

Submitted photos



A firefighter checks on victim.

The firefighters begin the extraction process.



Fire Department members review the trial run.

GOSHEN

Goshen Council on Aging announces upcoming news and events

GOSHEN – The Council on Aging September luncheon is Tuesday, Sept. 8 at noon in Town Hall.

The lunch is catered by Local Burgy in Williamsburg. The menu is pulled pork, macaroni and cheese, Coleslaw, baked beans and potato salad.

They will have delicious apple roll ups from Ashley’s Bakery Box for dessert. This month, senior should call Henrietta Munroe at 413-268-7465 by Tuesday, Sept. 1 to let her know they will come for the lunch.

Suggested donation to the COA of \$5 is greatly appreciated. After lunch, there will be a fun game of Left Center Right. All are invited to stay and play a few rounds. They should bring three quarters and their spirit of friendly competition.

Memory Cafe starts

Thursday, Oct. 1 and continuing monthly. This October, the Goshen Council on Aging is launching a supportive social group for people with memory loss and their care partners. “Sharing and Caring” will be run by two local speech-language pathologists, who will provide education, strategies and support to participants.

The group will meet every first Thursday of the month at Goshen Town Hall from 1-2:30 p.m. to connect over afternoon activities and refreshments. Skilled facilitators will be available to help participants with dementia and mild cognitive impairment as they engage in the group. People may call Kerry at 413-268-8237, extension 118 or email coa@goshen-ma.us to learn more and register.

On Wednesday, Sept.

2 from 2-4 p.m. Games Group is back and meets in the library and decide which game to play. Left Center Right is one option for anyone who wants to know more about this fun game. They will also play Left Center Right after the luncheon on Tuesday, Sept 8.

On Friday, Sept. 4 from 10-11 a.m. Community Connection takes place in the Goshen Community Park at the picnic table. Jennifer O’Connell will meet seniors there to play croquet. Let’s enjoy the end of summer/start of fall outdoors. Everyone is welcome. Seniors bring their own beverage and folding chair if they like.

On Tuesdays, Sept. 15 and Sept. 22 Highland Valley Elder Service grab and go lunches resumes after an August break. HVES delivers meals to Goshen COA.

Participants pick up their hot lunch at the Goshen Town Hall from 12:30-1 p.m. The lunch for Sept. 15 is macaroni and cheese or vegetable quiche and for Sept. 22 the choice is ham and pea Carbonara or vegetarian chili.

The meals also include milk, vegetables and dessert. There is a suggested \$4 donation given to Highland Valley to offset the cost of the meal. People may call Kerry at 413-268-9354 if they would like to sign up to get these nutritious and delicious meals.

On Wednesday, Sept. 16 crafts group is back after a summer break. They are changing the group a bit so that each month they will plan to create something unique together. Of course, they are always welcome to join them and work on their own individual craft project as it is always fun to create with

others.

For September, they will supply everything they need to create a beautiful fall wreath for their home or to give away as a gift. All materials will be provided by the COA. If they would like to make a wreath, they should call Kerry or any COA member to sign up by Wednesday, Sept. 9 so they have enough supplies.

On Thursday, Sept. 17 Technology Help in the library will be available from noon-2 p.m. People can ask questions regarding their computer, phone, tablet or any other technology related question and they will do their best to help. The Tech Connect page of this newsletter also has information about other technology related services.

On Sunday, Sept. 27 each year at the Hilltown Junior

Olympics, the Goshen COA hands out popsicles to all the participants after lunch while they are awaiting award announcements. The children love it. They will continue this tradition and welcome anyone, who would like to help them pass out the popsicles.

The time frame will be between noon-2 p.m. (it is difficult to pinpoint the exact time) but come any time that day and cheer on the children from Goshen and all the Hilltowns who participate. This great event takes place at Tilton Town Field.

On Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 11:30 a.m. in Goshen Town Hall The Consumer Protection Unit of the Northwestern District Attorneys office will do a presentation on how to protect from the latest scams. Light lunch will be provided.

