

"All that we are is the result of what we have thought." – Buddha

# 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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## SOUTH WORTHINGTON

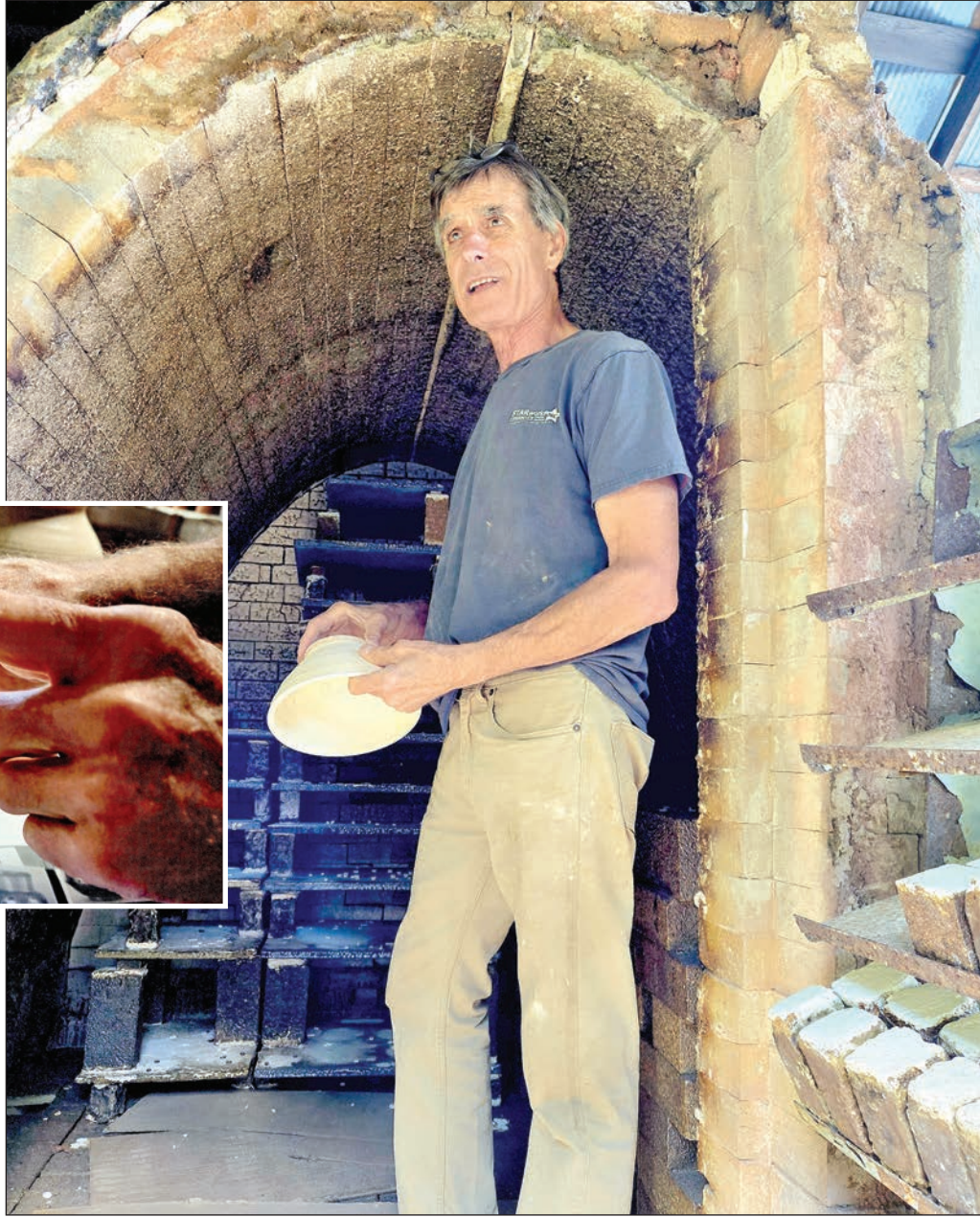
# Open studio tour features local artists

By Kathryn Koegel  
Correspondent

Down a little blink-and-you-miss-it spur off of Ireland Street in South Worthington lies Stonepool Pottery where Mark Shapiro, internationally recognized potter and historian of pots lives and creates.

The road he is on, Conwell, attests to the history of the house he lives in and casts its shadow over his work. As Shapiro greeted

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Shapiro shows how he recreated a famously complex double walled design from Nottingham, England. Shapiro has two wood-fired kilns that become a community project to fire taking five to six people over an 18 hour period.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel

## BLANDFORD

# Voters to decide Fire Station project location

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

At the conclusion of the Select Board meeting Monday night, Chair Cara Letendre presented a prepared statement regarding her Aug. 26 proposal to re-establish the Building Committee.

She thanked the committee for the time and effort put into getting the town to this point and said it had been determined it is not necessary to create another building committee. She also thanked people, who were interested in participating in such a committee and will keep their letters of interest if any more assistance is required.

Her prepared statement read, "Last Friday, the Fire Chief, Cristina and I had a meeting with the engineers working on the Fire Department project. It was determined that at this point in the process, the building committee has completed the duties within their authority and they have gathered enough information for the engineers to move forward with providing us with specs and cost differences for the two locations chosen by the team."

"The two locations selected by the team in order of preference are: the current firehouse location along with the home next door or the Salt Shed location. Our goal is to have the full spec designs completed for both locations, along with estimated costs completed m, in time for the special town meeting in October enabling residents to vote on their preferred location for the firehouse."

"We have asked Cristina to work with counsel regarding the process of possibly purchasing the residence next door to the firehouse so we can swiftly start the process of understanding the costs and conditions of a possible sale. We have also given direction to the engineers on this project to determine the costs of demolition of both buildings and evaluate environmental factors which may impact costs, if any."

"Directives have been given to the engineers to design and create specifications for a firehouse that will support our community for many

## BLANDFORD

# Help needed for refurbishing and weeding



This poke weed plant grew near the Town Hall.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

Select Board Monday night heard from George Reichert, Chair of the Refurbishing Fire Department Training and Post Office facilities located in the former Town Hall.

He reported that he had assessed the needs of the building, painting, cleaning, railings and flag pole and had received donations to help accomplish the work to be done. He received a \$100 check from Hull Forest Products, a \$500 commitment from Westfield Gas and Electric and \$6,500 grant from the Home Depot

Foundation, which will cover supplies. Shutters will be replaced, molding at the Fire Department Training door will be replaced as will lights and more.

He further explained to the board that the Home Depot Foundation had come to look at the work that needed to be done as well. The work to be done was confirmed and at the same time it was noticed that Bicentennial Park could use some help as well, so that was included. The

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## HILLTOWNS

## Primary election results announced for Hilltowns

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

Town Clerks from several Hilltowns announced unofficial election results for the State Primary Election held Tuesday, Sept. 3.

In Blandford on the Democrat ballot, 74 voted for Elizabeth Ann Warren for Senator in Congress and 74 voted for Richard E. Neal for Representative in Congress. Tara J. Jacobs received 67 votes for Councillor Eighth District.

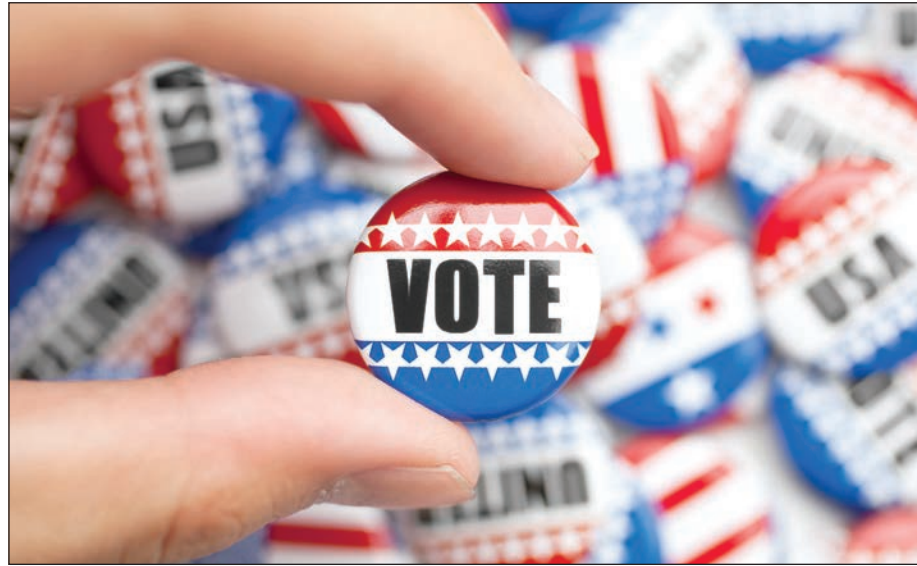
There were no nominations for Representative in General Court Third Hamden District. Laura S. Gentile had 68 votes for Clerk of Courts Hamden County and Cheryl Coakley-Rivera got 72 votes for Register of Deeds Hamden District. Paul W. Mark received 70 votes for Senator in General Court Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire District.

There were no nominations on the Libertarian ballot.

On the Republican ballot, John Deaton was top vote getter with 49, Robert J. Antonellis had 11 and Ian Cain 3 for Senator in Congress. There was no candidate for Representative in Congress First District or for Councillor Eighth District.

Nicholas A. Boldga received 59 votes for Representative in General Court Third Hamden District. There were no nominations for Clerk of Courts Hamden County and Register of Deeds Hamden District. David Rosa got 57 votes for Senator in General Court Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire District.

In Goshen 179 voters cast ballots of the 805 registered voters for a voter



turnout of 22%. Ninety-six of the 179 voters took an absentee ballot or voted early.

On the Democrat ballot, 117 voted for Elizabeth Ann Warren for Senator in Congress and 112 voted for James P. McGovern for Representative in Congress. Tara J. Jacobs received 108 votes for Councillor Eighth District. Paul W. Mark received 110 votes for Senator in General Court and Lindsay N. Sabadosa had 112 for Representative in General Court. Daniel R. Carey had 113 votes for Clerk of Courts and Mary K. Olberding got 112 votes for Register of Deeds. Mark Smith Ames had 110 for Register of Probate.

On the Republican ballot, John Deaton had 50, Robert J. Antonellis 8 and Ian Cain 3 for Senator in Congress. There were no nominations for Representative in Congress or Councillor.

David Rosa received 48 votes for Senator in General Court. There was no candidate for Representative in General Court.

In Huntington, the only unofficial votes received were for Senator in Congress. On the Democrat ballot, Elizabeth Warren received 144 votes. On the Republican ballot, John Deaton got 27 votes, Robert J. Antonellis had 8 and Ian Cain 3 for Senator in Congress.

In Middlefield, on the Democrat ballot, Elizabeth Warren had 33 votes for Senator in Congress. Richard E. Neal had 26 votes for Representative in Congress. Tara Jacobs had 32 votes for Councillor. Paul W. Mark received 32 votes for Senator in General Court. There were no nominations for Representative in General Court. Daniel R. Carey had 31 votes for Clerk of Courts. Mary K. Olberding got 31 votes for Register of Deeds. Mark Smith Ames

had 31 for Register of Probate.

On the Republican ballot, John Deaton had 13, Robert J. Antonellis 9 and Ian Cain 0 for Senator in Congress. There was no nomination for Councillor. David Rosa received 20 votes for Senator in General Court and Nicholas A. Boldga had 19 votes for Representative in General Court. Clerk of Courts, Register of Deeds and Register of Probates had no nominations.

