

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

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HUNTINGTON

Select Board hires highway administrative assistant

Interim highway superintendent takes state position

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The future structure of the Huntington Highway Department was the primary topic at the Select Board Sept. 13 meeting.

Currently, Dan Donovan is serving as the Acting Highway Superintendent but he wanted to change due to loss of overtime pay and overwhelming paperwork demands. After posting for an administrative assistant, the Board and Donovan interviewed their sole applicant, Joanne Grybosh.

She is a Blandford resident, who recently left a corpo-

rate job, due to extensive travel demands, Grybosh has experience with highway departments, most recently in Sandisfield. In her interview, she described her work with Department of Transportation Region I, future planning for the department, communicating with stakeholders and developing a capital budget for vehicle replacement needs.

Selectman Roger Booth asked what she could bring to the Huntington Highway Department. "This is a smaller town, which means smaller budgets and potentially chipping down outside funding," she responded, citing her experience with grant funding through Mass Works for culverts and small bridges.

In their discussion, Grybosh cited the rising volume of paperwork that now comes through a

highway department and working through a portal to communicate with state officials and to file required reports. For Huntington, she felt, this would require a position of 16 hours a week, not the eight hours that had been posted.

The Select Board spoke with Donovan about changing his title to a working foreman role, which would result in a lowered pay rate but return eligibility for overtime pay. If they hired Grybosh or someone with similar qualifications and experience, they would also post for an additional highway staff member.

Adding further complications to the mix, Donovan announced that he had been offered a job with the Department of Transportation, at his current rate (as Interim Superintendent) plus overtime. He needed to give them an

answer the following day. Chair Ed Renauld affirmed that the town could not compete with the state on pay and benefits.

Selectman Bill Hathaway, who serves as a liaison to the Highway Department, asked Donovan what it would take for him to stay as Superintendent. Donovan responded that the flex time in lieu of overtime pay wasn't a good fit because there was never a good time to take it. Hathaway responded, "I know your mindset is not a salaried person, I understand. In today's world, there's few and far between that have that mentality that will stay until the work is finished."

Chairman Ed Renauld countered that the town was at this same point a year ago, with their prior Superintendent. "Guys got offers from other towns, we had to raise rates to keep them,"

Renauld said. "Then other departments wanted their rates raised. We can't keep doing this."

Executive Session

After going into Executive Session, the Select Board approved offers to Grybosh as Administrative Assistant and Donovan as Working Foreman. As of press time, Donovan has announced that he is taking the state job and Grybosh is negotiating a pay rate with the town.

Gateway Regional

In other business, Superintendent Kristen Smidy attended to provide updates for the current school year at Gateway Regional. Smidy opened by thanking Booth for representing the towns on the negotiations team that recently

HIRES, page 11

HILLTOWNS

Open Studios Tour begins Sept. 30

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Hilltown Arts Alliance has announced that their fifth Annual Hilltown

Open Studios Tour is set for the weekend of Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

This event features tours of the studios of 32 artists, located between Plainfield and

Huntington. The Tour Hub-including many demonstrations and performances will be held in Cummington, which is Massachusetts' newest cultural district. Studio spaces will be open from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. each day.

"The rural Hilltowns are increasingly where artists from around the United States and the world are choosing to live and create," said Hilltown Arts Alliance President and award-winning fabric artist Kathy Ford.

"Artists on the tour are from Ukraine, Ireland, Estonia, Spain, the Netherlands, New York, Hawaii, Kansas, Florida, California, Montana, Illinois, Alabama, Mississippi and Oklahoma. While our influences and work are wildly diverse, we all come here to find the space to create. Artists in the Hilltowns reinvent 19th century barns and mills in light-filled creative spaces. Seeing how people live and work in such a beautiful rural area is the unique experience of the Hilltowns Open Studios Tour."

STUDIO, page 3



Impressionistic painter Jeanne Johns will have work displayed at the Cummington Community House as part of the fifth Annual Open Studios Tour, sponsored by the Hilltown Arts Alliance, Saturday, Sept. 30 and Sunday, Oct. 1. Photo courtesy of Hilltown Arts Alliance

BLANDFORD

Blandford to share FEMA grant with four towns

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The Blandford Fire Department is sharing with Huntington, Chester, Montgomery and Russell a total award of an approved budget of \$685,980 to purchase special firefighting equipment.

Interim Fire Chief Adam Dolby relayed to Town Administrator Christopher Dunne last week that the Fire Departments have been awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

The funds will be used to purchase Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for all



Interim Blandford Fire Chief Adam Dolby



Huntington Fire Chief Josh Ellinger

five fire departments. SCBA provides each firefighter with a protected air source, free from any toxic contaminants, which are present during a fire. For instance, burning wool emits hydrogen cyanide, which inhaled inhibits the body's ability to use oxygen.

Lead Fire Chief Josh Ellinger said via social media, "This grant is highly competitive, receiving thousands of applications from across the nation. The federal funds can be used for equipment, training, and vehicle acquisition depending on what is applied for."

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HILLTOWNS

MassDOT announces upcoming roadwork

HILLTOWNS – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting daytime and overnight hour pavement milling, slope stabilization, bridge and drainage repair operations on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Becket, Otis, Lee, West Stockbridge, Stockbridge and Blandford. The work will be conducted at various times and locations from now through Friday, Sept. 22.

Lane closures will be in place during the construction operations and traffic will be able to travel through the work zones.

In Becket and Otis slope stabilization operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound between mile marker 21.0 and mile marker 22.0 from Thursday, Sept. 21, through Friday, Sept. 22, from 7 p.m.-

to 5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Sept. 22 by 5 a.m..

In Lee, milling operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound between mile marker 7.8 and mile marker 11.4, from Thursday, Sept. 21 through Friday, Sept. 22, from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Sept. 22 by 5 a.m.

Paving operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 westbound between mile marker 13.0 and mile marker 7.4, from Thursday, Sept. 21 through Friday, Sept. 22 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude by 5:00 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 22 by 5 a.m.

In Stockbridge, bridge repairs will

be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound near mile marker 7.5 from Monday, September 18, through Thursday, September 21, from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude by 5:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 21.

In Blandford, drainage repairs will be conducted daily on I-90 eastbound between mile marker 20.0 and mile marker 28.0 from Tuesday, September 19 through Thursday, Sept. 21, from 6 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The work is expected to conclude on Thursday, September 21 at 4:30 p.m.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers who are traveling through the

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

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to:

Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com 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.

Berkshire BioBlitz set for Sept. 23 and 24

SOUTH EGREMONT – Celebrating local biodiversity during a time of unprecedented global biodiversity loss, the 14th Annual Berkshire Biodiversity Day, also known as Berkshire BioBlitz, welcomes community members of all ages to join biologists, naturalists and environmentalists to identify as many plants, animals, fungi and other organisms as possible during a 24-hour period.

The event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 23 at noon through Sunday, Sept. 24 at noon at Greenagers' April Hill Education and Conservation Center, 62 North Undermountain Road, South Egremont. Participants may take part at any time during this period to record a survey of their findings, join scheduled activities and experience first-hand the importance of a healthy, active ecosystem in their community.