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\$3<sup>35</sup> lb

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## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

# 1Berkshire Youth Leadership Program graduates 32

1Berkshire announces its 15th 1Berkshire Youth Leadership Program class. The 2026-2027 Youth Leadership Class participants are: Myra Annuva - Mount Greylock Regional High School, Sophia Astorino - Charles H. McCann Technical School, Aryanna Bouchard - Wahconah Regional High School, Carter Brbovic - Pittsfield High School, Cole Creighton - Mount Greylock Regional High School, Aubrey Dowd - Wahconah Regional High School, Anima Ekua Gyapong - Pittsfield High School, Devyn Fillio - Lee Middle and High School, Nathan Foster - Mount Everett Regional School, Ruben Fried - Pittsfield High School, Liv Guinan - Lee Middle and High School, Oscar Heeringa - Mount Greylock Regional High School, Sarah Henderson - Pittsfield High School, Mia Hiltbold - Pittsfield High School, Genevieve Lagess - Hoosac Valley High School, Boden Mariano - Winlow

Oaks Homeschool, Max Mozian - Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, Olivia Perez - Mount Greylock Regional High School, Jessmirac Perry - Pittsfield High School.Chloe Potash - Pittsfield High School, Genevieve Quinto - Drury High School, Addy Reddington - Wahconah Regional High School, Emily Rosen - Lenox Memorial High School, Corey Rudin - Mount Greylock Regional School, Elizabeth Sahakyants - Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, Jonah Sanabria - Monument Mountain Regional High School, Nora Schoeny - Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, Elizabeth Spelman - Mount Greylock Regional High School, Audra Tresp - Lenox Memorial High School, Megan Tucker - Wahconah Regional High School, Rhaya Wright - Drury High School and Langston Young-Taft - Monument Mountain Regional High School.

This group of 32 high school juniors from across the Berkshires was selected through a competitive application process to begin a year-long leadership development program that kicked off in June with a three-day, two-night retreat held at Camp Chimney Corners. This year's class brings a wide breadth of experiences, backgrounds and potential to this program. The 1Berkshire Youth Leadership Program is focused on helping students in the region develop and grow through career opportunity awareness, leadership skill development and the design and completion of a nine-month-long collective-impact project focused on the betterment of the Berkshires. Selected students have shown a significant capacity to grow their leadership skills and a strong desire to have a positive impact on their communities. Over the next eight

months, these 32 students will convene at locations all around the region to participate in workshops, engage in meaningful group dialogue, learn from speakers and one another and to develop and execute their selected collective-impact project. With a focus on sustainability and diversity, equity and inclusion, this year's program will also aim to engage students in meaningful discussions that create critical reflection and new levels of self awareness as they seek to support qualities associated with global citizenry and cultural humility. Kevin Pink, Deputy Director of Economic Development at 1Berkshire and Director of the Youth Leadership Program notes, "During this year's kick-off retreat, our students met, in many cases for the first time, and began bonding and thinking about how their individual learning and communication styles interact." He adds, "We are thrilled

to kick off another amazing year in which our students will build a stronger understanding of the region and the community, as well as collaboratively design and execute a project to make a positive impact here in the Berkshires and in the world." Students in the Youth Leadership Program leave with a new group of friends from all around the county, a unique and meaningful perspective on career opportunities in the region, and the pride of completing a project that has positively impacted their community. Made possible through the financial and resource support of sponsors including Beacon Bank, Berkshire Health Systems, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA, NBT Bank, and Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, the 1Berkshire Youth Leadership Program is coordinated by 1Berkshire with the dynamic support of the volunteer Youth

Leadership Program Steering Committee, chaired by Julie Haagensohn of New Pathways Coaching & Consulting. This committee is composed of professionals from across the region who commit their time and expertise to develop and facilitate the monthly sessions for the class, while also offering advice to the students as they look to their own futures. 1Berkshire is a county-wide marketing and economic development organization that works to simultaneously preserve, position and promote Berkshire County's profound sense of place. Its mission is to advance Berkshire County's economy by advocating for the business community and attracting visitors. Powered by membership, 1Berkshire provides programs that connect businesses with resources and potential customers, as well as develop future leaders and support entrepreneurs. For more information, people may visit 1Berkshire.com.

## RUSSELL

# Russell Public Library lists upcoming events

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library will be closed Labor Day weekend. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 3-7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The Russell Public Library Trustees meet Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 3:15-4:30 p.m. The library's adult Monthly Book Club meets on Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 6-8 p.m. The book is "Where Did You Go, Bernadette?" by Maria Semple. Books are available at the library. People may register by email [rpdirector162@gmail.com](mailto:rpdirector162@gmail.com), call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Monday, Aug. 31. "Edible Plants" with Felix Lufkin from Turtle Bend Farm, for adults takes place on Saturday, Sept. 12

from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Lufkin will teach the group to identify and harvest edible plants in their own backyards. People may register by email [rpdirector162@gmail.com](mailto:rpdirector162@gmail.com), call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Thursday, Sept. 10. On Saturday, Sept. 19 at 1:30 p.m. Bruce Mandel returns for a concert "The View From Behind This Guitar." Adults will listen and enjoy his acoustic guitar and intimate and honest voice as they come together in an engaging show, which straddles and expands contemporary folk, American and singer/songwriter genres reflecting the breath of Mandel's experience. People may register by email [rpdirector162@gmail.com](mailto:rpdirector162@gmail.com), call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Thursday, Sept. 17.

