

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.

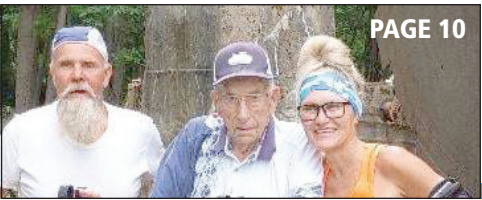
On the Republican Party ballot for Senator in Congress John Deaton received 72 votes. Like the Democratic ballot, there was only one contest, however it was for Governor rather than Senator in Congress.

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

RESULTS, page 9



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HILLTOWNS

MassDOT announces I-90 bridge repairs and painting

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

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

In Becket, bridge painting will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 20.0 on the night of Thursday, Sept. 10 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning.

In Blandford bridge painting will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 26.2 on the night of Thursday, Sept. 10, from 7 p.m.5 a.m. the following morning.

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 information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real time conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

RMV offers reminders to drivers of School Bus Safety Rules

BOSTON – As students across Massachusetts return to school, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is reminding drivers to use extra caution around school buses, bus stops and school zones and to follow state laws designed to keep students safe.

Under Massachusetts law, when a school bus stops to pick up or drop off students and its red lights are flashing, drivers approaching from either direction must stop before reaching the bus. The only exception is for drivers traveling in the opposite direction on a divided highway separated by a physical barrier.

Drivers must remain stopped until the red lights are turned off and the stop-sign arm has fully retracted, unless directed to proceed by a police officer. Motorists traveling behind a school bus must remain at least 100 feet back.

“As students return to school, we are asking every driver to build extra time into your commute so you can slow down and stay alert as school buses are picking up and dropping off children,” said Colleen Ogilvie, Massachusetts Registrar of Motor Vehicles. “Stop when a school bus or van has its red lights flashing and a stop sign extended. Remain stopped until the lights stop flashing and proceed with caution being on the lookout for children.”

The six school bus rules every Massachusetts driver should know:

Stop when red lights are flashing: Drivers approaching a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing must stop before reaching the bus.

Traffic in both directions must generally stop: The exception is for drivers traveling in the opposite direction on a divided highway separated by a physical barrier.

Remain stopped until the lights are off: Do not proceed until the flashing red lights have been turned off and the stop-sign arm fully retracted or a police officer directs you to move.

Slow down and prepare to stop when the yellow/amber lights are flashing which indicate the bus is slowing down and preparing to stop to load or unload passengers.

Stay at least 100 feet behind a school bus: Drivers following a school bus must maintain this distance and be prepared for frequent stops.

Watch for children: Slow down and remain especially alert near bus stops, schools, crosswalks and residential areas.

In Massachusetts, the first offense for failing to stop for a school bus carries a minimum fine of \$250, with higher fines and possible license revocation for repeat offenses.

Massachusetts law also allows cities and towns to adopt school-bus camera programs. In participating communities, cameras can document vehicles that illegally pass stopped school buses. Local law enforcement reviews the footage and determines whether to issue a citation.

The RMV inspects Massachusetts school buses three times each year, in addition to the required annual state inspection. Approximately 10,000 buses undergo comprehensive reviews covering brakes, steering, suspension, lights, emergency equipment, interiors and seating.

MassDOT encourages drivers to build additional time into their morning and afternoon travel as school resumes, avoid distractions behind the wheel and be prepared for increased pedestrian, bicycle, and school bus activity.

CUMMINGTON

Bert Marshall performs at Friday Night Cafe

CUMMINGTON – Session 2 of the 2026 Friday Night Cafe begins on Friday, Sept. 11 from 7-9 p.m. with Bert Marshall in the vestry of the Village Church, located in downtown Cummington in the Cummington Cultural District.

Marshall is a singer, songwriter, recording artist, storyteller and pastor from Plainfield, a Nebraska native and member of the Nebraska Rock ‘n Roll Hall of Fame.

This will be Bert’s first show at the cafe. The event is free, donations are appreciated. Snacks will be provided. People should bring their own beverage.

Once again this program is brought by the friendly folks at the Village Church, who believe music can be a powerful force for building community.

Witter’s celebrate 65th wedding anniversary

CUMMINGTON – Clarence and Jane Witter’s celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Saturday Sept. 26 at noon in the Cummington Fairgrounds, 97 Fairgrounds

Friday Night Cafe receives promotional support from the Cummington Cultural District and is supported in part by grants from the Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hinsdale-Peru, Plainfield, Williamsburg, Windsor, and Worthington Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

RMV offers online appointment reservations

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles announces customers will soon have the option of reserving appointments online for Registration and Title Services at all RMV Service Centers across the Commonwealth.

The new appointment option is intended to provide customers with greater flexibility and efficiency when managing their time. Walk-in service for registration and title services will continue to be available.

Customers will be able to use the myRMV portal to schedule appointments for vehicle and trailer registration and title transactions.

For more information about RMV services and access to myRMV, people may visit Mass.Gov/RMV.

WORTHINGTON

Crews continue to work on roads

WORTHINGTON – Morais Construction Crew #1 continue backfilling shoulders and constructing driveway aprons from East Windsor Road to Lindsey Hill Road.

Crew # 2 guardrail subcontractor completes guardrail work form East Windsor Road to Lindsey Hill Road on Thursday, Sept..10 and Friday, Sept. 11.

Crew # 1 – Morais Construction Crew #1 continue backfilling shoulders and constructing driveway aprons from East Windsor Road to Lindsey Hill Road.

Work hours are 7 a.m.-3 p.m., one-way alternating traffic will be in place with traffic officers directing traffic. Blacktop Road paving is completed for the season.



CHESTER

Chester Cultural Council seeks applicants for 2027 available grants

CHESTER – The Chester Cultural Council is seeking applicants for the 2027 MASS Cultural Council funds distributed through the local and regional councils.

The deadline is Thursday, Oct. 15. The Chester Cultural Council then regrants the funds to arts, humanities, science and interpretive projects and celebrations in the community.

Applicants may visit the Mass Cultural Council site to access the CCC online application, priorities, and guidelines at massculturalcouncil.org to get started.

This year, Mass Cultural Council will invest \$5.92 million into the Local Cultural Council Program, the nation’s largest public grassroots cultural funding network. This is a 2.6% increase over Fiscal Year 2026.

The state’s 329 LCCs provide grants to every community in Massachusetts through the efforts of more than 2,500 volunteers. They support community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences—including murals, lectures, festivals, and performances.

The Local Cultural Council and Tribal Cultural Council programs have been funded at \$5.92 million for FY27, an increase of \$151,900 from FY26. Chester Cultural Council will receive \$5,700 in grant funding.

The Chester Cultural Council is a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Hamilton Memorial Library announces events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library holds story and fun time every Thursday at 11 a.m.

This is a great opportunity for the little ones to socialize, learn new skills and have some fun. Book Club meets the third Wednesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. This month on Wednesday, Sept. 16, they will be discussing “The Frozen River” by Ariel Lawhon, a gripping historical mystery based on the real-life diary entries of Martha Ballard, an 18th-century midwife, who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history. Extra book copies are available. There will be snacks and lively discussion.

A broom tying class takes place Saturday, Sept. 26 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Kay Judge will explain the art, history and process of tying hand brooms. Each participant will create their own hen’s wing style broom to take home.

This class is limited to ten participants ages 16 and up. Registration is required by calling 413-354-7808.

All library events are free. The library has a new email library@townofchester.net.

FAIR *from page 1*

The First Congregational Church of Chester holds a coffee and sweets gathering every Sunday in the reception hall after the 10 a.m. service. Many of the congregation, including the ribbon winners, bring in home baked goodies to share every week.

All are invited to Sunday Service and the social hour that follows.

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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.

HUNTINGTON

DRIVE

But the need is outstripping available resources and this marks the first year that they've also had to use some of their grant funding to purchase diapers.