This year's program is packed with guided walks, presentations and demonstrations led by experts. Presentation topics include: leaf-mining insects from Charley Eiseman, fungi and mushrooms from John Wheeler, and arachnids from Joseph Warfel. Aliza Fassler will also present about native bees and lead a wild bee walk. Professor Tom Tynning will lead an amphibian and reptile walk that will involve checking under cover boards

and logs—a common surveying method used by herpetologists. Rene Wendell from Hoffmann Bird Club will lead an owl prowl and early morning bird walk and Ben Nickley of Berkshire Bird Observatory will also conduct a bird banding demonstration.

People may visit www.berkshire-bioblitz.org to find a detailed schedule of the program. This year's event is organized and sponsored by Berkshire Environmental Action Team and Nature Academy of the Berkshires. It's co-sponsored by Greenagers, Hoffmann Bird Club, Greylock Federal Credit Union and Panera.

Biological surveys and expert-led walks will be conducted in Bow Wow Woods—a 50-acre parcel of land just off Rte 41 on Bow Wow Road, which was recently acquired by Greenagers and will soon be protected by a conservation restriction to be held by the Sheffield and Egremont Land Trusts. There are two half-mile trail loops in Bow Wow Woods: one on relatively flat ground and another that descends a small hillside before running alongside vernal pools and wetlands. All other activities will take place at April Hill.

April Hill Education and Conservation Center serves as the headquarters for Greenagers as well as a resource for community gatherings and

education. Conserved in perpetuity, April Hill has nature trails, vegetable gardens, orchards, pastures and hayfield and abuts the Appalachian Trail-linking it to the Berkshire-Taconic range and beyond.

To learn more about this 24-hour biological survey, people may visit www.berkshirebioblitz.org or www.facebook.com/BerkshireBioBlitz.

It is with gratitude and humility that Greenagers acknowledges that the land they steward—including April Hill and all of their conservation work sites—is part of the ancestral homelands of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans, the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. Greenagers pays honor and respect to Stockbridge-Munsee Community ancestors, past and present, as they commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

At Greenagers, they commit to educating young people about indigenous inhabitants of this land and their history and incorporating race and land equity into their curricula and practices. They also commit to paying an annual voluntary land tax to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

Clark Art hosts open house for docent program

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Thursday, Sept. 28 at 1 p.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., hosts an open house for prospective new docents.

Those interested in becoming a Clark docent can learn more about the program during an information session held in the Carswell Room, located in the lower level of the Clark Center building.

Staff from the Education Department will outline the ways in which Clark docents engage student and adult visitors with the Institute's collection and special exhibitions through guided, interactive tours. A background in art, art history, or teaching is helpful but not required. Most important is a passion for art, the ability to communicate easily with visitors of all ages and backgrounds and the desire to learn and grow. Light refreshments and free admission to the museum will be provided.

To RSVP or for further information about the docent program, people may email Kristin Bengtson, Senior Manager of Gallery Education at kbengtson@clarkart.edu.

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HILLTOWNS

1 Berkshire celebrates Trendsetter Awards Ceremony

HILLTOWNS – After a three-year hiatus, 1Berkshire brings back their signature Celebrate the Berkshires event which was hosted at Berkshire Theater Group's Colonial Theatre recently.

There were over 200 people present as 1Berkshire honored Mill Town for Putting the Berkshires on the Map and presented the highly coveted 2023 Berkshire Trendsetter Awards. The Trendsetter Awards recognize businesses, organizations and individuals whose outstanding achievements and commitment have strengthened the economy and helped the Berkshires grow.

In the Enhancing Visitor Engagement category, Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health took home the award for bringing new communities to the Berkshires through the diverse health and wellness programs offered.

Balderdash Cellars was named Entrepreneur/Visionary of the Year for their continued growth as a destination winery in the Berkshires, producing high

quality wines while transforming their space to become a gathering spot for families and wine enthusiasts, as well as adding an event venue for special occasions and working with the community on a number of collaborations.

Lorena Dus who is currently the Director of Client and Community Services at the Berkshire Immigration Center received the Under 40 Change-Maker award for providing solutions and addressing community challenges with unique perspectives. She has provided humanitarian aid in El Salvador, Peru, and Haiti.

The Nonprofit Collaborator award was presented to the Elizabeth Freeman Center for creating a solution to build a safer, healthier, thriving community where everyone can live with dignity and justice; and for offering hope, help, and healing to all experiencing or affected by domestic, dating and sexual violence through free, accessible, and confidential services.

The Breaking the Mold award was

given to Blackshires for developing a BIPOC program in Berkshire County that fosters and cultivates a shared talent pool. Through numerous collaborations, the Blackshires Leadership Accelerator Program enables local municipalities and nonprofits to benefit from a robust development process for emerging leaders.

The Growing/Advancing the Berkshire Economy award was presented to Berkshire Sterile Manufacturing for creating exciting pharmaceutical/biotech careers for 230 employees who make life-saving and disease-treatment drugs in Lee and for completing expansion including 4,000 sq-ft of pharmaceutical clean-rooms, robotic work cells, state-of-the-art pharmaceutical water systems and other equipment.

Closing out the evening, Mill Town was recognized as the special honoree for Putting the Berkshires on the Map in recognition of the investments that they have made in housing, downtown redevelopment and other key Berkshire proper-

ties along with their philanthropic support around the region.

In 2016, Mill Town was founded by Dave Mixer with a vision of driving positive business development and community impact throughout our region. Since then, their focus and activities have evolved into a unique blend of traditional investment, impact investment and sustainable philanthropy.



Dave Mixer and Time Burke accept Putting the Berkshires on the Map honor.

Photo by Browline Photography

Clark Art Institute presents free talk by Elena Shtromberg

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Tuesday, October 3 at 5:30 p.m., the Clark Art Institute's Research and Academic Program hosts a free talk by Elena Shtromberg of University of Utah and Clark Fellow in the auditorium located in

the Manton Research Center, 225 South St.

She examines how contemporary video works have confronted the persistence of colonial illustrations circulated in European travel narratives.

In this talk, Shtromberg expands on

media scholar Vilém Flusser's idea of post historical memory, wherein video functions as a new kind of memory. Works by artists José Alejandro Restrepo, Harun Farocki, and Tiago Sant'Ana employ video to reframe colonial conventions of laboring

bodies naturalized for European audiences, reactivating the body as a site of resistance.

A reception in the Manton Research Center reading room precedes the program at 5 p.m. For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

STUDIO

from page 1

A Tour Hub and gallery featuring the works of each artist will be set up at the Community House, 33 Main St., in Cummington. Printed maps will be available there and at each studio stop along the tour. An interactive tour map is located at hilltownartsalliance.org/tour-map.

Participating artists represent a variety of mediums, including painting, printmaking, sculpture, pottery, ceramics, fiber, dance film, glasswork and jewelry making. New to the tour this year are: Adrian Almquist, Nancy Doniger, Madge Evers, Greta Gnatek Redzko, Lena Garcia, Ellie Goudie-Averill, Marie Haas, Eric Jacobson, Barbara Konieczny and Molly Smith. Returning artists include: Elena Allee, Ana Busto, Pleun Bouricius, Laura Bundeson, Valerianna Claff, Gloria Conwell, Michael Falcone, Leni Fried, Alexandra Cherau, Sergei Isupov, Kathryn Jensen, Jeanne Johns, Beckie Kravetz, Guy Matsuda, Michael Melle, Kevin O'Connor, Olwen O'Herilhy Dowling, Jen Parrish-Hill, Kädri Parnamets, Mark Shapiro, Cyndy Sperry, John Walker, Jr. and Susanna White.