Miss Dawne on Sept. 22 from 5-6:30 p.m. hosts a game and book of "I Spy" for children. They will create an "I Spy Collage" in model magic. They should bring some of their favorite tiny objects to press in the clay to create a three dimensional collage to take home. Model magic and some tiny objects will be provided. They should register by email [rpdirector162@gmail.com](mailto:rpdirector162@gmail.com), call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Monday, Sept. 21. On Tuesday, Sept. 29 there will be a program for adults to "Debug Vaccination" from 4-5 p.m. The community is invited to have a conversation with a local pharmacist to discuss the current recommended vaccines and the facts and myths that surround vaccination. People may register by email [rpdirector162@gmail.com](mailto:rpdirector162@gmail.com), call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Monday, Sept. 28.

On Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 6-8 p.m. adults may attend "Herbs for Winter Health." Gale La Scala will share favorite herbs, recipes and remedies to help with common winter ailments. Participants learn how to boost the immune system to stay healthy for the long winter months ahead. They will learn how to make Fire Cider and Elderberry Syrup among other tasty remedies. La Scala has been a practicing Herbalist for over 30 years and enjoys teaching others how to make herbal medicine using native New England plants. People may register by email [rpdirector162@gmail.com](mailto:rpdirector162@gmail.com), call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Friday, Sept. 25.

# Hilltown Community Ambulance Association hosts pig roast Sept. 20

RUSSELL – The Hilltown Community Ambulance Association will host their second annual Pig Roast barbecue on Sunday, Sept. 20 from 1-4 p.m. at Strathmore Park. The menu consists of roasted pork or chicken, Cole slaw, baked mac and cheese, corn bread and a cookie bar. Music presented by The Pitoniak Brothers, raf-

fle prizes and fun for the whole family. This event will be held rain or shine. People may RSVP by Sunday, Sept. 6 via email to [jade@hilltownambulance.org](mailto:jade@hilltownambulance.org) or [bailey@hilltownambulance.org](mailto:bailey@hilltownambulance.org). Advance sales are \$18 per plate for adults and \$10 per plate for children. People's presence helps support their local Emergency Medical Service.



## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

**Town of Russell 2027 Tax Classification Hearing**  
There will be a Tax Classification Hearing held at the Board Of Selectmen's Office at Russell Town Hall **Tuesday, September 1, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.** To discuss the determination of the Fiscal Year 2027 tax rate of the residential, commercial, industrial, open space, and personal property as set forth in Chapter 40, Section 56, as amended by Chapter 79 Acts of 1982 and Chapter 79 on the Acts of 1983, General Laws of Massachusetts.

The Board of Selectmen and Assessors will be present to provide relevant data and information. All interested persons may present their views at this hearing.  
Town of Russell Board of Selectmen  
08/27/2026

**Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice**  
At its regularly scheduled public meeting on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)** received from Jake Komar as the Applicant. The RDA is related to the construction of a single-fam-

ily home and related site development. The project location is 4 Blair Road, tax parcel 410-0-7.1 in the Town of Blandford. The Conservation Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended). Project plans and additional information are on record in the Office of the Conservation Commission.  
Richard Gates, Chair  
Town of Blandford Conservation Commission  
08/27/2026

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG Zoning Board of Appeals**  
A Public Hearings will be held at **5:30 PM on Wednesday, September 9, 2026**, in the Williamsburg Town Offices,

141 Main St., Haydenville, MA to consider the following application: The application of Julie Elias of 13 High St., Assessors Map K, Lot 74.0 to demolish, rebuild, and enlarge a pre-existing non-conforming garage on a pre-existing, non-conforming lot as required by Section 12.0e of the Williamsburg Zoning Bylaw.  
Kelly Blaser, Chairman  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
08/20, 08/27/2026