Kinsella said they have struggled to keep stock of diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6 and have had to turn some families away empty handed.

Recently, ITAV has been part of piloting a federal diaper program that gives families living below the 200% poverty level 100 diapers and one pack of wipes per child each month. In Massachusetts, 24% of young children live in families at this economic level.

Due to Federal funding uncertainty, ITAV staff say they are worried that significant cuts in this vital program might come in November or December. If that occurs, those families would drop to 25 diapers a month per child.

In the meantime, families who do not qualify for the pilot program still rely on the Village Closet to help meet their need for diapers. About six months ago, ITAV decided to up its monthly diaper allotment from 25 diapers per child to 50 diapers per child.

However, if funds for the pilot program are reduced as expected, pilot families will also need to supplement with ITAV's diapers, putting additional strain on those resources.

The National Diaper Bank Network says that diapers are a basic need for all babies and are essential to their health and well being. It reports that 76% of Massachusetts mothers with infants are in the workforce and most child care facilities require that parents provide diapers.

Nationally, 25% of families with diaper need reported that they have missed an average of five days of work or school in the past month because they did not have enough diapers to bring children to day care.

The economics of infant care in Massachusetts are especially challenging; 62% of a single parent's income goes to infant care costs almost double the 38% nationally.

Kinsella points out that even families, who qualify for governmental

financial assistance cannot use any of their benefits to purchase diapers. For example, SNAP, formerly "food stamps" and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families can help pay for food, housing and basic needs but cannot pay for diapers. Yet disposable diapers can cost, on average, between \$80 and \$100 a month per child.

Another issue for struggling families to grapple with: they might get that cost down to \$50 for a big box of diapers at a discount store. "I think the tricky part is that when you are trying to be price efficient you aren't necessarily getting good absorbency and quality and might have to use more of those," Kinsella pointed out.

Since 2009, It Takes a Village has distributed 349,000 diapers. The organization strives to be a place where families can go for basic needs items, information on other available resources, and to be a place that people can count on. In the past year, ITAV has supported 2,683 families totaling 11,065 individuals. Over the past three years, they've seen nearly a 47%



Submitted photos

It Takes a Village is a certified National Diaper Bank that has distributed 349,000 diapers since 2009. Over the past three years, they've seen a nearly 47% increase in the number of people seeking help.

increase in the number of people seeking help. Donations can help this vitally important work.

Additional details on collection efforts can be found by visiting www.hilltown-village.org.

Huntington Cultural Council seeks applications

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Cultural Council is now accepting applications for the FY 2027 grant cycle.

These Local Cultural Council grants can be used to support activities including exhibits, festivals, school-based events, workshops, lectures, virtual and media projects.

The HCC receives funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. This year's allocation for Huntington is \$5,800.

Applications are submitted online at <https://massculturalcouncil.smart-simple.com> and are due on Thursday, Oct. 15.

For more information on the application process and to view local priorities, people may visit <https://massculturalcouncil.org> or call the MCC Help Desk at 617-858-2721 or either email mcc_help_desk@art.state.ma.us or Lynn Winsor at huntington-culturalcouncil@gmail.com.

EASTHAMPTON

Greenfield Savings Bank offers shred day

EASTHAMPTON – The Easthampton Branch, 1 Sierra Vista Boulevard, of Greenfield Savings Bank offers a ShredFest event on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 12:30-3 p.m. to help area residents protect against identity theft and fraud.

The Easthampton Branch is located next to Starbucks. Area residents may bring up to three shopping bags of documents per car and Infoshred will be on site to securely destroy and recycle them. There is no cost and those who take part do not need to be customers of Greenfield Savings Bank.

In 2025, Infoshred shredded and recycled 4,824 tons of paper that was turned into tissue paper, paper towels and dental bibs.

The ShredFest is a drive-through event and bank leaders ask that participants remain in their vehicles throughout the visit. GSB team members will assist in removing bags from vehicles for safety and to keep the line moving.

The bank also requests that participants adhere to the 12:30 p.m. start time.

"Paper documents are a tool for identity thieves. They use everyday mail,

old tax returns and financial statements to commit fraud," said President and CEO Peter Alberio. "We hope our ShredFest will give our neighbors a convenient, proactive and earth-friendly way to clear clutter and safeguard family assets."

Greenfield Savings Bank's Easthampton location opened in June and serves as the bank's southern headquarters, strengthening its presence and long-term commitment to the community.

Headed up by Branch Manager Melvin Coleman, the headquarters is the bank's ninth location and offers personal and business banking,

along with wealth management and trust services, residential and commercial lending and cash management.

For more information about the ShredFest or the bank's products and services, people may visit greenfield-savings.com.

Founded in 1869, Greenfield Savings Bank has more than 200 employees and offices and ATMs throughout Franklin and Hampshire counties in Western Massachusetts. Its branches are located in Greenfield, Amherst, Conway, Easthampton, Hadley, Northampton, Shelburne Falls, South Deerfield and Turners Falls.

MONTGOMERY

Grace Hall Memorial Library announces events

MONTGOMERY – Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main Road, announces a variety of upcoming programs and events for the community this September and October.

On Thursday, Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m. the Cookbook Book Club meets. This month's theme is charcuterie boards. Participants learn, create and enjoy this fun and delicious gathering. Beverages will be provided.

On Saturday, Sept. 19 at 2 p.m. author Steven V. Cormier of "Good Golly... Missed Trolley!" will discuss the history of local mass transit in the hilltowns and

share stories from this fascinating part of local history.

On Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. the library book and bake sale takes place in the Little Red Schoolhouse. Hundreds of new books will be available and the community is invited to come shop and help support the library.

Funds raised through these sales help sponsor library programs and events throughout the year.

The library will accept book donations by appointment only. People may call 413-862-3894 to schedule a drop-off.

Due to space and quality

considerations, they should not donate: water or mildew-damaged books,

Reader's Digest Condensed Books, encyclopedias and textbooks.

Bake goods may be delivered on the morning of the sale at the Little Red Schoolhouse, Carrington Road.

The library encourages everyone to come out, participate in these programs and support the library throughout the year.

The library is open Tuesday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Thursday from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

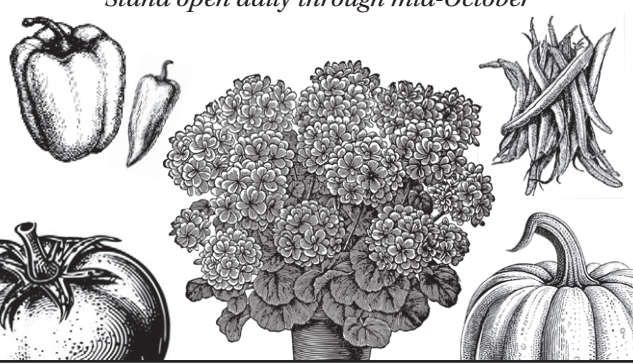
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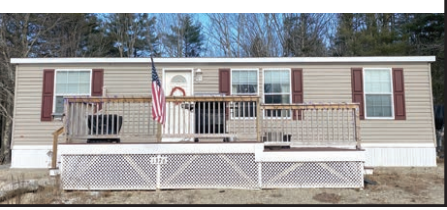


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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader believes photo AI generated

Readers of last week’s *Country Journal* (Aug. 27) should not be fooled by the picture of a mountain lion in a field on Gibbs Road, Blandford.

Several features immediately raise suspicion. The picture is uniformly out of sharp focus, which is not typical for cell phones, even if not held steady (compare its quality with other pictures on the same page).

Further, the cat is in the foreground, presumably close to the photographer in a car and appears to be in no hurry. A mountain lion would most likely be moving along the tree line visible in the background. This is a shy and wary animal.

