

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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

September 18, 2025 | Vol. 47, No. 21 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

BLANDFORD

Select Board discuss new fire station, policies, procedures

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The board discussed what will be the next steps for a new fire station at their Monday, Sept 8 meeting.

The board needs to give residents all the informa-

tion to see if the town will move forward with the one viable location for a fire station, which is at the Highway Department's Salt Shed on Chester Road. Sites considered were rehabbing the current Highway Department Garage which in on a limited

sized lot and may not safely accommodate the fire department without traffic improvements.

The site of the former Dean Building, which was on the Town Common on North Street and Main Street has a small lot and has an awk-

ward configuration. A substantial grade change may require a retaining wall.

The former Robbins' home on Main Street is in watershed and requires a long driveway. The Hart site on Russell Stage Road can't accommodate the Highway

Department and requires a retaining wall as well. According to Chair Cara Letendre, the town must vote to move forward.

Personnel Policies and Procedures

Recapping the Monday,

Sept. 8 meeting, the Select Board reviewed and adjusted the town's Personnel Policies and Procedures. A draft will be sent to all department heads for review prior to finalizing.

SELECT BOARD, page 7

HUNTINGTON

Community Garden expansion proposed; zoning issues

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Due to a heavy agenda, Huntington Select Board Chairman Roger Booth moved at the meeting's onset that they not accept any public comment or input and that each agenda item be timed. Both motions were approved by Booth and member Bill Hathaway. Member John McVeigh was absent; Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin was present.



Erica Wells

Erica Wells from the Hilltowns Care Community Garden, which took place on the grounds next to the Huntington Public Library, reported that the project was very successful and that they'd like to move forward with phase 2 for 2026.

This would involve creating an outdoor space for families to utilize that would include picnic

tables and a sandbox. She also proposed planting a perennial/pollinator border around the outside of the garden as a visual barrier to remind children to stay in the garden and keep them safe. Her proposal also included restoring the memorial garden on the grounds and adding a sign to welcome people and notify them of upcoming events.

In October, the garden will be used as an educational venue and library learning space for a workshop on pollinating plants. Wells is taking care of the funding for this phase, although Booth reminded her, "Don't be afraid, as you go to do more with this, to come to Jen (Peloquin) and put a request for funding into the town budget," Booth said, adding that he was speaking as a town resident, not as Chairman of the Select

COMMUNITY, page 2

OTIS



Otis Council on Aging members Dede Loring and Diane Dyer with Director Karen Yvon, center, at the entrance to the Sights and Sounds Theatre.

Submitted photos



Elsie Devoti and Diane Dyer wait for the theatrical production of "Noah and the Ark" to begin.

Council on Aging hosts PA trip

Council on Aging Director Karen Yvon said, "The trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania was a huge success."

There were over 30 people who went, and not all were Otis seniors. The group stayed at the Eden Resort in Lancaster, saw a performance of the biblical story of "Noah and the Ark." They also were treated to Pennsylvania Dutch Amish cooking in Amish homes.

Visiting in private homes for meals gave the group an opportunity to learn more about Amish life.

The tour left Otis on Tuesday, Sept. 9 and returned Thursday, Sept. 11. Besides the theatrical production, the seniors enjoyed a buffet dinner and show, the Buddy Holly Story, at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. There were several stops as well at a Farmers' Market, a handcrafted shop and Hershey's Chocolate World.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Parent concerns lead first Gateway School Committee meeting of the year

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Wednesday, Sept. 10 meeting of the Gateway Regional School Committee marked the first meeting for new Superintendent Dr. Melissa Matarazzo, the annual reorganization of the committee and issues raised by parent Tammy Merenda and committee member/parent Jeana Briggs.

"I am asking you, not as a matter of policy but as a matter of family, to revisit this policy," implored Gateway parent Tammy Merenda. Merenda's property straddles Chester and Becket, with her house located on the Becket side, although she pays taxes in both towns. As such, she

is assigned to the Becket Washington Elementary School. Her son currently attends Chester Elementary School through school choice, where the town of Becket pays Gateway for part of his schooling. Her daughter is in preschool, however and school choice is precluded from preschool as the law does not require sending towns to pay tuition. Having two children in two different elementary schools and towns is logistically difficult for Merenda. For one thing, their school calendars are different and for another, Merenda is the Library Director for Hamilton Memorial Library in Chester.

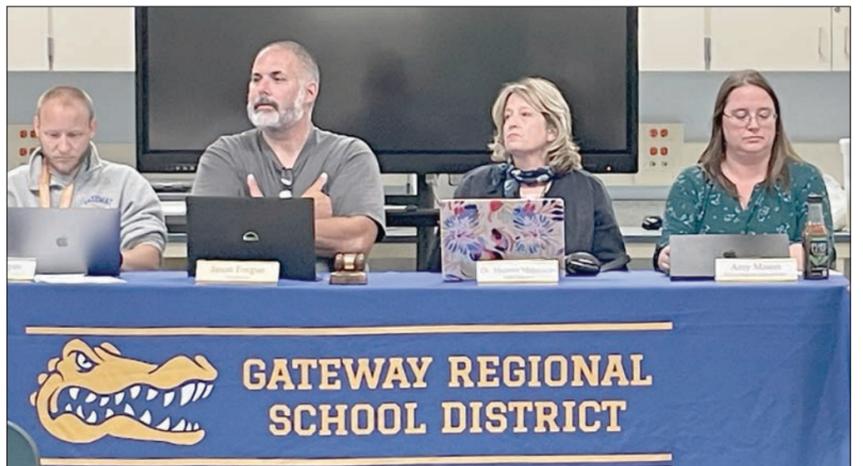
Following discussion, Chairman Jason Fargue asked that the policy com-

mittee look at the current policy in place and bring a recommendation to the next school committee meeting, where it will be on the agenda and considered for a possible vote.

Reorganization

The reorganization went smoothly after a brief explanation of committee work with new member Brianna Sloan of Huntington. Jason Fargue was reelected as Chair of the committee with two voting against. Previous Vice Chair Keri Morawiec (not present at the meeting) had declined to be nominated again. Peter DeGregorio accepted a nomination and was voted in. Gateway

SCHOOL, page 9



New year, new leaders at Gateway are from left, James Hayes, the Gateway Regional School Committee's new secretary; returning School Committee Chairman Jason Fargue; new Superintendent Melissa Matarazzo and new School Business Administrator Amy Mason.

Turley photo by Wendy Long



PAGE 3

Becket.....2	Cummington.....7	Montgomery.....10	Russell.....10
Blandford.....7	Easthampton.....7	Northampton.....11	Sandisfield.....11
Business Directory.....3	Hilltowns.....2	Opinion.....4, 5	Schools & Youth.....9
Chester.....2	Huntington.....3	Otis.....11	Stockbridge.....13
Chesterfield.....10	Lee.....8	Pittsfield.....11	Westfield.....7
Classifieds.....12	Lenox.....13	Public Notices.....10	Worthington.....2



8 04879 143178 6

CHESTER

CCC seeks applicants for grants

CHESTER – Chester Cultural Council seeks applicants by Thursday, Oct. 16 for the 2026 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. People may visit the Mass Cultural Council site at massculturalcouncil.org, find

the CCC application, priorities and guidelines and apply.

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. In Fiscal Year 2026 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.

WORTHINGTON

Rod & Gun Club lists events

WORTHINGTON – Third annual car show to benefit the Special Operations Warrior Foundation will be held Saturday, Sept. 20 at Worthington Rod and Gun Club, 458 Dingle Road, Rte. 112.

Gate opens at 8 a.m., judging from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and awards at 2 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 21. Vehicles of all years are welcome. Music is by Back

in Time/Westfield Cruisers. Show vehicles entry is \$10' spectators are free.

There will be food available for purchase, a Chinese raffle, 50/50 raffle and their gun raffle will be drawn on this date. Vendors and crafters are welcome. Cost is \$20 for a 10' x 10' space. Donations for the event or raffle are also welcome. People may email worthingtonrgclub@gmail.com, visit the website at [\[tonrgclub.com\]\(http://tonrgclub.com\) or Facebook page for updates and rain date information.](http://www.worthing-</p></div>
<div data-bbox=)

They will hold a chicken barbecue on Saturday, Oct. 18 with the dinner served at 3 p.m. There will be live music from Greg Reil of Reil Country. Tickets are \$20 and include chicken and all the fixings. There will be a Chinese raffle and a 50/50 raffle. For tickets, people may call Deana at 413-443-0009.

HILLTOWNS

MassDOT lists I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces overnight and daytime construction operations, installing pavement markers and rumble strips, and performing bridge repair work on I-90 eastbound and westbound in the towns of Stockbridge, West Stockbridge and Becket.

All work is weather dependent and will take place at the following locations and times. In Stockbridge and West Stockbridge pavement markers and rumble strip installation will be now through Thursday night, Sept. 18 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

In West Stockbridge bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound at mile marker 2.5 on Thursday night, Sept. 18 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

In Becket bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 20.0 nightly now through Thursday night, Sept. 18 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

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

uled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

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

MassDOT announce tree trimming

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces tree trimming operations on I-90 westbound from mile marker 15 to mile marker 14.2 in Becket and Lee.

The work will take place now through Friday, Sept. 19 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. Drivers traveling through these areas should

expect delays, reduce speed and use caution.

Appropriate signage and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work areas.

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

For more information on traffic conditions, trav-

elers are encouraged to: Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.

Visit www.mass511.com for real-time traffic and incident advisory information. Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

BECKET

Becket Arts Center announces upcoming news and events

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will host a free opening reception for the exhibition "Receptive," on Friday, Sept. 19, from 5-7 p.m.

The show features the work of Susan Dibble, Terrance Hanlon, Jesse Tobin McCauley, Alyssa Sakina Mumtaz, and Torin Porter. The exhibit will continue until Sunday, Oct. 12. For more information, people may visit

becketartscenter.org.

Plein Air painting

The Becket Arts Center, in collaboration with the Guild of Berkshire Artists, will hold a Plein Air morning of painting, drawing and photographing outdoors in Becket on Wednesday, Sept. 24 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Participants should bring their oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, pencils,

cameras or digital painting equipment and their own lunch. Open to artists of all levels. Fee is \$10 per person and free for members of the Becket Arts Center and the Guild of Berkshire Artists. Registration is required. For more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org or they may register directly at berkshireartists.org/pleinair.

Yoga

The Becket Arts Center will offer its weekly all-levels yoga class with Rima Sala on Thursday, Sept. 25 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is \$5 to \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members. For more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

Becket stories

The Becket Arts Center will kick off its Becket Stories

series on Thursday, Sept. 25 from 5-7 p.m. Participants will share their stories about what makes Becket such a special place. These tales and those of their neighbors will be collected along with documents and other artifacts to create a community archive. For more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

Fall family fun day

The Becket Parks and

Recreation Committee and the Becket Arts Center will host a Fall Family Fun Day on Saturday, Sept. 27 from noon-5 p.m. in the North Becket Park, across from the Becket Washington School. The event will feature activities for all ages: raffles, games, live music and more. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 28. For more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

4 Wheel Drive Headquarters

- 2018 Dodge Ram Crew Cab, 1 Owner.....\$17,995
- 2017 Ford Explorer XLT, Leather, Moon Roof.....\$15,995
- 2017 Dodge Ram Crew Cab, 1 Owner, Leather, Navigation \$21,995
- 2018 Chevy Equinox Premiere, Leather, Moon Roof.....\$15,995
- 2016 Jeep Wrangler Sport, 2 Tops, 65,000 Miles.....\$19,990
- 2017 Ford F-150, V-8, XLT PKG., 74,000 Miles.....\$23,995
- 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited, Leather, Moon Roof \$15,995

MUST SEE!
2015 Chevy Silverado 2500HD
With LTZ & Z71 Pkgs.,
79,000 Miles.....\$31,995

Bring In This Ad To Receive An Additional \$100 - Discount
1 Offer Per Sale

COUNTRY AUTO SALES
www.countryautosma.com
"Best Deals In The Country!"
Family Owned for Over 30 Years
520 College Highway, Southwick • 413-569-2186

COMMUNITY

Board. Wells was instructed to ask the Highway Department how much space they required between the sidewalk and the perennial border and to go to the Zoning Board for a permit on signage.