Live demonstrations are scheduled throughout the weekend and include water color, pottery, drawing, and even theatrical makeup.

Restaurants, a brewery and food trucks serving local fare will be dot-

ted throughout the area, and are also indicated on the interactive map.

Music and dance performances will take place in Cummington and Worthington during the late afternoon, on both days. Scheduled are the Lithia Quartet (jazz) at the Cummington Community House and Jetinsha at the Sena Brewery in Worthington on Saturday, both at 5 p.m. and a dance and piano performance by Ellie Goudie-Averill and Doug Abrams at 4 p.m. on Sunday at the Community House.

This event is made possible with support from the Hilltown Community Development Corporation, Cummington Cultural District, Massachusetts Cultural Council (a state agency), Hilltown Community Health Center, Florence Bank, George Propane, East Branch Studios, Cummington Supply, and the Old Creamery Co-Op.

For the most updated information on artists and events throughout the weekend, people may visit hilltownartsalliance.org.

The Hilltown Arts Alliance is a volunteer-run nonprofit arts organization serving the hilltowns of Western Massachusetts. Their mission is to spread the word about the impressive number of accomplished artists residing in the region. The Alliance is currently applying to become a registered 501(c)(3).

Clark Art Institute receives NEH grant

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., recently received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for \$100,000 to support the implementation of a summer 2024 exhibition on French artist, Guillaume Lethière.

The grant to the Clark was part of a \$41.3 million package of 280 humanities projects nationwide recently announced by the NEH. "We are extremely grateful to the NEH for its support and for the recognition of the importance of this project," said Olivier Meslay, Hardyman Director of the Clark. "This is the first time in the Clark's history that we have received an NEH grant in support of an exhibition and its related programming and we are very honored to be in the prestigious company of the other recipients."

Born in the French colony of Guadeloupe, Guillaume Guillon-Lethière (1760–1832), the son of a government

official and plantation owner and a formerly enslaved woman of color, was a key figure in the history of art during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. As a painter, Lethière achieved the highest levels of recognition in his time. A favorite artist of Napoleon's brother, Lucien Bonaparte, he served as director of the Académie de France in Rome from 1807 to 1816, as a member of the Institut de France beginning in 1818, and as a professor at the École des Beaux-Arts beginning in 1819. Despite his fame and influence during his lifetime, Lethière's story has been all but lost to history.


The Clark's exhibition is the first major museum presentation on Lethière's remarkable life and achievements and will provide new insights into questions relevant in the artist's time regarding the reception and assessment of Caribbean art. The Clark's exhibition opens on June 15, 2024 and is planned to feature some eighty paintings, drawings and prints.

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Forever in our hearts ~

Sadly missed by your family, friends and patients.

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Will opening a joint account affect my disabled father's "SSI?"

Dear Rusty

I live in Michigan and my senior disabled father lives in rural Kentucky. His income is part Social Security and part disability. I talked to a local credit union near his home and explained I would like to open a joint account. They said as long as he comes in with his ID it's possible.

My question is will adding money to our joint account affect his SSI and disability?

Signed: Caring Daughter

Dear Caring Daughter

First, I need to clarify that there are two types of disability programs administered by the Social Security Administration – Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income. The acronym "SSI" normally refers to "Supplemental Security Income," which is a benefit for disabled senior adults and children, who have very little income and very few assets.

"SSI" is not Social Security income; rather it is a general benefit program jointly administered by the Social Security Administration and the State in which your father lives. In contrast, Social Security Disability benefits are earned from working and are not affected by the recipient's assets, as are "SSI" benefits.

From what you've written, I assume that your father may have a small Social Security retirement benefit (because he has reached his full retirement age and SSDI isn't available after full retirement age) and he is also receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits.

If this is the case, although your father's Social Security retirement benefit would not be affected by opening a joint account at the credit union, his Supplemental Security Income disability benefit likely will be.

As co-owner of the joint account, your assets would count towards your father's "SSI" asset limit and your assets, as well as any "in kind" assistance you otherwise provide, would likely put your father over the SSI income/asset eligibility limit and result in his SSI benefits being terminated.

So, although the credit union may be willing to open a joint account for you and your father, I'm afraid that would result in your father losing his SSI benefits, leaving him with only his small Social Security retirement benefit.

You may wish to review the SSI eligibility information at this link: www.ssa.gov/ssi/eligibility or you could contact the Social Security Administration and ask to speak with someone experienced with Supplemental Security Income matters.

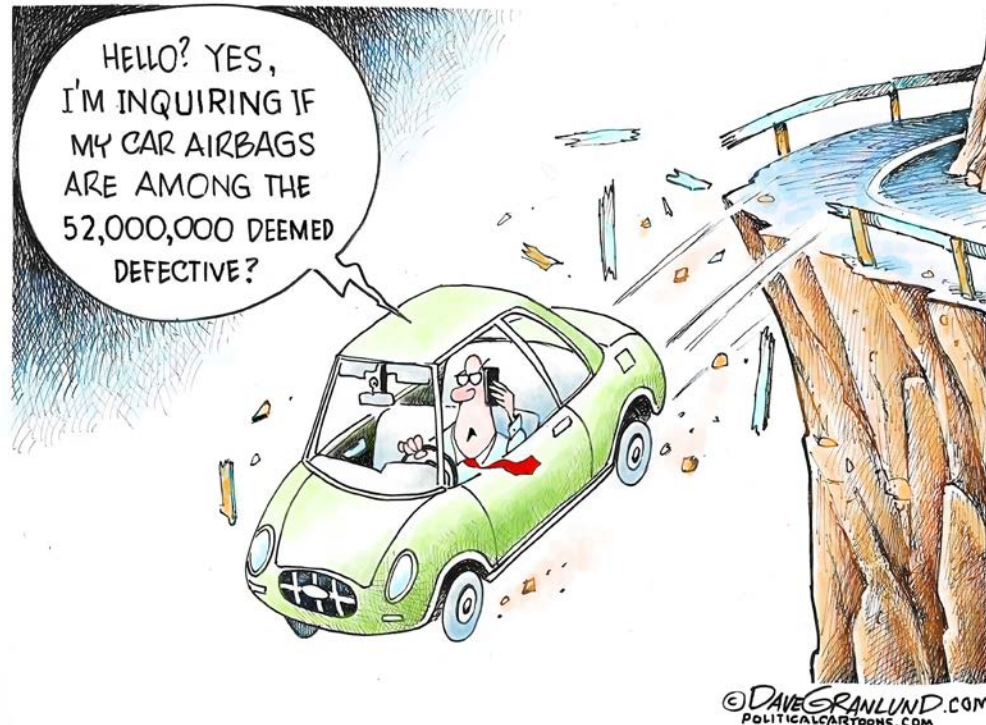
For clarity, "SSI" assistance is jointly administered by the Social Security Administration and each State's Human Services department, and assistance available varies somewhat depending on the recipient's

SECURITY, page 5

Corrections policy

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



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

State gift of access dock makes sense

In early New England the farm horse was a valued family asset. It plowed their fields and transported the family and their goods to town.

