

# Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

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## BLANDFORD

### History will come to life with ghost walk

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

The Historical Society will bring locally significant Revolutionary War stories to light in a special program, ghost walk on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 2-4 p.m.

People will meet the town's ghosts of the American Revolution in the Old Burying Ground. Guests will be on their feet for about an hour touring the cemetery and will meet a cast of Blandford characters. Doughnuts and cider will follow at the Blandford Historical Society across the street from the cemetery.

The event will take place rain or shine unless severe weather is forecast. In that case, cancellation will be posted by visiting [www.blandfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.blandfordhistoricalsociety.org) by noon.

The event is free, open to the public and it is not necessary to sign up, just enjoy the local lore. Portable seats are fine

GHOST, page 6

## BLANDFORD

### BLANDFORD FAIR

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Recapping the 156th Annual Labor Day Weekend fair, President Matt Ripley said he was proud to be part of bringing the fair from where it was and now to where it is going.

"It gets better every year," he said, citing a 12% increase in attendance this year over last year. The best day was Saturday and the Monday, Blandford Residents Day with no admission charge for townies, who did take advantage of the opportunity. "We can't thank the volunteers enough or the fair sponsors."

"It was a great fair, the weather was beautiful, no rain, no heat or humidity," he added.

Next year he is hopeful for the inclusion of Midway rides and vans.

This was the first time the fair hosted a motorcycle ride to benefit Shriners Children's Hospital on Sunday, Aug. 31. "We were able to donate \$1,000 to the Shriners Hospital as a result," said Ripley.

The new pavilion project was completed in time, funded with a grant



Sofie Petrucci, 5, of Suffield, had fun feeding the goats at the Blandford Fair last weekend.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

from the Department of Agricultural Resources and help from the major pavilion sponsors which included Tonlino Crushed Stone, Hyland Property Services, Deedy Electric

and The Concrete Guy, along with "countless hours from all the volunteers." The new pavilion is available for rent, and details are available at the Fair's website by visiting

theblandfordfair.com.

The fair is truly a family affair. Multiple generations of Ripleys, Wymans, Bloods,

FAIR, page 7

## WILLIAMSBURG

### Porchfest brings free live music

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

The Williamsburg Cultural Council announces their first ever Williamsburg Porchfest on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., to be held throughout the center of town.

Admission is free for all. This event will take place rain or shine with indoor venues used in case of inclement weather. "The town will come alive with the soulful sounds of local talent as the first ever Williamsburg Porchfest graces the charming porches of downtown," reported Lesley Ham, an event organizer.

Held in conjunction with the annual Grange Fair, community members and visitors alike are welcome to stroll along Main Street and enjoy free, live performances from a diverse lineup of musicians. Performers will include Louise Coombe,

MUSIC, page 10

## BLANDFORD

### Saturday storm causes widespread damage

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Fire Chief Adam Dolby released the following statement regarding the Saturday, Sept. 6 storm that caused considerable damage in town.

At about 2:45 p.m. the Blandford Fire Department received the first of many 911 emergency calls for wires down. The first was regarding a vehicle trapped in the area of 94 North Blandford Road. Upon driving down North Blandford Road, the Fire Department encountered heavy tree dam-

age and the road covered in debris, making it impassible from roughly house number 47 onward. Based on the scale of damage, a state of emergency was declared.

Approaching from Gore Road, the Fire Department found and reported a large box truck tangled in power lines with the occupants outside inspecting the truck. BFD requested dispatch to contact the drivers using the number from which they called 911 to have them remain in the truck for safety.

Consulting with the Chester/Blandford Police Department and Blandford

Highway, BFD closed North Blandford Road from both ends, Route 23 and Gore Road, having determined that passage was impossible.

BFD deployed the UTV to visually inspect houses on North Blandford to ensure no life-threatening tree damage. "We assisted the Highway Department in inspecting roads and verified trees down on Gibbs, Blaire, North Blandford, Huntington, and Haight roads," he said, with significant tree damage to the park as well as damage to the roof of the main building at the fairgrounds. North

Blandford was also heavily damaged by power lines melting the asphalt.

"There were no reports of injuries, thankfully, and once Eversource arrived, we were able to free the box truck," said Fire Chief Dolby.

The fire department would like to remind everyone that if you're ever driving and find yourself in a car that is tangled in power lines, remain in your vehicle unless absolutely necessary. Charged power lines are unlikely to electrocute you

STORM, page 6



It was speculated a microburst felled the tree on a corner of the Bloomrose house on North Blandford Road.

Photo courtesy of Susan Bloomrose



Trees and power lines were down on North Blandford Road in Blandford after a storm on Sept. 6.

Photos courtesy of Nicole Daviau



A tree was uprooted on roadside on North Blandford Road.

Photos courtesy of Nicole Daviau



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# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



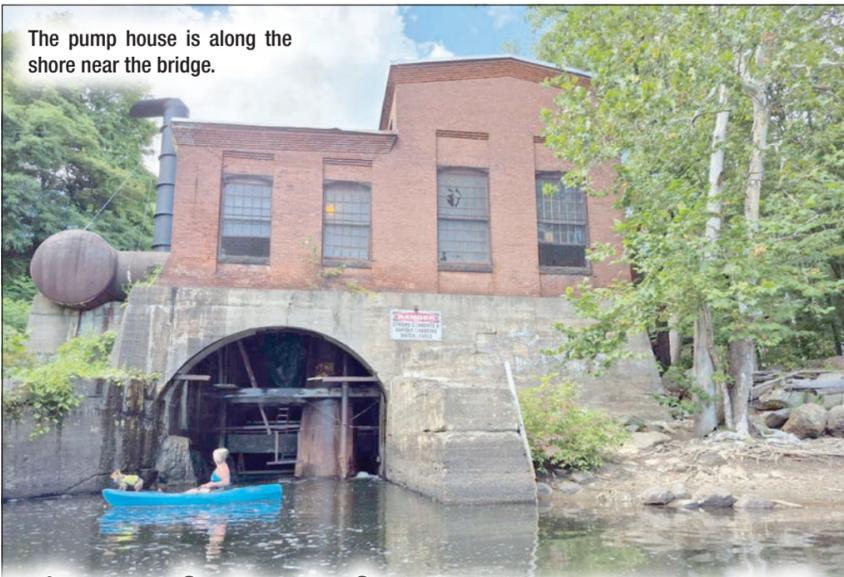
Stefanie with Cybil in her lap points to a pothole.



Tekoa Mountain is in the background.



Submitted photos Stefanie and Cybil find a pothole big enough to fit.



The pump house is along the shore near the bridge.



## Hikers take late summer paddle

The Wild and Scenic Westfield River was the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hiker's destination this past weekend trying to make summer last just a bit longer.

Located on Tekoa Avenue just off Valley View there is a portage put in for boats in Woronoco. It's just a short walk to the river's edge with a sandy beach to put in your kayak or paddleboard. Here the river pools and makes for great paddling, even for the beginner.

Paddlers can continue downstream towards Westfield here and enjoy the sights from the water of this beautiful section of the greatest that Russell has to offer, even going under the green turnpike bridge. Water levels have to be high enough to continue on the river to get by its rocky bottom. The group stayed in the pooled area that is just below the historic Bridge Street Bridge floating under it and getting up close to the amazing Woronoco potholes.

Remnants of the Strathmore Mill lies here as well. The flow just below the potholes is strong here and there is only a small section that is accessible by boat.

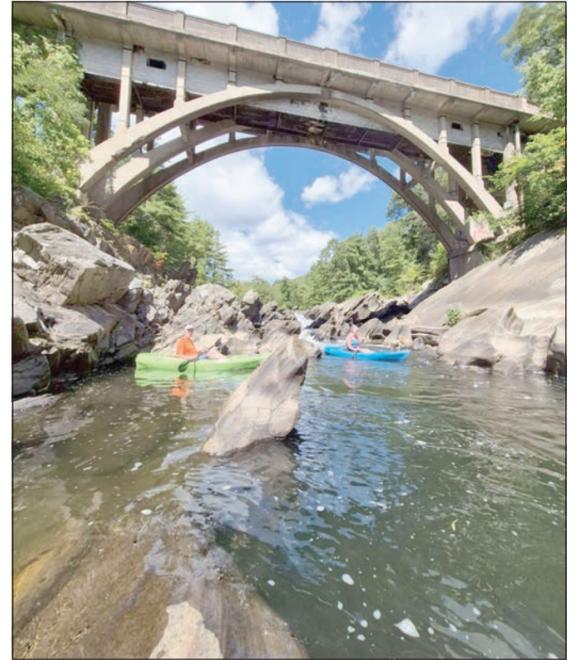
The Bridge Street Bridge was closed by Massachusetts Department of Transportation to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic in 1985. This historic open-spandrel, rib-arch was built in 1924 and is one of the few examples of this rare bridge type that remain. It is an arch bridge with a total length of 400 feet, consisting of two 65 foot approach spans and three arch spans which are approximately 104 feet, 62 feet, and 104 feet, respectively.

At this crossing, the Westfield River is in a rocky gorge approximately 50 feet below the bridge's deck. The bridge's middle piers are located on an island in the middle of the river. The bridge is expected to be replaced in 2028. The views of Tekoa Mountain are exceptional from the river.