Gravel operation

The next appointment was with Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) members regarding their assertion that Zoning Enforcement Officer George Peterson may have issued a permit for a gravel operation at 50 Littleville Road in violation of a zoning bylaw. ZBA Chair Karon Hathaway and members Deresa Helems, Jill Rose, Victoria Minella-Sena and Alicia Hackerson attended, with Planning Board member Linda Hamlin present via Zoom. According to Hathaway, owners Dennis and Sue Ellen Nolt ran a

three-week earth removal operation from their land with material moved by a tri-axle dump truck, which Hathaway said can carry 18-24 cubic yards of material. Highway Superintendent Brad Curry had visited the landowners and asked them to put in a tracking pad (stone that removes the dirt from the truck tires before coming onto the road) and to remove the dirt that had piled up on Littleville Road. Curry had also reported that the pit was 30 feet and had appeared to strike groundwater. Hathaway attempted to contact Peterson several times to see whether or not he had issued a permit for this. She said that the Zoning Board is the special permit granting authority for earth removal and the water issue should also have involved the Conservation Commission. An email from Dennis Nolt said that Peterson

had told him he did not need a permit. Hathaway reported that the area has been graded and seeded and the operation appears to be done.

Booth said that the Select Board will speak with Peterson to hear his side of things and will also check with the conservation commission to see if anything else needs to take place. If Peterson, who is out of town, has not responded by the end of business on Sept. 15 then Peterson was instructed to send a certified letter, asking Peterson to investigate what happened and report back. This will be done in executive session with Peterson, Hathaway and the Select Board.

Building permit

A second item raised by the ZBA concerned a building permit for a garage and breezeway at 9 Mountain View Drive. In July, owner Deb McQuade asked the Planning Board for a variance to do the construction. The Planning Board made two recommendations: first to resize the breezeway and garage to meet the 20 foot setback requirement from the rear and sides, and a 30 foot setback requirement from the road. Second, the board suggested that she approach

her next door neighbor to try to get the extra footage that she needed. More recently, Assistant Building Inspector Jason Forgue asked Peloquin what anybody knew about the property and proposed construction. Hathaway got a copy of the building permit issued by Peterson and reminded him of the by-law and that the proposal did not meet the setbacks. Booth asked Peloquin to see if Forgue can go out and measure the footings to see if a cease order needs to be pursued. He also advised ZBA and planning boards to require a signature on drawings, indicating the source.

Interviews

The other major business before the board was the interview of four candidates for the position of Highway Truck Driver/Equipment Operator/Laborer. Interviewed were Kenneth Wickland, Lawrence Scott-Smith, Andreas Sourmar and Michael Rousseau. Peloquin later reported that Rousseau was chosen for and has accepted the position. His start date will be after the town gets his pre-employment physical and drug test results back.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

- USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS.....\$2.49 lb
- USDA INSP. SMOKED SHOULDER PICNIC.....\$1.99 lb
- USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST.....\$1.88 lb
- USDA INSP. PASTRAMI.....\$6.99 lb
- USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE.....\$4.44 lb
- USDA INSP. STOREMADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKENS.....\$2.99 lb
- USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS.....\$3.35 lb
- USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF TENDERLOINS CUT FREE.....\$11.99 lb
- USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK STEAK ROAST.....\$6.49 lb
- USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF.....\$3.99 lb
- USDA INSP. FRESH WHOLE CHICKEN TWIN PAK.....\$1.44 lb
- USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG.....\$2.22 lb
- USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG.....77¢ lb
- USDA INSP. FROZEN POPPY'S PIEROGIES 13 OZ BAG....\$2.49 ea
- USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN JUMBO RAW SHRIMP HEAD ON, SHELL ON 16/20 COUNT 1.5 LB BAG.....\$6.99 ea

90 Meat Outlet
90 Avocado St. Springfield
413-737-1288
www.90meat.com
We reserve the right to limit quantities.

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

SALE DATES: 9/18/25-9/24/25

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

JAMESON'S HIGH MEADOW FARM

PICK YOUR OWN **APPLES**
Many varieties available!
Great Family Fun!

410 Skyline Trail, Chester, MA • 413-354-9609
Open Daily 9 am - 4 pm
Call for picking conditions and available varieties.

HUNTINGTON

Dale Rogers makes pottery bowls for food pantry benefit

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Dale Rogers, owner and instructor at the Grey Catbird Pottery Studio on Main Street, has been hard at work making pottery bowls and organizing partners for a four-week benefit to raise funds for the Huntington Food Pantry at the Pioneer Valley Assembly of God Church.

Running from Saturday, Sept. 27 through Saturday, Oct. 18, her “Empty Bowls” events will be held over four Saturdays from 3-6 p.m. Community members can purchase a pottery bowl made by Rogers and Master Potter Linda Siska for a suggested price of \$25. As a thank you, each bowl will be filled with a choice of soup (chicken noodle or vegetable) and a roll. Area musicians will perform. Children’s portions will be offered in small, disposable bowls at a suggested donation of \$5.

“This is a whole community outreach effort to take care of those who are struggling among us,” she said. “We’re so divided. This is a way to come together for good.”

Sites and entertainment for these events have been announced. Empty Bowls will be at the Chester

Railway Station on Saturday, Sept. 27, with entertainment by George Reynolds and Friends. On Saturday, Oct. 4, Jerry and Kara Noble will provide entertainment at Montgomery Town Hall. The Nobles return on Saturday, Oct. 11 when Empty Bowls travels to Stanton Hall in Huntington. The series concludes on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Pioneer Valley Assembly of God Church in Huntington, with music provided by members of the PVAG Worship Team.

A number of community partners are also contributing to this project. Rogers and Siska set out to make 200 bowls in time for this event-at press time, they are at 166. Their students at the Grey Catbird Pottery Studio have been hard at work glazing unique designs onto each bowl. Moltenbrey’s Market is providing four gallons of soup for each event, at cost. The Mennonite Youth Group is making the dinner rolls, each town is providing a venue at no charge, and the musicians are donating their time and talent.

Volunteers will be needed at each event. If people can help, they should call Laura Gavioli at 413-667-3196 or emailing huntington-foodpantry@gmail.com.

The Huntington Food



The number of finished bowls is growing at the Grey Catbird Pottery Studio, which has organized its first ever Empty Bowls project in the area to benefit the Huntington Food Pantry at the Pioneer Valley Assembly of God Church. *Turley photo by Wendy Long*

Pantry is located at the PVAG Church on 63 Old Chester Rd. in Huntington. They are open on Thursdays from 9 - 11 a.m. and from 2 - 4:30 p.m. to people who need food. Clients are able to choose the foods they bring home. The pantry offers shelf stable pantry items (cereal, canned vegetables and fruit, canned meat, soup and more), fresh produce, baked goods, dairy products and an array of proteins (pork, beef, chicken,

fish).

The pantry serves 45-60 families each week who live among a dozen hilltown communities. It has four people on staff and about 12 volunteers who help each week. Food donations come from nine local businesses as well as the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

Over the first six months of 2025, the pantry gave out 65,328 pounds of food and added 63 new households,

totaling 188 individuals. Most of their funding comes through a block grant with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Just as local needs are increasing, the pantry’s funding was cut in half for 2025/2026, leaving a \$30,000 deficit to be filled by other grants and public contributions.

If all of the bowls sell, the empty bowls series will raise several thousand dollars toward that deficit, minus the

cost of ingredients for the soup. Four gallons of soup for each weekend are being generously provided by Darryl Fisk at Moltenbrey’s market at a very low cost. If community members can donate and offset that bit of overhead, all of the proceeds-which would gross \$5000-can go to the Food Pantry. Please contact Dale Rogers at graycatbirdpottery@gmail.com if you can help or would like additional information.

Cultural Council seeks grant proposals

HUNTINGTON –The Huntington Cultural Council is now accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 2026 grant cycle.

These Local Cultural Council grants can be used to support activities including exhibits, festivals, school-based events, workshops, lectures, virtual and media projects. The HCC receives funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. This year’s allocation for

Huntington is \$5,700.

Applications are submitted online by visiting <https://massculturalcouncil.smartsimple.com> and are due on Thursday, Oct. 16. For more information on the application process and to view local priorities, people may visit <https://massculturalcouncil.org>, call the MCC Help Desk at 617-858-2721 or email MCC_help_desk@art.state.ma.us or Lynn Winsor at huntingtonculturalcouncil@gmail.com.

Transfer Station permits due

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Transfer Station has had permits available for sale since July 1 permits are \$60 and \$50 for seniors.

After Tuesday, Sept. 30 there will be a late fee assessed of an additional \$25 unless people are newly moved into town.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

51 Locust St.
Suite 3
Northampton
MA 01060

413-614-1112



Family Health and
Wellness Center

DOT EXAMS

Primary Care Practice, Chronic Care Management,
Telehealth Visits, and Immunizations

SAME DAY VISITS AVAILABLE

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

George PROPANE INC.
PROPANE GAS
PLUMBING • HEATING
(413) 268-8360
TOLL FREE 1-800-464-2053
Family Owned & Operated
3 Berkshire Trail West (Route 9), P.O. Box 102, Goshen, MA 01032
www.georgepropane.com

Paul's Plumbing & Heating
238-0303
PAUL GRAHAM
Mass. License 23299

AQUA PUMPS WATER SYSTEMS
Water Pumps • Sewer Pumps
Water Conditioners
46 Pitcher Street
Montgomery, MA 01085
Donald Washburn
862-3301

Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.
Water Well Drilling, Water Pump Sales & Service
Water Testing
System Evaluations
Water System Repairs
Hydrofracture to Increase Flow
800-232-4725 • Fax 413-296-4565
Charles R. Henshaw
130 Cummington Rd., W. Chesterfield, MA • 413-296-4725

FEED • PET SUPPLIES • CLOTHING • COAL
WOOD PELLETS • WILD & CAGED BIRDSEED
POOL SUPPLIES • MOTOR OILS • FENCING
LAWN & GARDEN SUPPLIES • FERTILIZER
GATEWAY FARM & PET
Poulin Grain RED WING SHOES Carhartt
59 RUSSELL ROAD, HUNTINGTON, MA 01050
1-413-667-2279 M-F 8am-5pm
Sat. 8am-4pm
TARA GRENIER • PAUL GRENIER

DOWN TO EARTH EXCAVATING INC
Highly Regarded Professionals: Complete Site Work,
Septic Development and Repairs. Fully Insured.
413+667+5269
Paul and Randy LaPointe, Owners Huntington, Mass.

Dale's Structural & Carpentry
Home Improvement • Additions • Restorations • Repairs
Post & Beam Repairs
Sagging Floors - Beams - Columns
Sill Timbers - Termite Damage
Foundation Repairs - Piers & Footings
Chimney Rebuilds
FULLY LICENSED & INSURED
Huntington, MA • 413-667-3149
dalesstructuralandcarpentry.com

Jeff's Oil Burner Service
• Tune Ups
• Installations
• Oil Tanks
Huntington, Massachusetts
Office 413.667.0245
Cell 413.530.7037
jeffsoilburnerservice@hotmail.com

Contact
Wendy Delcamp
TO ADVERTISE AT
413-283-8393
or email:
wdelcamp@turley.com

ARCHITECT
JEFFREY SCOTT PENN
77 Worthington Road, Huntington, MA 01050
Tel. 413-531-1868
Fax. 413-667-3082
Email: jpsped@verizon.net
new construction, renovation,
historic preservation

BOBBY'S FAMOUS
MUMS
OUR OWN FRESH CORN
NATIVE APPLES
E. Cecchi Farms 1131 SPRINGFIELD STREET
FEEDING HILLS, MASS. "Everything you'd grow if you had forty acres."

Montgomery Marketplace
Fall Craft Fair & Bazaar
Saturday, September 27th ~ 10am-3pm
46 Main Road, Montgomery
5 miles from Westfield High School and 4 1/2 miles from Rt. 10 in Southampton
FREE Spaces Still Available
Call to Reserve (413) 977-6277

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Attend the town meeting

As a resident of Blandford, I am strongly opposed to the installation of Battery Energy Storage Systems in this area.