A horse's age could be determined by checking the wear of the animal's teeth. Hence, the old expression, "You shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth".

The Massachusetts Division of Boating Access wants to give the town of Russell an access dock on the Westfield River at no cost to the town. The value of this dock could be thousands of dollars.

It would open up miles of trout and small mouth bass habitat to fishing. It would also create a launching place for canoeists and kayakers. This would seem a win for sportspeople.

However, some members of Russell

Select Board feel that this would give the state too much power over our town. For example, our police department could not ticket the cars of canoeists and fisher persons. It might take over two hours to fish and canoe the river to Woronoco and drive back to their cars at the launch site.

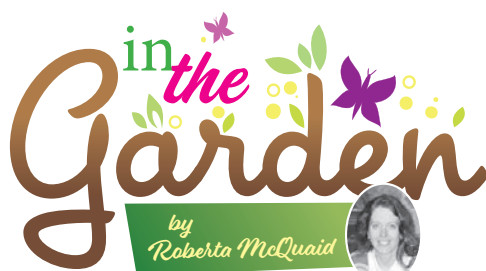
Instead of a state dock some members of the Select Board propose constructing a stairwell to the river, at Russell taxpayer's expense. This comes at a time when taxes are going up every year. Would this not be like looking a gift horse in the mouth and then rejecting it?

If a gift of thousands of dollars from the state to our town was rejected would it not kill future State grants to Russell?

Bill Hardie
Russell

GUEST COLUMN

Friends in the garden



For the last couple of weeks, I have been eagerly observing a garden spider in one of my flower beds. It is so beautiful.

Spider foes might balk at that particular choice of words. But if the shoe fits, wear it!

This spider is indeed a beauty. Over an inch long, yellow and black in color and attached to an intricately woven web, the spider on guard, waiting for unsuspecting prey.

Many years ago, when I grew flowers that were members of the Celosia genus in a big cut flower garden, it seemed this particular spider was a frequent visitor. I haven't seen one like it in a few years.

Lo and behold, she's attached to some plumed celosia, doing her thing. Read on to learn more about a real hero, garden style!

This particular garden spider goes by the name of Argiope (rhymes with calliope). Besides its brilliant color, other distinguishing characteristics include a large, egg-shaped abdomen, three claws on each foot, and a foot wide (or larger) web that has a zig zag band of silk called "stabilimenta" running through its center.

The argiope makes its home in most of the lower 48 states, Mexico and Central America as far south as Costa Rica. It prefers sunny areas among flowers, shrubs and



This garden spider, an Argiope, is a helpful friend to gardeners. Submitted Photo

other tall plants to construct its web.

If weather permits, the female spider will construct and repair her web both day and night and will remain there unless food is scarce, or disturbances are frequent. Males generally roam in search of a mate, and when they find one will sometimes build a small web nearby to begin courtship.

Although their vision is rather poor, males get their intentions across by plucking and vibrating the females' web.

Once mating is complete, it is pre-

GARDEN, page 5

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.

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NORTHAMPTON

Forbes Library announces events

NORTHAMPTON – Forbes Library, 20 West St., will hold Mid Autumn Festival: A Culture Tour Presented by the Chinese Association of Western Massachusetts on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the Community Room. This free educational workshop for families includes the story of how the Moon Festival was originated and some quick information about the Lunar calendar, how to make a moon cake, how to write a few Moon related Chinese characters in calligraphy and a couple arts and crafts projects related to the festival.

On Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 8 p.m. there will be a virtual author talk on Writing Three International Bestsellers: An Author Talk with Amor Towles. People may register at the library.

O'Neil to lead unit for Northwestern District

NORTHAMPTON – The Northwestern District Attorney's Office named Emily O'Neil as director of its Victim Witness Unit, replacing Jackie Gaw, who retired this month after 12 years in the position.

O'Neil comes to the office after a 28-year career in the Hampden County District Attorney's office, where she started as an intern, moving into court administration work and then victim witness advocacy. In her role there, she served as victim witness advocate in the district courts, the child abuse unit, for superior court cases, and most recently



Emily O'Neil

as an advocate in the special victims unit.

O'Neil earned her undergraduate degree from American International College in criminal justice and psychology and a master's degree in criminal justice from Westfield State University. She started in her new position on Sept. 11.

"We are pleased to welcome Emily to the office," said Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan. "She has a passion for supporting victims through difficult cases and court proceedings and is excited to join our incredible victim witness

staff."

D.A/ Sullivan also noted that Jackie Gaw was highly respected in the field of victim witness advocacy, serving the office with distinction since her appointment on Jan. 1, 2011, when he assumed office.

In April, Gaw was honored with the 2023 Gerard D. Downing Advocate of the year award at the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association annual prosecutors conference. In remarks at the time of that award, DA Sullivan noted Gaw's role as a mentor to many in the field.

O'Neil noted that during her time as a victim witness advocate in Hampden County, Jackie Gaw was a mentor to her.

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a rare sighting of an American white pelican at Big Pond in Otis.

The white pelican winters along the Florida and Gulf Coast. It breeds in the western part of Canada and the United States. It is 62 inches long, white with a large orange-yellow bill and throat pouch. In flight, the trailing half of the wings are black.

The immature is similar to the adult, but the bill and throat pouch are gray and the wing markings are brown not black. The immature plumage is kept for three to four years.

These pelicans feed while swimming, dipping the bill into the water to catch fish in its pouch. They often feed in small groups where they herd fish toward shallow water to make facilitate catching the fish.

The female lays one to three white eggs in a nest that is a slight depression on bare ground or on a mound of earth, brush stems and debris. They often nest colonially on large inland lakes.

The American white pelican is one of the largest birds in North America. It



American white pelican

can soar for long distance and often flies in line or V formation. During breeding season, they may do flights involving soaring and diving. They are generally quiet away from their breeding grounds. The young in the nest can give loud whines or grunts.

Bald eagle

An Oakham couple camped with family members at Lake Dennison over the Labor Day weekend. They spotted a bald eagle while kayaking. Upon returning to shore, their son was looking at a bird perched in a tree and said it was a bald eagle. They took turns watching the eagle through the binoculars.

Lots of wild turkeys

Seeing wild turkeys along the side of the road or even having to stop while they cross the road is a common occurrence in my travels around the area. This Monday, I stopped and watched a flock of six or so Tom turkeys. The three largest ones



Red crossbill

displayed their tail feathers in what looked like a competition between them.

Although wild turkeys are a common sighting now, I enjoy watching them. I also see flocks of several hens with their poults in various stages of growth.

Hummingbirds

The ruby throated hummingbirds are now migrating. Many people keep their nectar feeders out until later this month for a food source for the stragglers. Soon, it will be time to take in the nectar feeders, clean them and put them away until next May when the ruby throated hummingbirds return.

Audubon society sightings

In addition to the American white pelican in Otis, the Massachusetts Audubon Society reported another rare sighting a masked booby at the edge of the continental shelf near Hydrographer Canyon. The booby was one of only



Ruby throated hummingbird

three or four sightings ever recorded in Massachusetts.

Other sightings included red crossbills at Montague Plains Wildlife Management area, eight red crossbills at the Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area in Winchendon, four sandhill cranes Meadows Conservation Area near Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Northampton, and upland sandpiper, a whimbrel, a Baird's sandpiper, a short-billed dowitcher, a dickcissel and two lark sparrows in Northampton. Also reported were a Bonaparte's gull and a common tern at the Quabbin Reservoir Visitor Center in Belchertown and three black vultures over Mount Wachusett in Princeton.