**Town of Washington LEGAL NOTICE Conservation Commission Public Hearing**  
In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c. 131, §40, the Town of Washington Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **September 2nd, 2026 at 6 p.m.** at Wash-

ington Town Hall 8 Summit Hill Rd., Washington, MA 01223 to consider a Notice of Intent filed by the Town of Washington for proposed work on New Lenox Road. The proposed project involves the replacement of a structurally deficient bridge within resource areas protected under the Wetlands Protection Act. The bridge spans over Mill Brook and is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the intersection of New Lenox Road and Roaring Brook Road. Copies of the application may be obtained electronically from Madison Sullivan ([msullivan@gill-eng.com](mailto:msullivan@gill-eng.com)) or from the Town of Washington Conservation Commission. Interested persons may attend the hearing and provide comments  
08/27/2026

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**visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)**

# WORTHINGTON

## COA hosts trip to Hudson Valley

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Council on Aging plans a trip to the Hudson Valley and a 90-minute cruise aboard the classic Rip Van Wrinkle II on Monday, Oct. 12.

Participants will experience breathtaking views of historic Hudson River sites. Highlighted by the knowledgeable staff, they'll see some of the region's most unique and fascinating locations on the Hudson River.

They'll enjoy a boxed lunch of gourmet sandwiches, macaroni salad, chips, cookie and fountain beverage on the cruise. Choices include: First Mate's Request: Classic Roast Beef w/ Cheddar Cheese, lettuce, tomato & horseradish sauce on a roll; Captain's Choice: Oven Roasted Turkey Breast & Muenster Cheese w/ lettuce & tomato on a Kaiser roll (mayo on side) and Sassy Sailor Garden Wrap: Lettuce/Roasted Red Peppers/Hummus/Cucumber/Celery/Carrot/Bell Pepper/Tomato in a wrap.

After the cruise, they will stop at Samascott's Garden Market in Kinderhook to explore their impressive market full of homemade pies, cookies and breads, as well as jams, cheeses, honey, seasonal produce and countless other products from local farms.

Cost is \$55 per person for Worthington residents includes all taxes and gratuities and \$140 per person for non-residents includes all taxes and gratuities.

People should call Phyllis Dassatti at 413-238-5962 or email [emailcoa@worthington-ma.us](mailto:emailcoa@worthington-ma.us) to make reservations. They will have to provide an emergency contact and phone number at sign-up. Checks should be payable to Town of Worthington reservation complete upon receipt of fee. Mail checks to Worthington Council on Aging, P.O. Box 7, Worthington, MA 01098. Deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 1.

On Monday, Oct. 12 the bus departs at 7:30 a.m. from Worthington Congregational Church, Huntington Road, Worthington. People should arrive at 7:15 a.m. Approximate return time is 4 p.m.

Landmark Tours & Cruises, Inc. arranges the components of the tours and does not own or operate the independent suppliers of services including motor coaches. Trips cancelled due to weather conditions are handled on a per trip basis.

## Rod and Gun Club holds car show, BBQ

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Rod and Gun Club hosts their annual car show to benefit Special Operations Warrior Foundation on Saturday, Sept. 19 with gates opening at 8 a.m.

Breakfast and lunch foods will be available. There will be a few raffles.

The club is still accepting donations and any vendors, who would like to participate. They may email [Worthingtonrgclub@gmail.com](mailto:Worthingtonrgclub@gmail.com), visit Facebook for updates.

In October the club will be having their annual chicken barbecue on Saturday Oct. 17 at 3 p.m.

Doors open at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 per ticket and include salad, rolls, baked potato, half a chicken, dessert and lemonade. People are welcome to bring their own beverages. There will also be a raffle and live music. People may call Deana at 413-433-0009 by Friday, Oct. 9 for tickets.

# CHESTER



Submitted photo  
Fiona, an intern at the Chester Theatre Company, reads a story to children at the Hamilton Memorial Library, at a special story time on Aug. 20.

## Library holds special story time

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., collaborated with the Chester Theatre Company for a special story time event on Thursday Aug. 20.

Staff and interns graciously provided the library patrons a set tour including a fabulous lighting show. The children were also treated to the story, "Corduroy Takes a Bow" by Viola Davis based on the characters created by Don Freeman.

Fiona, one of the theatre's interns, did a wonderful job reading to the children this delightful story of a bear, who gets an unexpected moment in the spotlight. The library staff appreciates the Chester Theatre Company for this opportunity and look forward to collaborating again in the future.