In Worthington, 239 of the 1,012 registered voters went to the polls for a 23.6% voter turnout. One hundred ninety two took a Democrat ballot, 43 a Republican and 4 a Libertarian.

On the Democrat ballot, Elizabeth Ann Warren received 187 votes for Senator in Congress. Richard E. Neal got 181 votes for Representative in Congress. Tara J. Jacobs got 182 votes for Councillor. Lindsay N. Sabadosa had 183 votes for Representative in General Court. Daniel R. Carey received 176 votes for Clerk of Courts and Mark Smith Ames had 175 votes for Register of Probate. Mary K. Olberding got 177 votes for Register of Deeds. Paul W. Mark had 185 votes for Senator in General Court.

On the Republican ballot, John Deaton was the top vote getter with 35, Robert J. Antonellis had 5 and Ian Cain got 3 votes for Senator in Congress. There was no nomination for Representative in Congress First District.

There was no nomination for Councillor or Representative in General Court. Also without candidates on the Republican ballot were Clerk of Court Register of Probate, Register of Deeds. David Rosa received 39 votes for Senator in General Court.

## Department of Transportation list upcoming I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces that crews will be performing nighttime paving, guardrail, and bridge repair operations along I-90 eastbound and westbound now through Thursday night, Sept. 12, in Otis, Blandford, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge and Becket.

Lane closures will be in effect, and traffic will be allowed through the work zones. In Otis and Blandford paving operations will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 21.0 to 25.0, now through Thursday night, Sept. 12, starting each night at 6 p.m. and ending the next day with work concluding

on Friday morning, Sept. 13 at 6 a.m. Bridge work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 22.5, now through Thursday night, Sept. 12 from 7 p.m. each night to the next day at 5 a.m. with work concluding on Friday morning, Sept. 13 by 5 a.m.

In Stockbridge and West Stockbridge guardrail and bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 3.0 to 6.5 now through Thursday night, Sept. 12 from 7 p.m. each night to the next day at 5 a.m., with work concluding on Friday morning, Sept. 13 by 5 a.m.

Bridge repair work will take place on I-90 eastbound at mile marker 6.4, from now through Thursday night, Sept. 12 from 7 p.m. each night to the next day at 5 a.m., with work concluding on Friday morning, Sept. 13 by 5 a.m.

In Becket bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 westbound at mile marker 18.4 now through Thursday night, Sept. 12, from 7 p.m. each night to the next day at 5 a.m., with work concluding b. on Friday morning, Sept. 13 by 5 a.m.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the

work area. Drivers traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.


For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: download the Mass511 mobile app or visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text Follow @ MassDOT on X (formerly known as Twitter) to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

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## WESTFIELD

## Alzheimer's support group meets

WESTFIELD – Alzheimer's Association Virtual Support Group sponsored by Armbrook Village Senior Living and Memory Support Community, 551 North Road, will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 6 p.m.

Caregivers and family members are invited to share their personal experienc-

es and strategies for communicating with their loved ones. This month's group is virtual. Participants should either email their name and phone number to [reception@armbrookvillage.com](mailto:reception@armbrookvillage.com) to be added to the Zoom list or call 413-568-0000. Groups are held the last Wednesday of the month.

## St. Joseph's to hold Polish fare dinner

WESTFIELD – Back by popular demand, St. Joseph's National Catholic Church at 73 Main St. is hosting a community Polish fare dinner on Sunday, Sept. 22 at noon.

This community feast will feature delicious cheese Pierogi, lazy cabbage Pierogi, Galumpki, Kielbasa, pickled beets, rye bread and dessert. Coffee, juice and water will also be available.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. For tickets, people

may call Cliff at 413-977-2007. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, Sept. 19.

A limited number of meals-to-go will be available at 12:30 p.m. When buying tickets, people should indicate if they are eating at the Social Center or planning take-out. Parking is available at the Clinton Avenue parking lot. All are welcome. Parishners hope people join the for a traditional Sunday Polish dinner and raffle!



# HUNTINGTON

## COA to host health fair

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging will be hosting a health fair on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

Flu vaccinations will be provided by Stop & Stop and My Perfect Balance will be offering massages for \$5 for 10 minutes. Attendees will be able to meet representatives from Baystate Hospice, Central Hampshire Veterans' Services, Commonwealth Care Alliance, Cooley Dickinson VNA & Hospice, Highland Valley Elder Services, Hilltown Community Ambulance Association, Hilltown Easy Ride, Huntington Food Pantry, Linda Manor, Regional Public Health Nurse, Southern Hilltown Adult Education Center and more.

Free prize drawings will be held. Residents of any age and from any community are welcome to attend this free event. For more information, people may contact Caregiver Support/Outreach Coordinator Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283.

## Kaleb Legrand receives certification for Freightliner and Western Star vehicles

SHREWSBURY – Diesel technicians from Advantage Truck Group including Huntington resident Kaleb Legrand who works at ATG in Westfield, recently earned the Daimler Trucks North America Professional certification for Freightliner and Western Star vehicles.

Legrand is one of four ATG technicians to earn the DTNA Professional certification by completing a series of web-based training modules and in-depth instructor-led classes covering the various systems on a truck including electronics, suspension, axles, brakes, clutches, electrical and HVAC.

“Achieving this certification is an important milestone that distinguishes a technician’s expertise and ensures a high level of service for our customers,” said ATG Training Director and certified dealer-trainer Rob Lynds, whose classes at the

ATG training center often include technicians from other dealer companies. Lynds, along with ATG Network Trainer

Matthew McCuin, leads training for ATG technicians throughout the company’s locations across New England.



Kaleb Legrand of Huntington was one of four diesel technicians from Advantage Truck Group to earn the Daimler Trucks North America Professional certification for Freightliner and Western Star vehicles. Shown from left, is ATG Network Trainer Matt McCuin, ATG Training Director Rob Lynds, ATG technicians Manny Barrios, Ben Tebow, Kaleb Legrand and Kevin Johnson, and technician Dave Bauer from Freightliner of Maine in Fort Kent.

Submitted photo

## Library lists upcoming events

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Public Library’s Book Club pick for the month of September is “The Banned Bookshop of Maggie Banks” by Shauna Robinson.

Copies can be picked up at the library, 7 East Main St., ordered through interlibrary loan or borrowed through the Libby app. The Book Club will discuss the book at their next meeting on Thursday, Oct. 3 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, people may call 413-512-5206 or email library@huntingtonma.us.

On Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. Sandy Ward from the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Massachusetts will present “What to Know Before You Go.” People will discover their options and

rights and learn how to make their final wishes both clear and cost-effective. This event is a collaborative effort between the Huntington Library and the Council on Aging, taking place at Stanton Hall, 28 Russell Road. For additional details, people call 413-512-5206 or send an email to library@huntingtonma.us.

On Thursday, Sept. 26 from 4-6 p.m. people are invited to come enjoy pizza, soda and a variety of games at the Huntington Public Library’s first ever all-ages Game Night. A selection of games will be provided, but people are welcome to bring their favorites. For more information, people may call 413-512-5206 or send an email to library@huntingtonma.us.



Old Country Road

Submitted photo

## Old Country Road to perform Sept. 15

HUNTINGTON – For the 14th year, perennial favorite Old Country Road will once again perform vintage country and bluegrass music on the stage at North Hall, 49 Searle Road, on Sunday Sept. 15 at 2 p.m.

Every year, the local band takes audiences back to the days of the Grand Ole Opry with songs from the golden age of country music mixed with bluegrass music. They often perform songs by Hank Williams, Carl Smith, Webb Pierce, Kitty Wells, Faron Young, The Louvin Brothers and the Stanley Brothers.

Old Country Road features Dan Pilachowski on flat picking guitar, Ron Jackson on rhythm guitar and vocals, Mark Leveille on mandolin and vocals,

Dave Helman on stand-up bass and will include special guest artist, banjoist, Chris Boucher.

This free performance is part of the 14th Annual Historic North Hall Arts Festival, presented by the North Hall Association. All performances are free; donations are welcomed. People may visit the website at www.northhallhuntington.org for program updates.

The North Hall is wheelchair accessible and air conditioned. The seven program series is sponsored by the Westfield Bank, Easthampton Savings Bank, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Cultural Councils of: Chester, Cumington, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Russell, Westhampton and Worthington.

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### Husband upset about his wife's survivor benefit

Dear Rusty

This is a matter that I find particularly irksome. My wife, a retired teacher, was told that, should I pre-decease her, she is not eligible to get survivor benefits from my Social Security payments. I'm sure there is some arcane, bureaucratic justification for this, but I think it unconscionable. Is this true and if so, what sort of major miracle would be required to alter that?

Signed Disgruntled in Texas

Dear Disgruntled

If your wife was a teacher in a school district, which includes all Texas school districts that exempted her from paying into Social Security, then any Social Security surviving spouse benefit she becomes entitled to from you will be affected by a provision called the Government Pension Offset. The GPO will reduce her Social Security survivor benefit by two-thirds, 67%, of the amount of her (non-covered) teacher's pension, which can and often does eliminate her surviving spouse benefit. The GPO affects teachers in about 15 states, who have opted not to participate in Social Security.

For information, this is similar to what happens to a spouse who has also earned a Social Security retirement benefit, their survivor benefit is offset by their Social Security retirement benefit and only the excess, if any, is paid.

The GPO is actually a bit more generous, in that your wife's survivor benefit is only offset by 2/3rds of her non-covered teacher's pension, whereas the offset is 100% for other surviving spouses who have earned SS retirement benefits as well. This is a provision that has been law since 1977, affecting all those who have a pension earned without contributing to Social Security. Its premise was to better equalize the way SS benefits are paid to everyone.

How can that be altered? Well, the only way is by Congress changing Social Security law. There have been numerous attempts to change the GPO law over the years, none of which have been successful. Indeed, there is a proposed law, H.R. 82 The Social Security

SECURITY, page 5

## Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com), or call us at 413-283-8393.

Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.



## GUEST COLUMN

### How to best store your produce for winter



The question I answered last week on how to best cure onions spawned a number of follow up questions.

Gardeners are looking for advice on storing potatoes, apples, winter squash and more. Read on for some timely tips that will keep your produce in tip top shape for off-season eating and enjoyment.

Why don't we start with potatoes, since they are perhaps the most tricky vegetable to store. Curing them properly will help to prevent rot, premature sprouting, and toxic greening of the skin and flesh.

By waiting a week or more after the plant has died before digging up the tubers, the skins will thicken and be less prone to injury during harvest. Once they are dug, a week spent in a cool and totally dark space will further firm their skin and change sugars to starch, completing the ripening process.

Never wash potatoes prior to storage! Gently brush off dirt and store in a single layer in the darkness at 55-60 degrees.

Darkness will prevent greening, which renders potatoes inedible. Use any pitch-forked or shovel-marked spuds first, as damage to the skin will invite rot.

Harvest winter squash after vines have died back or prior to an impending frost. A pretty New England autumn scene is fields of pumpkins or colorful squash curing under sunny skies.

If you follow the farmers lead, just be sure to lift squash off the ground, and cover if rain or frost threatens. Two weeks in the field or a sunny, well-ventilated space is sufficient for curing, at which point the skin should be hard enough to resist the dent of a fingernail.

Gently washing squash in a 10% bleach solution will help to prevent rot prior to storing at temperatures between 50 and 60 degrees. The flavor of many of our favorite squashes only improves with age.

My garlic was harvested well over a month ago, after the plant gave me a signal with one-third of its foliage withered and browned. It was dried stems and all in a

shady, protected spot up off of the ground.