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

SECURITY

from page 4

state of residence. Thus, since your father lives in Kentucky, you might also contact that state's human services agency to discuss your options for providing remote assistance to your father without jeopardizing his Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit: www.chfs.ky.gov/Pages/contact.aspx.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GARDEN

from page 4

sumed that males die. Females produce up to three brown egg sacks, each one containing 300-1,400 eggs.

The sacks are positioned close to mom, nearby her resting position in the center of the web.

Unfortunately, she will die prior to or as a result of the first hard frost, and although her eggs will hatch within the sack they do not emerge until spring. In warmer climates the female argiope may live for several years.

As with all spiders, the black and yellow garden spider is carnivorous. Its orb-shaped web will capture all sorts of flying insects, including aphids, flies, grasshoppers, and even wasps and bees.

Amazingly, she can bring down prey nearly twice her size thanks to a venomous bite that immobilizes its victims. We need not worry about this spider.

Although it is large, it bites only

when harassed, and reportedly, its venom poses no threat to humans. In fact, the argiope is a valued predator of grasshoppers in American rangelands.

The spider will be fun to watch as the season progresses.

I have to admit I am a little sad that she won't survive the winter. I will have to be on the look out for her egg sacks.

Nature is just amazing. Be sure to stop and admire the spiders every now and then and smell the roses, too!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.



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BLANDFORD

Highway department begins road drainage work

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Highway Superintendent David Waldron met briefly with the Select Board Monday night and informed the board that Northern Tree Service was coming to trim/cut trees on Russell Stage Road to Sperry Road.

The department will work on Haight and Huntington Roads on drainage. He expects to meet with the Department of Environmental Protection next week to go over the installation of two culverts on Gibbs Road.

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Christopher Dunne told the board that he participated in the first Disability Commission meeting and the grant applications for grants for signage, door knob levers and grab bars have been submitted.

He provided a copy of the Treasure/Collector request for proposal with a

deadline of October 2 for opening bids. He hopes to finalize the position then.

The Highway Department Laborer job has been posted.

Regarding the vulnerable roads project, Dunne said that property owners on beaver impacted roads need to be contacted and then the properties need to be visited.

MassDOT

The board signed a memorandum of understanding with the Mass. Department of Transportation to obtain signs for local roads warning drivers that they must move over four feet to allow safe passage of cyclists other road users. The signs will be provided by Mass DOT and located primarily on Chester, Russell Stage Roads.

The state will be responsible for posting on Route 23. The new law went into effect this April. The law defines what makes a vulnerable road user and besides cyclists, includes workers, pedestrians, skaters, wheel chairs etc. and pro-

jects them from motor vehicles that pass by them.

Waldron told the board he is concerned with line-of-sight safety when signs are installed.

The board then approved designating the library director's position as a special employee.

Bicentennial Park

Dunne said he reached out of Taking Roots who is under contract for Bicentennial Park as well as Watson Park care. He also reached out to another local landscaper to take care of weeds and tree pruning.

Dunne said that the Bicentennial Park funds, those that are expendable, are pretty much expended. The trust when given to the town in 1976 for the park's care was \$15,000 and according to Dunne, the principal is intact but funds generated are not sufficient for care.

This was in response to George Reichert's questions about the park's care at last week's meeting.

Work on the tree should be done in the late fall. Taking Roots will undoubtedly have ideas for the tree, Chair Cara Letendre suggested.

Other business

Reichert, who was present Monday evening, told the board that he had been contacted regarding the condition of the former Town Hall building, which houses the Post Office. The building, which the town hopes to sell, is in need of significant repairs, windows and paint, for example. He provided photos of some of the areas in need of attention.

There are dead trees on Chester Road that need to be removed. Dunne said he had attempted to contact Tree Warden Mark Boomsma but has not had a response yet.

The board then reviewed the town's departmental expenditure report and found everything in order so far. Theodore Cousineau noted that there had been nothing expended yet by the Tree Warden.

COA to hold flu/Covid clinic

BLANDFORD – The Council on Aging is holding a flu/Covid booster vaccine clinic in conjunction with Stop & Shop Pharmacy on Friday, Oct. 13 from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Town Hall for people 60-years-old and over.

The clinic follows the noon time senior luncheon that day. There are two separate forms available at the Town Hall and may be obtained from either Joann Martin or Christopher Dunne in

the Town Administrator's office.

One form is for a flu vaccine only and the second is for both inoculations. Once the forms are completed, they must be returned no later than Tuesday, Oct. 10 to secure a reservation for vaccinations. On the day of the clinic, registrants must bring their Medicare card and health insurance cards as well as their Covid booster records if receiving the Covid booster.

LCC announces deadline

BLANDFORD – The Local Cultural Council this year again has \$5,500 to distribute to applicants that will support events and programming that directly benefit the citizens of Blandford and its neighboring Hilltown communities.

The LCC also supports cultural programming at Gateway Regional Schools and existing Blandford cultural organizations.

This programming includes: con-

certs, plays, art shows, library programs and classes in our community and in-school and field trip cultural programming for the students at the Gateway Regional Schools.

The deadline for applications is Oct. 17 at 11:59 p.m. All applications must be submitted online. Directions are on the Mass Cultural Council by visiting website at massculturalcouncil.org. The LCC follows the state guidelines.

FEMA

The group of rural fire chiefs involved began this process two years ago to decide what would benefit all fire departments as mutual aid partners and would also improve services and the ability to work with each other. Each Department had SCBA units that needed replacement, most of which neared 20 years of age or older.

Having these new units will increase the safety and survivability of all the firefighters in the region, according to Chief

Ellinger.

The first year the grant application was unsuccessful, but persistence paid off this time.

Dunne said of the award, "Just a great example of the power of regional collaboration to deliver on a critical public safety need for our small towns. I applaud Chief Dolby and all the Fire Chiefs for seizing this opportunity." The Select Board extended congratulations as well.

Each town had to approve a matching

dollar amount. Blandford approved its share of \$6,000 at an earlier Special Town Meeting.

Chief Dolby said, "Collaborating and standardizing the equipment with our neighboring departments is essential; we're all working together as mutual aid departments. We all also have aging equipment. This AFG award makes it possible for us all to upgrade our equipment to the newest technology available. For Blandford, we're able to upgrade all 13

of our air packs at a fraction of the cost of one complete set. We're grateful to our neighboring departments and the AFG for the award – this upgrade isn't possible without it."

The award letter dated Aug. 25 was sent to Huntington Fire Chief Josh Ellinger from Homeland Security. What remains now is for all the participating departments to meet and agree on the numbers of SCBA units and dollar amounts.

from page 1

MIDDLEFIELD

Council on Aging lists menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail on Wednesday, Sept. 27 will serve lunch at noon.

The menu is eat in or take out. The choice is vegetable and cheese Frittata or Macaroni and Cheese, stewed tomatoes,

broccoli and fresh fruit.

People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal the previous Monday, Sept. 25.

There will be a lunch and learn program from Highland Valley.. Everyone is welcome.

CHESTER

Chester library holds story and play

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., will hold story and play on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 11 a.m.