They have proven unsafe; they fail by catching fire in an uncontrollable blaze and their disposal is

difficult if not impossible to attain. Further more there is no monetary return for the town. So please attend the Special Town Meeting on Monday, Sept. 22 and voice your opposition.

Bill Missimer
Blandford

Couple praises highway dept.

The Blandford Highway Department did an amazingly quick clean-up on Nye Brook Road from the "micro-burst" that

came through Saturday, Sept. 6.

They did a great job.
Rick and Linda Barnard
Blandford

GUEST COLUMN



I'd like to retire early, but don't want my Social Security reduced

Dear Rusty:

I will be 65 this year and my husband is 72 (he retired in 2019 at age 66).

I would like to retire and enjoy some time with him before he gets too much older. I do not want to have my benefits cut by retiring earlier, but I don't see a way to be able to do that. My benefit will be \$1,343 on my Full Retirement Age.

If I took half his retirement when he retired, it would be less than mine. If I take early retirement and he passes away before me, would I get his full benefit as his survivor or will it be cut? We are trying to figure it out. His current benefit (before Medicare Part B) is \$2,978. It's very confusing.

Signed: Confused and Wondering

Dear Confused:

Whenever any Social Security benefit is claimed earlier than Full Retirement Age, the monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you were to retire at age 65, your Social Security benefit would be reduced by about 13% - in other words, if your FRA (age 67) amount is \$1,343, at 65 you would get about \$1,164. And at age 66 you would get about \$1,253 per month.

Whether you would be entitled to a "spousal boost" from your husband depends on how your FRA amount compares to 50% of his FRA entitlement. If your FRA amount is less than 50% of his FRA amount, then you would get a "spousal boost," but the amount of that boost would also be reduced if you claim before your FRA. Note: from the numbers you provided, you may be entitled to a spousal boost and, if so, it would be applied by Social Security when you claim.

Also, FYI, if you take SS before your FRA and are still working, Social Security has an annual earnings test which limits

how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. If you earn more than \$23,400 in 2025, you will likely not get all of your monthly SS payments (SS will take away some monthly benefits if you exceed the earnings limit). Of course, if you retire from working, this will not be a problem, because earnings before you claim SS won't count toward the limit.

When you claim your SS retirement benefit now will not affect your survivor benefit from your husband later. If your husband passes first, your benefit as a surviving spouse would be based on the amount your husband was receiving at his death. But if you were to claim your widow's benefit prior to your FRA, your survivor benefit would also be reduced (the amount of reduction depends on how much before your FRA you claim your survivor benefit). If you claim your widow's benefit at or after you FRA, you will get 100% of the amount your husband was receiving at his death instead of your own smaller amount. It will only be reduced if you claim before your full retirement age.

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



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

GUEST COLUMN

Plant exodus, coming soon

Just this past week I put a call in to the herb gardeners at Old Sturbridge Village where I work part time.

I asked them to let me know they'd like me to deliver the pots and soil for the annual "exodus." We will be moving the tender perennials from their summer residence in the herb garden to my domain, the maintenance department's greenhouse.

There are some wonderful and very familiar plants in our living collection: rosemary, bay, lemon verbena and scented geraniums are some of my personal favorites.

Before the interpreters dig up the plants, I always ask that they give them a bath to cut down on the number of insects that will be brought into the greenhouse. For the home gardener this is equally important.

I say "bath" because my pesticide of choice is a natural and fairly benign one-made of potassium salts of fatty acids (soap) that weaken the insect's outer shell and cause dehydration. It is sprayed on leaves and stems until they are soaked, and can be reapplied every seven-10 days as needed.

This product is especially effective on insects that make their home on herbs and houseplants: whitefly, aphids and mealy bugs.

Once the insects have been eradicated, it is time to get out the shovel and get to work digging up and repotting the plants. You will be amazed at how large some of them can become after only a few months in the ground.

It is important to salvage as much of the root ball as possible to minimize the shock of being potted up. To do this, position your shovel along the "drip line" of the plant and dig straight down, completely around its circumference. After you've made your way around, get your shovel underneath and lift.

Have a pot ready - one that is an inch or two bigger than the root ball is sufficient, and will allow for minimal winter growth. My container of choice is

always plastic, but glazed pottery is fine too. I steer clear of clay; it dries out too quickly.

I usually put a couple of inches of moist potting soil into the container, set the plant and then fill in with more as needed before watering well. Oftentimes I leave the plants outside until a frost threatens, then I bring them in and back out until the weather turns decidedly cold.

Home gardeners often ask how to overwinter their favorite herbs without a greenhouse.

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*), the herb of remembrance. The key to growing it successfully indoors is "cool but sunny."

My old house affords me many such microclimates. If you aren't as lucky, try for a sunny window away from dry heat, in other words far from heat vents, the wood stove etc.

Bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*) is another favorite and can be grown right through the winter with little or no coddling provided it is given medium to bright light and consistent watering. Do be on guard for the waxy-looking scale insect; one giveaway is leaves covered in a sticky, shiny sap called honey dew.

Try to "Q-tip" individual insects with rubbing alcohol or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil to smother larger infestations. If the bugs have been active for awhile, sooty mold may

have formed. This thick, black coating will likely need to be scrubbed off leaf by leaf to allow the plant to photosynthesize properly.

To have success overwintering scented geraniums (*Pelargonium* spp.) indoors, situate them in bright light where daytime temperatures are 65-70 degrees, and night temps are in the 50s. Fertilize every other month during the fall and winter.

Smaller leaved varieties will be easier to manage; large leaved cultivars will get top-heavy quickly- take terminal or "tip" cuttings of these instead.

Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*) may start out looking great, but a month or so into indoor culture will likely begin to lose its leaves. Fear not, leaf drop is completely normal and to be expected! You may be tempted to throw it out; instead, position in a sunny spot, water as needed and await new growth in the spring.

Enjoy your favorite tender herbs over the winter and again come springtime and summer when they return to the garden.

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



by Roberta McQuaid

Country Journal TEAM



EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

The Country Journal (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



@ Country Journal



countryjournal.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

Turley
Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

ISSN NO. 0747-2471

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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



PHONE

413.283.8393

Fax: 413.283.7017

Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

Editor

Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com

Subscriptions
www.turley.com

\$31 per year pre-paid
(\$36 out of state)
Newsstand: \$.75 per copy

WEB

www.countryjournal.turley.com

@ Country Journal

The Country Journal is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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

Corrections policy

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

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Commemorating September as National Recovery Month

By Patrick J. Cahillane
Sheriff, Hampshire County

Last month, I received word that the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, an organization recognized as one of the strictest of the many oversight agencies that monitor correctional practices in the country, has, after a stem-to-stern audit in July, re-accredited the Hampshire Sheriff's Office's Opioid Treatment Program.

The 46-page accreditation report shows that we were in 100% compliance

with all 42 standards applicable to facilities of our size. This accreditation will be valid until Aug. 31, 2028. As we commemorate September as National Recovery Month, I want the residents of Hampshire County to know that the goals of our Opioid Treatment Program are saving and improving lives, reducing crime and recidivism, and helping our clients re-enter their communities and re-join their families in better health than when they arrived at our facility.

In addition to praising the teamwork and spirit of

camaraderie they experienced during their visit, our NCCHC auditors noted that the relatively small size of our facility enhances our ability to achieve positive results because there is less internal bureaucracy than at larger facilities, which enables our team of professionals to develop better relationships with our



Hampshire County Sheriff Patrick Cahillane

patients and be more responsive to their individual needs.

Since earning our federal license in October of 2021, 644 individuals have been treated at our facility and have had access to the community support services we offer at the Northampton Recovery Center and Ware Recovery Center. Of those 644, only 115 have returned

to our facility, giving us hope that there are 529 men, or 82% of our OTP participants, who are currently traveling in a better direction than the one that landed them in jail in first place.

Our results continue to show great promise and we will continue to operate our OTP, and all our programming, in a manner that meets or exceeds the standards set by the federal, state and local agencies that routinely audit our operation. I appreciate the meticulous review of our OTP

and thank the NCCHC for their stamp of approval. I am enormously proud of all our staff, but especially the members of our OTP Team for their outstanding, and life-changing, work.

Recovery requires teamwork, among HSO staff, the men in our programs and our partners in the community. I believe the results of this re-accreditation audit demonstrate that the Hampshire Sheriff's Office is moving in the right direction and remains a steadfast ally in the struggle against opioid addiction.

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Offering a few Hilltown smatterings

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

While out stretching my legs in Huntington what did I observe but this hummingbird gathering nectar, or what I thought was a hummingbird.

Come to find out this creature that flies aerobically, hovering and flying sideways is not a hummingbird at all but a sphinx moth. It is also called a hawk moth and it collects nectar with a very long proboscis (its straw like tongue) for its food. It has strong wings that give it fast flight and it does hover and fly like a hummingbird.

It passes through the same cycles as any moth – egg, larva, pupa and finally its adult moth cycle. In its larva stage it does have a horn on its end and is a vivid green color (appears as a caterpillar). The books will tell you it is most active at dusk and at night, but I saw it in the late morning.

It is an important pollinator transferring pollen between flowers. If we want to preserve these insects, we must reduce pesticide use, reduce destruction of their habitat and work towards keeping our planet cool, that is reducing our carbon burning footprint. Get out and walk more and you just might see one of these moths nearby, but probably it will dive bomb on you to get to the flowers.

That brings me to the abandoned airway beacon

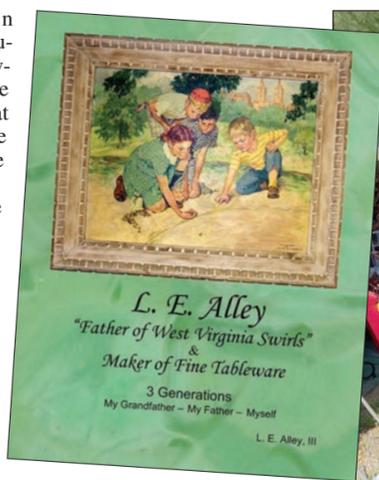
on Gobble Mountain in Chester. It is a very strenuous 1.3 mile hike up to heaven that you will have time to atone for all the sins that you have committed. There is 995 feet of elevation here with very steep grades.

"Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth, And danced the skies on laughter silvered wings . . .

Put out my hand and touched the face of God." That is taken from a quote engraved on a boulder on Skinner Mountain in Hadley. It commemorates WWII pilots, one of which crashed into that mountain on a training mission in the 1940s. I believe that is what the Gobble Mountain tower was meant to be, a beacon to warn planes to fly away from the mountain. There is very little information published about this tower and despite the fact that Sam Adams passed this way (he left a bottle cap with his name on it at the top) it looks to be built in the 1940s.

How they got supplies up to build this tower is a mystery. The view from up top is obscured by the tree canopy and you can not climb the tower. So the physical workout is your reward. There is another approach on Unkamit's path from Becket that is recommended for hikers.

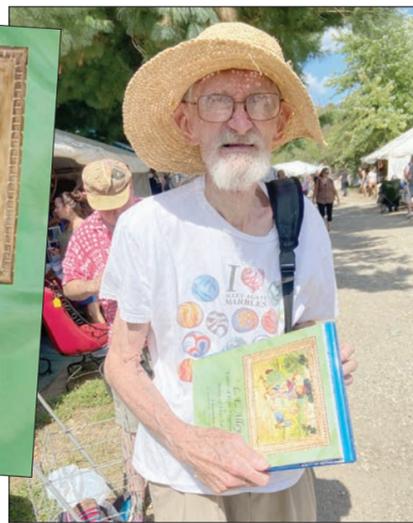
The last serendipitous coincidence that occurred was running into none other than L. E. Alley the



L.E. Alley is the author of Father of West Virginia Swirls and Maker of Fine Tableware." Turley photos by Deborah Daniels

third generation of marble, yes glass marble maker from West Virginia at the Brimfield Flea Market. For those of you who played marbles as a child, meet this man who has been up to his eyeballs in marble making, the West Virginia swirl glass marbles. Alas he wasn't carrying samples, but there were plenty for sale at the flea market. He reported his granddaughter is carrying on the family business. He had no experience being approached by groupies and he was a bit out of his element talking to us. And no we did not ask for the glass formula or any trade secrets.