Karen gets her new watercraft out for the season.

This was as far as the Hilltown Hikers could paddle as large rocks blocked further travels on the river.



The Bridge Street Bridge rib-arch bridge was built in 1924.

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# HUNTINGTON

## Library has successful reading program and lists fall calendar

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Public Library Director Amanda Loiselle reports that this year's summer reading program at the library reached new high benchmarks.

A total of 55 people, an increase of 37% of all ages signed up to take part in a Dungeons and Dragons journey through the mythical world of Ceron. Patrons who signed up traveled to and through the imaginary settlements of Stonelight, Windshaw, Ashtear, Windgate, Camleigh, Ragehille, and Oakwich, ending their quest in Rozchild. Each settlement had its own characteristics and weekly activities at the library were tied to them.

As readers progressed through the summer, they earned the dice needed to create a complete set to play Dungeons and Dragons. Several summer workshops taught patrons how to play the popular game.

Of the 11 different events held related to the journey, 270 people attended. Participants reaching their reading goals (45%) showed a 92% increase. A total of 845 hours of reading were logged, which was a 94% increase from last summer. In total, this year's program saw a 122% increase in overall participation from last summer and Loiselle said, "These numbers reflect our community's growing enthusiasm for reading and library programs."

On the calendar for September is a workshop called, "How to protect yourself from your computer." People will learn how to outsmart cyber threats, avoid scams and extend the life of their devices with guest speaker Marc-Anthony Arena. Arena is an honors graduate of McQuaid Jesuit and RIT and has been in the information technology industry since 2000. The author of a book by the same name as this talk, Arena has gone on the record to say that "All of the heartache, head-



Marc-Anthony Arena will guide a special program in avoiding computer hacks and scams at the Huntington Public Library, 7 East Main St., Huntington, on Saturday, Sept. 20 at 2 p.m. An IT specialist and author, he is also the host of The Computer Exorcist Podcast. Submitted photo

ache and expenditures in this industry are completely preventable." Arena also hosts

The Computer Exorcist Podcast. All ages are welcome on Saturday, Sept. 20 at

2 p.m. and the free event will include a question and answer session.

The Huntington Public Library also has a call out for local artists looking to showcase their work. All styles and mediums are welcome to be considered for their Artist of the Month program. This is opportunity to share their talent with the community, gain exposure and inspire others. They may apply now and let the art shine in the library's space.

Regular monthly events are scheduled, as follows. Weekly story hours will take place on Mondays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. "Crafternoon" takes place the second Thursday of each month on Sept. 11 at 4 p.m.. People may bring their own project or select from the library's materials. Game Night is always the third Thursday, Sept. 18 of the month at 4:30 p.m.; patrons can bring their own game or choose from the library's collection.

Coming up in October will be the monthly book club

discussion on Thursday, Oct. 2 at 4 p.m. The pick for that meeting is "If You Lived Here You'd Be Home By Now" by Christopher Ingraham. This charming, hilarious book is about the author's decision to uproot his family and move them to the town dubbed by the Washington Post as "the worst place to live in America." His move to Red Lake Falls, Minnesota revealed a different truth about the small town. Copies of the book may be picked up at the library while available or ordered through inter-library loan.

Finally, the Friends of the Library are hosting a book sale on Saturday, Oct. 4 at 10 a.m. Gently used books, DVDs, audiobooks and more will be available at bargain prices. The library will be closed for regular services during the sale. Books may be dropped off from this point forward, whenever the library is open. Questions on any of these events may be posed to the library staff by calling 413-512-5206 or emailing library@huntingtonma.us.

## CUMMINGTON

### Cultural district holds RiverFest

CUMMINGTON – The Cummington Cultural District announces RiverFest and invite neighbors to take part on Friday, Sept. 19 and Saturday, Sept. 20.

Organized with several community partners, RiverFest is a celebration of the local waterways. Throughout the festival, artists, humanists, historians and scientists share their practices and knowledge as a frame for hands-on, experiential, and sensory experiences across a variety of means of engagement, including workshops, walks, performances, and public artworks. Projects explore themes around the river, cultural and historic uses & meaning, climate change and the future, creative relationships with water and flow, and related habitat and ecosystems.

RiverFest kicks off with a special River Songs-themed Friday Night Cafe and an open community

River Sing on Friday, Sept. 19. On Saturday, Sept. 20 activities included a nature walk along the river with Charley Eisman, river themed puppet making with Meredyth Babcock, puppeteer and Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee educator, artist and artisan vending along Main Street, reception at

Ferrin Contemporary for Kadri Parnamets' solo exhibition featuring new large scale river-themed works and RAKU firing along the river, organized by Project Art.

In addition there will be an open exhibition viewing hours for "Watershed: The Westfield in Cummington" at the Kingman Tavern Museum, a mill walk by Carla Ness, felt river animal making with Beckie Kraevetz, a botanical pigment workshop led by Malaika Ross and organized by the CCD and a showcase of J.S.

Bryant School student visual work about community leadership on the Westfield River

RiverFest is free and all-ages, and light refreshments will be provided with donations accepted. A shuttle van making stops at RiverFest activities and events will be provided by the Hilltown CDC for seniors and people with disabilities. Additional artisan goods and food will be on sale during the event. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 21. People may visit <https://cummingtonculture.art/riverfest-2025> for updates.

RiverFest is organized by the Cummington Cultural District in partnership with the Cummington Historical Commission, Hilltown CDC, Hilltown Vision, Historical Commission, Friday Night Cafe, J.S. Bryant School, and Project Art / Ferrin Contemporary. RiverFest caps the Year of the River 2025 for Cummington Cultural District's programs.

## MONTGOMERY

### Library announces fall events

MONTGOMERY – The Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main Road, has a full calendar of community activities this fall, offering opportunities to share recipes, enjoy good books and support the library.

The Cookbook Book Club meets Wednesday, Sept. 18. Participants will prepare a favorite back to school meal to share. From lunchbox favorites to family dinner traditions, the library

staff invites them to bring along a recipe that takes them back to the start of the school year. This is an evening of a fun and flavorful evening of food and conversation.

On Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. the Annual Book and Bake Sale will take place at the Little Red Schoolhouse on Pitcher Street. Shoppers can browse a wide selection of books while enjoying delicious

homemade baked goods, all in support of the library. Book donations are accepted by appointment only. People should call the library at 413-862-3984 to schedule an appointment. Donations of baked goods are welcome on the morning of the sale.

Grace Hall Memorial Library hours are 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.

## STOCKBRIDGE

### Grange to hold community dinner

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Grange, 51 Church St., will hold a community dinner Sunday, Sept. 14 with take out only from 12-1:30 p.m.

The menu is stuffed

breast of chicken, mashed potato, vegetable and coleslaw with dessert choices of chocolate cream or apple pie.

Dinner is \$15 per person and pick up is at the

Grange Hall. Orders may be made by calling 413-243-1298 or 413-443-4352.

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

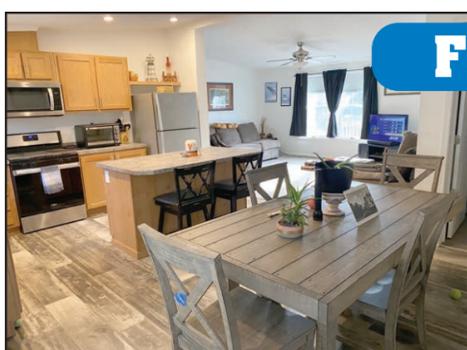
## MIDDLEFIELD

### Middlefield Council on Aging lists menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Council on Aging will serve lunch on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at noon at the Middlefield Senior

Center, 169 Skyline Trail. Take out is available. Suggested donation is \$4. The menu is chicken cordon bleu or Mediterranean baked

fish, zucchini and summer squash, steamed rice, corn and Mandarin oranges. After lunch birthday cake will be served and Bingo will be played.



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## GUEST COLUMN



By Russell Gloor

## Can I claim my own benefit now and get half of my husband's benefit later?

### Dear Rusty:

I would like to get an answer concerning taking my Social Security benefit soon and switching to my spouse's benefit when he begins to take his.

I am 64 years, 9 months old and my husband is 65 years, 7 months. My benefit is low due to the fact that I did not work for about 25 years while raising our children. My benefit would be \$573 at age 65. My husband's benefit at age 67 will be \$3,326. My first question is: can I receive half of my husband's benefit once he begins drawing his? Secondly, if I draw my benefit now will that reduce the amount I can draw from his benefit later?

**Signed: Uncertain Spouse**

### Dear Uncertain:

As you may know, the Full Retirement Age for both you and your husband is 67. If either of you claim before your FRA your monthly SS retirement amount will be permanently reduced and, if you are currently working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for early filers is \$23,400 for 2025 (changes yearly and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away some of your benefits (\$1 for every \$2 over the limit). They "take away" by withholding future payments until the penalty is satisfied.

That said, if you claim your personal SS "soon" (e.g., at age 65), you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until your FRA to claim. You would, indeed, get a "spousal boost" when your husband claims, but you would not get 50% of his age 67 amount. That's because of the way spouse benefits are calculated. When your husband claims, you will get a "spousal boost" added to your early benefit amount (\$573?).