Soon I'll gently rub off dirt and cut back the stems to a couple of inches before storing for the winter in a cool and dry location, in mesh bags or on slatted trays etc. Soft neck types of garlic have pliable foliage that lends itself well to braiding.

In any case, allowing for good air circulation will ensure a long storage life.

I don't grow enough apples of my own to store just yet, because my orchard is still very young. To get the low-down on best storage practices I consulted a couple of great books on the subject and this is what I came up with: According to "The Apple Cookbook" by Olwen Woodier (Storey Publishing) the key to preserving the flavor and texture of apples is to put them in a cool place immediately after picking or purchasing.

But first, sort them, setting aside any with blemishes for immediate use- the old saying "one bad apple spoils the whole barrel" is true! Next, put them in perforated bags (you were right on, Mom!) and store them in the hydrator drawer of the refrigerator at temperatures between thirty-two and forty degrees.

No room in the fridge? Try storing them in the cellar at temperatures close to thirty-two degrees and eighty to eighty-five percent humidity.

Janet Chadwick, in her book "The Beginner's Guide to Preserving Food at Home" (Storey Publishing) recommends storing apples in sawdust inside a cardboard box lined with a plastic.

Although they will ripen more quickly at even slightly higher temperatures, don't let the lack of a super-cold spot dissuade you from storing your apples. Sure, they won't keep till spring, but you may get a month or two out of them.

Any that turn a little soft will still make great baked apples. Late season apples would lend themselves to winter storage better than those that are ripe now.

Enjoy the fruits (and vegetables!) of your labor by proper curing and storage!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.*

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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 Monday to be considered for that

Friday'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 news-

paper 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.

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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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# OPINION

## HILLTOWN HISTORY

### Snakes encounters and Basalt cliffs

By Deborah Daniels  
Correspondent

Hiking in the Stevens Property in Huntington with all its impressive monolithic stones and split rocks is fascinating enough, but to come upon a specimen of shed snakeskin, well that was a snakes alive moment

The dog had me out walking that day and he totally freaked out when he saw me collect the skin. Once I had it safely stowed in my pocket, he settled down and resumed hiking. Looking up what snake might have worn that skin I decided it was a garter snake, all 40 inches of it. We have 14 species of snakes in Massachusetts and the garter snake is the most common.

Relax, there are only two venomous snakes that reside in this state. The Timber Rattlesnake and the Copperhead snake are both rarely seen and both are endangered species. There are no harmful water snakes.

Snakes are really not interested in meeting people. Hikers encounter them when they are sunbathing, both parties are stunned, surprised and scared. Snakes prefer to avoid people so they shy away as soon as they detect human beings. They will only bite when they are provoked. Most snakes do not inject venom when they bite, only the two identified earlier do this. Treat a snakebite like a dog bite, keep it clean and protected and check with your medical doctor.

Back to the shed skin, snakes shed their skin when it gets tight and they have outgrown it. They snag their head on a sharp rock or branch and slither out of the skin. Snakes find food by sight and sound including vibrations. Garter snakes will eat worms, insects, frogs, toads, salamanders, mice and nestling birds. When a garter snake is threatened its only defense is to inspire fear by flattening its head and body to appear bigger than it really is. Garter snakes are active during the day. They live in both terrestrial and wetland habitats.

They mate in the spring or fall and give birth to 15-40 small fully independent snakes in late July through October. There is no mothering of baby garter snakes, they are on their own from day one on. They can live up to 20 years in the wild. Predators are mainly birds, hawks, owls and even songbirds as well as all the other usual suspects – raccoons, possums, skunks and fish.

Garter snakes do not burrow into the ground but they do borrow chipmunk holes to nest in. They can't generate their own heat so they bask in sunlight in warm weather months and hibernate in dens and under rocks in winter. These snakes are docile and as evidence I have had two baby garters sheltering in my granddaughters' sandbox since the end of July. That concludes the herpetology program.

Now to be sure the one place where you may find a venomous snake in Massachusetts. according to the Massachusetts Audubon Society is liv-



This shed snakeskin was found on a recent hike in Huntington.



The author encountered this garter snake on a hike.



This baby snake inhabits the author's granddaughter's sandbox. That is my plastic sheet to cover over the sandbox at night.



This is a close up of shed snakeskin.

ing on Basalt cliffs. Well the Hilltown Hikers just had a hike to the Basalt Cliffs in Southwick. Alas we did not see any snakes. You want a taste of the Colorado Rockies, go to Southwick and the Basalt quarry. It is impressive to see the jagged Basalt cliffs in the middle of farm country.

There was a working quarry here stripping the Basalt or volcanic traprock for building roads and stone buildings in the past. There is very little evidence of this industry present today. Our hike took us over to Provin Mountain next door, home of WWLP, channel 22 broadcast studio (1st broadcasted in March 1953). Do you remember John Quill predicting the weather on tv? There are still transmitters present and functioning and an excellent fire tower to observe the greater Springfield area from.

So you can speak the lingo: the Metacomet Monadnock Trail goes along the Metacomet Ridge where Provin Mountain is located. The Metacomet Ridge goes from New Haven, Connecticut all the way north to

Turley photos by Deborah Daniels

Vermont. The Connecticut River Valley is considered part of this route from the Long Island Sound north to Vermont, a route established by Native Americans.



This frog shares the sandbox with the baby snake.

### Correction

The incorrect date was listed for the second information session planned by Indivisible Williamsburg and the Williamsburg Energy Committee was incorrect. It should be Sunday, Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. in the Anne T. Dunphy School, 1 Petticoat Hill Road, Williamsburg for the energy and climate education series.

### 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 Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.**



### SECURITY

from page 4

Fairness Act, which was introduced in Congress last year. That proposal, to eliminate the GPO and a sister provision called the Windfall Elimination Provision, has essentially made little Congressional progress, short of a few committee hearings and the outlook for passage at this point is about zero.

I'm afraid I can't be optimistic that the GPO will be repealed, as Congress is more keenly focused on resolving Social Security's looming solvency issue, set to come to a head in less than a decade.

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iated 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.



## BLANDFORD

# Mennonites hold hymn sing and pot luck supper

BLANDFORD – The hills rang out once again with the sounds 95 Mennonite voices of making a joyful noise hymn sing on Sunday, Aug. 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Local Outreach and Planning official Rondell Stauffer gave direction and answered questions for all assisted by

Dwayne Amstutz. Dennis Nolt led the singers and shared the task with Ron and Melvin Hess. Singers came from 15 states from California to New Hampshire and locally; Canada was well represented with vocalists from Manitoba, Ontario and British Columbia. There were also participants from Peru and Guatemala.

A pot luck supper on the lawn followed the hymn sing. The group will next go to Ground Zero in New York City on Wednesday, Sept. 11 to sing, counsel and offer faith and guidance to any visitors. The Mennonites have been going to New York every year since 2003.



Jarald Reinford welcomes everyone to the Hymn Sing.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm



A large crowd gather outside the White Church in Blandford for a the pot luck supper following a hymn sing by a choir of 95 Mennonites.

Courtesy photo by Peter Langmore

### MEET AND GREET HELD FOR NEW TOWN ADMINISTRATOR



This Tuesday night there was a Meet and Greet at the Porter Memorial Library patio to welcome new Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara own Administrator Cristina Ferrara chats with Library Trustee Chuck Benson and Pam Dirschka.

Turley Publications photo by Mary Kronholm

## PML Director Daviau speaks at Library Commissioners meeting

BLANDFORD – Porter Memorial Library Director Nicole Daviau spoke at the request of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners at their meeting Sept. 5.

Her topic was the challenges smaller rural libraries face in the course of their community service.

She specifically mentioned the inadequate time for doing things other than circulation desk check-ins and check-outs, size of facilities, lack of adequate office space etc.



Nicole Daviau

“Library leaders at all levels in small and rural libraries are so busy singlehandedly doing the jobs” that larger libraries have staff to do.

This week she is also attending the Association for Rural and Small Libraries in Springfield, a four-day event covered entirely with a scholarship from the Massachusetts Library System, which will pay for all of her expenses.

She said she has registered for multiple workshops, which will help direct the library’s community services.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

## Blandford Highway Supt. resigns

BLANDFORD – Highway Superintendent David Waldron tendered his verbal resignation to the Select Board during an executive session Tuesday, Sept. 3.

The Select Board has asked former Highway Superintendent Rene Senecal to step in as the interim/acting superintendent. His first day was Monday, Sept. 9. The town is actively looking for a new superintendent as well as two highway department employees to fill all vacancies.

### FIRE STATION *from page 1*

years to come, swiftly move forward in order to keep this phase of the project within budget, and meet our timeline of presenting informed options to our residents in the fall.”

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara at the direction of the Select Board is working on setting up a Special Town Meeting, which will include an article on the options for a new Fire Station. No date has been set yet.

## WEEDING

Foundation does this sort of project using their employee volunteers.

### Volunteers needed

Work will be accomplished on Saturday, Sept. 28 starting at 8 a. m. and more volunteers are needed to help out on what Reichert is calling Blandford’s Community Day.

Reichert has multiple sign-up sheets spread around town and estimates the need for at least 30 to 35 people to help out with various parts of the project. Six people are needed to work on sanding and painting the flag pole, eight on the railing, another eight in Bicentennial Park to do any additional weeding and digging holes for new plants. Others will be on hand for signing volunteers in, making drinks available and generally handling supplies. Reichert said the Blandford County Store would help out with snacks, too.

While the Mennonites were in town for their Hymn Sing, some stopped at the park and weeded enough out of the existing bed to fill about eight huge garbage bags, which the Highway Department will take away.

Anyone who can help out on that Saturday should call Reichert at 413-848-2074.

### Shared services grants

The Select Board participated in a meeting with the town’s Water Commissioners and Water Commissioners Jim Zimmerman and Bob Daley from Chester. The shared services grant concludes Sept. 15. The boards discussed any possible next steps. There will be no more combined services after that date. Because of what Blandford’s commissioners called failure to communicate appropriately, much time was lost.

Chair Michael Keier said the shared services arrangement was not a “great success.” After it was assured that after Sept. 15 Blandford’s Steve Grondin could work as a secondary operator for Chester Water two hours on Saturdays and Sundays every other week, as it was clear that there was no longer to be any shared services. Daley said that the grant had nothing to do with Chester’s asking Grondin to be their secondary operator.

### Other business

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission’s Community Development Planner Joseph Hagopian met virtually with the board and report-

ed that seven homes had benefited from the rehab grant program and he would be submitting the final report.

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara said she had spoken with Josh Frappier of Wyman Road about the town’s notice of non-compliance for the dangerous dogs and that the fence to enclose the dogs was in fact, being constructed. She told the board that Building Inspector Jason Fogue and Animal Control Officer Chief Jennifer Dubiel would check on the fence when completed.

Elm Electric has been contacted about resolving the ongoing electrical problems. She is looking for a ballpark idea of what a cost would be for any/all work to be done to eliminate the cause of ongoing intermittent power loss at Town Hall.

Finally, Stephanie Lavalley, a parent who brings her child to the playground, brought to the board’s attention via email of a plant she mistakenly identified as milkweed berries. The plant is actually poke weed and the berries can be toxic and are considered poisonous for humans, livestock and dogs but is a source of food for songbirds. The Conservation Commission has removed the plant.

*from page 1*



# CHESTER

## Book club meets Sept. 18

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday Sept. 18 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council on Aging room at the Chester Town Hall.