# BECKET

## Becket Athenaeum lists events

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St., hosts a night of stargazing with local astronomer Rick Costello on Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 8-9:30 p.m. at 74 Andrews Road.

The event will be rescheduled to Thursday, Sept. 3 in the event of rain or cloudy skies. This event is in collaboration with Becket Dark Skies. Participants should dress for the weather and bring a chair or blanket. People should RSVP to [bwlibrary.org/sky](mailto:bwlibrary.org/sky).

On Thursday, Sept. 3 at 6 p.m. a program entitled Rooted in Liberation: Elizabeth Freeman and the natural world will take place at the library. People should RSVP to [bwlibrary.org/rooted](mailto:bwlibrary.org/rooted).

Becket Athenaeum holds a book and bake sale on Saturday, Sept. 5 and Sunday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the library lawn. There will be books, audiobooks, DVDs, baked goods and more by donation - cash or check. All proceeds support the services and programs at the Becket Athenaeum.

On Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. there will be a tree ID walk with Chelsey Simmons at Esau's Heel Trail, 1180 Jacob's Ladder Road. The event will be rescheduled in the event of severe weather. Space is limited and registration is required by emailing [bwlibrary.org/treeid](mailto:bwlibrary.org/treeid). This is funded in part by Central Berkshire Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

# FLORENCE



Submitted photo  
Florence Bank President and CEO Matt Garrity, left, visited Tobin Manor in Florence to witness the new delivery van in action.

## Florence Bank donates \$50,000

FLORENCE – The Florence Bank announces it pledged \$50,000 to the Northampton Survival Center to help expand food access in the community.

The bank's contribution alongside a food security infrastructure grant from the state allowed the center to purchase an electric van to deliver fresh produce, dairy, bread and grocery items to clients.

The Fresh Van is a mobile food pantry, delivering directly to residents of local low-income, disabled and senior housing complexes. Residents can choose from weekly offerings of fresh food and interact with friendly volunteers and staff.

"The Fresh Van goes nutritious food to our neighbors," said Northampton Survival Center Executive Director Heidi Nortonsmith. "It brings a festive atmosphere and a sense of community right to their doors and allows clients the dignity of choosing their own fresh groceries without having to worry about how to get to the Center."

"The Northampton Survival Center provides critical support to our communities, and we are proud to support the Fresh Van program," said Matt Garrity, Florence Bank President and CEO. "The new delivery van allows the center to expand its impact by providing fresh, nutritious food to folks who may not be able to easily visit the Survival Center."

In addition to delivery and Fresh Van services, the Northampton Survival Center offers outdoor drive-through and curbside pickup options for clients. Their food pantries in Northampton and Goshen distribute over 900,000 pounds of food to more than 4,000 clients throughout Hampshire County.

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 13 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield, Springfield, and Holyoke.

# MONTGOMERY

## Old favorites at Music in Montgomery

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

MONTGOMERY – Music in Montgomery announces musicians for September.

Co-hosted by the Montgomery Public Library and the Gray Catbird Pottery Studio, Music in Montgomery takes place at Montgomery Town Hall every Thursday starting at 3 p.m. Admission is free, but contributions are welcome.

The September lineup features some of the favorite regular performers of the venue, with Jerry and Kara Noble on Thursdays, Sept. 3, We Three on Sept. 10, Bob Cipoli on Sept. 17 and Rob Adams and Dennis Avery on Sept. 24.

Opening the month on Sept. 3 are Kara Noble on bass and Jerry Noble on piano and guitar. He is also a noted composer and teacher, having led choral groups throughout the region.

She is an accomplished writer. They performed this summer at the prestigious Sevenars Music Festival in Worthington, which Time magazine said was one of the six best small music festivals in the United States.

They also have a 25-year old business Artist Tec that helps all kinds of creative artists use technology to enhance, publish and share their work.

"We Three" takes the stage on Sept. 10, featuring Barry Searle on guitar and vocals, Sarah Miller on percussion and vocals, and Pete Ruzsa on vocals, pedal steel and harmonica. This core trio is joined by other musicians in forming the Wolf Hill Band, Ravenwood and The Time Stretchers bands, who perform throughout the region. Searle's recording of original music "The Awakening" was released in February 2026.

Organizer Dale Rogers says that Bob Cipoli (Sept. 17) is a singer and masterful guitarist, with music across several genres including classic folk and rock. As a soloist and in performances with other people, Cipoli covers everyone from the Beatles to Jim Croce, Loggins and Messina and Van Morrison.