The fall weather beckons you to get out and hike. Go get some vivid colored leaves to press.



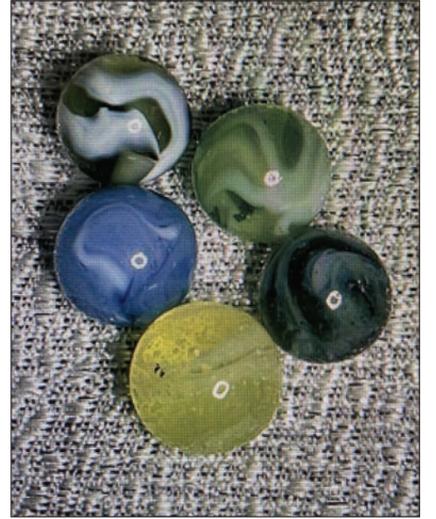
L. E. Alley, maker of West Virginia swirl marbles holds a copy of his book.



A hawk moth also known as sphinx moth gathers nectar from flowers.



Gobble Mountain abandoned airway beacon tower in Chester.



This is a photo of some West Virginia swirl marbles made by L.E. Alley.

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



Pioneer Valley

Assembly of God

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

Hilltown Community Church

Rev. Dr. Robert Perreault
55 Main St., Russell, MA 01071
413-275-3232
Office: 413-862-3341
hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com
Sunday Mornings 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

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

Holy Family Parish

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your
Community
Church

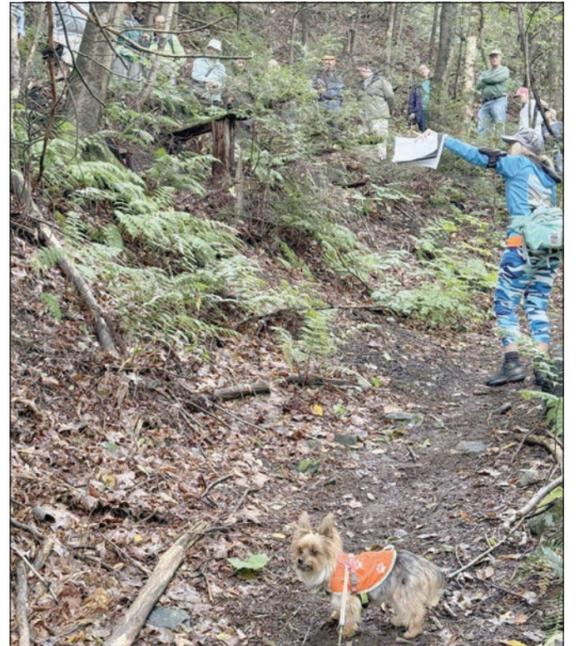
HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



At the end of the tour hikers had an option to continue east on the rail bed, which included this giant cistern that was used for grazing animals, but not part of the railroad.



Hikers learned about the Emery Industry and walked through the remains of the factory. *Submitted photo*



Liz was the interpretive narrator for the tour showing the hikers the wooden trestle also known as bridge 411. Cybil is seen in the foreground.

Hilltown Hikers explore CBRR trail

The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area interpretive tour Sunday took us on a narrated journey down the branch railroad.

The Chester and Becket Railroad was chartered by Town Vote and money in both Chester and Becket in 1896. Chester gave \$7,000 and Becket \$3,000 and it was completed in January of 1898. The New York Central Railroad took over operations and leased it in 1906, citing that the little railroad did not have the man power or money to keep it operating, plus they would not let their cars run on the main rail at Chester Factory Village. They saw money in it for themselves so they took over and leased it to the tiny Chester Becket Railroad.

The CBRR paid \$50 per car for the granite to the Boston and Albany. The Chester and Becket Railroad dissolved September 1931. It ran for 35 years as a spur off the main Boston and Albany Railroad built specifically to bring granite down from the mountain in Becket and Otis. There was no granite in

Chester. In 1927, the Hudson and Chester Quarry started using trucks, in 1929 trucks took over completely.

This tiny railroad was built with oxen and two wheeled dump carts hauled by mules, which was employment for the local farmers. The line was first

run by wood burning locomotives, which blackened the landscape and caused forest fires. They carried granite down the slopes two wooden flats at a time.

Charlie Harris would ride all day in the cab with his father, conductor Lucien Harris to watch for fires. Eventually a coal burning locomotive took over and standard main line flat cars were used. No more than three empty flat cars could be pushed up the grade and the limit down was two. It took 90 minutes to two hours to make the climb five miles and it usually headed down to Chester Village at about 2 p.m.

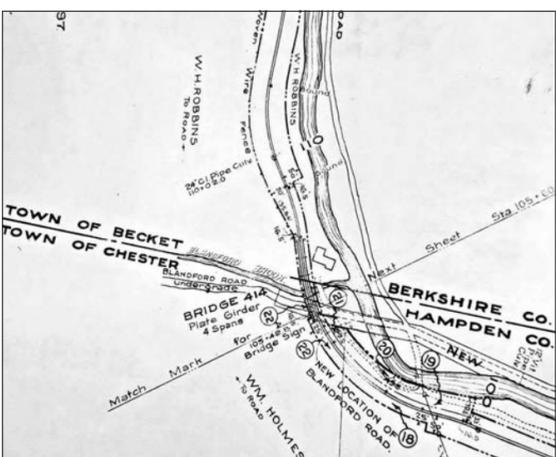
The line had its own five-man section crew which cleared rock slides, filling washouts, cutting brush and curing derailments. It had two switchbacks, but only room to turn the locomotive around up at the Hudson and Chester Quarry and Chester Quarry, hence why it climbed the grade in reverse. Most of the rail was taken up for scrap during WW II, but here and there you can still find artifacts of this line. The rail bed itself and the Mitchell and Bowe switchback are in excellent condition. The granite was shipped all over the country and is an important part of American history going back to its very first boulder quarrying roots. Hilltown Hikers hope to see more of this rail bed officially blazed and open to the public in the years to come.



This bridge is part of the Chester Becket Railroad trail and goes right by two historic items, the wooden trestle and the Emery Mine named "Old Mine."



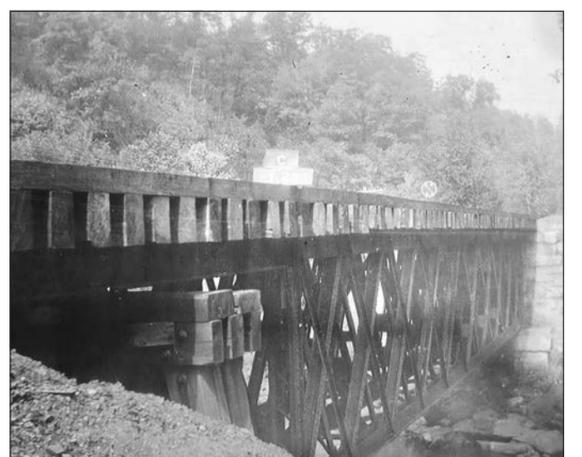
Hikers go up the switchback on the CBRR trail.



This is a section of the railroad survey in Chester.



A locomotive on the Chester and Becket Railroad photo from the Hilltown Hikers Collection.



A rare photo Bridge 412 over Walker Brook.

BLANDFORD

Jethro Jones marker installation takes place Oct. 11

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Yet another American Revolutionary commemorative event will occur in town. Prior to the Saturday, Oct. 18 Ghost Walk, the Jethro Jones American Revolutionary Marker will be installed on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 1 p.m. at the intersection of Blair and Jethro Jones roads.

This event will coincide with the celebration of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States.

The Mercy Warren Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will dedicate this historic marker honoring Revolutionary War veteran Jethro Jones. The dedication's featured speaker will be Jocelyn Jones Arnold, the great-great-

great granddaughter of Jethro Jones. This event is open to the public.

Under the aegis of Mercy Warren Chapter's Registrar, Mary Hull applied for and received funding for the marker through the Historian General's Office of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Jethro Jones marker is part of a multi-year "Revolutionary America 1775-1783" roadside marker series, which draws attention to people and places of interest significant to Revolutionary America, including the contributions of less well-known patriots, who helped secure the nation's independence.

This marker series was made possible through a collaboration between the William G. Pomeroy

Foundation and NSDAR. Considered one of the earliest known African American tool makers, Jethro Jones studied in Medway and Wrentham, under Caesar Chelcor, the freed slave of cabinet maker Frances Nicholson. Today, Jones's signed woodworking planes are highly sought after at auctions and examples of his work are on display at Colonial Williamsburg and the Smithsonian Museum.

Jethro Jones served with the Provincial Troops during the French and Indian Wars from 1758 to 1763. In 1777, at age 44, he enlisted in the Revolutionary War. Jones was at the Battle of



Mary Hull

Saratoga, where he witnessed the surrender of British General Burgoyne. He trained at General George Washington's winter encampment at Valley Forge in 1778, and he was at the Battle of Monmouth.

In 1783 Jones was honorably discharged from the Continental Army at West Point, with his discharge papers signed by General Henry Knox. In 1818 when Jones was 85 years old, he received a Revolutionary War pension. Jones resided in Blandford from the late 1700s until his death in 1828 at age 95.

His grandson, William Jones of Sheffield, served

in the famous 54th Massachusetts regiment, one of the first African-American regiments in the Union Army. According to Hull, the chapter reached out to Jones's descendant who is a member of the Flag House DAR chapter in Philadelphia, as well as the Blandford and Sheffield Historical Societies, while researching Jethro Jones's life for the marker grant application. "Mercy

Warren Chapter hopes that this historic marker will not only honor Jethro Jones, a Patriot from our district, but also bring attention to the sometimes-forgotten history of the black community in the rural Hilltowns since the Colonial era," said Hull.

There will be a reception immediately following the installation at the Blandford Historical Society on North Street.

The 18 by 32-inch metal sign with a blue background and buffed tan letters will read:

Jethro Jones
CA 173301828 Black Veteran
Who served as a Private
from 1777-1783. Maker
of Bolection Woodworking
Planes. Died in Blandford.
Mercy Warren Chapter NSDAR
William G. Pomeroy Foundation 2025

BLANDFORD COA SERVES FRIDAY LUNCHEON



Joann Martin, far left, stops to chat with luncheon guests Friday as they dined on baked stuffed peppers, salad and apple pie squares.

Turley photo by Mary Konholm

COA offers vaccine clinic Oct. 10

BLANDFORD – Council on Aging Director Margit Mikuski announce the Friday, Oct. 10 luncheon will provide the opportunity for the town's seniors to get their annual flu and covid vaccines.

Vaccine inoculations will be administered by the

Stop and Shop Pharmacist between noon and 2 p.m. COA has paperwork, which needs to be completed for the vaccinations. There is a separate form for the flu and another for covid. Forms can be picked up at the town hall and returned before the Oct. 10 date, so the pharmacist

will be sure to have enough of the vaccinations. The day of the vaccinations, insurance cards are required: Medicare and any other supplemental insurance information.

Beginning in October, the COA will offer two lunches, instead of the one lunch and one breakfast.

Wellness on Wheels bus visits Oct. 29

BLANDFORD – The town is part of the Western Hampden County Public Health District and the Baystate Wellness on Wheels bus will be available to all on Wednesday, Oct. 29 from

2-6 p.m. at 155 Highland Avenue, Russell – the site of the former Russell Elementary School. There will be flu and covid vaccines available, diabetes and blood pressure screenings as well.

Other participating towns in the WHCPHD are Russell, Blandford, Southwick, Tolland, Montgomery and Granville. For more information, people may visit their website at whcpd.com/.

SELECT BOARD

from page 1

Solar updates

Conservation Commission Chair Dick Gates asked about the possibility of a moratorium on all things solar because "we need time," and he would like to see the town put a pause on going further until more information is available.