The amount of that spousal boost will be computed as 1/2 of your husband's FRA amount (e.g., \$1663), minus your FRA entitlement (likely about \$661) for a spousal boost of about \$1002. But since you won't have yet reached your FRA when your husband claims, the amount of the spousal boost will also be reduced (to about \$926), which will be added to your age 65 amount of \$573 for a total monthly spousal benefit of about \$1499.

So, the answers to your two questions are:

Because you claimed your Social Security retirement benefit early and won't yet be your Full Retirement Age when your husband claims, you will not get half of your husband's benefit when he claims. You would likely get about 45% of his benefit.

If you take your own SS retirement benefit now, you will get a higher benefit when your husband claims, but the amount you get will be less than half of his FRA entitlement.

The only way you can get the full 50% of your husband's FRA benefit entitlement is to wait until your own full retirement age to claim Social Security.

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

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## OPINION



## GUEST COLUMN

## Peach pits and preservation

My first experience with growing peaches was back at my parents' house when a peach pit sprouted in their compost pile.

The resulting tree was moved to a spot in the yard and within a few years, my parents became peach preservers. It was fun for them to "work on" the peaches together, and what I mean by this is blanching, peeling and quartering them, then putting the pieces in a container in syrup and freezing them.

Sure, it was a sticky mess of a time but worth it all to have this bounty in the dead of winter.

*In the Garden*  
by Roberta McQuaid

break dormancy. Gradually they would germinate over the spring and summer months.

Sometimes they need two winters to complete the process and still not all will germinate. I think the last time I had four or five out of a dozen pits pop up. One tree to keep and others to share!

This year's was the best peach harvest I've ever had on these trees. It was probably the combination of the last couple of wet summers encouraging new growth on the tree and then mild weather this spring during bloom time.

It is always so disappointing to have the tree so beautifully in flower and then

**GARDEN**, page 5



Male Eastern towhee

A Brimfield resident has a wildlife camera in his yard. In a recent email he said, "Surprisingly an adult male Eastern Towhee was seen on the wildlife cam, images quite often even though I don't see him often in the yard. I haven't seen a female or juveniles this summer."

The male Eastern towhee has a black body, rufous sides, white belly and long tail with white spots. The female has a brown body. Juveniles are brown with heavy streaking.

They like dense brush, forest edges and overgrown areas; hence, why it is not always seen. This large sparrow, 7 to 8 inches long, forages on the ground, scratching through leaf litter for seeds and insects. In my first sighting of a towhee, the scratching sound alerted me to its presence.

The towhee is a ground nesting bird that can be



By Ellenor Downer

attracted to gardens with untamed vegetation. They build an open cup nest hidden under a shrub or in dense vegetation. Its song is a "drink your tea" and a sharp "che-wink" call. They are short distance migrant, wintering in the southeastern United States, but some may linger in northern areas.

### Other Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident and his wife saw a Northern flicker probing around plants in their flower bed. Coming to his birdbath are gray catbirds, adults and at least one juvenile, as well as blue jays, who come for a drink. Since he stopped feeding peanuts due to black bears, he has not seen tufted titmice, red-bellied woodpeckers, Northern cardinals or as many blue jays. Other birds that show up at the bath include chipping sparrow, female or immature; scarlet tanager, female or immature; common yellowthroat warbler;

male American goldfinch; American robin and mourning dove.

### Common nighthawks

The Brimfield resident said, "I sat out front for three nights recently looking for migrating common

nighthawks, but was skunked, didn't see any. However two members of the Allen Bird Club reported large flights last week and this weekend. Both live west of the Connecticut River.

### Helping birds

A previous column mentioned the poisoning of birds of prey when they eat rodents that ingested anti-coagulant rodenticide bait. Birds can get stuck on glue traps when used outdoors to kill rodents. The birds die or end up horribly injured. The lucky ones are taken to wildlife rehabilitators, who can often save the bird. However, they then

**BACKYARD**, page 5

## Country Journal TEAM



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@ Country Journal



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

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@ Country Journal

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## Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

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

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

### Campaign news

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

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

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

## OPINION

## Levi's first mountain



By Julie Midura  
Correspondent

I knew going into this hike that it would require a strategy. You see, our energetic 3-year-old grandson, Levi, can play outside for hours, but walking uphill for long distances isn't his strong point. Peaked Mountain in Monson is not a long or strenuous hike, but when you're not even 3 feet tall, even 475 feet of elevation gain can feel like Mt. Everest.

He started strong, making it to the frog-filled pond with ample energy, but about a third of the way to the top, he said, "Memere, pick me up."

Since carrying my 28-pound grandson to the summit was not what I had in mind, I decided to utilize

every ploy in my arsenal to ensure that he would hike the trail under his own power. I implemented Ploy #1... DISTRACTION.

"Let's look for the red blazes on the trees," I said. Levi inched his way forward in search of the large red painted circles marking the trail. "I see one!" he exclaimed each time he saw a blaze. This only distracted him for a distance of three blazes, so I needed a new distraction.

I asked him if he wanted to be a big boy and use one of my trekking poles like the 'real hikers' do. His eyes lit up. I shortened one of my poles and showed him how to use it. He wrapped his tiny hand around the handle, and for the next 5 minutes, he was so busy staring at the tip of the trekking pole with each step forward that he kept tripping on it.

Whereupon he decided to use the pole for more entertaining purposes. He wielded it over his head like a light saber in order to strike every large boulder he happened upon. Then he transformed it into a javelin to pierce mushrooms with. And finally he turned it into an excavator to dig in the mud and dirt.

In between the trekking pole fun, he found boulders to climb on, rocks to throw, branches to hang from, and long sticks to drag behind

him. With all of the distractions, it was slow going, but at least he was moving upward on his own 2 feet. Until, that is, the trail became steeper, and he suddenly proclaimed, "I can't do it."

It was time for Ploy #2- DISCOVERIES.

"Look, Levi! There's are more mushrooms up ahead. Let's go see them!" "What kind of animal do you think made the hole in that stump?" "Check out this stack of rocks! It's called a cairn." "Oh look! A sign! Do you want me to read it to you?"

With each step, Levi's interest was piqued, his imagination increased, and his self-confidence soared. ALL the way to the very top of the mountain, at 1,227 feet!

Levi seemed less than impressed with the views, but very excited to celebrate his victory with mini muffins and apple juice. Once he had popped the last muffin in his mouth, he was off like a rocket, exploring the summit. We allowed him the freedom to test his abilities. Levi climbed, jumped and scrambled over numerous boulders. He tripped, then righted himself. He learned what his three-year-old self was capable of.

When he asked Tom and I if we could play hide and seek, we happily obliged. Tom and I spent close to an hour taking turns hiding so that Levi could find



Submitted photos

us. However, I drew the line when he said, "I'm going to hide by myself, and you and grandpa can come find me." Sorry little man, unless you're wired with a tracker, that's not happening!

When it was finally time to head down, Levi once again asked me to carry him. So I resorted to Ploy #3... BRIBERY. "Levi, if you can make it all the way down to the trailhead on your own two legs, we can stop for an ice cream on the way home."

Needless to say, the vanilla ice cream with rainbow sprinkles sure hit the spot!

Spending time in

nature is crucial to a child's physical health, as well as for their emotional and intellectual development. The best way for children to grow up to be healthy, well-rounded individuals with a strong sense of independence and compassion is to get them off of the screens and into nature. The benefits of outdoor play cannot be understated.

A child needs unstructured time to explore their natural environment. They need to be encouraged to play in a stream, walk through the woods, dig in the dirt, go fishing, or even climb a mountain. Many

important life skills that children will need as they grow into teens and adults can be learned through outdoor activities—skills such as multi-tasking, troubleshooting, planning and prioritizing. Outdoor play also helps to build self-confidence, independence and self-esteem. It decreases stress, and increases attention, focus and motivation. I encourage every parent and grandparent to do everything you can to get the children in your life outdoors. Teaching children to appreciate our natural world and all of its wonders is one of the most amazing gifts that you can give them.

## GARDEN

a couple nights of very cold weather come through to kill them all. I still didn't have what I would call a bumper harvest for three trees, but we had enough to can 17 quarts (thanks for the canning lesson, dear friend!) and also eat plenty of the fruit fresh off the tree.

Here are a few fun facts about our favorite fuzzy fruit.

Peach trees prefer soil

that is near neutral to alkaline. I never think of liming under the trees, but maybe that would be a good idea.

Flower buds are borne only on shoots that grew the previous year. So it is important to prune your trees to encourage new growth.

Peach trees should be pruned to an open center, so that the sun can ripen the fruit. In our part of the coun-

try, prune when the tree is blossom or right after it is done flowering. At that point in the growing season you can also see and remove winter damaged branches and stems more easily but be careful not to knock off developing fruit by accident.

I read that spreading compost under the tree right after it has been harvested will start the tree out on the

right foot. I am going to get to that later this week.

Peach trees are not very long lived. You may get 10-20 years out of them. Trees usually top off at around ten feet tall and wide.

There are such a thing as super dwarf trees, grown as specimens in the shrub border or a kitchen garden, but from what I hear, fruit quality isn't the best. I'll stick to

the regular size trees, thank you! And planning ahead with replacement trees means sowing some pits in the garden this fall. Even my mom has sown some around the foundation of her house, just as an experiment. I love that she is still experimenting. I would imagine the memories of "working on" the peaches with my dad hold a special place in her heart.