Rounding out the month are Rob Adams and Dennis Avery on Sept. 24. Also known as R and D, this duo performed earlier in August at the Water Street Barn in



Submitted photo  
Dennis Avery and Rob Adams will be at Music in Montgomery at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24.

Shelburne Falls. Rob sings and plays guitar, Dennis sings and plays steel guitar.

Throughout 2026, they headlined at the Floodwater Brewing Company, also in Shelburne Falls. (You might also have seen them as two thirds of The Uncles, with the addition of John Clark on voice and bass.)

Attendees are invited to bring baked goods to share. Donations are accepted for the refreshments, with money split between the Montgomery Volunteer Firemen's Association and the Town Library. Donations are also accepted to tip and thank the fabulous musicians who perform each week.

Montgomery Town Hall is located at 161 Main Road. This event is open to all who are interested.

For more information, people call Dale Rogers at 413-875-5205.



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This job will stay posted until it is filled.

Please send cover letter and resume to Charles Dazelle at [highwaysuper@townofchester.net](mailto:highwaysuper@townofchester.net)

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings 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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Quabbin Village Hills map

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OBITUARIES

Kimberley Waterman James

Kimberley Doreen Waterman James, 63, of Chester, entered into Heavenly rest on Aug. 18, 2026 surrounded by family and friends.

She was born on March 14, 1963 in Springfield. She loved being a stay at home mom, spending time with family, baking and drinking her coffee. Most of all, she loved being a grandmother, spending time with her granddaughter Aubrey, and her grandson Richard.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Richard James of Becket; their two beautiful daughters, Carrie James and Sarah James, both of Chester; grandchildren, Aubrey and Richard; her



siblings, her father, Bruce Gannon of Port Charlotte, Florida and her best friend, Vicky Stenico.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Ruth Gannon. Her family extends its gratitude to Jonathan Miller and rest of the team at Baystate Home Health.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Baystate Home Health, 30 Capital Dr, Suite A, West Springfield, MA 01089. A private gathering will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Firtion Adams Funeral Service, 76 Broad St. ,Westfield, MA 01085. www.firtionadams.com.

Philip K. O'Donnell



Philip K. O'Donnell, 87 years old, of Worthington, Massachusetts, died peacefully at home with his devoted wife of 65 years, Anne T. O'Donnell, by his side on Aug. 14, 2026.

Born June 25, 1939, son of late James and Georgianna O'Donnell, in Holyoke, Phil was a graduate of St. Mary's High School in Westfield and Holyoke Community College in Holyoke.

Phil served in the Massachusetts Air National Guard. He also served in the United States Air Force in Phalsbourg, France during the Berlin Crisis, for which he received the Certificate of Award for Meritorious Achievement.

Phil was the consummate salesman, retiring from Matthias Paper Corporation as Vice President of Sales and Member of the Board

of Directors. He was a long time member of the Post 124 and the Sons of Erin of Westfield in addition to the Rod & Gun Club of Worthington.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 65 years, Anne T. O'Donnell, daughter of Frank and Katherine Hebda of Westfield and his children, Kelley Corson of New Hampshire and Philip K. O'Donnell, Jr. and his wife, Monika of New Hampshire. His greatest loss was the passing of their beloved daughter, Mary E. Kelly. Philip and Anne were blessed with four grandchildren: Simon Corson and his wife, Cara, of Colorado, Emma Corson of New Hampshire, Taylor Kelly of Florida and Ryan Kelly and his wife, Kendal, of North Carolina. www.firtionadams.com.

DEATH NOTICES

JAMES, KIMBERLEY DOREEN WATERMAN

Died Aug. 18, 2026  
A privater gathering will be held at a later date.

O'DONNELL, PHILIP K.