All school age children are welcome.

There will be a read a loud story, craft activity, playtime and snack.

WORTHINGTON

Barbara Porter celebrates 95th birthday

WORTHINGTON – Barbara Porter celebrates her 95th birthday this month.

Friends, neighbors and family are

invited to attend a birthday celebration for her at the Worthington Town Hall, 160 Huntington Road, on Saturday, Sept. 23 from noon-3 p.m.

LEE

MassDOT announces paving operations on I-90 this week

LEE – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces paving operations at I-90 westbound mile marker 10 (Interchange 10) in Lee, which will require the closure of the I-90 westbound on and off-ramps. The closure will be in place beginning on Thursday night, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. until Friday morning, Sept. 22 at 5 a.m.

The detours will be as follows:

I-90 westbound off-ramp: detour will be I-90 westbound to Interchange 3 off-ramp, to Interchange 3 eastbound on-ramp, onto I-90 eastbound and back to Interchange 10 eastbound off-ramp.

I-90 westbound on-ramp: detour will be Route 102 westbound to I-90 Interchange B3 westbound on-ramp.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and messaging will be in

place to guide drivers through the work area.

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

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com 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.

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WESTHAMPTON

Westhampton Library announces upcoming programs

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Public Library, 1 North Road, is open Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. and Saturday, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The library will be closed Monday, Oct. 9. People may visit the town website or Facebook or Instagram @ WesthamptonPublicLibrary for library updates. The library is open for in-person browsing and materials pickup as well as curbside pickup. To place a request for curbside pickup, people should email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386.

Ongoing programs include: Council on Aging Computer Class with Bob Miller on second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon, Knitting Group Mondays at 6 p.m., Yoga with Brian on fourth Monday at 6 p.m., Scrabble

Group on Tuesdays at 2 p.m., CFCE Playgroup on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and Book Group on fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Other events include Walk-in Wellness Clinics with Westhampton's Public Health Nurse on first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m., Storytime on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and Coffee and Chat on Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon.

After School Fun includes Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.; LEGO Club first Thursday; Craft Club second Thursday; Nintendo Switch Happy Hour third Thursday; Comics Club fourth Thursday and Teen Craft Night third Thursdays at 6 p.m. People may email Emily at ewayne@cwmar.org to receive teen craft updates and reminders.

The library is working with local

schools to coordinate the return of after school Homework Help.

The Westhampton Historical Society is offering an October 'pop-up' exhibit of old legal contracts spanning three centuries. From Enoch Hale's acceptance of Westhampton's offer to hire him as their "settled minister" to the indenture of a six year old girl to a member of the town's Board of Overseers of the Poor, all but one of the contracts on display pertain to the town of Westhampton. The exhibit is intended to help inform current residents about some of the different social safety nets that existed in town for its poorest residents in the 1800s, the level of detail contained in contracts between the Select board and local joiners to build a schoolhouse in the South District and how 19th century records can provide 21st century researchers with identi-

ties of non-majority Catholic or BIPOC town residents. The month-long display can be viewed during all regular library hours. Anyone wishing a copy of one or more of the documents to take home can bring their request to the circulation desk.

A Sourdough Starter Workshop will be held Monday, Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Participants will learn how to make, maintain and store a sourdough starter from an expert sourdough baker and food blogger. They'll leave with many tips and tricks on how to keep their sourdough starter active, what to make with their starter, and even leave with some free sourdough starter. To register people should email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library for sponsoring this event.

Westhampton Historical Society has exhibit at library

WESTHAMPTON – An October display at the Westhampton Library, 1 North Road, will feature unusual contracts spanning three centuries.

The Westhampton Historical Society's exhibit of several documents range from Enoch Hale's acceptance of Westhampton's offer to hire him as their "settled minister" to the indenture of a six-year-old girl to a member of the town's Board of Overseers of the Poor.

All but one of the contracts on display pertain to the town of Westhampton. The exception is an 1801

agreement outlining the repayment of one man's \$700 debt to his (presumed) parents, who lived in Chester. Among numerous other promises, Joseph Rust agreed to deliver "firewood at the door" of Mary and Gershom Rust. This unique document is still on file at the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds.

The Historical Society created a simple 'pop-up' exhibit to inform others about some of the different social safety nets that existed for the town's poorest residents in the 1800s, the level of detail contained in contracts between the Selectboard and local join-

ers to build a schoolhouse in the South District, and demonstrate how 19th century records can provide modern researchers with identities of non-majority or BIPOC residents.

While she considers each agreement to be interesting, the Society's president, Barbara Pelissier, feels the impact is greater when viewed in the context of different centuries. Pelissier has transcribed many hand-written documents over the years.

"When I finished the latest one, I noticed how full my transcriptions folder was getting and wondered if other

residents might also enjoy reading these. Enlarging them for easy-reading was really all that was required."

The month-long display in the circulation area can be viewed during all regular library hours. Anyone wishing copies of any of the documents to take home can leave their request near the exhibit. With the exception of Monday, Oct. 9, the library is open Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The library will be open during Fall Festival hours on Sunday, Oct. 15.

Police remind people to lock cars

WESTHAMPTON – The Chief of Police said on Sept. 12 during the night, a vehicle was stolen from a driveway on Main Road.

The GPS tracker in the vehicle allowed police to track the vehicle and it has since been located in Hartford, Connecticut and recovered.

The Westhampton Police

Department encourages residents to lock their vehicles at night even if parked in their own driveway. Residents should secure their garages and sheds and remove any valuables from vehicles. The Police Department also encourages residents to consider installing motion cameras and/or lighting around their homes to increase their safety and security.

OTIS

Resident to participate in Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk

OTIS – Lisa Galasso of Otis will join thousands in the iconic fund-raising walk for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to support all forms of cancer research and care on Sunday, Oct. 1

The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$167 million for Dana-Farber Cancer in its 34-year history, raising a record-breaking more than \$8.8 million in 2022.

port this great cause."

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon@course, and participants have the flexi-

bility to choose from four distance options: 5K walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Longwood Medical Campus), 10K walk (from Newton), Half Marathon walk (from Wellesley) and Marathon walk (from Hopkinton).

To register to walk or volunteer (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

Town Trunk or Treat event to take place on Oct. 28, signup now

OTIS – Trick or Treat will take place Saturday, Oct. 28 from 5-7 p.m. in town and Trunk or Treat event will take place at Otis Ridge parking lot, 159 Monterey Road from 6-8 p.m.

Trunk signups are required to decorated and hand out goodies. To sign up to participate, people should email townofotisrec@gmail.com and include name, contact number, trunk theme

and vehicle make, model and color. Set up starts at 4 p.m.

This event is sponsored by Otis Rec Center, PTA and Otis Police Department. There will be more information to come on the Haunted Lodge at Otis Ridge.

People may visit Facebook for updates and more information at <https://www.facebook.com/noticeotis/>.

Westhampton to hold Fall Festival

WESTHAMPTON – The 16th Annual Westhampton Fall Festival will be held Sunday, Oct. 15 from noon-4 p.m. in Westhampton Town Center.

An Interfaith Church Service will be held on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 10 a.m. All afternoon from noon-4 p.m. there will be steeple tours with Valley Views, axe throwing and lumberjack demo,

blacksmith demo, History Museum, corn husking, cider making, fiber spinning, live fiddle music, sledge hammer throw, skillet toss, hay bale maze (weather dependent).