In “Mammal Tracks and Sign” (2003) Mark Elbroch states that they tend to cross roads rather than follow them as the picture suggests this cat is doing, and Kays and Wilson in “Mammals of North America” (2002) state that they use habitats “that offer cover and prey; avoids shrub less deserts and agricultural areas.”

My suspicions aroused,

I went to the Gibbs Road site to see if I could find the field and confirm its match. I met the gentleman who now owns the late Rita Templeman’s home and south field. He confirmed that the picture is a fake, mainly because of a mismatch between the picture’s lack of features found in the field. I assume the picture was generated by AI, which is troubling as it demonstrates how AI can seriously mislead when misused.

Doug Fraser
Chesterfield

Election needs change

As we vote in the primaries, we have to make a bad decision.

We have to choose the ballot of one party or the other’s. Such a decision censors our right to have a say in both national parties.

Stark and incompatible divisions between our ruling parties are the result of each party preaching to it’s self and vilifying the opposing side. The right to vote in both of the party’s primaries would have a calming effect for our country because the voters who are left leaning, could vote for the more moderate candidate in the right leaning party and visa-versa .

The voice of the people can speak more clearly if we are not constrained to choose one polarizing party over the other. We need to be able vote each ballot in the primaries, in essence voting twice or have one ballot with both parties’s choices on it.

One thing’s for sure, our nation needs a calming effect.

Richard Mansfield
Worthington

Country Journal

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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WEB
countryjournal.turley.com



PHONE
(413) 283-8393



ADDRESS
24 Water Street
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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.

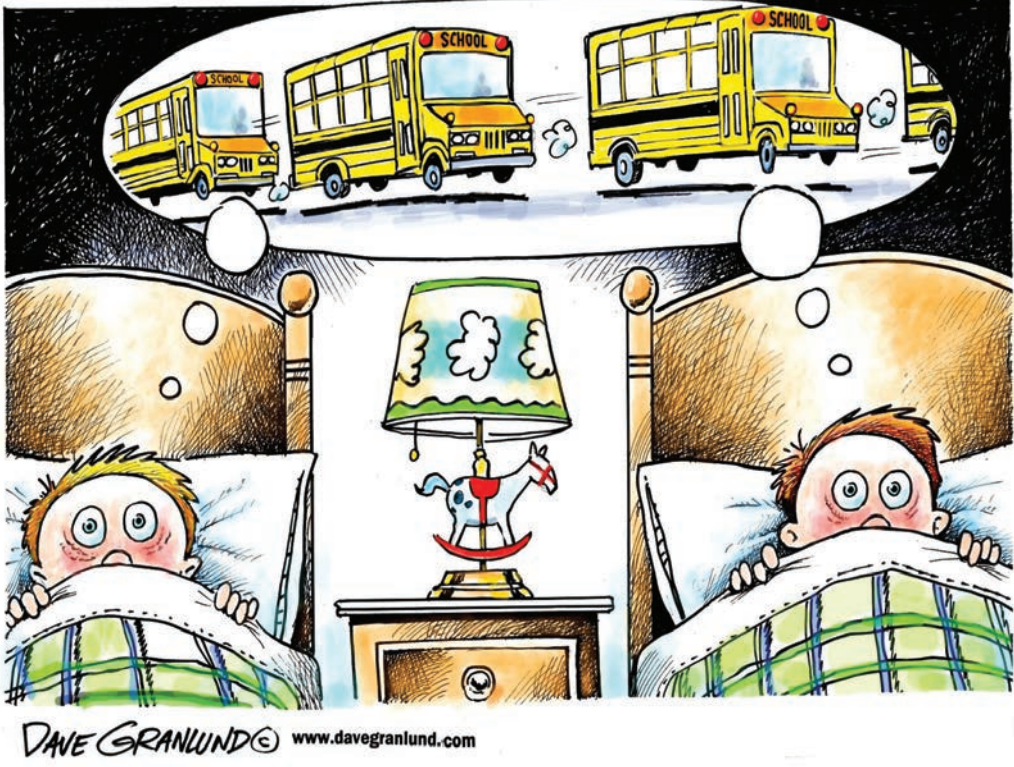
MOUNTAIN LION CONTROVERSY



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.

While visions of school buses danced in their heads...



GUEST COLUMN

Doug Moore of Belchertown took this photo of an osprey protecting its young from a red winged blackbird at Lake Wallace on July 17.

The osprey, also known as the fish hawk has the ability to dive into water to catch fish. It also has the ability to hover.

Ospreys are unusual among hawks in possessing a reversible outer toe that allows them to grasp with two toes in front and two behind. Barbed pads on the soles of the birds’ feet help them grip slippery fish. When flying with prey, an osprey lines up its catch head first for less wind resistance.

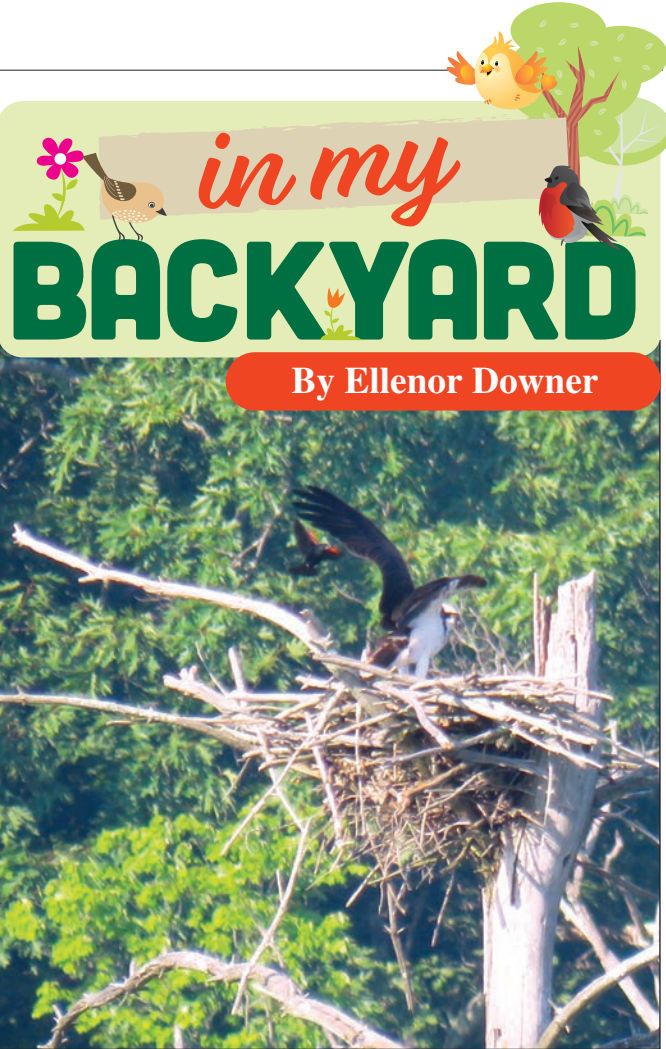
These hawks are excellent anglers. Over several studies, ospreys caught fish on at least one in every four dives with success rates sometimes as high as 70%. The average time they spent hunting before making a catch was about 12 minutes.

The osprey readily builds its stick nest on man-made structures such as telephone poles, channel markers, duck blinds and nest platforms designed especially for it. Such platforms have become an important tool in reestablishing ospreys in areas where they had disappeared. In some areas nests are placed almost exclusively on artificial structures.

Osprey eggs do not hatch all at once. Rather, the first chick emerges up to five days before the last one. The older hatchling dominates its younger siblings and can monopolize the food brought by the parents.

If food is abundant, chicks share meals in relative harmony; in times of scarcity, younger ones may starve to death.

These birds may log more than 160,000 migration miles during its 15 to 20-year lifetime. Scientists track ospreys by strapping lightweight satellite transmitters



Osprey at nest.

Photo by Doug Moore

to the birds’ backs.