New committee

Board member Jackie Coury's Energy Projects Siting and Engagement Committee was approved by the board. This committee was formed in consideration of the increasing number of

proposed large-scale energy infrastructure projects in town, including but not limited to Battery Energy Storage Systems commercial-scale solar developments, and other energy generation or transmission proposals.

The nine-member committee will include a member of the Select Board, Planning Bopard, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Health the Fire Chief or their designee and three town residents appointed by the Select Board, preferably with experience in a relevant field,

such as environmental science, engineering, law or public policy.

Residents interested in serving on the committee have two weeks to complete an application which is available on the town's website as a download from the Energy Siting pages.

Consult with Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera for the due date.

Kennel

Clelsea and Marshall Prokop have the go-ahead for their Sunset Kennels dog boarding business on Sunset Road.

EASTHAMPTON

bankESB host shred day on Oct. 25

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB invites customers and members of the community will hold a free shred day on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 9-11 a.m. at bankEST, Easthampton Office, 241 Northampton Street.

No appointment is nec-

essary.

Residents can reduce their risk of identity theft by bringing old mail, receipts, statements, 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.

bankESB donates \$5K to It Takes a Village

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB announces a \$5,000 donation to It Takes a Village, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting families in the rural Hilltown communities of Western Massachusetts.

The funding will help secure the future of Hilltown Village's vital programs and contribute to its transformative capital project to establish a permanent community anchor in downtown Huntington.

It Takes a Village connects families with essential resources, education, and postpartum support while fostering strong community ties. In addition to sustaining these ongoing programs, the organization is embarking on a capital project that will create a welcoming, centralized space

in downtown Huntington, a hub for programs, services and community gatherings.

"We are honored to be the recipient of this gift from bankESB. It's wonderful to know there are champions in our community who are willing to step forward and advocate for what "it takes a village" means," said Kenzie Kinsella, communications and development director at It Takes a Village. "With the bank's contribution, we will be able to continue to not only update our building but also preserve a historical landmark within the town."

Matthew S. Sosik, bankESB president and CEO said, "bankESB is proud to support It Takes a Village as they continue their important work for families in our community. This contribu-

tion not only ensures their programs can thrive but also helps bring to life a project that will strengthen downtown Huntington and serve as a gathering place for the entire community."

The donation was made through bankESB's charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, which supports local nonprofits and initiatives that enrich communities across Western Massachusetts.

Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton. The Giving Tree, bankESB and the Easthampton Savings Bank Charitable Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Hampden and Hampshire counties.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HAS NEW SIGN



The sign for the First Congregational Church of Blandford announcements now faces traffic, before the new sign was in place it was only visible head on from the road and easily missed.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

CUMMINGTON

Friday Night Cafe takes place Sept. 19

CUMMINGTON – On Friday, Sept. 19 from 7-9 p.m. a special Friday Night Cafe in the sanctuary at the Village Church in downtown Cummington is a prelude to the RiverFest event taking place all day in Cummington the next day,

Saturday, Sept. 20.

River Songs and ten of the Friday Night Cafe performers will be sharing one or two of their favorite songs featuring rivers. There will be classics, creative covers and originals. It will be a fun, creative, sup-

portive evening. The show is free and donations are appreciated.

This event is hosted by the friendly folks at the Village Church, who believe music can be a powerful force for building community.

WESTFIELD

Athenaeum hosts tri-town history event

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Athenaeum, 6 Elm St., will host a joint Westfield, Granville, and Southwick history event on behalf entitled "History On The Go Tri-Town History

Trail 2025" pm Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

It will highlight the history of manufacturing in the Pioneer Valley. Granville's Noble and Cooley Center for Historic Preservation,

the Southwick Historical Society, the Westfield Athenaeum, Westfield's Dewey House, and The Old Burying Ground in Westfield for a day of free admission.

LEE

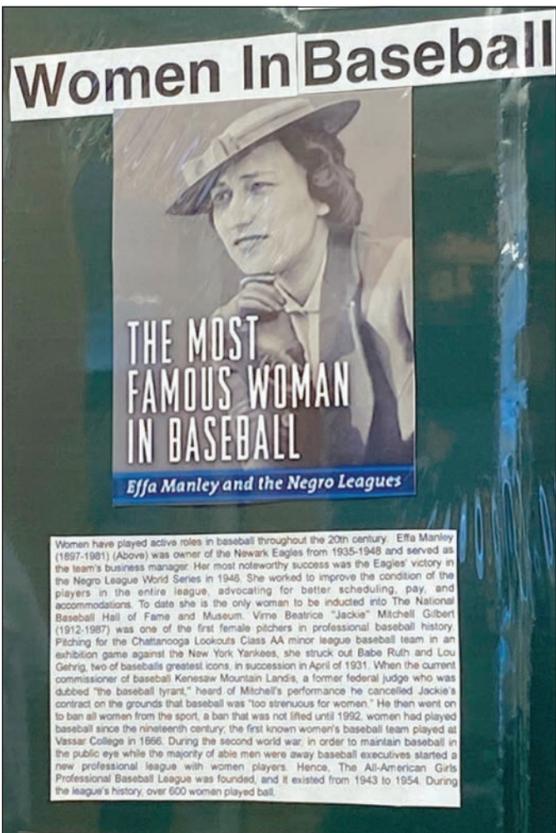
Traveling baseball exhibit visits Lee Mall



This long ago photo of a baseball team in uniform was also on display.



This old catcher's mask was one of the items on display at the traveling baseball exhibit at the Lee Mall.



Women in baseball was also part of the exhibit.



Current catcher's gear was also on display.

Turley photos by Deborah Daniels

Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 19th.

Deadline for submissions is October 20th

Community Holiday Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

CLIP OUT AND MAIL TO:
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
***Be sure to indicate "Holiday" in the subject line of your email.**

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Elizabeth Hanechak named 2025 Davidson Fellow

RUSSELL – Elizabeth “Eli” Hanechak, 18, of Russell, has been named 2025 Davidson Fellow, one of the nations most prestigious honors for students, for her continued work in science.

She developed a microbial system that converts plas-



Elizabeth Hanechak

tic waste into fertilizer and drinkable water. Her process uses a genetically modified enzyme to break down plastics within 24 hours and a naturally occurring microalgae strain to neutralize the

resulting toxins, producing safe fertilizer material. Designed to be low cost and scalable, the system could help communities struggling with plastic pollution by restoring farmland, cleaning waterways and improving public health. Eli received the \$100,000 Laureate Scholarship for her work. She is a freshman at Brandeis University in Waltham.

Elmira College announces Key Award recipients

ELMIRA, NY – Elmira College recently announced this year’s recipients of its annual Key Award.

Local Key Award recipients are Rose Wilson of Otis; Skyler Dansereau of Westfield, Nessa Gibson of Westfield, Nora Roy of Westfield, Dylan Haas of Westfield and Adedipo

Soyele of Westfield.

A tradition that goes back to 1935, the Key Award is presented to outstanding students in their junior year of high school or preparatory school.

“This award is given to students with the potential to excel academically, serve as leaders, and go on to enjoy success in life,”

said Charles Lindsay, president of Elmira College. “We hope they will choose to make Elmira College their place.” Sponsored by the EC Alumni Association, the Key Award recognizes students for high scholastic achievement, leadership, citizenship, and participation in extracurricular activities.

HCC announces summer Dean’s List

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College announces the Dean’s list honors for Summer 2025.

A student is placed on the Dean’s List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. Local students making the Dean’s list are:

Jamie Lynn Chase of Buckland
Erica Yalitzky Lago Lugo, Severiana Rodriguez, Zoe Jennelle Thomas, all of Easthampton
Edward Cade Benson, Matthew Krueger and

Karissa Marie Robinson, all of Florence

Teagan Ann Andross of Haydenville

Mark Anthony Cronin, Juliette Long, Orlando Morales, Marlee Raiffa and Brie-Ann Michelle Wilber, all of Northampton

Nallely Maria Abreu Garcia Sr. of Pittsfield

Diana Marie Mire of Russell

Matthew Steven Riel, Riley Janet Smith and Olivia Urbanek, all of Southampton

Alexandrea Emily Luscier of West Stockbridge

Bryan Clark, Jocelyn L. Correia, Rebekah Cyr, Isek Flaherty, Poonam Gurung, Melissa Johnson, Rachel Anna Miller, Gabriella Marie Rivera, Aamyli Marie Roman, David Tomas Santiago, Ashley Jean Savaria, Kristene A. Sporbet, Katelynn Sullivan, Mercedes Ann Trombley and Lauren Mackenzie Yates, all of Westfield

Kelsey Ann Bean of Williamsburg

Indoor soccer to use Town Hall gym

BLANDFORD – The Gateway Youth Athletic Association will use the gym at the Town Hall for practice for indoor soccer or basketball during week nights.

According to GYAA Director Joshua Turner, the gyms at Gateway and Littleville have limited times available and he would like to use the

Blandford gym to host practices. He will be flexible and will work around other scheduled events. Turner has been both coach and director assisting with both programs and is now the new director of the indoor soccer program.

The Select Board last week told Turner to work with their Executive Assistant Joann Martin for

scheduling.

According to their website, GYAA is a 501c nonprofit 509a public charity established in 1992 to provide sports programs to youth in the towns surrounding Gateway Regional. The organization is all volunteer and is not affiliated with the school system. The use of facilities is with permission.



Members of the Taber family visited the Taber Art Gallery on Aug. 25, on the 25th anniversary of the gallery’s opening in 2020. Donald Taber’s great-granddaughter, Haley Snyder, and daughter, Ann Nugent, hold a portrait of Donald Taber, flanked by his great-granddaughter Morgan Snyder, far left, and granddaughter, Laura McGrew, far right.

Submitted photo

HCC art gallery highlights exhibit

HOLYOKE – The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College opened its 25th season Tuesday, Sept. 2, with a special anniversary exhibition featuring the artwork of the HCC Visual Art faculty, past and present.

The exhibition, “Milestone: 25 Years of the Taber Art Gallery,” runs through Thursday, Oct. 23. The gallery will host a special anniversary celebration in the gallery on Thursday, Sept. 4, from 5-7 p.m., with a performance by itinerant painter and former HCC faculty member Sam Rowlett at 5:30 p.m., followed by a talk by gallery director Rachel Rushing at 6 p.m.

Using his mobile portrait studio backpack, Rowlett will present “Free Portraits” with visitors during the reception.

“College art galleries and art departments have a unique relationship compared to other departments on any campus,” said Rushing. “Art professors focus on teaching students how to create while galleries offer an in-person, real-life context for what happens to art after it is created. Spaces like the Taber Art Gallery provide the visceral experience of engaging with professional artists modeling pathways forward that students can pursue.”

“Milestone” celebrates this interconnection by looking at the very artists HCC stu-

dents work with and learn from, and who have made the Visual Art Department what it is today.”

The gallery is named after its benefactor, Holyoke businessman and philanthropist Donald Taber, the former chairman of American Pad and Paper. In 2020, Taber and his wife, Wilmina Taber, donated 45 pieces of original artwork to the collection and also endowed a scholarship through the HCC Foundation. The gallery now holds more than 350 pieces in its permanent collection.

“Since opening on Aug. 25, 2000, we have featured 131 exhibitions and well over 330 different artists in our gallery space that we have been able to share with HCC students and the wider public,” said Rushing. “That is pretty phenomenal. And that’s not even counting the annual student art exhibition we also do every year.”

Donald Taber died in 2002 at the age of 100. His daughter, granddaughter and two great-granddaughters visited the gallery on Aug. 25 to see some of the pieces from the original collection and view a chronology of exhibition cards promoting displays from the past 25 years.

“The progress has been amazing,” said Laura McGrew, Donald Taber’s granddaughter, who attended the gallery’s grand opening

25 years ago. “I think my grandfather would have been really happy to see all that’s happened.”

“Milestone” exhibitors include current faculty members Felice Caivano, Torry Gleason, Raishad Glover, Logan Bishop, Lahri Bond, John Calhoun, Tara Conant, Bill Devine, Chris Lizon, Margie Rothermich, Joe Sapphire; and former faculty members Robert Aller, Kelly Clare, Frank Cressoti, Cynthia Guild, Caitlin Hurd, Amy Johnquest, Cynthia Ludlam, David Moriarty, Christy Patrick, Samuel Rowlett, Deborah Stewart-Pettengill, Frank Ward and Chris Willingham.