They will enjoy snacks while discussing the fantasy tale, “When Women Were Dragons” by award winning author Kelly Barnhill. This imaginative story is about an alternative United States history fol-

lowing WWII, in which women have lost purpose and respect at the hands of men, culminating in a mass dragoning event in 1955. The tyranny of forced limitations incite rage within them and they decide to take back their power to the detriment of their husbands, bosses and any other man, who challenges their personal sovereignty. Extra copies of the book are available and all are welcome to drop in.

## Chester Cultural Council seeks applicants for 2025 grants

CHESTER – The Chester Cultural Council is seeking applicants for the 2025 Massachusetts Cultural Council funds distributed through the local and regional councils.

The Chester Cultural Council then regrants the funds to arts, humanities, science and interpretive projects and celebrations in the community. Their 2025 allocation is \$5,700. Deadline to fill out an application is Wednesday, Oct. 16.

People may visit the Mass Cultural Council site and find the CCC application, priorities and guidelines.

The Mass Cultural Council distributes funds to local and regional cultural councils, who then regrant funds to arts, humanities and interpretive science projects in their own communities. Priorities are for programs that stay in the Chester

community, projects celebrating local history and cultural diversity, community wide gathering including festivals, concerts, plays and fairs and restoration or preservation projects that help save important historic features.

In FY25 Mass Cultural Council will invest \$5.7 million into the Local Cultural Council Program, the nation’s largest grassroots cultural funding network. LCCs provide arts and cultural grants to every municipality in Massachusetts through the efforts of more than 2,400 volunteers. They fund some 7,500 public projects annually including everything from field trips to lectures, festivals, and dance and theater performances.

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

## Community input invited on Hazard Mitigation Plan

CHESTER – The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee of Chester developed a comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan Update that identifies and prioritizes strategies to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards and climate change on our community.

Chester residents, stakeholders, and neighboring towns are welcome to review the draft plan and give their comments and suggestions before the report is submitted to the state and federal governments for their approval. “Public engagement lies at the core of our Hazard Mitigation Plan Update,” Don Humason, Chester Town Administrator said. “It is imperative that this plan reflects the diverse perspectives and priorities of our community members as we move to mitigate risks posed by natural hazards and climate change. The Town of Chester looks forward to a collaborative effort in building a resilient and secure future.”

People may visit the town’s website at <https://townofchester.net/> to review the draft plan. Hard copies are available for review at the Town Hall located at 15 Middlefield Road.

The Commentary Period began Friday, Aug. 30 and runs through

Friday, Sept. 13.

To provide feedback residents should complete the Google Form provided on the Town’s website and available in hard copy at the designated viewing locations.

Chester’s Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee has developed this plan as a strategy for our Town against existing and future natural hazard threats and the evolving challenges posed by climate change. Implementation of this plan will significantly enhance our resilience to hazards such as flooding, snowstorms, high winds and extreme temperatures.

Town officials and local stakeholders developed this plan with funding support from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

Federal Emergency Management Agency approval, and Town adoption, of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update allows the Town to pursue pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation grant opportunities.

For further inquiries, people may call Donald F. Humason Jr. Town Administrator at 413-354-7760 or email [townadministrator@townofchester.net](mailto:townadministrator@townofchester.net).

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# SOUTH WORTHINGTON

## STUDIO

from page 1

me on an early fall day, the now tidy house and studio plus a barn and a little shop in a shed lay snug against a hillside where the Hilltown Land Trust recently opened access with a hiking trail called the Conwell Property. In Mark's yard, the peaches are ripening on a copse of trees and golden raspberries send the birds darting in our path. This 2019 Smithsonian Artist Resident Fellow has made a life and studio in the Hilltowns that he will be opening on Oct. 5 and Oct. 6 as part of the Hilltown Arts Alliance Open Studio Tour.

Shapiro's life and work as a potter connects to both the history of the Hilltowns and the international history of functional art. In 1986, Shapiro, who was working as a carpenter in New York City, pulled up stakes from his loft there and relocated to the area, drawn by the idea of being able to make things in affordable open spaces. Why here? He had gone to school at a liberal arts college in the Pioneer Valley and knew local potters like Michael and Harriet Cohen and Jack Masson.

For him, part of the appeal of the Hilltowns was their "can do" nature. "There are a lot of people who knew how to do things with their hands, including working with stone. The Hilltowns are full of old houses that require so much but people know how to fix the buildings. You don't see this high level of carpentry in other parts of the country."

He happened upon the house of one of the U.S.'s most preeminent 19th century preachers, Russell Conwell, in a dilapidated shape that an aspiring artist could afford. Conwell, who founded Temple University in Philadelphia, had preached what we now know as the Gospel of Prosperity.

For those who worked hard "acres of diamonds" would be theirs and they would then be able to do good for others. The speech was given over 6,000 times starting in 1890 and informed one school of religious thought that stands to this day. The mega churches continue to sing a similar song.

The state of Conwell's house, which had gone in and out of the Conwell family, required his carpentry skills. He set to work on the house and the property, bringing it back to life, clawing the space between house and studio back from the brambles. He relishes the house's history, which predates the Conwells. "There is a very plausible story that Frederick Douglass and John Brown spent the night in the attic," he says referring to the prominent abolitionists.

Once inside the doors of his studio, which are filled to the light-filled rafters with works-in-progress pottery, topics change to how history and pottery connect. Shapiro studied history in college, not art, and it is with that lens that he approaches much of his work. He has become the preeminent scholar of a potter named Thomas Commeraw (1772 - 1823), who was a master craftsman notable for his work, his entrepreneurship and the fact he was a free Black in New York City. Born enslaved but freed as a child, Commeraw was an activist who was among the first Blacks in the U.S. to attempt to move back to Africa. He made the journey in 1820 but returned to the U.S.

Shapiro's research led to a long-overdue solo exhibit at the New York Historical Society, which was mounted in 2023. As part of his research, Shapiro recreated the typical types of pots that Comers worked on and had a 3D printer

help him create a stamp like what the potter used. Shapiro believes that Commeraw was the first "brander" of pots (or just about any item in the U.S.).

His work has a dramatic stamp of his name front and center. Shapiro

goes all in for historical pottery shapes and shows a cylindrical vessel with a hole wide enough for a tablespoon at the top. "This was a US pickled oyster jar," he says. Commeraw made plenty of them and Shapiro, of course, did his own oyster pickling to test the materials. What does a pickled oyster taste like? "Not much, he says."

For him, the appeal of pottery is its very usefulness. "Think of a cup or mug," he says. "It's a pot you use and have an intimate relationship with. You take it to your lips. Your frame of reference changes every day as you use it." For him creating pottery is about making "a lot of things that are not precious but are still art. You can get your whole self into a pot," he says.

Shapiro revels in figuring out how a historic piece of pottery is made. His current fixation is the Morley pierced double-walled stoneware mug, a mind-bending work when he shows you its simple complexity. There are two levels to the shape: an outer layer, which is pierced to reveal the inner vessel, tough to achieve and fire. These were originally made in Nottingham, England and there are less than 100 in the world. He first saw one in the collection at Colonial Williamsburg. He has recreated them and imbued them with his own sensibility making them lighter and taller into a pilsner shape.

Shapiro also showed off his two wood-fired kilns. These typically take five-to-six people to fire them over an 18 hour period. It is a community act to operate one and he invites fellow potters to share the stoking and the capacity of the kiln for their own work. Why do all this physical labor? "It produces a varied surface. The ash is a flux and deposits on the surface. For a wood-fired pot, every bit is different depending on where it was in the flame. It's richer than an electric fired pot. The kiln is a space you cannot go in and every pot tells a story. It's nice living with them. They have a richness and warmth that other pottery doesn't."

Why does he call his place Stonepool Pottery? It's another part of the history. "Russell Conwell had a lot of stonework created on his property," says Shapiro as he leads me to a curiously precise round stone pool alive with frogs and insects, murky with moss. "There's a turtle that lives in there and a black snake. I think Conwell might have used this to baptize people."

At the Hilltown Arts Alliance sixth annual Open Studio Tour, he sets larger works on wooden supports around the pool, which fills with autumn leaves. The tour features other potters such as Guy Matsuda (Plainfield) and ceramicists Emmett Leader, Sergei Isupov and Kadri Parnamets (Cummington) as well as painters and printmakers.

The event is free with 11 studios in addition to Shapiro's open to the public. A map and full details are at [hilltownartsalliance.org/open-studio-tour](http://hilltownartsalliance.org/open-studio-tour). On Sunday, Oct. 6 at 11:30 a.m. Shapiro is hosting a pottery "throw down." He will be taking requests on how to make any type of pottery form the audience wants. "I look forward to the Open Studio Tour each year," he says. "It's a chance to meet so many neighbors."



Shapiro work on preeminent early 19th century Black potter Thomas Commeraw lead to an exhibit at the New York Historical Society. This pot is a recreation of his work complete with a reproduction stamp of what Commeraw used.



His studio will be open to the public as part of the Hilltown Arts Alliance 6th annual Open Studio Tour on Oct. 5 and 6. 19th century oyster jars are another historic pottery form he is resurrecting.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel

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## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

# HCC adding eSports team to its athletics roster

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is adding another athletics team to its roster of intercollegiate sports.

Along with men's and women's soccer, cross country, golf, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, track and field, and baseball, HCC will soon begin recruiting students to play eSports.

In eSports - short for electronic sports - participants play online video games against individuals or other teams. Some of the more common collegiate-level eSports are Overwatch (a multiplayer, first-person shooter game), League of Legends (an arena-style battle game), and Rocket League (a vehicular soccer game).

"They are strategy games," said HCC Athletics Director Tom Stewart, "thinking person's games. Every athletic event is a thinking person's game, but

these are more strictly thinking person's games, but they also require a measure of physical coordination and stamina."

According to Stewart, HCC will be just the fourth community college in Massachusetts to create an eSports team, joining Mass Bay, Northern Essex, and Bunker Hill community colleges. The HCC team will be co-ed.

"We're the only community college west of Worcester that's going to have eSports," he said.

Although HCC belongs to the National Junior College Athletic Association, the NJCAA, its eSports team will compete in the Eastern College Athletic Conference, which has an eSports division.

Last month, HCC posted an employment notice soliciting applicants for a head coach to lead the

eSports team. Over the summer, a former classroom on the second floor of HCC's Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation was converted into an eSports center and outfitted with 10 eSports stations that will allow two teams of five to play simultaneously. Each station includes a high-performance computer, monitor, keyboard, headset, mouse, and gaming controller. There's a large screen monitor on the wall, where the coach can plan strategy and watch gameplay, and a small lounge area in the middle of the room for downtime. Only members of the eSports team and their coaches will have access to the room for practices and competitions.

With this new offering, Stewart said the college is hoping to capitalize on the increasing popularity of professional Sports, a market expected to exceed \$1

billion in revenue in the United States in 2024 and growing about 15 percent annually, according to Statista, an online industry database.

"It's the biggest growth sport in the county," Stewart said. "I think it's going to attract a different kind of kid. When local high schools find out we have an eSports team here, I think it's going to help enrollment."

Like all of HCC's athletic teams, eSports will have academic eligibility requirements, as well as nutrition and fitness components.

"It's not a gaming club," said Stewart. "Team members are not going to be able to kick it in here all day long instead of going to class. They'll have to maintain their grades. It's just another athletic offering to complement their overall educational experience."

## Springfield Tech to hold reunion

SPRINGFIELD – The spirit and comradery of Springfield's Tech High School is alive and well as they gear up for another exciting reunion on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany Street from noon-6 p.m.