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

## BACKYARD

need to spend months in care growing back feathers.

## South Hadley resident

A South Hadley resident said in an email, "Cedar waxwings sound like delightful birds, I hope I can see one or more some day. I'm in the process of removing non-native and invasive plant species from my property and intend to plant berry bushes, among other things. Maybe that will entice them. Though I do have tons of pokeberry on the perimeters of my yard."

## Eagles, ravens and more

My daughter, Paula, saw a bald eagle circling the Ware River by the Church Street rail trail. It was flying very low so either it was landing or just took off.

She also heard a raven calling by the covered bridge and then saw it in a tree.

She and her daughters saw an osprey while driving over a bridge in Rhode Island. She also had a Carolina wren on her back deck recently.

## Canada geese

Two of my grandchildren and I saw a huge flock of Canada geese in a field in North Brookfield last Friday. I stopped to look at them and my granddaughter, Lizzie, took a photo of the geese.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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## CHESTERFIELD

## Historical Society holds open houses

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Historical Society will be hosting an open house at the Bisbee Mill Museum, 66 East St. on Sundays, Sept. 14 and Oct. 12 from 1-4 p.m.

The society invites the public to explore Chesterfield's local history and industrial heritage. The

museum features a fully functional 19th-century gristmill along with a collection of exhibits showcasing the town's historical artifacts and tools.

Admission is free. For more information, people may visit [www.bisbeemill.org](http://www.bisbeemill.org) or follow them on Facebook.



Bisbee Mill Museum

Country Journal  
OBITUARY  
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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SAME DAY VISITS AVAILABLE



Family Health and  
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Pioneer Valley  
Assembly of God

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

## Hilltown Community Church

Rev. Dr. Robert Perreault  
55 Main St., Russell, MA 01071  
413.275.3232  
Office: 413.862.3341  
[hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com](mailto:hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com)  
Sunday Mornings 10 a.m.

## First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

4 North Main St., Williamsburg, MA  
(413)268-7557 • [burgychurch@gmail.com](mailto:burgychurch@gmail.com)  
[burgychurch.org](http://burgychurch.org)  
Facebook: First Congregational Church of Williamsburg  
YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays through Friday 9 a.m. - noon  
Days and Hours of Services: Sundays at 10 a.m.

## Holy Family Parish

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

CHURCH  
DIRECTORY

Your  
Community  
Church

# BLANDFORD

## BLANDFORD COUNTRY CLUB ANNOUNCE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS



The Blandford Country Club held its annual championship. Winners were from left, Chuck Murawski, men's division; Sue Wesolowski women's division and ew this year Craig Moltenbrey, senior division winner.

Submitted photo

## Western Hampden County Public Health District has new website

BLANDFORD – The Western Hampden County Public Health District announces their new website.

The new site is designed to be a central hub for residents of Blandford, Granville, Montgomery, Russell Southwick and Tolland. Users can find information about local health regulations, community wellness programs, emergency preparedness or

public health resources all on the same site. The website's information corresponds with the WHCPHD mission to provide "essential public health services, promote wellness and ensure a safe environment for everyone in the district."

The website will improve communication, transparency and offer empowering tools so residents can "take

an active role" in their health and well-being. The website will include public health alerts, news, local health regulations and permitting, health related events and educational opportunities and more.

The website is mobile-friendly, ADA-compliant and updated continuously. People may visit the site at [www.whcphd.com](http://www.whcphd.com).

## Correction

A typographical error for the articles for the Blandford Special Town Meeting Warrant

Lists a reimbursement to Ryan Keach for \$493. It should have been \$93.

## Special Town Meeting to take place Sept. 22

BLANDFORD – A larger than usual turnout for the Monday, Sept. 22 Special Town Meeting at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall is anticipated due to the three non-binding questions regarding solar possibilities for the town.

It is important to follow procedure. Any Town Meeting is both an event and an entity. As an event, it is a gathering of a town's eligible voters, and is referred to as "the Town Meeting." As an entity, it functions as the legislative body for the town.

Moderator David Hopson will open the meeting and read the warrant articles for voter consideration.

He may recognize registered voters who want to make comments on that article. If acknowledged, the resident must go to the microphone, announce name and address and then proceed. There may be a time limit announced for comments by individuals.

Civility is expected by and for all.

The Select Board, Town Administrator, Finance Committee, Town Clerk and Town Counsel will all be present. The Clerk is responsible for recording the actions taken by voters, while the others may respond to specific questions.

## Mennonite hymn sing happens Sept. 14

BLANDFORD – A choir of 100 Mennonite students from all over the world will present old-time hymns on Sunday, Sept. 14 at The White Church of Blandford, 4 North St. at 5:30 p.m.

Those attending can join in and sing along with

favorite hymns. There will be an outdoor potluck dinner immediately following the program. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge.

The choir also visited Ground Zero on Thursday, Sept. 11 for song and comfort.

## Congress candidate meet and greet

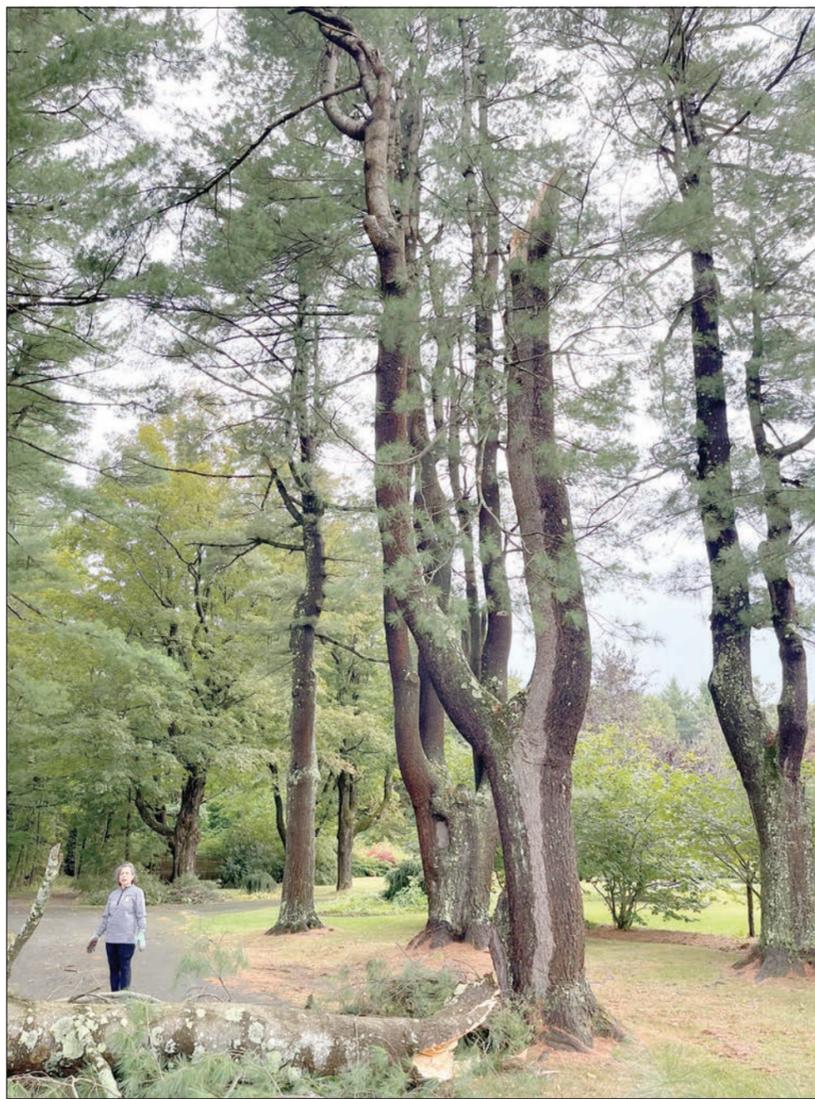
BLANDFORD – Jeromie Whalen, is introducing himself to the Hilltowns on Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 9-11 a.m. as a contender for Congress from the First District, running against Rep. Richard Neal.

He selected Blandford as one of his stops in Hampden County and will be at the new Blandford Fairground pavilion. There will be coffee and baked goods available while he shares the reasons he is running for this office. There will be time for questions and getting to know Whalen.

## Time changed for Highway Supt.'s review

BLANDFORD – Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay was on the Select Board agenda for Aug. 25 for his six-month performance review at 5 p.m. There was a miscommunication as the notifications that he received by email from town officials said his review was set for 5:30 p.m., not 5 p.m.

Hultay was at the meeting at 5:30 p.m., the time he had been informed.



On North Street, Margo Georgantis stands below tree that large branch snapped off.

Turley Photo by Mary Kronholm

## STORM

from page 1

in a vehicle, but may once you step outside of your car and make contact with

the ground and/or puddled water. They should call 911 from the car and wait until

cleared to exit the car by emergency personnel.

from page 1

## GHOST

to bring; bring umbrellas if rain is forecast.

The town's history is rooted in the American Revolution in unexpected ways, according to society board member Jane Rhoman. Visitors will see and hear stories come alive from a dispatcher running clandestine operations for the military while still serving patrons at the family tavern to a selectman, who secretly participated in the Boston Tea Party and more.