After “Milestone,” the Taber Art Gallery’s 25th anniversary season will continue with “HyperColor,” Monday, Nov. 3 through Thursday, Dec. 18 with six artists working in vivid, loud, unflinching color; “River Valley Radical Futures” Jan. 20, 2026 through March 12, 2026 imagining the Connecticut River Valley 100 years beyond the fall of capitalism and the 2026 HCC Student Art Exhibition, April through May.

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 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. during regular school sessions.

SCHOOL

Regional School District employees Jenny Raymond and James Hayes were voted in as Treasurer and School Committee Secretary.

Appointments

Committee appointments included Briggs and Alicia Hansen for the Sick Bank Committee; Briggs, DeGregorio and Jason Fogue for the Negotiations Committee; Tara Balboni (in absentia), Brian Fogue, and Sloan for the Superintendent’s Evaluation Committee; and Nicole Daviau, Brian Fogue, Lyndsey Papillon, Peg Dragon, Balboni and Sloan for warrant signing. Brian Fogue will remain as liaison to the Collaborative for Educational Services and as legislative liaison; and Papillon and Hansen will serve on the board of the Gateway Education Foundation. School and department liaisons will be Briggs for Chester Elementary School; Sloan for Littleville Elementary School; Daviau for Gateway Regional School; Dragon and Lisa Goding for accountability and grants; Goding for pupil services; and

DeGregorio for finance and facilities.

School trip

Eighth grade civics teacher Christopher Mosher was heard on a request for permission for the annual 8th grade overnight trip to Boston. Mosher has organized this trip for the past three years and has proposed April 16-17 as the dates for the trip. However, he reported that the price has gone up significantly this year from \$460 to \$699. Dr. Sullivan had notified Mosher that they are eligible for a Civic Action Grant of \$6500, which-if awarded-could bring the price down to \$557 per student. Mosher will also request funding from the PTO and the Gateway Education Foundation to support three students who do not have the means to go. The trip was unanimously approved.

Principal report

The committee also reviewed a list of classes that had fewer than 10 students enrolled. Sullivan explained that the list is higher this year because they’ve been able to expand their elec-

tive offerings by combining honors and college preparation classes together. Also, Sullivan sought approval for three teachers to teach an extra teaching load: teachers in Gateway’s Chapter 74 welding and early childhood programs were proposed as well as a special education teacher/teacher of deaf and hard of hearing who is doing an extra class. These were the same three teachers as last year and approval was unanimously granted.

Also, Sullivan spoke on the state’s updated competency determination, with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) no longer requiring passing MCAS as a condition for graduation. As such, they are asking school districts to submit specifics on how they will measure competency determination now, how it will work for special education students, and also procedures if a student who did not receive a competency determination in a prior year reaches out to Gateway seeking a diploma. Information will be shared with all families and posted to the Gateway website, before going back to DESE.

Student representative

Student representative Theodore DeAngelis-Page shared news from students and schools, including a general consensus that the cafeteria menu has a lot more variety and kids seem to be enjoying it. The advisory block NEST is underway and he feels that students are beginning to warm up to these blocks. Student Council is sponsoring a lunch for faculty on the half-day as a fundraiser and the fall sports teams are off to a strong start.

Superintendent report

Matarazzo reported that the school year was off to a smooth and positive start. During the communications portion of the agenda Briggs said that she felt it was unacceptable that the fall sports teams did not have access to water or bathrooms for two weeks before school started. She also reported that the soccer scoreboard has been down for over a year, which she-and other parents-find embarrassing and unfair. Hansen confirmed that they had many unprompted comments at the Booster Shack

about the score board. Amy Mason, Gateway’s new School Business Administrator, promised to look into this and report back at the next meeting.

After school program

Another parent concern was that Wrap Around has not started yet at Chester Elementary School. After years of running their own wrap-around, Gateway contracted with the Westfield YMCA to run before and after school programs at Littleville and Chester. Matarazzo reported that there were a number of reasons for doing this: 1) running our own program extended principal’s days; 2) when we run it we are held to the IEPs for students with disabilities and medical conditions, which can be costly; 3) regulations like Title VI and Title IX that monitor behaviors are enforced when we run the program and legal counsel felt this opened the district up to legal liability; and 4) we were unable to manage and sustain the programs without losing money and were frequently in the position of chasing parents/

guardians for payments.

Matarazzo said the Chester registration is very low and is not sustainable for the Y. They are giving it more time to see if more parents register. If not, they would have the ability to move students to Littleville for the afternoon hours with parent pick-up there, but have not figured out a way to manage mornings. Briggs said that parents told her that the Y’s policies are too rigid and that the Y isn’t offering what parents need. “It’s upsetting that the parents that have relief on this are now in real dire straits,” Briggs said.

Littleville Principal Missy McCaul asked Briggs if parents believed they had to register for all five days a week, and Briggs said yes. McCaul clarified that parents could register for 2, 3 or 5 days but that they had to be the same days each week so that the Y could manage staffing. Sloan added that there is also the loss of a last minute need being filled-such as being detained at work-that Gateway could manage but the YMCA cannot.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

from page 1

RUSSELL

Russell Public Library announces upcoming news and events

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library, 162 Main St., is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3-7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

A create a scarecrow contest for families, individuals and organizations to create a scarecrow will be sponsored by the library. The scarecrows will be on display on the front lawn of the library from Thursday, Oct. 23 to Friday, Nov 21. The contest is free to enter and prizes will be awarded on Friday, Oct. 31 in five categories: the best fall theme, funniest, best use of nature, spookiest, (not frightening or gruesome) and the best book themed.

Scarecrows should be no larger than 5' by 5.' They must be sturdy to withstand the elements and free standing. The library does not provide stands. People may register by calling 413-862-6221 (leave a message), emailing rpldirector@townofrussell.us, visiting the website at https://townofrussell>library or coming into the library to sign up at the library by Friday, Oct. 17. Everyone whether they've entered a scarecrow or not is welcome to come view the scarecrows at the library between Thursday, Oct. 23 and Friday, Nov. 21.

On Tuesday, Oct. 7 from 6-8 p.m. adult monthly book club meets. The book is "Heartwood" by Amity

Gage. Books are available at the library. People may register by calling 413-862-6221 (leave a message), emailing rpldirector@townofrussell.us, visiting the website at https://townofrussell>library or coming into the library to sign up at the library by Monday, Oct. 6.

The adult monthly book club meets on Tuesdays. The Tuesday, Nov. 4 club meets from 6-8 p.m. The book is "Dream Hotel" by Laila Lalami, books will be available by mid October.

On Tuesday, Oct 21 from 6-8 p.m. there will be an adult program, "All Things Sourdough" by Ms. Dawne. Participants will learn the history, taste the goodness and

feed their own sourdough starter. Each participant will leave with a jar of starter and recipes for making bread etc. There is no fee, all materials will be provided. There is a ten person limit so people should register. People may register by calling 413-862-6221 (leave a message), emailing rpldirector@townofrussell.us, visiting the website at https://townofrussell>library or coming into the library to sign up by Tuesday, Oct. 14.

Children ages 0-5 and siblings may the Hilltown Family Center at the Russell Public Library on Friday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m.-noon for a story, craft, playtime and a snack.

Miss Dawne presents "Falling for Fall," an interactive arts exploration of all things Fall on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 10:30 a.m.-noon. There is no fee. People may register by calling 413-862-6221 (leave a message), emailing rpldirector@townofrussell.us, visiting the website at https://townofrussell>library or coming into the library to sign up at the library by Friday, Oct. 17.

Dr. Robert Kidd will give a presentation on industrialist, social engineer, gentleman farmer and philanthropist Horace A. Moses. He will discuss Moses' important contributions to Woronoco and Russell and the development of Strathmore Paper Mill, on

Saturday, Oct. 18 from 2-4 p.m.. There is no fee. People may register by calling 413-862-6221 (leave a message), emailing rpldirector@townofrussell.us, visiting the website at https://townofrussell>library or coming into the library to sign up at the library by Friday, Oct. 17.

Adults may learn to use an AED and do hands only CPR with Cate from the Hilltown Community Ambulance. On Tuesday, Oct. 28 from 6-7:15 p.m. game night will be held for tweens and teens. All games and snacks will be provided. Participants are welcome to join anytime during library hours on Fridays from 3-7 p.m.

CHESTERFIELD

Correction

The open meeting of the Chesterfield Planning Board is Oct. 23 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Chesterfield Community Center not 7:30-8:30 p.m. as stated in the Sept. 4 edition.

Friends of Chesterfield Library host book swap

CHESTERFIELD – The Friends of the Chesterfield Library invite preschool to grade 6 children along with their parents and grandparents to a book swap on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 1-4 p.m. at the Old Chesterfield Town Hall, opposite the church in Chesterfield.

People should bring a lightly used book or two and take a book or two to enjoy.

The Friends group will have games, snacks and books to share. For more information, people may either call Kessie at 413-923-1780 or email warlowharry@gmail.com.

MONTGOMERY

Correction: Music in Montgomery

The weekly "Music in Montgomery" program for September was announced in a recent issue of the *Country Journal*.

Due to a cumulative comedy of errors by literally everyone involved in the article, however, the dates, days and performers cited in the article were all incorrect.

This series runs every Thursday from 3-4:30 p.m. at Montgomery Town Hall, located at 161 Main Road.

Organized by Dale Rogers of the Gray Catbird Pottery Studio, the weekly series is open free of charge to everyone.

The correct dates and artists for the

rest of September are Thursday, Sept. 18 for Larry Southard and Thursday, Sept. 25 for Jerry and Kara Noble.

The first performance in October was also noted in the article and that date was also incorrect.

Ed Bentley and Friends will perform on Thursday, Oct. 2.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG LEGAL NOTICE

A Public Hearing will be held at 6:00 PM on Thursday, October 9, 2025 in the Williamsburg Town Offices, 141 Main St., Haydenville, MA to consider the following: The application of Branching Tree of Walpole, MA, for a Special permit, as required by Section 5 of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Williamsburg, to construct two additional connected structures to the existing dwelling located at 201 Main St., Williamsburg, Assessors Map K, Lot 126.1.

Kelly Blaser, Chairman
Zoning Board of Appeals
09/18, 09/25/2025

Town of Worthington Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Worthington Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing in response to a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) regarding the proposed work associated with the replacement of a failed septic system, including any tree removal, at 476 Dingle Road.

The Hearing will be held Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Selectboard meeting room at Town Hall, 160 Huntington Road.
09/18/2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Justin Day to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Inland Bank and Trust, dated December 17, 2015 and recorded in the Hampshire

County Registry of Deeds in Book 12155, Page 171, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Inland Bank and Trust, its successors and assigns to Wells Fargo Bank N.A., recorded on September 27, 2018, in Book No. 13089, at Page 30 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp., recorded on February 2, 2021, in Book No. 13965, at Page 108 J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. to DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc., recorded on May 19, 2022, in Book No. 14556, at Page 212 DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp., recorded on November 1, 2024, in Book No. 15273, at Page 290 DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp., recorded on June 20, 2025, in Book No. 15452, at Page 123 J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCAF Acquisition Trust, recorded on June 20, 2025, in Book No. 15452, at Page 126 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on October 14, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 14 Pleasant Street, Huntington, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

TO WIT: The land in Huntington, in the County of Hampshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of James Kirby at a stone post

on the westerly side of Pleasant Street, so-called;

thence SOUTHERLY on said Pleasant Street one hundred and nineteen (119) feet to a stone post at land now or formerly of Mary E. Graney;

thence WESTERLY on land of said Graney about ninety-eight (98) feet to a stone post at land formerly of Fred P. Stanton;

thence NORTHERLY on land formerly of Fred P. Stanton one hundred and nineteen (119) feet to a stone post at land of said Kirby;

thence EASTERLY on land of said Kirby about ninety-eight (98) feet to a stone post, it being the place of beginning.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 12155, Page 168. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts

02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES,
P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
26241

09/18, 09/25, 10/02/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division

Docket No. HS25P0513EA
Estate of: Israel Gesell
Also Known As: Izzy Gesell
Date of Death: June 26, 2025

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLIC NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Laura J. Bundesen of Huntington, MA**

Petitioner **Joseph H. Gruner of Hartsdale, NY** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Laura J. Bundesen of Huntington, MA

Joseph H. Gruner of Hartsdale, NY has been informally appointed

as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
09/18/2025

Town of Blandford Select Board

Notice of Public Hearing
Monday, September 29, 2025
6 P.M.