The reunion is open to all Tech classes and friends. An outside barbecue will be held rain or shine under the lodge's pavilion and a special tent. The barbecue will include hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and peppers, salads, dessert and more. There is a cash bar. Parking is free and the building is handicap accessible.

A fun-filled afternoon will include a live band and dancing, cornhole and bocce games, raffles and time to reminisce with friends over the years and make new friends as well. Donations will be accepted for raffle prizes.

Seating is limited and tickets are \$25 each. All are on a first come, first served basis. For tickets, people should call Mike Borecki '72 at 413-351-6572, Dawn Duncan '71 at 413-896-3930, Paul Montefusco '69 at 413-596-6607 or Matt Villamaino '67 at 413-896-2206. Located on Elliot Street in Springfield, Technical High School was founded in 1906 and closed in 1986.

## Taber Art Gallery debuts 'Human Erratics' installation

HOLYOKE – The campus of Holyoke Community College and the woods around it, like many places in western Massachusetts, are marked by occasional, enormous boulders called "erratics," giant rocks left in seemingly random locations by glaciers as they receded at the end of the last Ice Age.

"Human Erratics" is the title of a new installation at HCC's Taber Art Gallery that takes its name from a short film by artist Marie Lynn Haas. The film, composed entirely of still images, explores what she calls "wastescapes," deserted buildings and dumpsites in her hometown of Worthington.

"Like glacial erratics, left behind by the movement of ice across long distances, wastescape structures mark the path of human movement," she explains in a note that accompanies the exhibition, which opened Sept. 3 with the start of the fall semester and runs through Friday, Oct. 18. "They are, in a sense, human erratics, deposits of human abandonment and remnants of neglect."

"Human Erratics," the show, includes four short film projects created by Haas and her artistic collaborator Tori Lawrence, residency director and founder of Atland, an artists' retreat in West Chesterfield, where Haas is also a curator.

The gallery, located inside the HCC Library on the second floor of the Donahue Building, will host an opening reception for "Human Erratics" on

Thursday, Sept. 12, from 5-7 p.m. that includes an informal meet-and-greet with the artists.

According to Rachel Rushing, Taber Art Gallery director, the films and the exhibition itself are really a collaboration of the many artists who comprise the Tori Lawrence and Co. group, which is made up of dancers, musicians, builders, and other artists.

"They all work together on each other's projects," said Rushing, "such as these short films and the installations."

Each film in the show runs on a continuous loop and is meant to be experienced in a different way.

"Green Mountain Project," filmed and edited by Lawrence, shows dancers moving among the landscape in Rochester, Vermont, for instance. It plays on a small wall monitor accompanied by two sets of headphones, so visitors can listen to the original musical score.

An arm chair set up in a living room scene beckons visitors to sit and watch "Human Erratics," the film, on an old television set among broken bottles and rusty metal objects—a gasoline can, hand saw, bird cage, folding chair.

"Old Post Road," displayed on two large side-by-side backlit screens, blends old home movies with more recent footage that Haas and Lawrence put together over several years.

"The film was sometimes familiar, like déjà vu, and yet it was as puz-

zling as a labyrinth," the artists write, describing the editing process. "The act of watching it again and again was like trying to remember a dream."

Finally, "Undesired Inheritance / Ancestral Mythologies," conveys Haas's conversations with her grandparents about their past, and plays through two wooden funnels that compel you to look in.

Also part of the installation is a book of Haas's photographs titled "Wastescapes," along with two empty journals that invite visitors to contribute their own thoughts and drawings.

"These works explore personal and collective turmoil and reveal how chronic illness and the cycles of life and death are woven into the fabric of ecological change," reads a note that accompanies the exhibit.

The films run from five to 15 minutes. None have narration or a typical storyline, so they don't have to be watched from beginning to end to be appreciated in the context of the show.

"It depends on what people want to do," she said. "You can sit and watch the whole thing if you want. But as with any kind of art viewing, it's not dependent on that. It's not like going to see a movie."

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.

Read or subscribe to the Country Journal online at [www.countryjournal.turley.com](http://www.countryjournal.turley.com)

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## PITTSFIELD

### BEAT receives micro-grant

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection announces \$140,126 in micro-grants awarded to organizations, municipalities and academic institutions focused on reducing waste generation and prolonging the lifespan of products by offering donation, rescue, reuse and repair services across the state.

Berkshire Environmental Action Team in Pittsfield received \$9,440 for a Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant. The funding, awarded through MassDEP's Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant Program, is given to projects that provide innovative and impactful ways to curb waste and keep products in use through donation, rescue, reuse and repair. Approximately 74% of the awarded projects will serve environmental justice communities.

"Reducing the amount of waste we produce by reusing, repairing, rescuing and donating what we already

have has the biggest direct impact on our ability to meet our waste reduction goals," said MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple. "Funding these projects ensures we have the infrastructure to tackle waste reduction right here in Massachusetts."

The funding awarded by the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant Program helps cover the costs associated with developing and implementing reuse and repair projects that lead to waste reduction, including equipment, tracking software, and training. Grants are awarded across the public, private, nonprofit and educational services sectors. Recipients were selected through a rigorous evaluation process that scored applications based on need, innovation, feasibility, sustainability and impact.

Please visit the MassDEP Micro-Grant Program online for more information on the application process and guidelines.

### Pittsfield receives MassDOT funding

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration announces the Massachusetts Department of Transportation received an additional \$171 million in funding from the Federal Highway Administration as part of the annual funding redistribution process.

Pittsfield Reconstruction of East Street, Route 9, will receive funds as part of this redistribution. These redistribution funds represent federal transportation funds that were unable to be used for programs in various states to which they were originally allocated. As part of this redistribution, MassDOT will add or increase funding for 12 infrastructure projects across Massachusetts.

"This funding will provide a valuable boost for infrastructure projects that will improve roads, bridges, bike paths and sidewalks across the state," said Governor Maura Healey. "We're grateful to the Biden-Harris administration and Federal Highway Administration for making these funds available."

"The transportation projects we invest in today will have a direct impact on our quality of life tomorrow and many years down the road, so it is essential that we continue to pursue these federal resources on behalf of our communities," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We look forward to seeing these projects come to

life and benefit communities across the state."

"Projects that enhance safety, reliability and connectivity help make our communities more vibrant and more equitable," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. "We are thankful to FHWA for providing this year more than double the total funding from last year and salute our MassDOT team members who made a strong case for the projects that have received funding."

"We are pleased to have successfully demonstrated the potential of these shovel-ready projects that will make our roadways safer and more inclusive," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "We thank the FHWA and intend to continue making a strong case for infrastructure upgrades that deliver the connectivity travelers expect and deserve."

Every year in July, FHWA calculates how much Fiscal Year spending is likely to go unspent and solicits requests from the states for projects that can use the additional funding. Because FHWA obligation authority is a "use it or lose it" proposition, any projects submitted for additional funding must be able to be shovel-ready in the current fiscal year. These funds are available now and must be obligated no later than Sept. 25. Massachusetts' redistribution funding average for the previous four years had been \$94.3 million.

### MassDOT announces open house on EV charging stations

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces it will be hosting an open house to provide the public with updates regarding highway electric vehicle charging stations, specifically, MassDOT's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan as required by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program.

On Thursday, Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. there will be an open house at Berkshire Athenaeum Pittsfield Library, 1 Wendell Avenue in Pittsfield.

The MassDOT NEVI Deployment Plan will strategically deploy EV charging stations and will establish an interconnected network to facilitate reliability across Massachusetts as required by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's NEVI Formula Program.

Massachusetts will receive significant federal funding over five years to support the construction and operation of Direct-Current Fast Charging stations along major highway corridors

as designated by the Federal Highway Administration. Public involvement throughout the duration of the Plan's implementation is essential for understanding community interests, needs and sentiments.

All comments will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible. Registration for this event is not required. The locations listed are ADA-compliant locations. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at 857-266-0603, fax 857-368-0602 or by email at MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days prior to the respective meeting. For more information on the NEVI Program, people may visit the website: <https://www.mass.gov/massdot-nevi-plan>.

### Art Association holds exhibit

PITTSFIELD – The Berkshire Art Association announces Visible, the BAA Biennial Show 2024 at the city owned Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, 28 Renne Avenue beginning on Friday, Oct. 4.

An opening reception will be held Saturday, Oct. 5 from 3-5 p.m. The show will be on display through Saturday, Nov. 2.

Guest jurors: Laura Dickstein Thompson, Curator; Arthur Hillman, Professor Emeritus; Photography, Bard College at Simon's Rock and Bill Wright, fine art photographer. Jurors have selected works which include paintings, prints, sculpture, jewelry, photography, ceramics and videography. Berkshire County artists in the Visible show are Carolyn Abrams, Karen Bogner-Khan, Elizabeth Cassidy, A.F. Cook, Kasha Cooper, Diane Firtell, Larry Frankel, Marion

Grant, Sarah Horne, Karen Kane, Falcon Laina, Katie Maier, Devin Maloney, Joseph Messer, Barbara Patton, Shany Porras, Janet Pumphrey, Ilene Richard, Joan Rooks, Natasha Wein, Violet Wilcox and Dan Woods.

Artists from the greater Northeast region include Frank Greco, David Hinchin, Megan Hyde, Matanda Keyes and Brian Schmidt.

People should call the gallery for an appointment at 413-499-9348 to see Visible. Admission is free. For updated information, they may visit [berkshireartassociation.org](http://berkshireartassociation.org), and follow BAA on Facebook and Instagram.

The mission of the BAA is to connect artists and the community in order to inspire creativity and increase access to the visual arts. For more information about the BAA, people may visit [www.berkshireartassociation.org](http://www.berkshireartassociation.org).

### 1Berkshire announces Berkshire Trendsetter Award finalists

PITTSFIELD – 1Berkshire announces the finalists for the 2024 Berkshire Trendsetter Awards, which recognize outstanding initiatives, talented people and innovative organizations moving the Berkshires forward.

Winners will be announced at the 11th annual Celebrate the Berkshires event on Thursday, Sept. 19 at the Pittsfield Municipal Airport. This year's Putting the Berkshires on the Map honoree is The Fairbank Group, in recognition of the meaningful contribution they and their businesses have made to the Berkshire economy. The Wanda Houston Band will play during the reception.

The Trendsetter Awards celebrate businesses, organizations and individuals in six categories that honor outstanding achievements and commitments that have strengthened the local economy. The following are the Berkshire Trendsetter Award categories and finalists for 2024.

Finalists in the Driving Visitor Engagement category are: ArtWeek Berkshires, a collaboration of the Cultural Districts of Berkshire County, Berkshire Botanical Garden, [BerkshiresOutside.org](http://BerkshiresOutside.org), The Mount and Norman Rockwell Museum.

Finalist in the Advancing Our

Economy category are: Berkshire Innovation Center, CDC South Berkshire, EMA, Alander Construction and Moresi & Associates.

Finalists in the Nonprofit Collaborator category are: AYJ Fund, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Berkshire United Way and Latinas413.

Finalists in the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires Under 40 Change Maker are: Abigail Allard, Marina Dominguez, Jonah Sykes and Tarah Warner.

Finalists in the Visionary of the Year Category are: Choices Mentoring, Roots Rising, Second Chance Composting, Woven Roots Farm, Guido's and Breaking the Mold.

Finalists in the Way We've Always Done Things are: Berkshire Funding Focus, Dri, Let it Shine! public art partnership, Jenny Wright and Full Well Farm.