The character portrayals are done, for the most part, by Blandford residents and Blandford family members. Randy Garfield has the role of Samuel Sloper, the "rabble-rouser Sloper who threw a little bit of tea into the Boston Harbor in December of 1773 and later served as Town Selectman." Bruce Benson will be Levi Pease and will relate the tale of two Levi Peases, one short-lived and the other a secret dispatcher for the army.



Randy Garfield



Melissa Hamm



Patrick Stearns



Connor Doyle



Alex Frost



Jessie Tappin



Terri Garfield

Melissa Hamm and Patrick Stearns will play Jane and Nathaniel Taggart, an influential couple in the town's earliest years. He was responsible for communicating with other towns as head of the Committee on Inspection, Correspondence and Safety. His wife left funds to found the Taggart School.

Connor Doyle performs as William Ker, whose death by Indians aligned with the French came to be seen by many as Act One of the American Revolution sowing the seeds of colonial discontent against the Crown.

Scott O'Connor plays Jedidiah Smith, Esquire a judge fighting for freedom, justice and a little peace in

Blandford while his father, a pastor, mother and ten siblings fled to a Loyalist outpost. Thomas Fielding will be Giles Tracy, a marine captured by the British during the Battle of Long Island in 1779 and what beckoned him to

Blandford along with his neighbor Jethro Jones.

Alex Frost, Doyle's friend from Great Britain will be Captain John Ferguson, who was on hand for General Knox's visit and trained local militia.

And finally, Jesse Tappin, a history department faculty member will portray Jethro Jones, a free Black man and a Revolutionary War hero. Terri Garfield has taken on the costume design for the Ghost Walk so the characters will represent the early Colonial era dress.

Historical Society President Chips Norcross cited the historical knowledge behind the program and said, "It will be an excellent presentation."

## DINNER AT SUNSET



This photo of a hawk with its prey was taken at sunset on Labor Day weekend at Freeland Brook Farm in Blandford.

Courtesy photo by Tricia Bergland

# BLANDFORD

## FAIR

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Lemmes, Cranes, Blanchettes, Chaffees and Girards, “volunteers all, and oh so many more,” said Ripley. Ripley said he is already prepping and planning for 2026 while at the same time catching up on everything else.



Tara Borth and Patrick Rheume of Brooklyn, New York with Select Board Member Jackie Coury at the Fair memorabilia booth with their sought-after Fair Poster. Rheume grew up in Westfield and the Blandford Fair was his Labor Day Weekend mandatory visit. The poster, circa 1959, caught his eye and he was pleased to be able to purchase a copy.



The Midway section was a busy place on Sunday afternoon at the fair.



Children play Tic Tac Toe on a giant stand. Shown from left, are Dylan Fusick, 4 of Otis and right, Griffin Skerry, 3, of Boston.



The theme in the Agricultural Hall was Irish this year. This place setting took first place.



Art work was on display in the Youth Hall.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

## VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS HOLD BOOT DRIVE



Blandford Volunteer Firefighters at the ready for the annual fundraising Boot Drive on Saturday, Aug. 30. Out front of the Fire Station are Charley, holding a boot and Greta Boomsma with stickers for donors, and a visiting helper, Cole Dunham from Ware.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

# EASTHAMPTON



Shown from left, are Alicia Austin, assistant branch manager, bankESB; Linda Zajakowski, treasurer, Belchertown Senior Citizen's Center Association; Kim Rossi, receptionist and transportation coordinator, Belchertown Senior Center; David Small, president, Belchertown Senior Citizen's Center Association and Jessica Langlois, MS, CDP, executive director, Belchertown Senior Center. Submitted photo

## bankESB contributes \$5,000 to senior center new van

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB announces a \$5,000 contribution to the Belchertown Senior Center to support the purchase of a new van that will provide reliable transportation for local seniors.

The new vehicle, which features the bankESB logo, will help ensure older residents have safe, accessible transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores, and community events. The donation underscores bankESB's long-standing commitment to strengthening the communities it serves, with a focus on programs that support seniors and enhance quality of life.

“We're honored to support the Belchertown Senior Center and the essential services it provides to our senior neighbors,” said

Matthew S. Sosik, president and CEO of bankESB. “Transportation is a key part of maintaining independence and staying connected to the community, and we're proud to play a role in making that possible.”

The Belchertown Senior Center's new van will replace an aging vehicle, expanding its ability to serve more residents efficiently. The center serves hundreds of seniors annually through its programs, meals, wellness initiatives and transportation services.

“The Belchertown Senior Center expresses heartfelt gratitude for the generous support we receive,” remarked Jessica Langlois, MS, CDP, executive director of the Belchertown Senior Center. “Our partnership with bankESB has greatly enriched

our community, and their unwavering commitment to our mission is truly appreciated. The funds donated will be dedicated to acquiring a new van for our transportation program, enhancing our ability to serve those in need. We cannot thank them enough for being a vital part of our efforts.”

bankESB, a local community bank with a strong tradition of giving back, continues to invest in initiatives that promote community health, education, and wellbeing embodying the spirit of The Giving Tree as a symbol of its commitment to the communities it serves.

Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton. They service through 11 branches located throughout Western Massachusetts.

## WORTHINGTON

# Historical Society hosts Steven Cormier talk

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

WORTHINGTON – Local author Steve V. Cormier will speak about his most recent book, “The Sacrificial Land: Westfield River...’giveth and taketh” on Sunday, Sept. 14 at 3 p.m. at the Worthington Historical Society, 6 Williamsburg Road.

This book chronicles the history of floods along the Westfield River, their impact on the hilltowns, and the construction of the Knightville and Littleville Dams to prevent future flooding. This event is free of charge and copies of the book will be available for purchase (\$9.95) and signing by the author.

Included in the book is the early American history along the Westfield River with industry and commerce powered by watermills. In 1845, there were 28 mills located along the middle branch of the Westfield River between Chester and Huntington. It also reports on some of the volatile flooding that led to significant damage from the hilltowns all the way to West Springfield, and the decisions to build

Knightville and Littleville Dams for flood control, recreation and as a backup water supply for the City of Springfield.

Of special interest is his research on how area residents, both living and dead, were treated when displaced for the building of the two flood control dams. His book is therefore “dedicated to all of the inhabitants of Knightville, Indian Hollow and Littleville who sacrificed their land and homesteads so that others could live in peace surrounding the unexpected rage and ultimate destruction introduced by the Westfield River.”

Also to be covered in the hour-long talk will be the conflicts that arose over the use of Littleville Lake, including possible recreational uses (a beach, bathhouse and swimming area was originally proposed), hydroelectricity and as a backup water supply for Springfield. He will also highlight the river’s “Wild & Scenic” designation in



Steven Cormier

1993, which was the first within the state of Massachusetts.

For those who can’t make the talk on the Sept. 14, he is presenting again on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 2 p.m. in the Chester Hill Church on Skyline Trail, for the Chester Hill Association.

Cormier’s first local history book was “The Life and Times of Parley B. Hutchins,” which detailed the 1880 unsolved murder of the Huntington resident and entrepreneur and the disappearance of an estimated \$100,000 in gold, which made national headlines. He has teased that a new book about local hilltown history will be coming out soon.

This event is sponsored by a grant from the Worthington Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. It is co-hosted by the Worthington Public Library and the Worthington Historical Society.



YOUNG AND OLD  
ENJOY  
INTERGENERATIONAL  
KICKBALL GAME

Above, the Worthington COA and Parks and Recreation jointly sponsored an intergenerational kickball on the newly restored ball field. Right, Refreshments were served. Below, many children and teens played in the intergenerational kickball game.

Submitted photos



## CHESTER

# Hamilton Memorial Library announces upcoming events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Public Library, 195 West Main St., offers story and fun time every Thursday at 11 a.m.

This is a great opportunity for little ones to socialize, learn new skills and have some fun. On Saturday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. television celebrity and author, Ronny LeBlanc from the Discovery Channel’s show, Expedition Bigfoot and the show Paranormal Caught on Camera will discuss New England UFOs at the Chester Town Hall. His enthusiasm and personal experiences create an interesting evening that will leave people looking towards the sky. People should RSVP by calling 413-354-7808.

Book Club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. On Sept. 17 they will be discussing the novel, “Mrs. Quinn’s Rise to Fame” by Olivia Ford. This story follows an older woman who decides to do something for herself. She wins a spot on a TV baking show, which catapults her into the spotlight and impacts her marriage of fifty-nine years. Snacks will be served. Extra book copies are available.

Intrinsic Movement Let’s Play, Learn and Dance with special guest, Laurel Lenski takes place on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 11 a.m. during regular Story and Fun Time. Lenski always gets the fun going with her contagious enthusi-

asm and energy. This is perfect for younger patrons.

Broom Making with Kay Judge of Blue Sky Wellness will take place Saturday, Oct. 4 at 10:30 a.m. Judge will help people create their own small broom using natural broom corn and hemp cord while teaching about the history of broom making in Western Massachusetts. Materials will be provided. Pre-registration is required and program is limited to the first ten participants to sign up. People should RSVP by calling 413-354-7808.