The devices pinpoint an osprey’s location to within a few hundred yards and last for two or three years. During 13 days in 2008, one osprey flew 2,700 miles from Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts to French Guiana, South America.

The oldest known osprey was at least 25 years, two months old and lived in Virginia. It was banded in 1973 and found in 1998.

Glossy ibis

On July 13 Doug Moore saw a glossy ibis at Lake Wallace. They expanded their range over the past century from the southeastern United States to include much of eastern North America.

At a distance the glossy ibis looks uniformly dark, but a closer look in sunlight reveals deep maroon, emerald, bronze and violet feathers.

Large flock of grackles

I saw a large flock of grackles in late August. I did not count them, but there were at least 50, probably more.

They flew from one side of the road to the other. I stopped the car and waited for them to safely pass. There were stragglers and some flew behind the car as well as in front of it. Seeing them reminded me that the fall migrations are happening or at least the birds are gathering in flocks to make their journeys south.

Some species of birds travel long distances to their winter habitat. Ospreys are just one of many that travel thousands of miles.

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

GUEST COLUMN



Why change Social Security now? It’s a working ‘Ponzi Scam’

Dear Rusty:

Maybe everybody has the same reaction that I do to Social Security insolvency.

I do not understand a system that has been basically run like a Ponzi Scam since its inception; why have you decided (in 2026-2027) that now is the time to change a perfectly good Ponzi Scam.

In all reality, this began with Babylon. I’m sure that if you searched the meaning of the words “Babylonian money magic,” you would understand what I’m talking about.

If this is as good as the Earth has, why would you mess with a perfectly rotten thing. Why would you decide to change currencies to some sort of fragile digital currency?

Signed: Skeptical Senior

Dear Skeptical Senior:

You touch on an item that the Association of Mature American Citizens Foundation has dealt with many times over the years, specifically the notion that Social Security has the characteristics of a Ponzi Scheme.

Our position in response to that notion is that Social Security was created and operated with full transparency with its financial status, formulas and long-term deficits completely and publicly documented and reported to the President and Congress annually.

Unlike the infamous Charles Ponzi, the government has a permanent pool of contributors through mandatory FICA and SECA (self-employment) payroll

SECURITY, page 5

Subscribe to the Country Journal online at countryjournal.turley.com

OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Recounting tantalizing tidbits and a gadget

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

Enclosed are a couple of remarkable observations. First up while motoring in Pittsfield the observant eye chanced upon a small road sign declaring that Teddy Roosevelt suffered a traffic injury here Sept. 3, 1902.

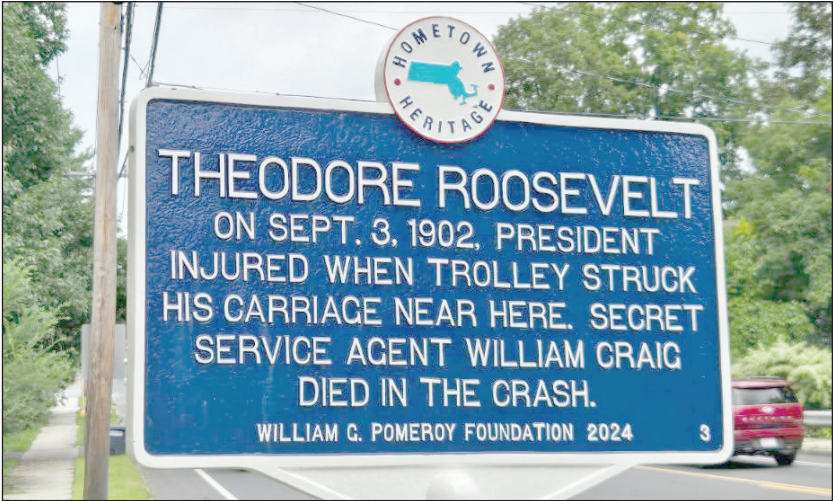
A runaway trolley hit Roosevelt’s carriage, throwing him 30 feet in the air, loosening some teeth, bruising his face, giving him a black eye and severely cutting his left leg, which required extensive wound care to a deep cut to the bone.

This wound plagued him for the rest of his life. This was an era before antibiotics.

Theodore Roosevelt was in his first term as President. He inherited the presidency after President McKinley was assassinated in 1901. Settling our scores with the President with violence has a long history.

Teddy Roosevelt went on to win the next election, serving a total of seven years in office. To clarify Franklin Roosevelt was President from 1933 to 1945 and he was a fifth cousin to TR. Franklin married Theodore’s niece Eleanor Roosevelt. And just one more question, runaway trolley on a relatively flat stretch of track?

Teddy Roosevelt suffered another attempt on his life, a bullet to the chest while campaigning for the Presidency in 1912. He was saved by a manuscript and



Turley Publications photo by Deborah Daniels

The sign in Pittsfield telling about President Theodore Roosevelt’s accident on Route 7 going from Pittsfield to Lenox, Massachusetts.

his steel spectacle case located in his breast pocket.

That was one thick manuscript, judging by his oratory powers. The man was indestructible. His nickname was the “Bull Moose” and he was forever yelling “Bully.”

Next we turn our attention to a remarkable invention discovered at the Cummington Fair, researched and explained by Susan Phillips. It is the fat detector, named the 20th Century Tester, made in Chicago.

Early researchers set loose in the farm world. Each little cup held a sample of a cow’s milk.

A drop of sulfuric acid was added to each cup, then the cups were spun in the iron globe to separate the fat while the acid dissolved the other milk components.

So the precious milk fat was measured this way. The

milk with the highest fat content was the most valuable milk. That was the golden cow.

Jersey cows produce the richest milk, ie highest in fat content. Most farmers at the time of this invention, would have known this by direct observation. Certainly the barnyard kitty would have weighed in on this too!

Now for one last observation. What is that quarried stone doing in the river at Sanderson Brook Falls? There are actually two quarried square stones about four foot in dimension in the brook.

Yes there were many small mines in the area way back in the late 1800s to early 1900s. Those appear to be made of granite but the size is large and begs the question where did these hail from?



This is a historic photo of the accident when President Theodore Roosevelt’s carriage was hit by a runaway trolley.



An iron milk fat separator was on display at the Cummington Fair.



This square granite quarried stone sits in the Sanderson River.

They clearly have the chisel indentations of quarried stone. They seem too

large to have come from the immediate area that is resoundingly hostile to horse

carriage and early truck carry out. Let’s hear an explanation from you local history buffs.

SECURITY

from page 4

roll taxes and is designed to remain in operation infinitely as long as there’s a taxpaying workforce.

Moreover, the Social Security system is overseen by Congress, specifically the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Government Accountability Office. The Social Security Administration is subject to routine hearings by these congressional overseers and maintains an independent Office of the Inspector General to ensure the integrity of its financial operations.

Contrary to Ponzi victims, all participants retiring from the workforce and their dependents recover their Social Security contributions via benefit payments, some more than others based on their level of participation in the system. Also, contrary to Ponzi Schemes, Social Security was designed as a social insurance system and has operated successfully in that mode for over nine decades.

What raises the notion of a Ponzi Scheme comparison these days is the looming insolvency facing Social Security just six years from now. This financial problem, however, has nothing to do with fraud.

Rather, it is a function of workforce demographics and the fact that Congress has long deferred corrective action on a problem that has been known for the past four decades.

We sometimes hear well intended, but sometimes uninformed comments from some Washington politicians invoking the Ponzi Scheme reference, but we believe that Congress is finally waking up to the urgency.

And we also believe Congress is now starting to move seriously to set a course for correction in time to ward off the impact of insolvency. AMAC is proud to be a part of the collective thinking currently surfacing, and our Social Security Guarantee is in play as a plan to be considered.

We invite you to review our SS reform plan (at <https://amac.us/social-security-guarantee>) and likewise to stay tuned to our Social Security Report website (<https://socialsecurityreport.org/>) where we post regular updates on a variety of matters pertaining to Social Security and retirement.