1Berkshire is a county-wide organization focused on economic development and promotion of the region as a preferred place to visit, to live, to work and to grow a business. It provides programs that connect businesses with each other and with potential customers, as well as works to develop future leaders and support entrepreneurs. For more information, people may visit [1Berkshire.com](http://1Berkshire.com).

## RUSSELL

### Russell Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

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

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

The Russell Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of communi-

ty-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the Russell Cultural Council will distribute about \$5,700 in grants. Previously funded projects include: Littleville Elementary School, Blandford Historical Society, Chester Theatre Company, Russell Library, Russell Council On Aging, Sevenars Concerts, Blandford Art Show, North hall Association are just a few of the most recent recipients for the 2024 program. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online by visiting [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org).



## SANDISFIELD

## New Boston Congregation celebrates 150th Anniversary

By Ron Bernard

SANDISFIELD – Members of the New Boston Congregational Church, 4 Sandisfield Road, have much to celebrate this year.

In an era when traditional Protestant churches in America are closing at the rate of some three-thousand per year, the welcoming doors of one of the area's last functioning Congregational churches are wide open. Sustained attendance at year-round, bi-weekly Sunday services is robust. A remarkable revival owes in large part to the arrival in 2017 of a charismatic and upbeat pastor, Rev. Eric Kriebel.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the New Boston Congregation. When the Society was established in 1874, original congregants included residents of Tolland.

On Sunday, Sept. 29, the congregation will dedicate the service to countless residents, not only from Sandisfield but also of nearby towns, who worshiped here or who attended community activities in the parish hall. In many ways they helped ensure that later generations could enjoy this beautiful space and place.

In the 20th century a number of pastors at "The Little Brown Church" as it is affectionately called, simultaneously presided at other churches in the area. Examples include Rev. Clarence Perry in Otis in the 1940s, Rev. Franklin L. Couch of Dalton and Tyringham (1960s) and



The New Boston Congregational Church built in 1879 is remains virtually in original condition. Submitted photo

Rev. Brian Care, a well-known citizen of Blandford in the 1980s.

**Special guest speaker**

A special guest speaker and former pastor (1970-71), Reverend Michael Gantt, now of Brattleboro, Vermont, will address the congregation. Rev. Gantt will recall his ministry here and how the experience in a small rural community church influenced his career in the clergy including missionary work in Africa. He is an author and hosts a local radio show.

Current pastor, Rev. Kriebel said, "This day will be made even more special if we can get people who have moved

away or who have ever attended or had any connection to the church to come on Sept. 29. Everyone in the greater community is welcome on this remarkable anniversary occasion. I really hope we can fill the church."

**Church tour and free cookout**

Immediately following services and fellowship there will be a free cookout on

the premises. Hamburgers and hot dogs and soft drinks, etc., will be available for picnic-style or take-out.

Also after services, for those interested, there will be a brief historical talk and a tour of the inside of the 1879 church, which is in virtually original condition. If people have never been inside or it has been years, this is their chance for a real treat.

**APPLES ADD BRIGHT RED TO THE GREEN FOLIAGE**

Riiska Brook Orchard in Sandisfield trees abound with juicy, red apples – a fall treat. Turley Photo by Mary Kronholm

## GOSHEN

## Goshen Cultural Council accepting grant applications

GOSHEN – The Goshen Cultural Council is seeking applications from organizations, schools and individuals for grants that support arts, humanities and science programs in the community, including exhibits, festivals, performances, workshops, concerts, lectures and school field trips.

Applications are due Wednesday, Oct. 16 and can be submitted to the Goshen Cultural Council using the online application by visiting <https://massculturalcouncil.smartsimple.com/>. People may call Nancy Wood at 413-268-7973, if they have questions about the application.

The Goshen Cultural Council is part of a network of Local Cultural

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

The Cultural Council invites local artists, performers, presenters and organizations in Goshen and the surrounding towns to consider applying for grants. More information about the Local Cultural Council Program is available online by visiting <https://massculturalcouncil.org/>.

## Goshen Women's Club to celebrate anniversary

GOSHEN – The Goshen's Women's Club will be 103 years old on Nov. 28, 2024.

When Calvin Coolidge was president, the Goshen Women's Club signed its constitution. At that time, the women of the town met at each others homes and brought their children with them. It was a way for women to spend time with other women, long before social media and Facetime, while sewing, playing games, hearing speakers and planning charitable activities for the town.

Today, in much the same way, Goshen women meet eight times a year in the Goshen Dining Room, near library. However, no one brings children any longer and now the Goshen women are joined by women from Chesterfield,

Dalton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, West Hatfield and Worthington.

By and large, the meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the months of September; October; November and December. Then again in March; April; May and June. Meeting time is 6 p.m. and usually lasts about two hours. Refreshments are always served. Their next meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 6 p.m. If women are interested, they should just come to the meeting.

They still spend time hearing guest speakers, playing games, doing crafts and planning charitable activities. If women would like to know more about this organization, they may email President Suzanne Krebs at [chiperoo38@verizon.net](mailto:chiperoo38@verizon.net).

## BECKET



Hold on Honeys, a folk influenced acoustic trio, will perform Saturday, Sept. 14 from 5-7 p.m. on the Becket Arts Center lawn. Submitted photo

## Art Center to hold concert Sept. 14

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will present the Hold On Honeys, a folk influenced acoustic trio, on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 5-7 p.m. on the Arts Center lawn.

Part of the Becket Art Center's "Music Brings Communities Together"

series, the concert is free, though donations are welcome. People should bring lawn chairs, coolers, snacks and children.

In case of rain, the concert will move into the BAC's historic Seminary Hall. For more information, people may visit [www.becketartscenter.org](http://www.becketartscenter.org).

## BCC announces grant cycle

BECKET – The Becket Cultural Council provides grants to community-oriented arts, humanities and science programs that benefit the Becket community.

Priority is given to organizations, projects, events, and programs that support the local community, emphasize cultural diversity and offer experiences for local residents to enjoy.

They accept applications that spe-

cifically benefit the local Becket community are supported through local venues, have dates, times and local sponsorship already established. They will begin accepting grant applications for the 2024 cycle from Sunday, Sept 1 through Wednesday, Oct 16.

The application process is via the Mass Cultural Council online. They may email Cathy Terwedow at [cterwedo@gmail.com](mailto:cterwedo@gmail.com) for more information.

## Community Health Programs Mobile Health visits Becket Sept. 19

BECKET – Community Health Programs mobile health unit will come on Thursday, Sept. 19 from 1-3 p.m. at the Town Hall, 557 Main St. for a vac-

cine clinic.

To schedule a time for a vaccine, people should visit [chpberkshires.org/mobile](http://chpberkshires.org/mobile).



## GREAT BARRINGTON

# W.E.B. Du Bois sculpture project receives \$50,000

GREAT BARRINGTON – The W.E.B. Du Bois Sculpture Project has been awarded \$50,000 from the Massachusetts Office of Economic Development for completion of a statue of W.E.B. Du Bois to be sited in front of the Mason Public Library on the Main Street.

The funding was requested by State Senator Paul Mark, Chair of the State's Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development. "Few people know that Du Bois, a civil rights giant and founder of the NAACP, was born and raised in Great Barrington," said Sen. Mark. "These funds will help complete

the monument and promote Black history and tourism in the Berkshires."

"We are grateful to Senator Mark for supporting our efforts to recognize Du Bois and eager to join him in promoting Black history in the Berkshires," said Ari Zorn, co-chair of the W.E.B. Du Bois Sculpture Project.

The non-profit Sculpture Project has partnered with Great Barrington and the Mason Public Library to redesign the library front as a community meeting place. A life-size statue of Du Bois will welcome visitors while, inside the library, a collection of Du Bois's books and private correspondence will be on

display.

The Sculpture Project has raised \$290,000 for the statue from foundations and private donors. Sculptor Richard Blake is now at work on the monument, which will be dedicated in 2025. QR codes that direct visitors to the Du Bois homestead and other Black historic sites in the Berkshires will also be developed.

The W.E.B. Du Bois Sculpture Project was launched in May 2022 by a volunteer group of local citizens to recognize Du Bois' scholarly achievements in the fight for racial equality. The Project celebrates Great Barrington, a town whose long abolitionist histo-

ry and powerful commitment to public education helped shape the person Du Bois became. The Sculpture Project is endorsed and supported by town officials including the Great Barrington Select Board, the Great Barrington Library Trustees, W.E.B. Du Bois Town Legacy Committee, among many others.

W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963) was born and educated in Great Barrington. He was the first African American to earn a Ph. D. from Harvard. A world-famous sociologist, historian and founder of the NAACP, he wrote "The Souls of Black Folk," a seminal work in African American literature.

## STOCKBRIDGE

### Festival Chorus begins rehearsals

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Festival Chorus begins rehearsals on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 1-3 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Stockbridge, 4 Main St., for its Christmas Concert featuring works by Ralph Vaughan Williams: "Magnificat" for contralto soloist and female chorus and "Fantasia on Christmas Carols" for SATB chorus and baritone soloist.

Other works will be "The Advent Rose" by Dale Jergenson, Christmas Blessing by Philip Stopford and several anthems by local composer David Anderegg. Rehearsals take place every Sunday, from 1-3 p.m. in the church sanctuary up until the concert which is Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m., also in the church sanctuary. Tracy Wilson is the Festival Chorus Director.

The chorus is open to any interested singer, preferably with some music reading experience and Sunday, Oct. 20 is the last day to join. Singers can miss no more than three Sunday rehearsals. Dues are \$40 and music will be distributed at the first rehearsal attended. Scholarships are available to assist any singer with the dues. Space in the sanctuary allows for any singers wishing to remain masked to have a reserved section for rehearsal.

The contralto soloist will be Vira Slywotsky and baritone soloist is John Demler. Cello soloist for the Fantasia will be AnnaBelle Hoffman. Interested participants may register and pay dues at the first attended rehearsal; it is not necessary to preregister. For more information, people may call Tracy Wilson at 413-822-8688.

## CUMMINGTON

### Friday Night Cafe returns

CUMMINGTON – Session two of the 2024 Friday Night Cafe season takes flight on Friday, Sept. 13 from 7-9 p.m. at the Village Church in downtown Cummington in the heart of the Cummington Cultural District.

The first half of the evening from 7-8 p.m. will be a set of Spoken Words, storytelling featuring local storytelling pro Rochelle Wildfong along with Tim Walter, John Bye and Jeff Bliss. Music will fill the second hour from 8-9 p.m., provided by first-time Friday Night Cafe performer Phil Nolan. For those who live in Ashfield, people know Phil, perhaps because they were also born and raised in the town, but definitely because they see him each week at the Transfer Station where he has run the show since 1987. Phil will bring his

guitar and play some of his original "transfer station blues."

The event is free, donations are appreciated. Snacks are provided and Bring Your Own drinks. The show will take place in the intimate Vestry space. Masks are welcome and encouraged. Once again this provided by the friendly folks at the Village Church, who believe music can be a powerful force for building community.

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

## WILLIAMSBURG

### Cultural Council seeks grant applications

WILLIAMSBURG – The Williamsburg Cultural Council is currently accepting applications for Mass Cultural Council FY2025 cultural grants.

The new grant cycle opened Sept. 1. Grant applications must be submitted through the MCC online grants management system by Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 11:59 p.m. The mission of the WCC is to enrich the cultural fabric of the Williamsburg community and neighboring Hilltowns by promoting, funding, and supporting local artists, educators and cultural organizations.