The Great Inflatable Race takes place Saturday, Oct. 25. People should get their inflatable costume ready for some fun. More details will follow.

# COA lists events

CHESTER – The Council on Aging offers Tech Help every second Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

People may bring their devices and questions. A foot clinic is held every Tuesday. Appointments are required by calling 413-354-7735 to reserve a spot. A baked potato social on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 12:30 p.m. Seniors are invited to enjoy an after-

noon of potatoes with all the fixings and good company.

A tea party will be held on Friday, Sept. 20 at 10 a.m. Seniors will sip, chat and enjoy a delightful morning with friends. The events take place in the Town Hall basement located at 15 Middlefield Road.

For more information or to sign-up, people should call 413-354-7735.

# Local author to speak Sept. 21

CHESTER – The Chester Hill Association invites people to join them on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 2 p.m. in the social hall of First Congregational Church, 334 Skyline Trail, to hear author Steve Cormier’s author talk based on his book “The Sacrificial Land.”

# Hilltown Hikers tour Granite Company

CHESTER – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers will host a guided tour of The Chester Granite and Polishing Works on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 1 p.m.

Parking is on Emery Street Chester at the Granite Saw Parking Lot across from the ball field. The hike rating is an easy one mile, mostly flat terrain on dirt. People should wear sneakers and no open toe shoes.

The Chester Granite Company was one of two granite finishing works in Chester for cutting and polishing stone brought down to the Historic Factory Village on the Chester and Becket Railroad, which was built for this purpose in 1896. “Chester Blue Granite” was brought down the steep mountain railroad from the Hudson and Chester quarry, known today as the Becket Quarry in Becket. The finishing works burned down after many prosperous years in business making monuments and gravestones and has been private property since, until now.

In September of 2023 the Hilltown Hikers purchased this lot, including a ten-foot shot saw and all the remains of its buildings and equipment. Participants will tour the property on the newly created walking



This giant saw blade is one of the sites on the guided tour of the Chester Granite Company site hosted by the Hilltown Hikers.

Submitted photo

path with a guide and learn about the Granite Industry in Chester and Becket. Several Tours are offered throughout the afternoon. Donations for the conserved Chester Granite and Polishing Works property are greatly appreciated.

The group will hike rain or shine. Registration is required per car load by visiting their website at <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water are provided. Well behaved dogs are allowed. The event is volunteer lead. Suggested donation is \$15. More details are available by visiting [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com). People

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

Those who want to hike every weekend year-round may consider becoming a Hilltown Hiker member. They can sign up on [www.HilltownHikers.com](http://www.HilltownHikers.com).

Follow them on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Tees, hoodies, hats, patches and bags will be for sale by donation at the event. See all our events, maps, blog and photos by visiting at [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com).

## LENOX

# Mount and straw dog writers guild offer writing residency

LENOX – The Mount, Edith Wharton’s Home, is once again collaborating with Western Massachusetts’ Straw Dog Writers Guild to offer a unique residency experience for nine emerging writers.

The residency focuses on writers who are developing their craft in the genres of poetry, fiction, creative

nonfiction and plays. The residencies run weekly from March 1 to March 21, 2026.

Three writers will be selected for each week. Residencies include lodging at a neighboring inn, a workspace at The Mount, breakfast, lunch and a \$500 stipend. Applications opened on Sept. 1 and will

close on Oct. 1 at 5 p.m. or once 300 applications have been received. 2026

Residents and Finalists will be announced on Dec. 14. Submissions are reviewed anonymously and ranked based on the following criteria: quality of writing, originality of voice, the potential for growth as a writer and strength of the

statement of purpose.

“We are honored to host this writing residency, which carries forward the living legacy of Edith Wharton,” says Sarah Margolis-Pineo, program director at The Mount. “Providing emerging writers with the time, space, and encouragement to pursue their work has a trans-

formative impact-not only on their creative journeys but also on the wider literary community. Our partnership with Straw Dog Writers Guild has been essential to this program’s success, which provides a space where emerging voices can thrive.”

Emerging poets, writers of fiction, or creative

nonfiction who have not published a book or chapbook in any genre and will not have a book or chapbook forthcoming before March 1, 2026 are eligible.

For more information and access to the application form, people may visit [EdithWharton.org](http://EdithWharton.org) or email [writersinresidence@edithwharton.org](mailto:writersinresidence@edithwharton.org).

# PITTSFIELD/PLAINFIELD

## Unitarian Universalist Church holds Teach-in on Palestine Sept. 16

PITTSFIELD – Cafe Palestina along with Berkshires in Solidarity with Palestine and Unitarian Universalist Church of Pittsfield presents Teach-in on Palestine on Tuesday, Sept. 16 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Pittsfield, 175 Wendall Avenue. Hazem Jamjoum, a noted Palestinian architect, historian and writer, will present a recorded lecture. The venue is ADA compliant. Admission is free and donations are appreciated. Light refreshments and informal discussion to follow.

## Firefighter's barbecue draws large crowd

PLAINFIELD – The annual Firefighter's barbecue, held Sunday, Aug. 31, drew a large crowd on a beautiful day.

The Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters served an estimated 370 barbecued chicken dinners. Besides the meal, the afternoon included a silent raffle with over a 100 items donated, running of the 49th Annual 1.1 mile Plainfield Foot Race, and live music provided by the Curtis

Rich Review of Buckland and Plainfield. Plainfield resident Joseph Huston won the 1.1 mile race in a time of 7:21.

Though final numbers are not in, this should be one of the Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters Association's most successful barbecues over the past 54 years. All funds raised go towards supporting the town's volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Service department.



Curtis Rich Review of Buckland and Plainfield provided live music at the annual Plainfield Firefighters barbecue on Sunday, Aug. 31.

## PVFA announces Foot Race runners results

PLAINFIELD – During the 54th annual Plainfield Firefighter's barbecue last Sunday, Aug. 31, the 49th running of the Plainfield Foot Race also took place.

The 1.1-mile run is around the center of town and deceptively difficult, as

the last 1/2 mile is all uphill. This year, 12 runners entered and completed the course. New resident Joseph Huston was first to complete the race with a winning time of 7:21. Thirteen year old Kaden Shearer was second in a time of 8:04 and 13-year-

old Gabe Huston was third overall with a time of 8:07. Both Joseph and Kaden will have their names added to the race bowls on display at the Shaw-Memorial Library year-round.

Next year will be the 50th running of the foot

race which started in 1976. Course records are held by Vince O'Connell 5:28 in 1986 and Sidney Letendre 6:24 in 2002. There is no admission fee to run in the race, which is supported by the Plainfield Volunteer Firefighter's Association.



Attendees enjoyed their barbecue chicken dinner at picnic tables set outside or under a pavilion on a beautiful day. Submitted photos

1	2	3					4	5	6				
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10				11			12						
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21					22	23			24				
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				27	28				29				
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				32					34	35	36	37	38
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46										48			
49												50	
													52

- |  |                                    |                                      |  |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>CLUES ACROSS</b>                    | 29. Construction location          | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>                    | 28. Former French coin of low value              |
| 1. Utilitarian fashion accessory       | 30. Cow's noise                    | 1. Occur                             | 29. A bag-like structure in an animal            |
| 4. Engine additive                     | 31. Blue                           | 2. Show up                           | 31. Schenectady County Airport                   |
| 7. Macaws                              | 32. One of the Fab Four            | 3. Capital of Taiwan                 | 32. Calm down                                    |
| 8. Listens to                          | 39. Formula 1 team                 | 4. Ocean                             | 33. Partner to cheese                            |
| 10. Self-righteously moralistic person | 41. Dash                           | 5. Givers and ___                    | 34. Cola brand                                   |
| 12. Made of wood                       | 42. Lifting device                 | 6. Gets ready                        | 35. Stepped on                                   |
| 13. Chinese lute                       | 43. Basics                         | 8. Ad ___                            | 36. Japanese city                                |
| 14. Beginning military rank            | 44. Keyboard key                   | 9. Fit of irritation                 | 37. Type of coating                              |
| 16. Indicates near                     | 45. Old Irish alphabet             | 11. Criminal organization            | 38. A citizen of Yemen                           |
| 17. Ties the score                     | 46. Shaking of the Earth's surface | 14. Exclamation that denotes disgust | 39. Popular breakfast item                       |
| 19. Chum                               | 48. Covered stadium                | 15. American state                   | 40. On a line at right angles to a ship's length |
| 20. Long ago                           | 49. Sword handles                  | 18. Sensor hub                       | 44. First responders                             |
| 21. Localities                         | 50. Longing or yearning            | 19. Before                           | 47. Short-term memory                            |
| 25. Midway between northeast and east  | 51. Creators' social network       | 20. The boundary of a surface        |  |
| 26. Make fun of                        | 52. Boxing's GOAT                  | 22. Witnesses                        |  |
| 27. Tennis great Arthur                |                                    | 23. Singular                         |  |
|  |                                    | 24. Type of meal                     |  |
|  |                                    | 27. Music awards show                |  |