Brightspot Therapy Dogs, cow pie Bingo, Firefighter's Brigade, potato cannons, scavenger hunt, children's games and crafts and much more.

BECKET

Becket Athenaeum lists events

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St., will hold a free musical concert of Latin music featuring the group, "Yo Soy Arte" on Sunday, Sept. 24 from 2-4 p.m. at the Athenaeum.

Following the concert there will be a fun craft activity and refreshments. This program is made possible by grants from Berkshire Bank, Central Berkshire Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Feigenbaum Foundation and Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Library story time is held on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. The next story times is Saturday, Sept. 23. RSVP is appreciated by visiting bit.ly/

BA-storytime. The book club will meet Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 1:30 p.m. The book is "Dinners with Ruth" by Nina Totenberg. Digital copies are available on Libby. People may email info@bwlibrary.org to request a physical book of for details regarding the separate Zoom meeting.

The Cookbook Club meets Monday, Oct. 9 at 6 p.m. People may email infor@bwlibrary.org to register and request a copy of the cookbook, "The Silver Palate Cookbook." On Saturday, Oct. 14 at 10:30 a.m. Creative Movement and story time will take place. Parents should RSVP to bit.ly/BA-storytime to register their child or children.

LENOX

Poetry and prose reading takes place at the Mount Sept. 27

LENOX – On Wednesday, Sept. 27 there will be poetry reading from 5-6 p.m. and a free reception from 6-7 p.m. at The Stable at the Mount, Edith Wharton's Home, 2 Plunkett St.

People will hear heartfelt, thought-provoking and humorous work by writers with disabilities at the read-

ing. The Stable's performance space and restrooms are wheelchair accessible. ASL interpretation will be provided during the reading.

Space is limited and reservations are required for this free event.

People should email Kelly@CATAarts.org.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

HCC fall session II classes start Sept. 25

HOLYOKE – Prospective students have two more chances to sign up for classes at Holyoke Community College for the fall 2023 semester.

Fall session II classes begin Monday, Sept. 25 and run for 12 weeks.

Fall session III classes begin Monday, Oct. 3, and run for seven weeks.

Full fall semester classes at HCC (14 weeks) began Tuesday, Sept. 5. All fall semester classes conclude by Thursday, Dec. 21.

Students who enroll for HCC’s flexible fall start dates have the opportunity to take a variety of courses both on campus and online in anthropology, biology, business administration, communication,

culinary arts, economics, English, English as a Second Language, geography, human services, Latinx studies, law, management, marketing, math, nutrition, music, psychology, sociology, Spanish and veterinary and animal science.

To see a full list of courses and sections, people may visit hcc.edu/flex-fa23.

The HCC Admissions and Advising offices are located on the first floor of the HCC Campus Center and are open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday from 8:30-4:30 p.m.

For more information, people may call HCC Admissions at 413-552-2321, email admissions@hcc.edu or visit online at hcc.edu.

HCC 24-hour theater festival returns Sept. 30

HOLYOKE – The annual Phillips Festival, an evening of short plays written, directed and staged in 24 hours by Holyoke Community College alumni, students, staff and friends, returns to HCC on Saturday, Sept. 30, for its sixth year.

The festival, which debuted in 2016, raises money for the Leslie Phillips Theater Fund for Arts and Education, honoring the legacy of Leslie Phillips, founder of the HCC theater program.

“This year, we are doubly excited as the festival will be the first theater production in HCC’s newly renovated Leslie Phillips Theater,” said HCC alumna and festival coordinator Lisa Poehler ‘84.

To produce the Leslie Phillips Festival, HCC alumni, students and staff register in advance to participate as writers, directors, actors, or members of the stage crew. The writers meet with the actors on Friday, Sept. 29, the night before the show to receive play elements such as props, prompts, and characterizations. They have until 6 a.m. the next morning

to write their plays. Two hours later, actors and directors meet for a full day of rehearsals leading up to a 7:30 p.m. performance that evening, Saturday, Sept. 30.

“This is an evening of creativity and collaboration for the HCC theater community and the community at large,” said Poehler. “It’s also a chance to invest in the future generation of HCC’s theater program and students, all in the name of Leslie Phillips.”

The festival was first organized in 2016 by HCC alumni working with HCC theater professor Pat Sandoval ‘84 as a tribute to Phillips, who died in 1988 after inspiring legions of HCC students.

To participate in the festival, people may register by visiting hcc.edu/phillips-2023.

General admission tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door and \$10 for students and seniors and \$15 at the door. All proceeds benefit the Leslie Phillips Theater Fund for Arts and Education.

Festival tickets can be purchased by visiting hcc.edu/phillips-tickets23.



Sarah Porter-Liddell

Simon’s Rock announces new Dean Porter-Liddell

GREAT BARRINGTON – Simon’s Rock announces Dr. Sarah Porter-Liddell has been named the new Dean of Students and Equitable Community.

Formerly the Dean of Equity and Inclusion at Simon’s Rock, Sarah Porter-Liddell has also been awarded the Catalyst for Change award from the first-ever DEI Impact Awards from Smart Energy. This news comes in conjunction with the publication of Porter-Liddell’s first book, “A Black Girl with the Blues,” from Dorrance Publishing Co.

Dr. Sarah Porter-Liddell has served as the Dean of Equity and Inclusion at Simon’s Rock for the past three years. Her work in higher education is continuously informed by her experiences not only as a black woman, but also as an academic.

As one of the inaugural recipients of the Smart Energy DEI Impact Awards through Net Zero as a Catalyst for Change, Dr. Porter-Liddell has demonstrated a strong commitment towards equity and inclusion through her research and work. Dr. Porter-Liddell is an author, a scholar, and advocate for change.

Dean of Students and Equitable Community is a new position on Simon’s Rock, crafted for and with Porter-Liddell. The aim for this position is to best serve all students by more intentionally including the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of

student life and the Office of Campus Life. In this role, Porter-Liddell will continue to oversee the Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Community and the Bias Response Team, and will also oversee the work of the Offices of Campus Life and Campus Safety.

Smart Energy Decisions announced the winners for their inaugural DEI Impact Awards, honoring efforts in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in clean energy. Porter-Liddell was awarded the “Catalyst for Change” award for her work as the Dean of Equity and Inclusion at Bard College at Simon’s Rock.

Bard College at Simon’s Rock, 84 Alford Road, is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon’s Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught exclusively in small seminars by supportive, highly trained faculty, who are leading scholars in their fields. The College grants degrees in more than 35 majors.

Bard Academy at Simon’s Rock is the nation’s first two-year boarding and day program designed to prepare ninth and tenth graders to start college early. A student entering Bard Academy as a high school freshman will earn an Associate of Arts degree from Bard College at Simon’s Rock after only four years and a Bachelor of Arts degree after only six years.