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 amac-foundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amac-foundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393. Corrections will be printed on page 4 or 5.

Correction

Maestro Eve Queler’s name was misspelled in the article in the Sept. 3 edition. It is Queler not Quelar.

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)

WESTFIELD

Westfield Bank makes most charitable list

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Bank was named by the Boston Business Journal as one of Massachusetts’ most charitable companies, earning a place on the publication’s annual Corporate Citizenship Awards list.

The awards recognize businesses that demonstrate exceptional philanthropic leadership and a deep commitment to the communities they serve.

The honor recognizes Westfield Bank’s charitable giving in 2025 and marks the fifth consecutive year the bank has been named to the

Corporate Citizenship list.

“Supporting the communities we serve is at the heart of Westfield Bank,” said James C. Hagan, President and CEO. “Strong communities don’t just happen. They’re built through partnerships and organizations working together to effect positive change. We’re proud to support that work and honored to be recognized alongside so many companies that share that commitment.”

The Corporate Citizenship Awards recognize organizations that reported at least \$100,000 in cash contributions to Massachusetts-

based nonprofits during the most recent reporting period.

Honorees represent a broad range of industries, including financial and professional services, health-care, technology, retail, and professional sports, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening communities across the Commonwealth.

The 2026 Corporate Citizenship Awards will be presented by the Boston Business Journal on Sept. 16 at Big Night Live in Boston, celebrating the organizations that invest in the people and places that make

Massachusetts better.

For more information about Westfield Bank and its commitment to the community, people may visit www.westfieldbank.com.

Westfield Bank, headquartered in Westfield, is a federally chartered savings bank organized in 1853 and is the largest publicly traded bank headquartered in Western Massachusetts.

Bank’s deposits are insured up to the maximum FDIC insurance coverage limits. To learn more, visit the bank’s website at www.westfieldbank.com.

Alzheimer’s Association Support Group set to meet on Sept. 30

WESTFIELD – Alzheimer’s Association Support Group meets on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. in Armbrook Village Senior Living and Memory Support Community, 551 North Road.

September 30, 2026, 6:00 pm at Armbrook Village Senior Living and Memory Support Community,

Caregivers and family members are invited to enjoy light refreshments and to share their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with their loved ones. The public is welcome.

To join this group, people may call 413-568-0000 or email reception@armbrookvillage.com. Groups meet on the last Wednesday of the month.

BLANDFORD

BCC seeks members

BLANDFORD – Chair of the Blandford Cultural Council Sue Racine is looking for additional members to serve with this group that supports cultural programming.

This is programming that directly benefits town residents and as well as neighboring Hilltown communities. This programming includes: concerts, plays, art shows, library programs

and classes in the community and in-school and field trip cultural programming for the students at the Gateway Regional Schools.

The time commitment is minimal, with perhaps four or five meetings in the fall to review applications for funding.

Anyone interested should email Racine at Susanracine1@gmail.com or call 413-478-3600.

Unofficial results of primary

BLANDFORD – The unofficial results of the primary for Blandford were as follows:

There were 267 ballots cast.

Democratic Senator in Congress : Markey 104; Moulton, 54

Governor: Healey: 125

Lt Governor: Driscoll, 120

Atty General: Campbell, 127

Sec of State:Galvin,131

Treasurer: Goldberg, 127

Auditor: Dizoglio: 122

Rep in Congress: Neal, 64; Whalen, 95

Councillor:Jacobs, 113; Fenton, 38

Sen. In General Court: Mark: 130

Rep, in General Court:

Hendrickson, 125

Dist Atty: Gulluni, 125

Register of Probate: Saccomani, 125

Republican Senator in Congress: Deaton, 96

Governor: Minogue, 73; Shortsleeve, 31

Lt. GovernorL Oliver, 83, Martin, 11

Atty General: Walsh, 93

Sec of State: Brensley, 13

Auditor: no votes

Councillor: two different writeins

Senator in General Court: three different writeins

Rep. in General Court: Boldyga, 81

Register of Probate: no votes

MEETING

Fire Department

Fire Chief Adam Dolby said “the station is still falling down” and the new brush truck is coming. The department will have a pushing in ceremony to recognize the new equipment.

The department spent \$7,000 for an engine transmission and there is a need for another truck transmission. A new vehicle would be 14 to 16 months to acquire, and he recommended replacing the transmission to save time.

Also, he said the chance of finding a truck to fit in the current building is slim and to get a 10-12-year-old truck would be about \$100,000.

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera said the town voted to take a loan to purchase a fire truck and Hopson said the vote was good until such time as the town voted to revoke it.

The vote authorizing the borrowing was at the June 2023 Town Meeting. Two trucks are necessary for an emergency to provide sufficient water for firefighting.

Dolby also said that the hydraulic system of the Jaws of Life needs replacing at a cost of about \$12,000. The department is also struggling on membership.

Fire Department membership

Board Chair Jackie Coury asked about incentivizing membership to show up as Dolby said those who don’t make training are relegated to lesser emergency tasks.

He said there are now about five-seven active members, optimum would be 15, and added that the problem is nationwide for getting volunteers.

Water Department

Steve Grondin represented the Water Department and said upgrades are moving forward. There is no news on a superintendent. The meters are still a problem. When the first round was installed, many batteries failed. The meters work, but they need to be able to read.

Council on Aging

Council on Aging Director Margit Mikuski said the COA continues to be very active. The Monday morning exercise sessions will stop for a few months as the instructor will be away. Work is going on for the annual Veterans Dinner in November and the annual flu clinic will be at the first October luncheon. She said Walgreens Drug will administer the inoculations. And lastly, she reported that

the community garden had again been vandalized.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay said the playground swing chains had been replaced and the department is doing more work in house as a cost saving measure such as oil changes. Tree work has been completed in several areas.

For the fuel tanks to pass inspection there needs to be a proper vent pipe installed. He reported costs for millings for Nye Brook Road and Watson Park and other roads to be done in the spring including Shepard and Lloyds Hill roads.

He would like to see Springfield Water and Sewer Commission take the responsibility for the beaver-deceivers and their maintenance as the town cannot go on their property without permission.

Planning Board

Planning Board Chair Greg Garfield said his area is quiet. He asked if the senior work off program could provide help as he is looking for long term assistance. Board member Corinne Shartrand explained that the work off program was for routine office help such as stuffing envelopes etc. and not detailed work.

Regarding Belle Fleur, the cannabis cultivation firm on Otis Stage Road, which had been auctioned off earlier this month, Board member Ted Cousineau said he attended the auction and that the contractor, who was suing Belle Fleur was the high bidder. The area is not in compliance as far as conservation or health issues.

Public Comment

During public comment, Maureen Boomsma had concerns with Dolby’s assessment of membership saying the department needs eight or better people to participate in an emergency. To attract more people, she said other departments are paid departments and “this is working against us...pay us for training. Where you need us is on the call.”

Other business

Laura Gregory said that she believed someone else had used her name to vote in the last town election (June 2026). The Town Clerk is investigating.

Chair Jackie Coury announced that due to thee concerns raised by residents about the change in board meeting hours, the board will reconsider the time at the next meeting as well as vote the membership for the Community Development Committee.

from page 1

WILLIAMSBURG

Meekins Library exhibits artwork featuring Audrey Helen Weber

WILLIAMSBURG – The Neil Hammer Gallery at Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., will host an exhibit this September featuring the artwork of Audrey Helen Weber.

Visitors are invited to stop by the library during open hours to view Weber’s work.

Audrey Helen Weber is an artist, author and illustrator. They make drawings, paintings, and picture books using pencil, gouache and acrylic paint on paper.

Weber has written and illustrated four picture books: “On the Day the Horse Got Out,” “The Wind & the Clover,” “Year Round” and “The Birds in

the Boat.”

