

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Ashfield, Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Dalton, Easthampton, Florence, Goshen, Granville, Hawley, Haydenville, Hinsdale, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Peru, Plainfield, Russell, Southampton, Washington, Westfield, Westhampton, Windsor, Williamsburg, Worthington

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HUNTINGTON

Village Closet to hold Diaper Drive

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

It Takes a Village, also known as Village Closet, announces Diaper Need Awareness Week from Monday, Sept. 14 through Sunday, Sept. 20.

Anyone able to help that week or any week is asked to drop their donation off at ITAV's Village Closet, located at 2 East Main St., when they are open.

Public hours are Sundays and Mondays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30-7 p.m. People can also try to catch a staff member at the Village Closet outside of those public hours, but they should not leave items outdoors.

"With uncertainty in today's Federal funding, families are turning to diaper banks now more than ever. Last year, It Takes a Village distributed 121,392 diapers to families across our community and the need continues. We gratefully accept all diaper sizes including open packages, as long as diapers are

clean and organized. Sizes 4-7 are especially in high demand right now," said Kenzie Kinsella, ITAV's Communications and Development Director.

Items that are also needed include pull ups (again, open packages are fine as long as items are clean); baby wipes (unopened packages only); cloth diapers, inserts and supplies; changing pads; training pants sized 2T to 5; potty training supplies and seats and diaper pails and/or new diaper pail insert bags.

ITAV in Huntington has qualified as one of ten National Diaper Banks in Massachusetts and is the only one located in the hilltowns.

Kinsella said that nearly 50% of American families struggle to keep their children diapered. Becoming certified as a diaper bank allows them to receive donated diapers from the National Diaper Bank and Franklin/Hampshire United Way.

DRIVE, page 3



Turley Publications photo by Deborah Daniels
These young children visit with a friendly horse. It seems the equine enjoys the children's attention.

BLANDFORD

SB holds meeting

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – At the Monday, Aug. 31 Select Board meeting the board voted not to approve Joseph Henning as Veterans Agent.

The board heard from the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association representative Maureen Boomsma that the town should expect an increase in cost of about \$3 to \$5 per capita, but the final notification will be in January.

The board heard reports from several departments.

Library

Porter Memorial Library Director Nicole Daviau explained the bidding process and it was still in progress.

Assessors

Assessor Chair David Hopson said the department is moving forward and will discuss short term/long term borrowing as it comes up. There have been complaints from residents, who need an advocate, specifically for veterans in completing forms.

MEETING, page 6

CHESTER

Church bakers win ribbons at Littleville Fair

By John Nolet
Guest Columnist

The 104th Littleville Fair continues the tradition of holding a Fair Recipe Contest. This year's fair was no exception. This was just one of the many other contests for both youth and adult events at this established country fair.

The adult recipe for this year's contest was that of a Bake-a-Cake-competition. The top winning recipe was Lemon Cake, and was included in the Fair Book 2026 with ingredients, bak-

ing instructions and frosting instructions.

Members of the First Congregational Church of Chester won a ribbon trifecta. Rick Loisselle won the first place ribbon, Danette Green won the second place ribbon and Lee Myers won the third place ribbon.

Dave Janisieski of Blandford won an honorable mention, fourth place ribbon. The judges were Randy LaPointe, Paul LaPointe, Moe Boisseau and Ted Boisseau.

During the sampling of cakes in competition, the

bakers and family members were watching. They were impressed how seriously the judges took their duties.

When trying each slice of cake, the judges would confer with comments like "the lemon flavor in this cake really comes through" and "the texture of this frosting creamy with very nice taste." Lee Myers said, "the judges look liked burly construction guys, but clearly took their tasting duties to heart."

From listening to all three ribbon winners, these judges would have fit in any

food show judging panel on TV.

Rick Loisselle took a little bit of ribbing winning the first-place ribbon from the judges and observers alike. Surely, he had help or at least coaching from his wife Cindy or another female baker in making his lemon cake.