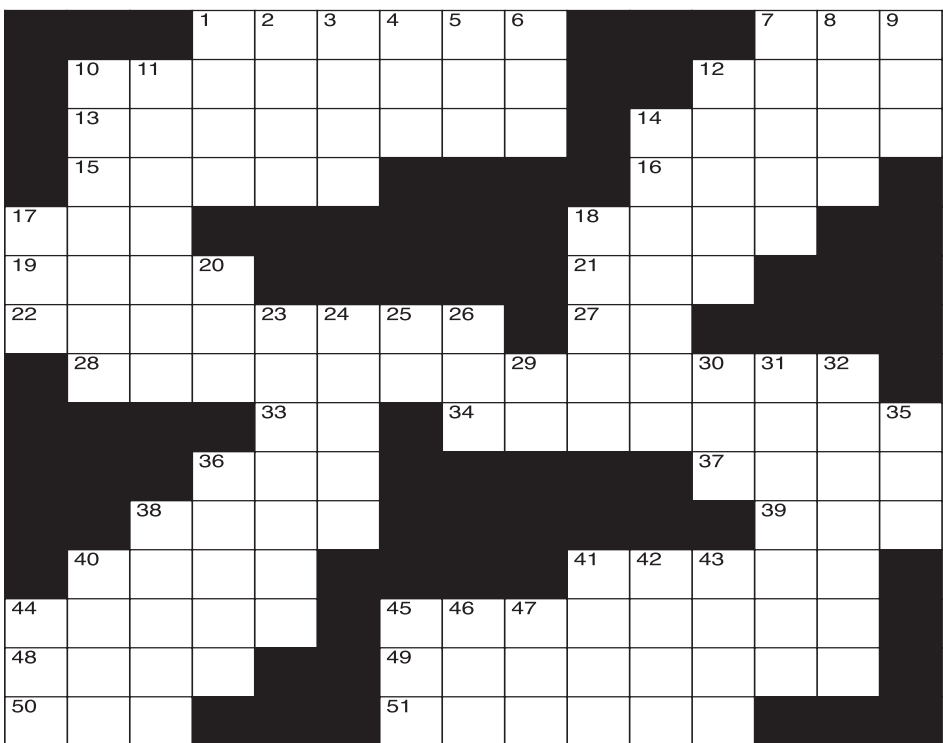
Died Aug. 14, 2026

Country Journal  
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A vast desert in Africa
- 7. Reciprocal of a sine
- 10. Type of phone
- 12. Biblical figure
- 13. One who renounces a religious belief
- 14. Warren and Monroe are two
- 15. Wild ox
- 16. Dismounted a horse
- 17. Cave dweller
- 18. Where infants sleep
- 19. Popular type of shoe
- 21. Clumsy large person
- 22. Evil-like
- 27. Integrated circuit

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Slovenly person
- 2. In addition
- 28. Austin-based athlete
- 33. Postscript
- 34. Follows 18
- 36. People of Gambia
- 37. Popular actor
- 38. Platform for a lectern
- 39. Taxi
- 40. American songwriter Sammy
- 41. Iranian city
- 44. Heavy clubs
- 45. One who is expelled
- 48. In bed
- 49. Lifelessness
- 50. Former CIA
- 51. Most slick

CLUES ACROSS

- 3. Hovels
- 4. Pie \_\_\_ mode
- 5. Subway rodent
- 6. They \_\_\_
- 7. Indigenous S. American people
- 8. Fine sand
- 9. Central nervous system
- 10. Nightclub
- 11. The perfect example of something
- 12. Supreme Islamic leader
- 14. Pain
- 17. Binary-coded decimal
- 18. Projecting corner of an angle
- 20. "Succession"
- 23. Dinner table decor

- 24. Ancient settlement in modern Turkey
- 25. You can call Paul Simon this
- 26. Opposite of a pro
- 29. Atomic #28
- 30. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 31. Arrives at
- 32. Nullifies
- 35. Bird's beak
- 36. Partner to "oohed"
- 38. Ray-finned fishes
- 40. Taxis
- 41. Sat on and controlled
- 42. Sea eagles
- 43. Remain as-is
- 44. Chinese revolutionary
- 45. Tooth caregiver
- 46. Snakelike fish
- 47. Compensate

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Good vibes are heading your way, Aries. Cosmic energy continues through your sign, showing visions of future ambitions.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Appreciate the world around you, Taurus. It's easy to get fixated on what isn't working, but be grateful for all of the things that are going right.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, light banter is the name of the game for conversation this week. Avoid any topics that can lead to confrontation or confusion.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

You may have a sudden urge to get organized at home or the office, Cancer. Spend time sorting and clearing out the clutter to be more productive.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Celebrate yourself this week, Leo. You deserve some recognition just for being you. What better person than you to initiate that?

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Your responsibilities are at an all-time high right now, Libra. That means you are in high demand. Pick and choose projects to fit your schedule.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Give yourself a break. You have been putting your nose to the grindstone for a long time. You deserve an opportunity to enjoy the lighter side of life for a bit.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, advocate and negotiate for yourself as much as you can in the days to come. Some skillful self-promotion can open new and exciting doors.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Right now your demeanor is sensitive and compassionate, Sagittarius. Unfortunately, this can make you vulnerable, so keep your friends close.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

There may be surprises around the workplace this week, Capricorn. A supervisor may be sending mix signals. Ride out this unsettled time.