Select Board Chambers

Town Hall,
1 Russell Stage Road,
Blandford

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

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS24P0575EA
Estate of:

Christopher Roy Patterson
Also known as:
Christopher R. Patterson
Date of Death: 07/09/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF COMPROMISE

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by: **Jennifer L. Orzolek of Easthampton, MA** requesting approval of compromise of the effect of the agreement upon the interests of parties represented by fiduciaries or their representatives is just and reasonable.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 10/08/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 05, 2025
Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate

09/18/2025

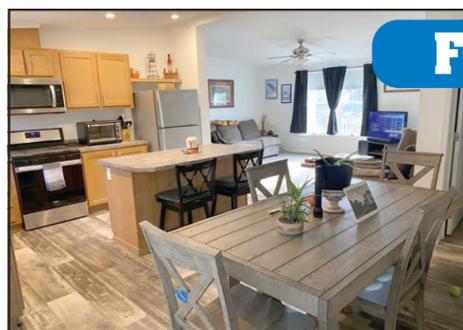
\$12.50 Each



Digital Photos
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

FIVE ISLANDS
Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park




\$1200/week
207-607-9333

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to 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

SANDISFIELD



The New Boston Congregational Church, 4 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield will hold a yard sale Friday, Sept. 19 and Saturday, Sept. 20 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Submitted photo

Yard sale benefit New Boston Church

SANDISFIELD – The New Boston Congregational Church, 4 Sandisfield Road, announces a grand yard sale on Friday, Sept. 19 and Saturday, Sept. 20 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will go towards a new roof for the church. The sale includes a large and wide-ranging assortment of interesting and practical things, impractical things and antiques to brand new –

all at bargain prices. A silent auction is included. Burgers and hotdogs, freshly made popcorn, and water and sodas will be available for purchase.

Included in the sale are the entire contents of the old parish hall, which has been closed for 25 years. There are numerous vintage tables and chairs in many styles. On Saturday afternoon there will be a thrilling free performance by Boston area fire

artist, Ali O'Donnell, also known as "Dame of Flames."

The historic and charming all-chestnut church (1879), which is in virtually original condition, will be open for tours. The Church is in the New Boston National Register Historic District.

For more information, people may call Ron Bernard at 413-269-0012, email ronbernard@aol.com or visit Newbostoncongregationalchurch.org.

OTIS

Otis library hosts open mic Sept. 30

OTIS – The Otis Library, 48 North Main Road, will host an open mic on Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 6

p.m. There will be a five minute performance limit. Apple doughnuts and cider

will be served. For more information, people may call the library at 413-269-0109.

NORTHAMPTON

Fall shred day takes place Sept. 20

SPRINGFIELD – Freedom Credit Union will host a free fall shred days at four locations this September.

On Saturday, Sept. 20 from 9-10 a.m. Freedom Credit Union will sponsor a shred day at the

Northampton Three County Fairgrounds, 54 Fair St., Northampton. Freedom invites all members of the community to take advantage of this free opportunity to securely declutter and protect their personal information. Open to members and the general public, these events provide a secure way to safely dispose of sensitive documents that should never be discarded in household trash.

"Protecting personal information is critical in today's world," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "We host shred days to give our members and neighbors peace of mind, knowing their documents will be securely destroyed and kept out of the hands of scammers and identity thieves."

Community members are encouraged to bring unwanted paperwork such as old

bills, bank statements, tax returns and other personal documents. Shredding services are provided at no cost, with a limit of up to five file boxes or paper shopping bags per vehicle.

Originally chartered in 1922 as the Western Massachusetts Telephone Workers Credit Union and renamed in 2004, Freedom Credit Union is a nine branch, full-service financial institution. Today, membership is available to any-

one who lives, works or attends school in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin or Berkshire counties in Massachusetts and Hartford or Tolland counties in Connecticut. Freedom Credit Union has conveniently located Massachusetts branches in Chicopee, Feeding Hills, Greenfield, Ludlow, Northampton, Turners Falls, West Springfield and two in Springfield, as well as a Loan Production Office in Enfield, Connecticut.



PITTSFIELD

BAA hosts unfinished exhibition

PITTSFIELD – Unfinished is a Berkshire Art Association non-juried exhibition open to the first 36 artists who apply, which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 3-5 p.m.

The deadline to submit one piece is Monday, Oct. 20 to the Lichtenstein Center for

the Arts, 28 Renne Avenue. There is no submission fee. Participating artists can drop off one piece of either 2-D or 3-D work delivered and ready to install, to the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts on the week of Monday, Oct. 27. The Lichtenstein Center is open Wednesday

through Friday noon-3 p.m. or by appointment.

The BAA reserves the right to refuse artwork for any reason. Work must be ready to hang. Work that is wet or has sharp edges that could pose a danger will not be accepted.

REGION

Grant program funds local Appalachian region land projects

BOSTON – More than 17,000 acres of land will be protected this year after The Nature Conservancy's Resilient and Connected Appalachian Grants Program provided up to \$100,000 in grant funding to support projects that create a connected network of healthy lands and waters across 18 states in the Appalachians region from Maine to Alabama.

Projects supported by the Resilient and Connected Appalachians Grant Program deliver meaningful benefits to communities, including

strengthened resilience to climate change and expanded access to natural spaces that promote overall well-being. These outcomes are especially vital for marginalized communities such as those lacking quality green spaces or facing disproportionate climate-related challenges due to longstanding underinvestment and inadequate infrastructure. This year, grants went to 14 organizations in 11 states to support the acquisition of over 17,000 acres, giving more than \$1 million in privately-raised funds to

communities, nonprofits, land trusts, Indigenous tribes and other partners working to protect forested land, waterways, mountains and natural habitats in the Appalachians region, a vital and vast corridor for wildlife migration, climate resilience and overall ecological protection.

Local recipients were Eastern Berkshires area of Washington and Trustees of Reservations along with Hilltown Land Trust and the towns of Williamsburg and Northampton. In Washington, the Berkshires Natural

Resources Council is working on the Depot Brook Corridor Project, located within a half mile of the Appalachian Trail to add to wildlife and climate resiliency. Once permanently conserved, the land will be used by the community for passive recreation and eventually for the Council's extensive Community Engagement outdoor education and recreation programs.

The Trustees of Reservations, Hilltown Land Trust and the towns of Williamsburg and

Northampton permanently conserved the floodplain, wetlands and forested areas of Beaver Brook Golf Course located near Route 9. The community will then take part in planning for ecological restoration and public access that will attract a range of diverse audiences, who can get there by regional public bus transportation. Accessible trails will be created for those in wheelchairs and needing walking assistance and community engagement and education programs will also be offered.

"We are thrilled to support projects that are making the Appalachians more vibrant by rewilding lands and waterways for the wildlife that roam across acres of land in the region," said Heather Furman, Appalachians Director for The Nature Conservancy. "Protecting connected lands is the key to this contiguous approach to climate resiliency with vast tracts of land, forests, waterways, mountains, and habitats where animals and humans can thrive, now and forever."

Clark offers talk for dementia patients

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Monday, Sept. 29 at 1 p.m. in the permanent collection galleries, the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., hosts a Meet Me at the Clark free gallery talk program designed specifically for people living with dementia and their care partners.

On select Mondays, when the museum is closed

to the public, specially trained educators guide open-ended conversations about art and how it celebrates shared humanity. The program, developed by the Clark's Education Department, provides a calm and caring environment in which dementia patients and their caregivers can have private access to the galler-

ies and enjoy the benefits of sharing art together.

The event is free. Advance registration is required; capacity is limited. To register, people may call the Education Department at 413-4580563. Accompanying care partners must also register. For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

Clark hosts roundtable discussion

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 5:30 p.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., Research and Academic Program hosts a free roundtable discussion on Joseph Leo Koerner's recent book, *Art in a State of Siege* (Princeton University Press, 2025) in the Manton Research Center auditorium.

Art in a State of Siege

examines the role of art when the rule of law breaks down. In conversation with Koerner, panelists Annie Bourneuf (School of the Art Institute of Chicago), Shira Brisman (University of Pennsylvania) and Christophe Koné (Williams College) will respond to Koerner's book while engaging in a larger conversation

about the role of images and art history during periods of political unease and turmoil.

Accessible seats are available. For information, people may call 413-458-0524. A 5 p.m. reception in the Manton Research Center reading room precedes the event. For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

Freedom Credit Union holds drive to support food bank

SPRINGFIELD – With just weeks remaining in its summer campaign, Freedom Credit Union renews its call for donations to benefit the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

Through Sunday, Aug. 31, community members can contribute nonperishable food, personal care items or monetary gifts at any Freedom branch.

"Even during what is traditionally a slower season, demand for assistance at the food bank remains high," said Freedom Credit Union President and CEO Glenn Welch. "Currently, it serves an average of 124,000 people each month through

nearly 200 food pantries and meal sites across western Massachusetts. By continuing to support this campaign, our members and community can help ensure no one goes hungry, especially as federal funding cuts and reduced SNAP benefits put additional pressure on families."

Several months ago, the Food Bank reported a loss of approximately \$440,000 in USDA food deliveries due to federal funding cuts. At the same time, it has expanded its reach this fiscal year, adding 12 new pantries to its network.

Last summer, FCU collected more than \$3,350 in donations, along with near-

ly 1,435 pounds of food and personal care items. This year, the credit union is encouraging members to help surpass that impact.

Suggested donations of non-perishable food and personal care items include: baby formula; beans in cans or dried in bags; bread mixes; canned chicken, fish and meat; cereals; coffee and tea; cooking oils and spices; diapers, wipes and toilet paper; dried or canned fruit; evaporated/powdered milk; granola bars and crackers; feminine sanitary products; instant potatoes; pasta and noodles; peanut butter and nuts; rice and grains; sauces; shampoo and body wash/soap; soups,

stews and chili in cans; toothpaste and toothbrushes and vegetables in cans.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has been feeding neighbors in need and leading the community to end hunger since 1982, serving residents in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties through its network of independent food pantries, meal sites and shelters.

Originally chartered in 1922 as the Western Massachusetts Telephone Workers Credit Union and renamed in 2004, Freedom Credit Union is a nine-branch, full-service financial institution.

Country Journal

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$225.00
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes guaranteed!! New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

NEW TOTAL GYM out of box. All accessories. Paid \$1100. Will sell for \$300. 1 screen calls. Will call you back. 413-436-9521.

TAG SALE

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26 AND SATURDAY, SEPT. 27, 8am-3pm. Rain/shine. 63 Walker Rd., Wales. Antiques, furniture, plants, arts, rare finds.

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

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

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

WANTED

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

JUNK REMOVAL

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

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

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

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

ALL-BRITE GUTTER SERVICES.
Seamless gutters, leaf guards, and gutter repair. Contact for your free consultation 508-989-4662. Your local gutter professional. Huntington, MA HIC#215976

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

ELECTRICIAN

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

SERVICES

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

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

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

EXCAVATING

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

MINI EXCAVATOR for hire. Fully operated. Shrub removal, electrical trenches. Drainage work. Minor demolition. Licensed/insured. Call 413-315-1614.

HEATING & AIR COND.