Those who know can him testify that he is an accomplished cook and baker. Janisieski too may have received a bit of the same ribbing.

When asked, "what was your special ingredient" in having their cake be a ribbon winner. The top three winners all said the same thing, "fresh ingredients."

Myers made the point of using farm fresh, day-old eggs. Loisselle remarked that he makes his own vanilla extract, soaking the vanilla beans in a good quality vodka. Green thought the garnish of white chocolate curls added not only the favor blend of the cake and frosting, but was also an addition to the presentation of her cake.

It came as no surprise to the congregation members of the First Congregational Church of Chester that Loisselle, Green and Myers were ribbon winners at this year's Littleville Fair. Congratulations to all contestants.

FAIR, page 2

GOSHEN

Town clerks announce primary election results

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

G O S H E N / MIDDLEFIELD – The Goshen and Middlefield Town Clerks announce the unofficial state primary results of Sept. 1.

Of the 799 registered Goshen voters, 266 cast ballots for a 33% voter turnout. Of the total, 90 cast early or absentee ballots and 176 went to the polls on Election Day.

On the Democrat party ballot for Senator in Congress Edward J. Markey, the incumbent, received 122 votes to 62 for challenger Seth Moulton. This was the only contest on the Democrat Party ballot

In the Governor's race. Maura Healey, incumbent, received 165 votes with 21 ballots left blank for the position.

The Lieutenant Governor Kimberley Driscoll, incumbent, received the same number of votes as Healey, 165 with 21 blanks.

For Attorney General, Andrea Joy Campbell got 164 votes and William Francis Galvin, Secretary of State got 167 votes.

Other positions with no opposition were Deborah B. Goldberg,

Treasurer, 165 votes; Diana Dizoglio, Auditor 161 votes; Representative in Congress, James P. McGovern, 165 votes; Councillor,, Tara J. Jacobs, 132 votes; Senator in General Court, Paul W. Mark, 161 votes; Representative in General Court, Lindsay N. Sabadosa, 166 votes; District Attorney, David E. Sullivan, 163 votes and Register of Probate, Mark Smith Ames, 161 votes.

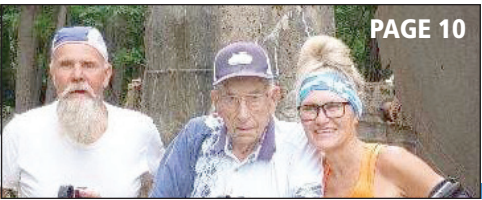
On the Republican Party ballot for Senator in Congress John Deaton received 72 votes. Like the Democratic ballot, there was only one contest, however it was for Governor rather than Senator in Congress.

Michael Roger Minogue received 59 votes for Governor and Brian Shortleeve received 21 votes.

Shawn Oliver received 64 votes for Lieutenant Governor. Michael C. Walsh, Attorney General got 70 votes and Elizabeth Dionne received 62 votes for Treasurer.

The positions of Secretary of State, Auditor, Representative in Congress, Councillor, Senator in General Court, Representative in General

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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



After being abandoned someone cut he granite saw blade in an effort to remove it.



John Marcoulier welds the saw blade at the Chester Granite and Polishing Works in Chester on Thursday, Aug. 27.



After the welding repairs, this is how the granite saw blade now looks.

Granite saw blade gets welding repairs

An interesting story you may not know... way back in the 1970s when the scrappers were helping themselves to the historical it.

It was about time the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers reinforced it in its place where it belongs.

They had a Super exciting day Thursday, Aug. 27 at the Chester Granite and Polishing Works. The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers asked John Marcoulier to come weld the saw blade back in April.

The volunteers digging out the trash and debris under the blade noticed it would move when the wind blew and they were afraid we would lose it and or it would come down on them.

Thursday was the day and Leonard Alexander, who was the last person to weld the saw blade in 1946 also came from Otis. He is 100 years old, many probably know him.

Leonard watched as John welded first the blade itself and then again on the hub. The hub was almost cut

all the way around so it was in need of restoration.