AQUARIUS

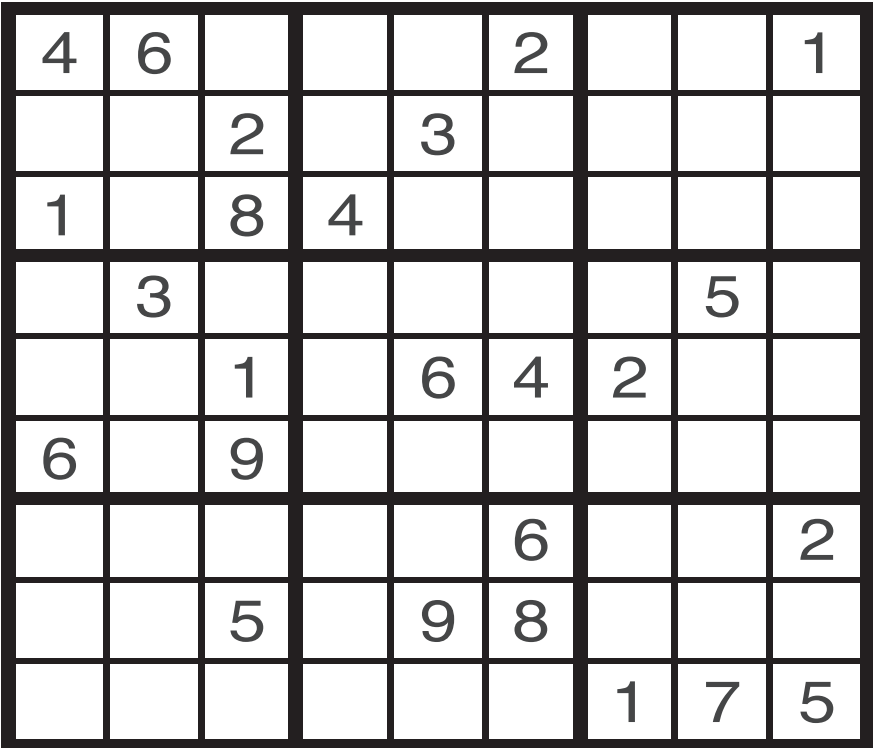
Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, patience is an asset this week. A careful approach to problem-solving will yield the results you're seeking.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Try not to question the mysteries of the universe right now, Pisces. Unconventional vibes are coming your way, which may lead you on some bizarre, yet enjoyable journeys.



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

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# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers make their way up to the summit on the blue trail at Tekoa Park in Russell.



Hikers stand on the big rock at summit looking over Pochassic Hills.



Hikers trek the lower section of the blue trail.

## Hilltown Hikers clean up Tekoa Park

The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers made some history Saturday at Tekoa Park in Russell with an official group hike bringing an exceptional park back to life.

Previously known as Little Mountain and Hosmer's Park this property dates back to 1662 when Native Americans owned this land. Over many years it has changed ownership, titles and its overall layout and several volunteers and donors have made changes here.

The Hilltown Hikers paid a visit to this great Westfield Town Park a few years ago and saw it was badly neglected, so the directors went to the city of Westfield and asked if they could clean it up.

The Westfield Parks and Rec Department was happy to see a local organization wanting to renew this gem of a spot just outside the city; it is actually located in the town of Russell.

So once again, history repeats itself and Tekoa Park has been reborn with freshly blazed trails, tree and brush cleanup, trash removal and the overgrowth has been cut back to again reveal the beautiful views at both Hosmer's Lookout and at the summit. Thank you to Ken Magarian of Westfield Parks and Rec and Don Podolski

from New Horizons Bike Shop, who were both part of the original revival crew.

This place has been revived three times before,

let's keep it going this time. Thanks to all of the volunteers, who cleaned up trash, brush, dead trees, trail blazing and more over the last two years. Plans include a new kiosk, signage and more renewed trails in the near future here at Tekoa Park.



Pochassic Hills can be seen in the background of the summit.



This is the new view from the summit. Submitted photos



An original blaze on the blue trail at Tekoa Park.

Volunteers clear dead hemlocks at the summit.



The old sign and kiosk still stand at the trailhead.

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