They support projects that provide

clear benefit to Williamsburg residents, are in close proximity to Williamsburg and accessible to Williamsburg residents, and are inclusive and reflective of cultural diversity. In the past, funded projects have reflected a wide range of diverse disciplines, from storytelling to concerts and workshops for both adults and children.

WCC welcomes projects that provide opportunities for multi-generational interactions, partnerships between two or more organizations, interdisciplinary or integrated projects (arts, humanities, sciences) and projects that build community

participation.

In FY2025, WCC will distribute \$5,700 in small grants. The WCC is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program supports thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities funded by an annual appropriation from the state legislature.

People may visit <https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/> for an application. For specific questions, people may email the WCC at [burgycc@gmail.com](mailto:burgycc@gmail.com).



## NORTHAMPTON

### Forbes Library lists events

NORTHAMPTON – Forbes Library, 20 West St., will host gentle yoga on the west lawn with yoga instructor Fran Astino on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Classes are for all experience levels. Participants should bring a yoga mat (mats are available to borrow if needed), a water bottle and sun protectant. Registration and waiver is required. People may register online by visiting [www.forbeslibrary.org](http://www.forbeslibrary.org) to sign the waiver ahead of time. Paper waivers will also be available at the class. This program is presented in partnership with Sanctuary.

An upcycled book collage workshop will take place Saturday, Sept. 14 from 1-4 p.m.

Participants will transform old books into unique collage art in a fun, stress-free environment. No experience needed—just bring your creativity and enjoy

connecting with fellow makers.

Space is limited; registration required by calling 413-587-1011

A creative writing workshop with Tzivia Gover will take place Saturday, Sept. 21 from 3-5 p.m. At this informative writing workshop, participants will learn how their dreamy imagination can help them tune into their inner storyteller and poet. Gover will provide the prompts to get people started. Space is limited; registration is required by calling 413-587-1011.

Music with Mr. Liam is Friday, Sept. 13 from 10:30-11 a.m. at Toddler Time for age 1.5 to 6 and their parents and caregivers. Mr. Liam plays ukulele and drums while he puts an energetic new twist on children's classic songs.

In the Hosmer Gallery, a photography exhibit by Robert Aller, Bill Hughes, Robert Tobey and Frank Ward will take place now through Saturday, Sept. 28.

## CHESTERFIELD

### CCC seeks grant proposals

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Cultural Council is seeking proposals for community oriented science, arts and humanities programs for 2025.

Grant applications are due by Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m. visit <https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/chesterfield/> for more information and to apply.

## EASTHAMPTON

### bankESB to host free shred days

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB invites customers and members of the community to two free Shred Days at local offices., on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 9-11 a.m. at the Amherst Office, 253 Triangle St., Amherst and on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9-11 a.m. at Easthampton office, 241 Northampton St., Easthampton.

No appointment is necessary. There will be two trucks at the Easthampton

shred day. Local residents can reduce their risk of identity theft by bringing old mail, receipts, statements or bills, cancelled checks, pay stubs, medical records or any other unwanted paper documents containing personal or confidential information and shredding them safely and securely for free. A professional document destruction company will be on site in the bank's parking lot and can accept up to two boxes of documents per person.



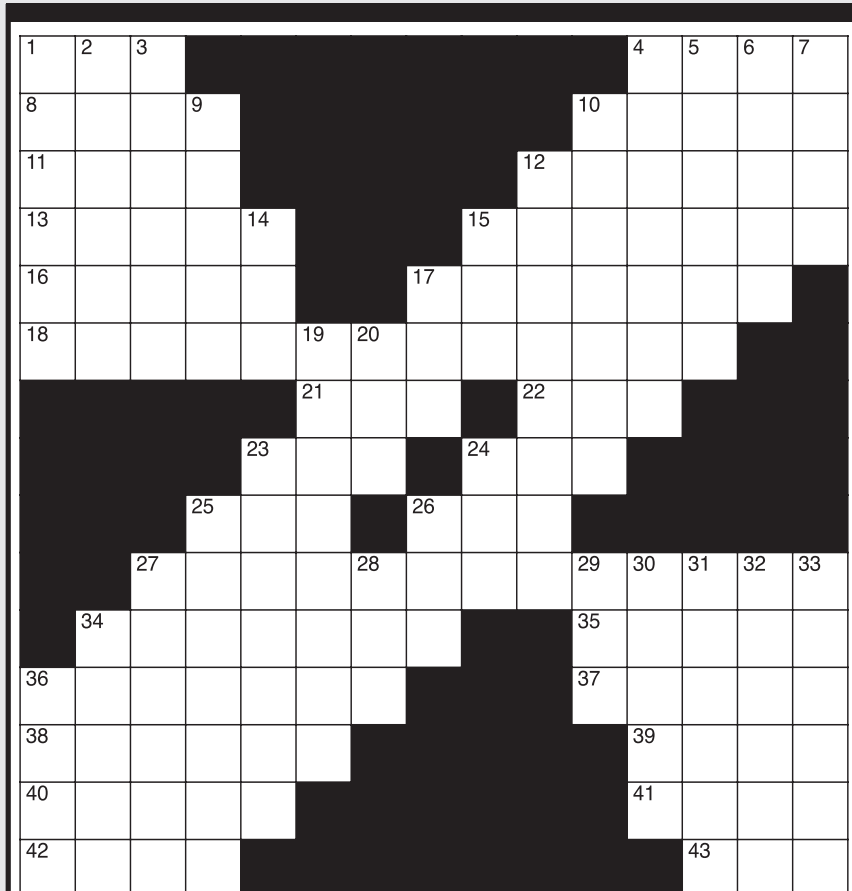


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- Irish surname
- The opposite of good
- Got rid of
- Central parts of a church building
- Stylistically
- Intestinal
- Negative potential outcomes
- Lived up to a standard
- Snag
- Time units (abbr.)
- Ad \_\_
- "Partridge"

actress Susan

- For each
- \_\_\_ Paulo, city
- League titles
- More intensely black
- Slang for lovely
- Petrarch is known for them
- Old Eurasian wheat
- Body part
- Swedish rock group
- They're worth avoiding
- Rising and falling of the voice
- Wings
- Enzyme import for respiration

**CLUES DOWN**

- Idyllic
- South Pacific island nations
- Shrub of the olive family
- Boundaries
- Encircle
- Weights
- Samberg is one
- Sheep sound
- European country
- Respected group of people
- Trigraph
- Prosecutors
- Assign a nickname
- Huge size
- Partner to cheese
- Fastballs
- Principle underlying the universe
- Distinct units of sound
- Title of respect
- Against
- Foot (Latin)
- One point east of due south
- Concerning the blood
- Type of pentameter
- North American peoples
- Layers of rock
- Georges \_\_, French philosopher
- Lengthy tale

# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**

**Mar 21/Apr 20**  
You are quick to spend money lately, and that can prove problematic in the long run. It may be a good idea to sit down with a financial planner and sort out spending and saving habits.

**CANCER**

**Jun 22/Jul 22**  
It is time to rally the troops, as many hands will make much faster work of something you need to get done. Ask your friends or family to pitch in as much as possible.

**LIBRA**

**Sept 23/Oct 23**  
You may not be feeling like yourself. There's something rumbling beneath the surface that you don't want to share with others just yet, be patient.

**CAPRICORN**

**Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, the week may start off on a good note with plenty of entertaining distractions. Keep the fun going throughout the week.

**TAURUS**

**Apr 21/May 21**  
You have free rein to follow your intuition and express your emotions to those around you. It's beneficial to get in touch with how you are feeling and explore things further.

**LEO**

**Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, you're finally ready to take a sizeable step toward completing a goal that has been on your list for what seems like an eternity. It will feel so great when it is far behind you.

**SCORPIO**

**Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, as you move through the week, a certain relationship could begin weighing heavily on you. You're not sure if you should commit further or move on.

**AQUARIUS**

**Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Your attention span is limited this week, Aquarius. You may need to work from home or block out as many distractions as possible if you hope to get a single thing finished.

**GEMINI**

**May 22/June 21**  
There is some unfinished business you need to clear up before you can fully focus on the week ahead. It may be scary, but you need to put it behind you.

**VIRGO**

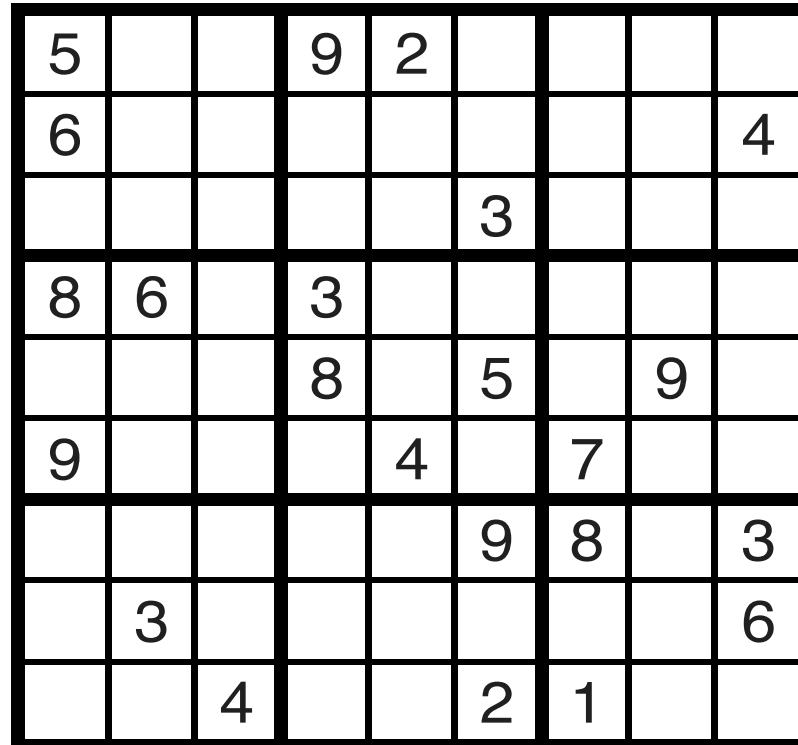
**Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Do you have an appetite for adventure this week, Virgo? You may not have to travel too far for all of the thrills and chills you desire. Look around for options close to home.

**SAGITTARIUS**

**Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, you're not just ready to hit the ground running, you have the stamina to sail through at a rocket's pace. This renewed sense of urgency can help you achieve great things.

**PISCES**

**Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Make a point of delegating if your to-do list gets a little long over the next few days, Pisces. Your phone will be pinging constantly with alerts, so a little help can go a long way.



# 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**

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

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## FOR SALE

**2003 BOMBARDIER RALLY 200 ATV** four wheeler, needs carburetor and cleaned. Asking \$425. Call **860-841-9160**.

**MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY** performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

## FIREWOOD

**FIREWOOD**  
Fresh cut & split \$200.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00  
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. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**.

## TAG SALE

**COMMUNITY TAG SALE.** Ludlow Housing Authority, 114 Wilson Street, Ludlow. **Friday, 9/20/24, 8:30am-1:30pm.** Indoors: Rain or shine. Everything must go!

## WANTED

**OLD CARPENTER TOOLS** wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware, advertising, motorcycles, clothing. Call Ken **(413)433-2195**.