Leonard said he wants to see new timbers for the carriage, as that was his last project at the Granite saw. The timbers would cushion the blocks of granite on the steel carriages as they traveled under the blade.

He was honored to be there today and he was smiling ear to ear. Elizabeth Massa, Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers President personally thanks John for taking time out of his busy day and donating his time and materials to help the Western Mass Hilltown Hikers keep history alive.

There are many more improvements to come at the Chester Granite Saw, the list is constantly growing. As fall approaches, they will be doing their fourth major cutting of dead ash trees including a giant rotted poplar tree.

People are invited on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 1 p.m. to stroll this historic property with a guide to learn all of the Hilltown History here.

Thanks to all for their support.



John Marcoulier stands on a ladder to weld the large granite saw blade.

Submitted photos



John Marcoulier, from left, Leonard Alexander and Elizabeth "Liz" Massa pose in front of the granite saw blade.

CHESTERFIELD

Gorge gets new informational sign

CHESTERFIELD – On Saturday, Sept 19 at 10 a.m. at the Chesterfield Gorge, there will be a celebration of the installation of an informational sign with historical information and the location of many mill sites on the Westfield River in Chesterfield.

The Chesterfield Historical Commission, Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee grant of \$450 and the Trustees of

Reservations came together to research, design and construct an informational sign at the Chesterfield Gorge.

Community contributors included Justin West, who designed the sign and Doug Fisher, who was invaluable in identifying and locating mill sites on the map.

The sign features the locations of many former mills on the Westfield River that were vitally important to residents.

Included on the sign are indigenous influences as well as former resident and Medal of Honor recipient Samuel Eddy, who resided in the former Toll House/Tavern of the Boston to Albany Turnpike crossing at the Gorge.

The Sage of West Chesterfield, Chandler Biicknell, constructed the Nutshell, where he manufactured wooden items and tools of his own design to sell to tourists.

STOCKBRIDGE

Stockbridge Grange to hold Community Dinner

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Grange plans community dinner on Sunday, Sept. 13 with pick-up from noon-1:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Grange Hall, 51 Church St., featuring roast pork, mashed potato and vegetable and for dessert, a

choice of apple or chocolate create pie.

Dinner is \$17 per person. Orders may be made by calling 413-243-1298.

Grange dinners are held to raise money for non-profit projects and building maintenance.



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TOWN OF HARDWICK HIGHWAY WORKING FOREMAN

Seeking qualified applicants to provide direct in-field supervision of employees working on all phases of Highway Department construction, maintenance, repair operations and perform all other related work as required. Repairing heavy equipment. Regulated by the Department of Transportation. Efficiency and effectiveness of all small order highway work is required. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume to: Highway Department, P.O. Box 575, Hardwick, MA 01451-0575. For full job description see www.hardwick-ma.gov.

TOWN OF HARDWICK HELP WANTED

The town of Hardwick is seeking qualified candidates to perform high-level secretarial, clerical, and administrative work, assisting the Town Administrator and Select Board. This is a part-time 10 hours per week position. For full job description, go to www.hardwick-ma.gov. Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to admin@townofhardwick.com or send to PO Box 575 Hardwick, MA 01451.

DRIVE FOR THE QUABOAG CONNECTOR

Drive for the Quabog Connector. The Quabog Connector is a new road project in the town of Hardwick, MA. We are seeking drivers to transport materials to the construction site. The project is located in the town of Hardwick, MA. For more information, contact the project manager at 413-237-1234.

Health Director Full-Time

The town of Hardwick is seeking a full-time Health Director. The position is responsible for the health of the town's residents. The position is located in the town of Hardwick, MA. For more information, contact the project manager at 413-237-1234.

YOUTH CENTER JOB DESCRIPTION

The town of Hardwick is seeking a Youth Center Job Description. The position is responsible for the youth center's operations. The position is located in the town of Hardwick, MA. For more information, contact the project manager at 413-237-1234.

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