Weber also enjoy making books with other authors and have illustrated: “Tumblebaby” by Adam Rex, “Gwendolyn and the Light” by Susan Yoon and “The Hill” by Kyo Mclear (Random House Studios, fall 2027).

Weber has made illustrations for newspapers, clothing lines, advertisements, magazines, murals and tomato sauce jars. The artist lives and works in Western Massachusetts with a fuzzy black cat.

This art exhibit is available for viewing during open library hours this September. The gallery occupies the same space

as the community room; if there is an ongoing program, they ask that patrons refrain from interrupting the event.

Audrey Helen Weber stated, “Making a picture, whichever way you want to do it, gives you something really nice to do. Sometimes when you’ve done, the picture you’ve made tells a little story.”

Weber also said, “I like to make pictures with colorful paint on smooth thick paper. I use a pencil to draw the shapes and then add paint on top using small paintbrushes. I use water to paint in thin layers, blending colors on top of each other.”



These are some of the vegetables and canned items exhibited at last year’s Williamsburg Grange Fair.

Grange to hold fair on Sept. 12

WILLIAMSBURG – There’s fun for the whole family at the Williamsburg Grange Fair on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Williamsburg Grange, 10 Main St.

Participants can check out the agricultural, flower, craft and photography exhibits, peruse the craft fair on the lawn, take part in children’s activities and purchase lunch and baked goodies as well.

The fair culminates with an auction at 6:45 p.m. It’s a full day of old-fashioned fun; all are welcome.

People may visit <https://burgygrange225.weebly.com/grange-fair.html> for the fair schedule and premium list.



Submitted photos

This is the flower exhibits at last year’s Williamsburg Grange Fair. This year’s fair is Saturday, Sept. 12 from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.



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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Governor declares September College Fire Safety Month

STOW – Governor Maura Healey proclaimed September College Fire Safety Month in Massachusetts as thousands of students return to campus and move into dormitories, apartments and other student housing.

Fire officials are offering guidance to help prevent fires and injuries during what is traditionally the leading month for fires in student housing.

“Massachusetts is proud to welcome thousands of students to our colleges each fall and we want every one of them to have a safe and successful year,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Most fires in student housing can be prevented. Simple steps like staying in the kitchen while cooking, keeping exits clear and using batteries and chargers safely can save lives.”

“Move-in day comes with a long checklist and fire safety needs to be on it,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “Before families unpack the last box, check the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, identify two ways out and make sure everyone knows what to do if a fire starts.”

Massachusetts fire departments reported more than 2,500 fires in dormitories, fraternities and sororities between 2021 and 2025. These fires caused six civilian injuries, 10 fire service injuries and approximately \$2.7

million in damage.

Fire officials are also emphasizing the importance of safety in apartments and other off-campus housing. Two Massachusetts college students died in separate, unrelated off-campus fires in 2013.

“College Fire Safety Month is an important reminder that keeping students safe is a shared responsibility,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “Colleges and universities, property owners, families, and students all have a role to play. As students return to campus and settle into new housing, we encourage everyone to review basic fire safety, make sure alarms are working, and know what to do in an emergency.”

Massachusetts law requires landlords to provide working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Students should test their alarms when they move in and immediately notify their landlord if an alarm is missing, damaged or not working.

Students should also check the manufacturing date printed on the back of each alarm. Smoke alarms should generally be replaced after ten years.

Carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced after five, seven or 10 years, depending on the make and model.

About 90% of fires in student housing are related

to cooking with unattended cooking the most common factor. Students should remain in the kitchen when using the stovetop, use a timer when cooking in the oven and never cook while drowsy or impaired.

Sept. 1 marks the primary move-in date for students across Massachusetts, fire officials are also reminding students to keep escape routes clear. Boxes, furniture, bikes and other belongings should not block windows, doorways, hallways or stairwells.

Students should know two ways out of their building and, when possible, two ways out of each room. If an alarm sounds, occupants should leave the building, stay outside and call 9-1-1.

Students can also reduce the risk of fire by following these precautions:

Smoking. There is no safe way to smoke, but if students must smoke then do it responsibly. Don't flick cigarettes on the ground, where they can smolder and ignite debris or grind them out on porches or steps. Use a heavy ashtray on a sturdy surface and put it out, all the way, every time.

Electrical. Always plug appliances like air conditioners and space heaters into wall sockets that can handle the current, not power strips or extension cords. Don't overload outlets with multiple

devices.

Heating. Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to sleep. Never leave a space heater unattended.

Cooking. Stand by your pan. Don't leave pots and pans unattended on a lit stovetop, and keep flammable items away from burners. In the event of a grease fire, smother the flames with a lid and then turn off the heat. Only cook when you're alert, not when you're drowsy or impaired.

Candles. Never leave candles burning unattended. Extinguish them before leaving the room. Even better, switch to battery-powered candles.

Lithium-Ion Batteries

Use the charging equipment provided by the manufacturer and disconnect it when the device is charged. Charge phones, laptops, e-cigarettes, e-bike batteries and other devices on a hard and stable surface never a bed, couch, or pillow. If you notice an unusual odor, change in color, change in shape, leaking or odd noises, stop using the device right away. If they are able to do so safely, move it away from anything that can burn and call the local fire department.

For more fire safety tips for both on and off campus, people may visit www.mass.gov/dfs.

COLLEGE NOTES

University at Albany welcomes new students

ALBANY, NEW YORK – The University at Albany welcomes more than 3,500 students to make up the Class of 2030, making it part of the largest first-year class in UAlbany's history.

Mirabella Prefontaine of Westfield and Nora Roy of Westfield are incoming students.

Approximately 18,000 students are enrolled at the University this year. The incoming class was selected from more than 36,000 applications and represents a 20% increase in first-year enrollment compared with last year.

Students in the Class of 2030 come from 40 states and 35 countries, bringing a wide range of backgrounds and experiences to UAlbany.

More than 1,280 students are from New York City, 558 students from the Capital District, 512 students from Long Island and 451 students joined the University's Honors College.

In addition to the new freshmen, UAlbany is welcoming more than 1,000 transfer students this fall.



PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of the Town of Huntington will hold a public hearing on **September 28, 2026 beginning at 6:00 pm** in Stanton Hall.

The Public Hearing is scheduled for **6:00 pm** for the Special Permit Application of Chloe McLeod DBA Cryptic Captures of 7 Old Chester Road to open a photography studio and teaching space at 13 Main Street, Parcel # H1-54-0.

The Special Permit Application will be available to view **by appointment** in the office of the Selectboard during regular business hours, as well as at the Public Hearings.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
TOWN OF HUNTINGTON**
09/10, 09/17/2026

TOWN OF BLANDFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE DEER HUNTING PERMITS- 2026

The Blandford Conservation Commission will be available on **September 22, 2026 between 6:00 and 7:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall to receive deer hunting Permit Applications for Town –owned Conservation properties. The Conservation properties include the Knittel Conservation Area on Herrick Road, Shepard Farm Conservation Area on Route 23 and the Long Pond Conservation Area on North Blandford Road. If more applications are received than the allotted number of permits for each area, the permits will be selected on a random basis. If additional permits are available after September 26,

they will be issued on first come-first serve basis by contacting the Conservation Commission. Applications will only be accepted from those that present a valid Massachusetts hunting or sporting license at the time of application and the license/customer number must be entered on the application. Each applicant must personally submit his or her own application. Successful Applicants will be issued a permit to hunt in only one of the above Conservation properties. Permits issued will only be valid for the **2026 Deer Hunting Seasons**. Permit Applications will be available at the Town Hall on September 22, 2026 at the Conservation Commission Office at 6:00 PM. For further information or questions, please contact the Conservation Commission at (413) 848 4279 x 202.

09/10/2026

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON TRAFFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS

Approved by Selectboard on 8/12/2026

The Huntington Selectboard, acting under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 22, hereby adopts and makes the following rules and orders for the regulation of vehicles used in the Town of Huntington.

A. Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion

1. Restricted Streets. The use and operation of heavy commercial vehicles having a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds is hereby restricted on the following named streets, or parts thereof, and in the manner outlined and during the period of time set forth.

County Road -- Excluded from entire road at all times

2. Signage. The Selectboard shall cause to be placed at each opening to the above named

streets, or affected parts thereof, a sign indicating “NO TRUCKS” in conformance with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division’s Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

3. Exemptions. Paragraph 1 of this Section shall not apply to heavy commercial vehicles going to or coming from places upon said streets for the purpose of making deliveries of goods, materials, or merchandise to or similar collections from abutting lands or buildings or adjoining streets or ways to which access cannot otherwise be gained; or to vehicles used in connection with the construction, maintenance and repair of said streets or public utilities therein; or to federal, state or municipal public service corporation owned vehicles.

4. Penalty. Violations of this Regulation may be penalized by a non-criminal disposition of the violation as provided in the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 40, Section 21D. Penalty: \$50.00. Enforcing Persons: Police Officers.

Jennifer Peloquin
Town Administrator

09/10/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Matthew F. Montague and Happy Montague to Peter E. Montague and Mary P. Montague, Trustees of the Peter and Mary Montague Living Trust, said mortgage being dated June 6, 2014, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 11659, Page 145, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same

will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, September 30, 2026**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely 61 Chesterfield Road, Westhampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land in Westhampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, with the improvements thereon, located on the easterly side of Chesterfield Road, and being shown as Lot A on a plan of land entitled, “Plan of Land in Westhampton, Massachusetts Prepared for Peter E. Montague,” prepared by Holmberg & Howe, Inc. dated May 17, 2013 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 229, Page 121, to which plan reference may be made for a more particular description.

Containing 6.50 acres of land, more or less

Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagors by deed from Peter E. Montague and Mary P. Montague, Trustees of the Peter and Mary Montague Living Trust, Dated July 2, 2009, recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds immediately prior hereto, and subject to the right of first refusal in said deed.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

No representations, express or implied, are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold “as is”.

The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing costs and all recording fees.

TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder in the sale shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer’s check or certified check in the amount of **TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000.00)** at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The successful bidder will also be required to deposit an additional sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid less the \$25,000.00 deposit (but no less than \$25,000) with the Mortgagee’s auctioneer, Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc., 31 Capital Drive, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089 or the Mortgagee’s attorney as may be directed within five (5) days of the date of the sale to be held by the Mortgagee, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer’s check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder at the sale will also be required to pay a buyer’s premium of 5% and shall sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee’s Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel or any portion thereof separately, or in any order that Mortgagee may choose and/or to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Peter E. Montague and Mary P. Montague, Trustees of the Peter and Mary Montague Living Trust
Present Holder of said Mortgage

By /s/ David A. Lavenburg
David A. Lavenburg,
Its Attorney
BACON WILSON, P.C.
33 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
413-781-0560

09/03, 09/10, 09/17/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

1

Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2

Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3

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The Town of Oakham is seeking a dependable individual to serve as a PART-TIME CUSTODIAN for the Oakham Town Hall and Library. Position Details: • Approximately 5-7 hours per week • \$20.35 per hour • Responsible for general cleaning and custodial duties at the Town Hall and Library Interested candidates should email admin@oakham-ma.gov for further information and town employment application. The Town of Oakham is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WARE JOB OPENING Part-Time Custodian
The Town of Ware is seeking applicants for the position of custodian. Duties include cleaning restrooms, sweeping, vacuuming, and mopping floors, cleaning windows, taking out trash and restocking supplies. Part-time, non-benefitted, \$1750 per hour, 12 hours per week.
Job applications can be found on the Town of Ware website <https://www.townof-ware.com> under Human Resources, at the Ware Town Hall, or e-mail your application or resume to resumes@townof-ware.com. AA/EOE

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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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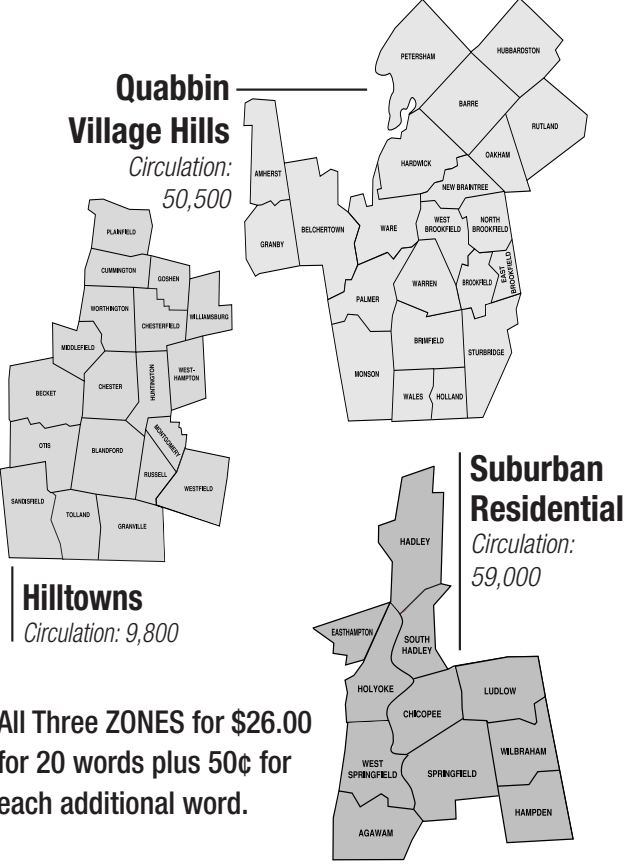
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LENOX

45th Apple Squeeze happening Sept. 26

LENOX – On Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., the Lenox Chamber of Commerce will host the 45th Apple Squeeze.

This signature annual fall festival transforms downtown Lenox into a bustling autumn celebration featuring over 100 regional artisans, food vendors, and community organizations.

Attendees can indulge in classic fall treats including warm apple cider donuts, freshly popped kettle corn, local maple treats, hot cider slushies, pumpkin baked goods and seasonal ice cream.

Food vendors will also serve up hearty fare like artisan sausages, authentic Indian cuisine,

burgers and hot dogs, smoothies and acai bowls.

Festival goers can also shop artisanal goods like hand-poured autumn candles, handcrafted wooden cutting boards, fall-fleece accessories, crystal foliage jewelry, cozy knitwear and rustic home decor.

The Apple Squeeze is free and open to the public. The event will take place rain or shine.

Parking is available in the lots behind Berkshire Bank and the Lenox Police Station. Limited street parking is strictly enforced and illegal parking on residential properties will be ticketed.

For more information, people may call the Lenox Chamber of Commerce at 413-637-3646 or visit lenox.org.

GOSHEN

Family contra dance takes place Sept. 26

GOSHEN – A family contra dance takes place on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 7-9 p.m. in the Goshen Town Hall, 42 Main St.

This will be a fun evening of contra and square dances for the whole family.

No experience is necessary.

The dance is appropriate for all ages. Live music is by Annika Amstutz, George Wilson and Becky Hollingsworth. Steve Howland teaches and calls the dances.

This is a beginner and family friendly event and smoke and alcohol free.

The dance is free. Donations are accepted, but not required.

People may call Steve Howland at 413-522-3320 or

email showland@mac.com with any questions.

It is supported in part by grants from the Goshen and Williamsburg Cultural Council, local agencies supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

RESULTS

Court, District Attorney and Register of Probate had no candidates.

The Middlefield Town Clerk lists the unofficial state primary election. For Senator in Congress Edward Markey received 75 votes and Seth Moulton 31 on the Democrat Party ballot. John Deaton got 36 votes for that position on the Republican Party ballot.