**BUY LOCALLY**  
support our community!

## WANTED

### WANTED TO BUY

**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**

**Buy, Sell & Trade Video Games**  
**Retro World**  
**413-301-5020 M-S 11-7**  
**187 Main St.**  
**Indian Orchard, MA**

## 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.  
**Call Pete 413-433-0356.**

## SERVICES



**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.**

**DOG DAYCARE & TRAINING.** SPACIOUS outdoor farm style dog daycare, relaxed pickup and drop-off times. Training, lessons also available. **413-209-7744-Hampden, MA.**

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

**HAVE BRIDGEPORT** will work. Small one-man shop looking for work. Make new, remake old, repair parts. Call **1-413-207-1709.**

## ELECTRICIAN

**NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?**  
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**(413) 366-1703**  
LICENSED & INSURED

**Classified Advertising DEADLINE**  
MONDAY AT NOON

## SERVICES

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

**HANDYMAN RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS.** Powerwashing, home repairs, interior/exterior painting, ceiling/wall repairs and chimney repairs. Fully licensed/insured. Lic. #105950CSL. Call **413-566-5596/413-433-5073.**

**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.**

## LANDSCAPING

**A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE**  
Excavator Services  
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Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
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Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
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**\*\*ALL SEASON\*\*** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob **(413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.**

## SERVICES

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Call or text **413-266-9975**  
*Insured - Commercial - Residential*

## MASONRY

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## PAINTING

**DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING**  
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## PLUMBING

**GREG LAFOUNTAIN 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**

## SERVICES

### ROOFING

**JENKINS ROOFING** specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - **413-566-5596/413-433-5073.** Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

## RUBBISH REMOVAL

**BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL** Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

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**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**

## STUMP GRINDING

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

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

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## HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED: PART-TIME PODIATRY OFFICE,** Portuguese speaking helpful. Ludlow, Mass. email resume to **podbill@aol.com.**

Ludlow Public School District **CUSTODIAL SUBSTITUTES,** on-call Monday thru Friday, 3pm-7pm. Submit resume and letter of intent to **www.schoolspring.com.**

**OAKHAM'S HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT** is hiring part-time seasonal plow drivers. Class B CDL preferred. \$21/hr, over time after 8 hrs in a day. Contact Highway Superintendent, Harold Black at **508-882-5556.**

The Town of Oakham is seeking a qualified, experienced candidate to fill the **part-time position of TOWN CLERK.** The Town Clerk is the chief election officer for the town and the clerk of Town Meetings. For a full job description visit **www.oakham-ma.gov/clerks-office.** Salary negotiable based on experience.

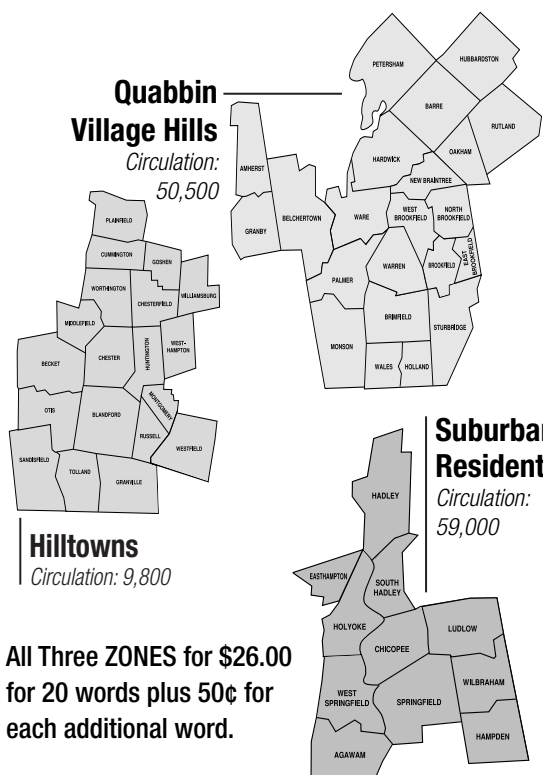
## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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or call: 413-283-8393

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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	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39	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: \_\_\_\_\_



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## HELP WANTED

### TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

**GYM SUPERVISOR - P/T  
HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
OPERATOR  
PUBLIC WORKS  
SKILLED WORKER  
RECYCLING ATTENDANT - P/T**

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). EOE

### TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

Further information can be found on the Town's website: [www.worthington-ma.us](http://www.worthington-ma.us)

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: [worthingtonhighway@gmail.com](mailto:worthingtonhighway@gmail.com) or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**QUIET 1 BEDROOM IN LUDLOW**, first floor, efficiency kitchen. \$925. Near Mass Pike. Parking, on-site laundry, no smoking, no pets. **413-543-3062.**

Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**

## REAL ESTATE

### 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.

BUY/SELL GRIN REPEAT WITH THE CLASSIFIEDS!

# OBITUARY

## Matthew Edward Donovan, Sr., 66

Feb. 19, 1958 – Aug. 29, 2024

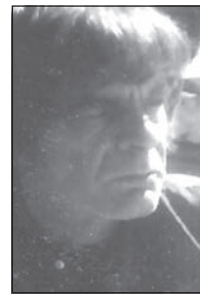
Matthew Edward Donovan, Sr., 66 passed peacefully at his backwoods home- stead surrounded by his loved ones last Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024.

He was predeceased by his parents, Gaylon Donovan and Ruby (Beckwith) Donovan of West Chesterfield, three siblings, Pamela Donovan-Hall, Michael "Mick" Donovan and Mark "Boss" Donovan, all of Huntington, as well as a nephew, Patrick Scott Donovan.

Matt is survived by a son, Matthew Edward Donovan II, and his children, Timothy Scott, Kayla Marie and Nathaniel Matthew and his loving daughters, Amanda Beth Bonafilia and her husband, Anthony of Holyoke, Brittany Mae Barisano and her husband, Alex and their son, Leo Alexander, and their daughter, Ava Mae, of Greenfield, and Lindsey Caitlin Reid, her husband, Eric and their daughter, Addilyn Lily, of Greenfield. He is also survived by his older "sis," Mary Donovan Senatore of Huntington.

He also leaves behind brothers and sisters-in-law, his numerous adoring nieces and nephews and the numerous people who referred to him as "Uncle Matt" in the Hilltowns. He is also survived by his loyal companion of 17 years, Beverly "Sandy" Stalmach.

The youngest of five, at a young age his mother christened him as "her rebel" due to his spirited nature. He was born to be a hard worker. This was even predicted by his birth announcement which read that a "future bulldozer operator" had been born. He began working as part of the work study program at Hampshire Regional High School. Upon graduating in 1976, he went to work at the family business ran by his father, Donovan Bros. Sand and Gravel in Huntington. He "drove truck" (made innumerable deliv-



eries), operated other heavy machinery and performed whatever other tasks were needed to get the job done until his retirement after working for 44 years. He was also known especially at work by the nickname "Ed" referring to his middle name given to him by his father in memory of his father's childhood best friend.

Family was of the utmost importance to Matt and considered the Donovan name to be a badge of honor. He cherished the younger generations of the family and established his creed of them having "roots and wings": remembering where they came from while retaining the freedom to fly on their own volition. He treasured every member of his family for their individuality and their own personal strengths.

Matt was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan, fiercely preferred Chevys to Fords when it came to his trucks, deeply enjoyed his classic and modern rock tunes, and was an accomplished woodworker. He was a proud "red-blooded American" and loved discussing American history while also being immensely proud of his Irish heritage. His door was always open for a visit in his home whose ambience would suggest that everyday was St. Patrick's Day and the Vikings were in the Superbowl. His larger-than-life personality, generosity and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

A private family burial will take place at Norwich Bridge Cemetery in Huntington. Graham Hilltown Community Funeral Home, 27 Russell Road in Huntington has been entrusted with his care and services.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Shriner's Children's Hospital or Cooley Dickinson Hospice.

In the words of Matt "It's never goodbye...Later, ey?"

# PUBLIC NOTICES

### Town of Middlefield Conservation Commission

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) that a Public Hearing of the Middlefield Conservation Commission will be held on **Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 6:30 PM** at the Town Hall at 188 Skyline Trail to consider the following:

A **Notice of Intent (NOI)** submitted by Matt Baker for proposed installation of a driveway at map 183 and parcel number 406 on Town Hill Rd.

David Fuller  
Chair person  
09/12/2024

### Town of Goshen Conservation Commission

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40) on **September 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm** at the Goshen Town offices, 40 Main St., Goshen, to review a **Request for Determination** filed Mary Colwell for 25 Aberdeen Road, Goshen, MA. The work to be reviewed is removal of two existing sheds on the property and installation of one prefabricated 10'x12' shed to be centered along the fence line parallel to the road. Removal of existing deck along the side of the cottage. Construction of a new 10' by 28' deck along

the side of the cottage in the same footprint of the existing deck and extending along the length of the cottage towards the rear/road side of the cottage.  
09/12/2024

### TOWN OF BLANDFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE DEER HUNTING PERMITS 2024

The Blandford Conservation Commission will be available on **September 23, 2024 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 **2024 Deer Hunting Seasons.**

Permit Applications will be available at the Town Hall on September 23, 2024 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  
09/12/2024

### Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice

At its regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday, September 23, 2024, at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) received from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), Highway Division is submitting a Request for

Determination of Applicability (WPA Form 1) for the box culvert repair located at Route 23 MM 34.3, MA abutting with 46 Woronoco Rd, Blandford, MA 01008. The Commission will make its determination in accordance with the

provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended).

Plans and additional information are on record in the Office of the Conservation Commission.

Nicolas Pietroniro,  
Conservation Agent  
Town of Blandford  
Conservation Commission  
09/12/2024

### NOTICE Public Hearing for Tree Removal Town of Huntington

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Sections 3 and 4, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on **Monday, September 16, 2024 at Stanton Hall, 26**

**Russell Road, Huntington, MA** to consider the removal of the following trees:

Tree type and size: Maple, 24" diameter  
Tree location: Federal Street (rear of 22 and 24 Russell Road)

Tree type and size: Maple, 15" diameter  
Tree location: Federal Street (rear of 22 Russell Road)

Objections to the removal of these trees must be received in writing prior at the address below to or at the public hearing. Please direct questions about this proposed removal to the Tree Warden.

Henry Sarafin, Tree Warden  
Town of Huntington  
24 Russell Road, PO Box 430  
Huntington, MA 01050  
09/05, 09/12/2024

## DEATH NOTICE

**DONOVAN, SR.,  
MATTHEW EDWARD**  
Died Aug. 29, 2024  
Burial Private

## 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 \$225, 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.

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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



# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

## Hilltown Hikers paddle Littleville Lake

**W**estern Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers launched at Kinnebrook Road in North Chester for a paddle on Littleville Lake.

The route was full of wildlife and interesting shoreline including otters, great blue herons, egrets and even bald eagles. This is considered a number one spot to paddle in the Hilltowns.

The abandoned village in North Chester caused by the building of Littleville Dam is located on the Middle Branch of the Westfield River off East River Road. The old Kinnebrook Road is open for walking along the river. Just about 1.5 miles in, the giant parking lot and boat launch is located where the river meets Littleville Lake, this is also the old road that lies

under the lake.

There is exceptional paddling and dog swimming here in the summer months. In the early spring, this area floods, hence the mud on the road and parking lot and everything is under deep water as Littleville Dam holds back the water to protect the valley. Gates close at sunset.



This is another view of kayakers on Littleville Lake.



Frenchie the bulldog stretches out on the deck of his owners kayak.



Frenchie the bulldog wears a life vest while kayaking on this paddle with the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers.



One of the Hilltown Hikers enjoys the scenery on a recent paddle in the Hilltown.



The clouds are reflected in the water.

*Submitted photos*