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

SERVICES

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
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

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

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING
Weekly Mowing
Landscape design and installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit
mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text 413-266-9975
Insured - Commercial - Residential

LAWN & GARDEN

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

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

SERVICES

MASONRY

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

C X J

MASONRY HARDSCAPE RETAINING WALLS

Chimney Repair
Foundation Repair
Steps, Patios
Stone Veneer
Brick Work
Water Proofing
Cord Wood

Brian French
(413) 222-5542
cjmasonryhardscape@gmail.com

PLUMBING

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

TREE WORK

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

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

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

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

SERVICES

STUMP GRINDING

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

SAW STUMP GRINDING
413-213-5470

SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM
413-213-5470

TUNE-UPS

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

AUTO CAMPERS

2011 KEYSTONE MONTANA MOUNTAINEER MODEL RKD LENGTH 33'; 2 SLIDE OUTS, REAR KITCHEN, SLEEPS 4, LOTS OF STORAGE. \$9500. BRIMFIELD (413)374-1880

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

HELP WANTED

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

TOWN OF WARE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/ TRUCK DRIVER

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

REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

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

FOR RENT

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.

Classified Advertising DEADLINE FRIDAY AT NOON

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
Make checks payable to Turley Publications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

STOCKBRIDGE

Berkshire Art Center lists fall programs

STOCKBRIDGE – Berkshire Art Center's young artist and family programs are back this fall with brand-new offerings and returning favorites designed to spark imagination, build confidence and celebrate creativity.

From toddlers discovering their first art tools to teens spinning clay on the wheel, there's something for every young maker at Citizens' Hall in Stockbridge.

Starting Saturday, Oct. 4 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. mini makers: toddler and caregiver art group will take place. Led by teaching artist Johanna Merfeld, this playful, multi-sensory class gives toddlers and their caregivers a joyful space to explore, connect and make art together.

Starting Friday, Oct. 10 from 3:45-5:15 p.m. there will be an Afterschool Art

Club: Art on the Move.

The teaching artist, Kaily Ritz, will take students on a "travel" across land, sea, air and even outer space-using art to fuel every adventure. Perfect for elementary-age artists, especially homeschoolers or anyone craving more creativity after school.

Wheel throwing for teens and tweens will start Friday, Oct. 10 from 3:30-6 p.m. Artist Katie Mitts returns to guide teens and tweens through the exciting world of wheel throwing. From beginners learning the basics to experienced students ready to tackle new techniques, this class is all about hands-on exploration and personal expression.

Berkshire Art Center offers birthday parties for children and parents. They will design a party as unique as each child. Each celebration is led by a talent-

ed teaching artists in their vibrant, funky studios at the historic 1870 Citizens' Hall in Stockbridge or at 1868 Brotherhood location in Pittsfield.

Families get to choose the theme that includes a 1.5-hour art adventure where every guest creates a masterpiece to take home.

To book an art party, people may visit at <https://berkshireartcenter.org/art-parties>. People may view the full schedule and enroll in classes at Citizen's Hall by visiting www.berkshireartcenter.org.

Berkshire Art Center is a nonprofit community art school with a mission to make art accessible to all through hands-on learning, collaboration, and community engagement. With locations in Stockbridge and Pittsfield, BAC offers year-round classes, workshops and events for youth and adults.

LENOX

CATA holds poetry and prose reading at The Mount

LENOX – On Tuesday, Sept. 30 CATA writers and artists will hold a free reading from 5-6 p.m. and reception from 6-7 p.m. at The Stable at The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home, 2 Plunkett St.

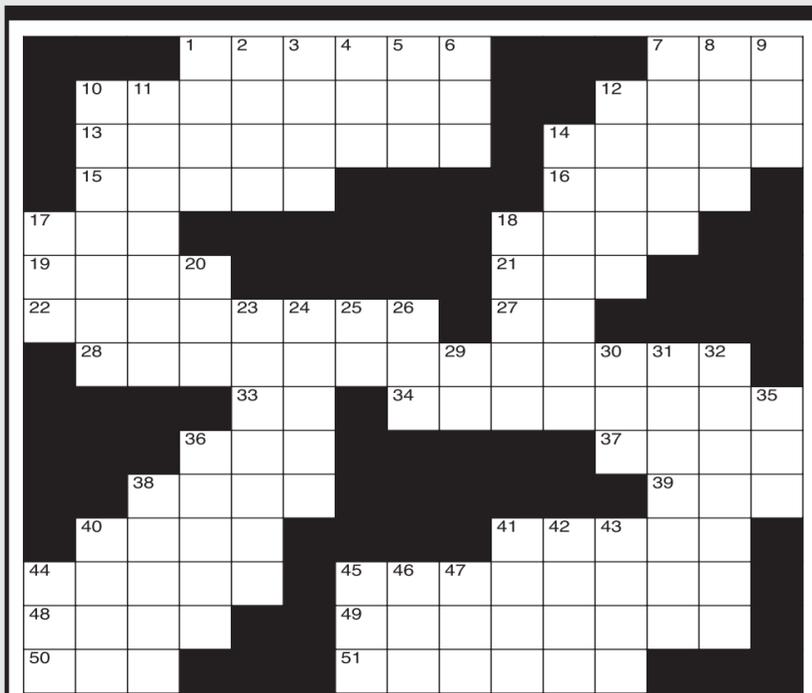
CATA at The Mount for a reading of poetry and prose from the CATA Writers' Workshop. Through heartfelt, thought-provoking and humorous work, CATA writers with disabilities express their unique perspectives and reveal common experiences that connect us all. Space is limited, registration is required. This event is sponsored by Berkshire Magazine, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and generous supporters.

The performance space and restrooms in the Stable are wheelchair accessible. Free parking is available a short distance from the stable down a loose gravel path. Two additional accessible parking spots are available directly outside the Stable entrance. Visitors are also welcome to drive up to the Stable entrance for easy drop-off.

American Sign Language interpretation will be provided during the reading. Braille and large print programs will be available at the door. A large print copy of poetry will be available for those who are deaf, hard of hearing or prefer a printed copy of the poems to aid their experience during the reading.

People may call CATA at 413-528-5485 or email Kelly@CATAarts.org.

Since 2005, writers with disabilities have explored creative and expressive writing forms through CATA's weekly Writers' Workshop, developing their talents in poetry, haiku, autobiography, and short stories. CATA faculty artist Janet Reich Elsbach, talented local writer as well as a gifted teacher, leads the workshops with an inventive curriculum that helps each CATA writer develop their individual style. Some CATA writers work with "scribes" to help them put their ideas on paper. CATA writers work with volunteer scribes to help put their ideas on paper.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Carved into
- 7. ___ Rogers, cowboy
- 10. Unruly locale
- 12. Edible mushroom
- 13. Influential noblemen
- 14. Rattling breaths
- 15. David ___ George, Brit. P.M.
- 16. Musician Clapton
- 17. Small Eurasian deer
- 18. Invests in little enterprises
- 19. Perimeter
- 21. Chicago ballplayer
- 22. Animal body part
- 27. It's everywhere these days
- 28. Fictional ad exec
- 33. Mr. T character

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Root of taro plant
- 34. Against the current
- 36. Subway rodent
- 37. Armor plate
- 38. Hair on the head
- 39. Strong insect
- 40. Swollen lymph node
- 41. A way to lessen
- 44. Walter White poison
- 45. Sleeveless garment
- 48. Long accompanied song
- 49. Without features
- 50. Yankee great
- 51. Removes from record

CLUES ACROSS

- 2. Those ones
- 3. Appliances have one
- 4. A way to sing
- 5. Midway between east and southeast
- 6. Animal dwelling
- 7. An object that as survived from the past
- 8. Oil cartel
- 9. Affirmative
- 10. Foul smell
- 11. Brisk tempo
- 12. S. American indigenous person
- 14. Restored
- 17. Official
- 18. Skin lesions
- 20. Electro-encephalograph
- 23. Middle Eastern country
- 24. Extremely angry

CLUES DOWN

- 25. Title used before a woman's name
- 26. British thermal unit
- 29. By the way (abbr.)
- 30. Anger
- 31. Nullifies
- 32. Ones who acquire
- 35. Time zone
- 36. Arabic name
- 38. Protein in mucus
- 40. Ballpoint pen
- 41. Mimics
- 42. Humans have a lot of it
- 43. Expressions of good wishes
- 44. Cool!
- 45. One point east of due south
- 46. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
- 47. A way to save for retirement

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

This week sharpens your focus with daily routines and well-being, Aries. It's an excellent time to streamline your schedule, tackle neglected tasks and prioritize self-care.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Communication is key. Expect a busy social calendar. Important conversations and new learning opportunities also may pop up. Your words carry weight.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

It is time for rest and introspection, Libra. You might feel a need to retreat and recharge your batteries in the days to come. Pay attention to what your body is telling you.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Expand your horizons. This is a great week for learning, planning travel or exploring new hobbies. Try to step outside of your comfort zone as much as possible.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Creativity and joy are themes for you. Engage in hobbies, spend time with loved ones and embrace fun pursuits. Your artistic side may be especially inspired.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, financial matters are center stage this week. This is a good time to review your budget, look for new income or make sensible investments. Your practical instincts are strong.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Social connections and networking are driving you right now, Scorpio. Spend time with friends or host a party so others can stop by and mingle. You also can join group events.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you might be dealing with financial arrangements or deepening a close bond with someone. Regardless, trust and vulnerability are important concepts right now.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Your home and family life take center stage right now, Gemini. You might be focused on domestic projects, redecorating or spending quality time with the people you love.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

This week is all about you, Virgo, especially if your birthday falls during these days. Focus on personal goals and self-improvement. Set strong intentions for the year ahead.

SAGITTARIUS

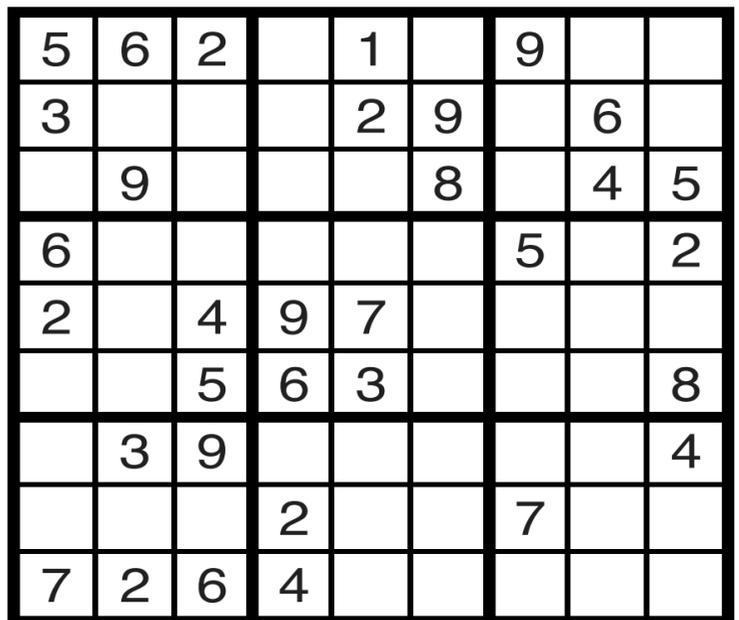
Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, your career and public image are in focus this week. Opportunities for advancement or recognition could arise. Be professional and show off your leadership skills.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Personal and professional relationships are your priority this week, Pisces. It's important to compromise and seek harmony in all you do.



SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

answers

WESTFIELD AUTO PARTS INC

AUTO PARTS & SUPPLIES

NATIONALLY ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS

WHOLESALE RETAIL

★ Complete Auto Machine Shop Service ★ Engine Rebuilding Of All Kinds
★ Authorized Caterpillar Hydraulic Hose Dealer ★ Hydraulic Hoses

Call "DALE" 8-12 BIRGE AVE., WESTFIELD

Now stocking Car Quest Filters made by WIX, Amalie Oil, Bailing Twine & Tractor Parts

Dial 568-8944 or 568-1611 FAX # 568-1554

Breathe new life into your home.



Indoor comfort meets outdoor beauty.

With Premium Clad Wood Patio Doors, you'll enhance your home with an inspired design and lasting performance.

Bring your vision to life with our Limited Time Special Offer!

Save hundreds on premium wood patio doors. Offer applies to patio doors that are purchased by 11/15/25 and have a prefinished (painted or stained) interior.



WINDOW WORLD
ARCHITECTURAL COLLECTION