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>ARIES</b><br>Mar 21/Apr 20<br>You might be anxious to say what's on your mind this week, Aries. Words are on the tip of your tongue and you aren't afraid of letting them fly. Expect some feedback from others.    | <b>CANCER</b><br>Jun 22/Jul 22<br>You are thinking clearly this week, Cancer. Do your best with the tools you are given right now. You might need to direct others, but generally let them do their own thing.      | <b>LIBRA</b><br>Sept 23/Oct 23<br>Libra, you are not going to meet new people if you stay indoors all of the time. Get out there and try something new. You can bond with others over an activity or a hobby. | <b>CAPRICORN</b><br>Dec 22/Jan 20<br>Be confident in your thoughts and actions, Capricorn. If you don't believe in what you are saying, how can you convince others to back your efforts?                |
| <b>TAURUS</b><br>Apr 21/May 21<br>Make sure you are taking care of yourself as well as you are taking care of others, Taurus. Handle any tasks that require a lot of brain power first, then move on to something fun. | <b>LEO</b><br>Jul 23/Aug 23<br>You do not need an invitation to speak your mind, Leo. Express yourself how you see fit and give others plenty of opportunity to have their say as well. The conversation will flow. | <b>SCORPIO</b><br>Oct 24/Nov 22<br>Scorpio, don't waste your time this week by tiptoeing around. Throw caution to the wind and engage in activities that will provide solid opportunities for growth.         | <b>AQUARIUS</b><br>Jan 21/Feb 18<br>Aquarius, someone is bound to say something meaningful to you if you keep an open ear to all conversation around you. Speak less and listen more for the time being. |
| <b>GEMINI</b><br>May 22/Jun 21<br>Do your thing this week and don't worry about how others feel about it, Gemini. Take control of an issue when you see that something needs to get done.                              | <b>VIRGO</b><br>Aug 24/Sept 22<br>Virgo, there is a great deal of power behind your thoughts, so use it wisely. Take this energy to work and see if you can channel it to your professional benefit.                | <b>SAGITTARIUS</b><br>Nov 23/Dec 21<br>A powerful force is guiding your actions this week, Sagittarius. Utilize this as motivation to complete an important task.   | <b>PISCES</b><br>Feb 19/Mar 20<br>Pisces, ideas and influences from others can transform your thinking. That can help propel you out of the pattern of actions that may be holding you back.             |

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

# SUDOKU

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

**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!

**answers**

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

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# WILLIAMSBURG

## FCC has new interim pastor

WILLIAMSBURG – The First Congregational Church of Williamsburg, 4 North Main St., has a new interim pastor, Rev. Jack Kraaz.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

## MUSIC

Michael Ewen Madden, Paired Down, Stephen Katz, Holly Muñoz, Stلالuna, Don Chiulli, Wild Thyme and Electric Castle and a sing-along with Jennifer Black.

A project of the Williamsburg Local Cultural Council, Chairman Rob Longley explained that he had been aware of a porchfest in Rhinebeck, New York. Longley joined the LCC when he moved to Williamsburg and is excited about the upcoming event.

“We have a wide range of musicians, artists, performers and writers – you name it in Williamsburg,” Longley said. “Last year we did our first reception for the LCC



Singer/songwriter Louise Coombe is among the performers taking part in the first annual Williamsburg Porchfest on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Submitted photo

grant recipients. This year, we decided to go further.”

They filled all of the available performing slots and had to turn some musicians away, Longley said. Tangle Chocolate will host an open mic night on Thursday, Sept. 12 with sign-ups at 6:30 p.m., as a kind of kickoff to the porchfest. Performances coincide with the annual Williamsburg Grange Fair with displays of locally grown produce and handicrafts, craft vendors and baked goods and lunch for sale. Food will be also available from local establishments.

Modeled after other porchfests throughout the

country, musicians will play various outdoor venues in the center of town, including the Grange, Williamsburg Market, library and local businesses. The porchfest movement started in 2007 in Ithaca, New York, as community driven music festivals where neighbors open their porches for free performances in a vibrant celebration of local talent and togetherness.

Major sponsors include Exhibit A Brewery, Williamsburg Market, Tangle Chocolate and Local Brewery.

People may visit the website at <https://www.williamsburgporchfest.com> for an up-to-date schedule of events.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### TOWN OF BLANDFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE –DEER HUNTING PERMITS- 2025

The Blandford Conservation Commission will be available on **September 22, 2025 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 **2025 Deer Hunting Seasons**. Permit Applications will be available at the Town Hall on September 22, 2025 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. 09/11/2025

### Town of Blandford Select Board Notice of Public Hearing Monday, September 29, 2025 6 P.M. Select Board Chambers Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford

To hear petition for joint or identical pole locations from NSTAR Electric C. DBA Ever-source and Verizon New England, Inc.

Petitioners seek permission to construct and maintain a line of ten (10) poles and their respective wires and cables to be placed thereon together with sustaining and protective fixtures as deemed necessary, located on North Blandford Road per Field Plan 19974401. 09/11, 09/18/2025

### Legal Advertisement TOWN OF CHESTER PROSPECT STREET PHASE II IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Town of Chester invites sealed Bids for the Prospect Street Phase II Improvement Project. The Prospect Street Phase II Improvement Project will provide a series of upgrades to the existing drainage and water infrastructure on Lower Prospect Street in Chester to provide for improved stormwater removal and mitigation to all residents of Prospect Street and Soisalo Road.

This project is being administered by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EO-HLC), FY24 Chester Community Development Block Grant Program.

Contract Documents may be viewed electronically beginning **Wednesday, September 10th, 2025, at 9:00 AM EDT**, at [www.biddocs.com](http://www.biddocs.com) and hard copies requested at Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104 (413-781-6045).

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount, considering all alternates, and made payable to the Town of Chester.

Electronic bids for the Prospect Street Phase II Improvement Project shall be submitted to BidDocs Online, Inc. until **Wednesday, October 1st, 2025, at 2:00 PM EDT**, at which time they will be publicly opened online. Complete instructions for filing bids are included in the project manual.

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §§26 to 27H, inclusive. All applicable Federal minimum wage rates and applicable Federal labor standards shall also apply pursuant to the Davis-Bacon Act. When both State and Federal wage rates are applicable, the higher rate must be paid.

The Awarding Authority encourages, to the extent feasible, the use of minority-, women- and disadvantaged-owned businesses for work under this contract and likewise encourages, to the greatest extent possible, that all bidders take affirmative steps to ensure training and employment

for lower-income project area residents and award of subcontracts to HUD-defined Section 3 businesses. Bidders on the work shall make a good faith effort to achieve the goals of the Federal Minority and Women’s Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) policy regarding utilization of MBEs and WBEs in order to be deemed a responsible bidder.

Bids may be changed or withdrawn prior to the bid opening, but not within the sixty (60) days subsequent to the bid opening, by submission of such a change in writing in a sealed envelope, identifying the submitting party and indicating that it contains a correction of the bid for the Prospect Street Phase II Improvement Project, Chester, MA.

The lowest qualified responsible bidder shall be awarded the contract subject to availability of funds under the EOHLB Block Grant program. The Town of Chester, the Awarding and Contracting Authority, may cancel this Invitation for Bid (IFB), in whole or in part, at any time that such an act is deemed in its best interest, reserves the right to waive any informality in the bidding or to reject any and all bids in total or in part as may be deemed to serve the best interest of the Town, and will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a bidder in preparing and submitting a bid in response to this IFB.

### THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at [www.biddocs.com](http://www.biddocs.com).

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held for this project on **Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 10:00 AM**. Meeting location for this meeting shall be at the Chester Railway Station and Museum located at 10 Prospect Street, Chester, MA. Questions regarding the technical specifications should be directed in writing to Ryan Neilan, Apex Senior Project Manager at [ryan.neilan@apexcos.com](mailto:ryan.neilan@apexcos.com) and Steven Ignatowich, Senior Project Engineer at [Steven.Ignatowich@apexcos.com](mailto:Steven.Ignatowich@apexcos.com). Questions regarding general bid information should be directed to Joe Hagoopian at PVPC, at [jhagoopian@pvpc.org](mailto:jhagoopian@pvpc.org) no later than **Friday September 26, 2025, at 2:00 PM EDT**. 09/11/2025

**Hampshire Regional School District Offers Meals at No Cost for All Students**  
Hampshire Regional School District participates in the [National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program]. As part of this program Hampshire Regional High School, William E. Norris, offers healthy meals every school day. The Commonwealth is supplementing National School Lunch Program funds to ensure all students have access to healthy school meals in Massachusetts, regardless of household income. We ask that families complete a Meal Benefit Application as this provides data for school funding and community resources. The results from each Meal Benefit Application is used to ensure sustainability for this program.

Qualifications for children to receive free or reduced price meals include: belonging to a household whose income is at or below the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines, belonging to a household that receives public assistance, or if the child is homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, or participates in a Head Start or Even Start pre-K program.

Household size and income criteria are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits if the household does not receive assistance or the children are not in the other categories mentioned above. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if the household’s gross income falls at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guideline chart.

### FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2025-2026

Household size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals		
	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$20,345	\$1,696	\$392
2	27,495	2,292	529
3	34,645	2,888	667
4	41,795	3,483	804
5	48,945	4,079	942
6	56,095	4,675	1,079
7	63,245	5,271	1,217
8	70,395	5,867	1,354
Each additional person	+7,150	+596	+138

### Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals

Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$28,953	\$2,413	\$557
2	39,128	3,261	753
3	49,303	4,109	949
4	59,478	4,957	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	1,927
Each additional person	+10,175	+848	+196

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households can fill out the application and return it to the school unless the household has already received notification that their children are approved for free meals this year. Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children and what is required to complete on the application. Applications also are available **Hampshire Regional School 19 Stage Rd. Westhampton, MA 01027**

Only one application is required for all children in the household and the information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified at any time during the school year by the school or other program officials. An application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability.

Families can apply for benefits at any time. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household’s income falls at or below the Federal Guidelines. Contact **Carol Inman** at any time to request an application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, **Carol Inman Food Service Manager, Renee Fremier Kitchen Manager** will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to **Vito Perrone Superintendent 19 Stage Rd, Westhampton, MA 01027 413-527-7200 vperrone@hr-k12.org**

When known to **Hampshire Regional School District** households will be notified of their children’s eligibility for free meals if they are members of households receiving assistance from the:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); or
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), if the State program meets Federal standards.

An application is not required for free meal benefits for Assistance Program participants and all the children in the household are eligible for free meal benefits. If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, or if a household does not receive a notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school to have free meal benefits extended to them. Participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but they will need to turn in an application including household size and total income.

When known to **Hampshire Regional School District** households will also be notified of any child’s eligibility for free meals if the individual child is considered “Other Source Categorically Eligible”, because the child is categorized, as defined by law as:

- Foster
- Homeless,
- Migrant,
- Runaway,
- Enrolled in an eligible Head Start, or
- Enrolled in an eligible pre-kindergarten class.

If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school about their eligibility through the list above, or should submit an income application.

Households notified of their children’s eligibility must contact the school if the household chooses to decline the benefits.

For more information, you may call **Carol Inman at 413-437-5631** or e-mail at [cinman2@hr-k12.org](mailto:cinman2@hr-k12.org)

**Community Eligibility Provision**  
**Hampshire Regional School District** will be participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program Anne. T Dunphy, New Hingham, Westhampton Elementary will offer healthy meals every school day at NO COST to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2025-2026. Students will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

Non-Discrimination Statement:  
In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OAS-CR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:**  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider. 09/11/2025

## 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.**



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Seasoned cut & split \$325.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**8 FT. MINUTE MOUNT FISHER PLOW**, new 5/8" cutting bar, remote included. \$800. Call 413-388-5854.

**TAG SALE**

**COMMUNITY WIDE YARD SALE.** Sat., 9/13/25, 9am-4pm. Brookhaven Association Clubhouse, 8 Lakeview Drive, West Brookfield.

We have a TON of items, including new and used clothing, shoes, coats, home decor, kitchen supplies (dishes, serving platters, etc.), chandeliers, laptops, and dog supplies (clothing, collars, etc.), board games, wood, tents and camping gear, and many, many, many other things. FREE chicken coops and misc supplies!!!! Clothing: XS-XXL Female Shoes: 7.5-8.5  
20 Burleigh Rd. Hampden, MA 01036  
Sept. 13-14, 20-21, 27-28 10am-5pm  
Sept. 15-19, 22-26 10am-2pm  
Other times by Appt. Rain or Shine  
Call/text Ellie @ 413-531-5026 for questions and appointments.

**WANTED**

**WANTED TO BUY**

**ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.**  
**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.  
Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

**ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:**  
Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.  
Call Paul 413-206-8688.

**JUNK REMOVAL**

**A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL**  
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.  
We load it & take it.  
**413-531-1936**  
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL**  
Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.  
Fully insured.  
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

**SERVICES**

**A B Hauling and Removal Service**

**2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\***

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

**DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS**, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

**ELECTRICIAN**

**PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN**  
• Licensed & Insured •  
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.  
**NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.**  
Call today to schedule your appointment.  
**(413) 366-1703**  
(Lic. #24046-A)

**BUILT 'N POWERED.**  
Serving all your electrical and construction needs. Fully insured and licensed. Free estimates. 10% Senior and Veteran's discounts. Call Tom 413-472-4104.  
Electrical Lic. #56789/CLS Lic. #1045405

**LICENSED ELECTRICIAN**  
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Mini-splits, upgrades, pools, trustworthy & dependable. Luis Arroyo #20773A. Text or call 413-218-3301.

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**SERVICES**

**ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC**  
Fully licensed and insured, Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.  
Call John at (413)206-6509

**EXCAVATING**

**ELIOT STARBAR EXCAVATION**  
35+ yrs of happy customers.  
**508-882-0140**

**HEATING & AIR COND.**

**KELLUM HEATING & COOLING LLC.** Now is the time to get your AC, Heating & Water Heater cleanings before the winter. **413-275-4408**

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

**HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST**  
Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor.  
Tim 413-563-2229.  
Licensed/Insured.  
35 year construction supervisor.

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING** Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

**CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING**  
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR  
**Remodeling & Deck Specialists**  
Residential/Commercial  
Fully Insured • Free Estimates  
**413-351-1147**

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

Handyman Services

**Walker Home Improvement**

Licensed & Insured

Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!

**(413) 687-5552**

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**SERVICES**

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**A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE**  
Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

**\*\*ALL SEASON\*\*** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional.  
Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

**MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING**  
Weekly Mowing  
Landscape design and installation  
Paver Patios, Walkways  
For more services visit [mattguertinlandscaping.com](http://mattguertinlandscaping.com)  
Call or text 413-266-9975  
Insured - Commercial - Residential

**LAWN & GARDEN**

**\*COMPOSTED LOAM\* 3/8"** screened, \$40/yd. deliv., 10 yd min.; No additives, fillers or by-products. Local deliv. to Oakham and surrounding towns only. Eliot Starbard 508-882-0140.

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**STOP WET BASEMENTS**  
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING  
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

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**SERVICES**

**PAINTING**

**B&D PAINTING** - Home improvement contractor. Reg. #175887. Free estimates. 30 years experience. 300 excellent references, 4.83 rating out of 5 on Angies List. **413-727-9846.**

**PRO PAINTING**  
Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. **413-310-5099.**

**PLUMBING**

**GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

**TREE WORK**

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.** Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING**  
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

**DL & G TREE SERVICE.** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

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**STUMP GRINDING**

**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

**SAW STUMP GRINDING**  
413-213-5470

**SAW Stump Grinding**  
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured  
[WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM](http://WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM)  
413-213-5470

**Classified Advertising DEADLINE FRIDAY AT NOON**

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**TUNE-UPS**

**SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR**  
**A&M TUNE-UPS**  
Snowblowers, Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers & Small Engine Repair.  
Work done at your home.  
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

**AUTO**

**GMC AND CORVETTE NOS PARTS** and repair items, collection of metal signs, car books, repair manuals and literature. All at very good prices. Call for information **413-531-6835.**

**CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS**  
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

**HELP WANTED**

**MAINTENANCE**  
20 to 25 hours per week.  
Experience required in all aspects of property maintenance and repair. Work includes, but is not limited to: snow removal, electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, and grounds keeping. Must be available every other week for on call emergency maintenance requests. Valid driver's license and clean driving record. Professional references required. Criminal background check required. Insurance and full state benefits package available.  
Please submit resume to:  
**Wilbraham Housing Authority**  
88 Stony Hill Rd.,  
Wilbraham, MA 01095  
Deadline for resumes 12 PM, September 19, 2025. Equal Opportunity Employer

**SERVERS WANTED**  
Inquire at **Girly's Grill**,  
1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call 413-284-0005.

**SQUIER & CO.** is looking to hire an oil truck driver \$35-\$40/hr. full time or part-time. Squier will provide help with endorsements and CDL training for the right candidate! Email: [squieroil@verizon.net](mailto:squieroil@verizon.net). Call 413-267-3184 or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

**TOWN OF WARE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/ TRUCK DRIVER**  
Duties include but not limited to: Operating various types of motorized vehicles, snow and ice removal equipment and other misc. equipment. Participate in snowplowing, road sanding, snow and ice removal, hazardous materials mitigation, and natural disasters. Assisting with preparation of trucks and other equipment for different seasonal jobs including repairing and maintaining sanders and snowplows; repairing roadways, sidewalks, and other surface areas and drainage structures.  
**Qualifications:** A high school graduate or equivalent, experience in the operation of construction equipment, road maintenance, drainage installation, and operation of power equipment and snow plowing, Class B CDL License with Air Brake endorsement required. All applicants must pass a criminal background/CORI check and a pre-employment physical including drug testing. Hourly rate range: \$23.32-\$25.26.  
Submit resume to:  
**Town of Ware**  
ATTN: Human Resources  
126 Main Street  
Ware, MA 01082

**REAL ESTATE**

**COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE**

**SHOP, WAREHOUSE, GARAGE,** light industrial, yard space, contractor space/yard for rent. 2k to 4k sq. ft. indoor space available. Large yard/outdoor parking available. Location: **1317 Federal St., Belchertown, MA.** Contact Ben 413-372-2216.

**FOR RENT**

**FOR RENT**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.  
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON  
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500

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There's a lot you love about your home — its unique character, timeless details and genuine craftsmanship. One thing you could probably live without though: your home's drafty, unsightly old windows. We understand, and that's why we're introducing Windsor Revive Wood & Hybrid Clad replacement windows.



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