For Governor Democrat Maura Healey received 79 votes for Governor. Michael Minogue receive 30 votes and Brian Shortsleeve 10 on the

Republican ballot.

Lieutenant Governor Kimberly Driscoll got 89 votes on the Democrat ballot and Shawn Oliver got 32 on the Republican ballot.

Andrea Campbell got 93 votes on the Democrat ballot and Michael Walsh 35 votes on the Republican ballot for Attorney General. William Galvin got 99 votes for Secretary of State on the Democrat ballot. There was no candidate on the Republican ballot.

Deborah Goldberg

received 94 votes on the Democrat ballot and Elizabeth Dionne received 33 on the Republican ballot for Treasurer. Dianne DiZoglio received 97 votes on the Democrat ballot for Auditor; there was no candidate on the Republican ballot.

Richard Neal got 50 votes and Jeromie Whalen got 58 votes for Representative in Congress on the Democrat ballot. Tara Jacobs got 67 votes and Michael Fenton got 36 on the Democrat ballot for

Councillor.

Paul Mark received 92 votes for Senator in General Court on the Democrat ballot.

Thomas Hendrickson got 91 votes on the Democrat ballot and Nicholas Boldyga got 32 on the Republican ballot for Representative in General Court.

David Sullivan got 92 votes on the Democrat ballot for District Attorney and Mark Smith Ames got 92 votes for Register of Probate on the Democrat ballot.

THIS WEEK’S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

It may feel like you're coming out of the dark and into the light this week, Aries. A weight has been lifted, but there is still some emotional components to work out.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

This is a great week to go out and get things done, Cancer. Even if you feel a little indecisive, don't sweat the small details. You don't have to make any great commitments.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Physical stamina is strong for you this week, Libra. Consider working out to release some of that pent-up energy. A sport or hobby can channel it as well.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, your solid footing may become a bit unstable this week. Don't fret. In fact, infuse a bit of laughter and playfulness into things.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, have a look at the world around you this week instead of just moving forward with your nose to the grindstone. Enjoy a night out with friends and take an active role in the evening.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Action is the name of the game for you right now. You might notice a sudden burst of physical energy at some point, and that can be channeled into a walk or bike ride.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Take a break from the seriousness that has taken root lately, Scorpio. You'll find that some upbeat conversations are the way to navigate the waters this week.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

There is no excuse for laziness this week, Aquarius. Make sure you get out of bed each day and engage in something that gets your body and mind working.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Question what you hear this week, and do not take all of the information you receive at face value. You might need to read between the lines.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Take some of the knowledge you have picked up and processed over the past few weeks and spread it around. It is time to put your communication skills to work.

SAGITTARIUS

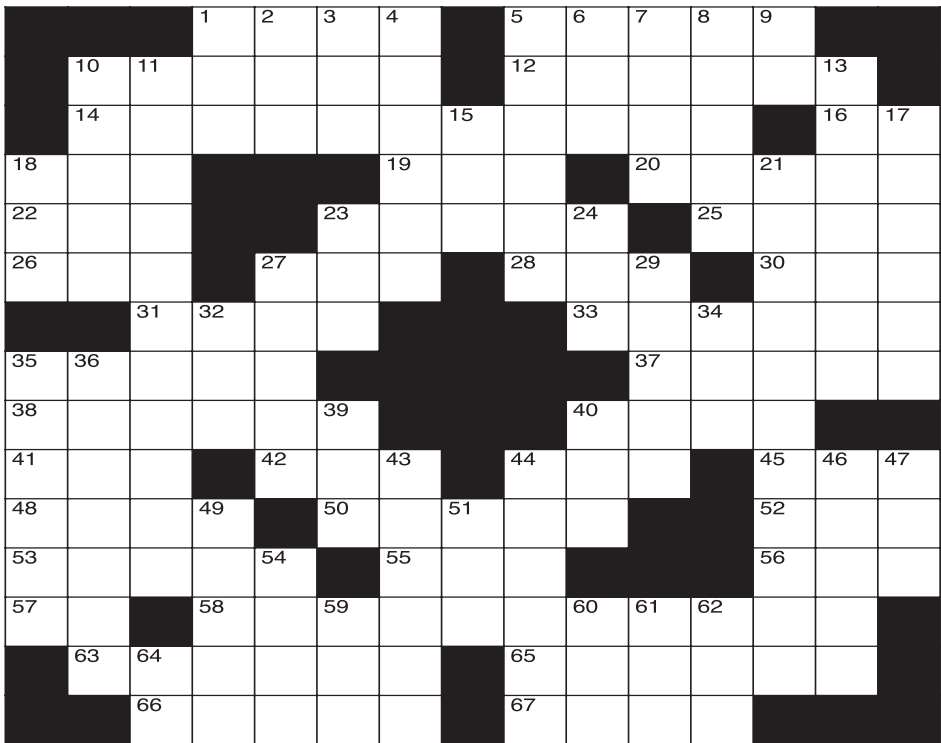
Nov 23/Dec 21

The things you say to others will have a profound effect, Sagittarius. Be mindful of the words you choose. Enjoy a physical group activity.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

It is time to take action, Pisces. See how far you can take all of the tasks that are on your to-do list. You may be surprised to find that you accomplish so much.



CLUES ACROSS

- Longtime Vogue editor Wintour
- A Spanish title of respect
- A way of looking
- Properly
- Rolled steel
- Not down
- Law degree
- Consume food
- Intermediate ecological stage
- Old world, new
- Dispense justice
- Stiff hair-like structure
- Ethiopia
- Cool!
- Father
- An enthusiastic devotee of sports
- Holm oak
- Be united
- Rattling breaths

CLUES DOWN

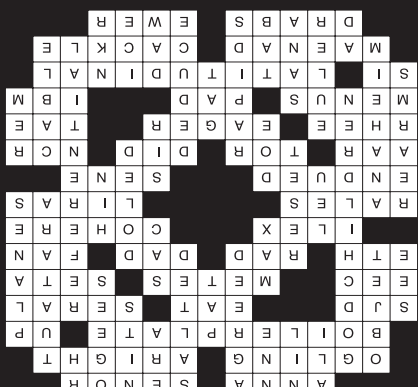
- Supermarket chain
- Provided with a quality
- Samoan monetary unit
- Swiss river
- Hill (Celtic)
- Have already done
- ATM company
- Syngman __, Korean president
- Very willing
- Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- Food listings
- Bachelor's place to crash
- Big Blue
- Sports magazine
- Relating to a place north of south of the equator
- Female follower of Bacchus
- A type of laugh
- Slovenly women
- Large jug

CLUES DOWN

- Boxing's GOAT
- Zero
- Midway between north and northeast
- Concurred
- Added flavor
- Amount of time
- Eggs of parasitic insects
- S-shaped moldings
- Atomic #45
- __ d'art: small artistic item
- A godparent's "kids"
- Nocturnal burrowing lizard
- Hit lightly
- Aircrafts
- Witness
- Alluding to something
- Take to the limit
- Baglike structure in a plant or animal

- Start over
- Administered
- Romanian monetary unit
- Unit of liquid capacity
- Equips with weapons again
- Disney town
- Female deer
- Title of respect
- A place to go rafting
- A way to conclude
- Type of television
- Georgia rockers
- Leonhard __, Swiss mathematician
- Slang for gun
- River in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bar bill
- Small, gray-headed crow
- Frozen water
- Norwegian krone
- Commercial

answers



1	6	7	9	2	3	4	8	5
8	8	9	5	4	1	7	6	2
4	5	2	6	8	7	3	9	1
7	1	4	8	3	6	5	2	9
8	9	5	2	1	4	6	7	3
6	2	3	7	5	9	1	4	8
2	4	8	1	7	5	9	3	6
9	3	1	4	6	8	2	5	7
5	7	6	3	9	2	8	1	4

SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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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.

\$12.50
Each

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