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

2023 GATEWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FALL SCHEDULE Boys Soccer

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	DISMISSED	PICK-UP	JV	VARSITY	RETURN
Friday	9/22/2023	Hopkins	Gateway	N/A	N/A	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	N/A
Monday	9/25/2023	Mt. Everett (JV)	Mt. Everett	1:30 PM	1:45 PM	4:00 PM	N/A	7:15 PM
Tuesday	9/26/2023	Mt. Everett (V)	Mt. Everett	1:30 PM	1:45 PM	N/A	4:00 PM	7:15 PM
Thursday	9/28/2023	Granby	Granby	1:30 PM	1:45 PM	3:30 PM	5:15 PM	7:30 PM
Monday	10/2/2023	HCSS-West	Gateway	N/A	N/A	4:00 PM	N/A	N/A
Monday	10/2/2023	Sci-Tech	Gateway	N/A	N/A	N/A	6:00 PM	N/A
Wednesday	10/4/2023	HCSS-West	Gateway	N/A	N/A	4:00 PM	N/A	N/A
Wednesday	10/4/2023	Greenfield	Gateway	N/A	N/A	N/A	6:00 PM	N/A
Friday	10/6/2023	Pioneer	Pioneer	1:30 PM	1:45 PM	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	9:30 PM
Monday	10/9/23	Sci-Tech	Berte Field (Central)	N/A	4:00 PM	N/A	6:00 PM	9:00 PM
Wednesday	10/11/2023	Smith Academy (V)	Smith Academy	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	N/A	4:00 PM	6:45 PM
Friday	10/13/2023	Pioneer	Gateway	N/A	N/A	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	N/A
Monday	10/16/2023	Hopkins	Hopkins	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	4:00 PM	4:00 PM	6:45 PM
Tuesday	10/17/2023	Smith Academy (JV)	Smith Academy	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	4:00 PM	N/A	6:45 PM
Thursday	10/19/2023	Granby	Gateway	N/A	N/A	4:00 PM	4:00 PM	N/A

At least two consolation games or WMASS playoffs to take place at the conclusion of the regular season
Oct. 13 Senior Night • TIMES AND DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE • JV: JV only • V: Varsity only



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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

2023 GATEWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FALL SCHEDULE

Girls Soccer

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	DISMISSED	PICK-UP	JV	VARSAITY	RETURN
Thursday	9/21/2023	Renaissance (V)	Marshal Roy	1:45 PM	2:00 PM	N/A	4:00 PM	6:45 PM
Friday	9/22/2023	Mahar (JV)	Gateway	N/A	N/A	4:00 PM	N/A	N/A
Wednesday	9/27/2023	Hopkins (JV)	Gateway	N/A	N/A	4:00 PM	N/A	N/A
Wednesday	9/27/2023	Pathfinder (V)	Gateway	N/A	N/A	N/A	6:00 PM	N/A
Friday	9/29/2023	Mahar (JV)	Mahar	1:15 PM	1:30 PM	4:00 PM	N/A	7:00 PM
Saturday	9/30/2023	Athol (V)	Athol	N/A	8:30 AM	N/A	11:00 AM	2:30 PM
Monday	10/2/2023	Hoosac (JV)	Gateway	N/A	N/A	4:00 PM	N/A	N/A
Thursday	10/5/2023	Greenfield (V)	Gateway	N/A	N/A	N/A	6:00 PM	N/A
Tuesday	10/10/2023	Franklin Tech	Franklin Tech	1:30 PM	1:45 PM	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	9:30 PM
Wednesday	10/11/2023	Pathfinder (V)	Pathfinder	N/A	3:45 PM	N/A	6:00 PM	9:00 PM
Thursday	10/12/2023	Hopkins (JV)	Hopkins	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	4:00 PM	N/A	6:30 PM
Monday	10/16/2023	Pioneer (V)	Gateway	N/A	N/A	N/A	6:00 PM	N/A
Friday	10/20/2023	Renaissance (V)	Gateway	N/A	N/A	N/A	6:00 PM	N/A

At least two consolation games or WMASS playoffs to take place at the conclusion of the regular season
 Oct. 3 Senior Night • TIMES AND DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE • JV: JV only • V: Varsity only

Cross Country

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	DISMISSED	PICK-UP	VARSAITY	RETURN
Thursday	9/21/2023	Hampshire, Pope Francis, HCSS West	Gateway (Littleville Dam)	N/A	N/A	3:45 PM	N/A
Tuesday	9/26/2023	Hopkins, Granby, Mahar, HCSS West	Gateway (Littleville Dam)	N/A	N/A	3:45 PM	N/A
Tuesday	10/3/2023	Frontier, HCSS West	Gateway (Littleville Dam)	N/A	N/A	3:45 PM	N/A
Tuesday	10/10/2023	St. Mary's, Palmer	Palmer	1:15 PM	1:30 PM	3:45 PM	6:15 PM
Tuesday	10/17/2023	HCSS East, Greenfield, Easthampton	Easthampton	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	3:45 PM	5:30 PM
Thursday	10/19/2023	MS Cross Country Championship (only Middle School members eligible)	Granby (Dufrense Park)	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	Girls Race-4:10 Boys Race-4:30	Drop only
Saturday	10/28/2023 (rain date 11/4)	PVIAC Championships	Stanley Park	N/A	8:30 AM	Girls JV-10:00 AM Boys JV-11:00 AM Girls Varsity-12:00 PM Boys Varsity-12:45 PM	Drop only
Saturday	11/11/2023	State Sectional Qualifying Meet		N/A		Girls-11:30 AM Boys-12:15 PM	
Saturday	11/18/2023	All State Championship		N/A			

Oct. 3 Senior Night • TIMES AND DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

REGION

Sen. Markey, Rep. Eshoo applaud FCC Vote

WASHINGTON – Sen. Edward J. Markey, a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, and Rep. Anna Eshoo, authors of the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act released the following statement today after the Federal Communications Commission voted to approve proposed rules to strengthen accessibility standards across video conferencing platforms.

“We applaud the FCC for adopting the proposal in our Communications, Video, and Technology Accessibility

Act to require video conferencing platforms to be accessible for people with disabilities. Today’s unanimous vote will ensure that everyone has access to the tools and technologies that are essential to everyday life. Whether using video conferencing services for recreation, work, education, or healthcare, people with disabilities deserve full and equal access to these services. We thank Chairwoman Rosenworcel for her leadership on this essential issue and congratulate the advocates for their work to make video conferencing platforms accessible for

everyone. We look forward to continuing to work with the FCC, the disability community, and our colleagues in Congress on making sure accessibility is never an afterthought.”

Markey is the author of the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, which became law in 2010. The act mandates accessibility of devices and services for the millions of Americans with disabilities.

The act also enables the use of a wide range of devices and services needed in the digital era. In

Nov. 2022, Markey and Eshoo introduced the Communications, Video, and Technology Accessibility Act to amend the CVAA to keep pace with the proliferation of emerging technologies that have come online since 2010.

The CVTA would strengthen standards for television programming and emergency communication; expand accessibility requirements, including closed captions and audio descriptions, to online platforms and video conferencing services; and equip the federal government with the ability to improve accessibility of emerging technologies.

HUNTINGTON

Annual Fall Festival takes place Sept. 30 and Oct. 1

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The Annual Fall Festival will take place on the town green during the last weekend of September. Event hours Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Vendors, food, kids activities and live music will be on hand. Saturday's live music offering will be Out of Bounds, who will perform from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The Time Stretchers, featuring local favorite Barry Searle, will take the stage on Sunday from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

This event began 10 years ago by husband and wife team, Paul and Janine LaPointe. "Fall is our favorite time of year. We were coming home from Granville's fair and thought, 'Why doesn't our town do this?'" Initially, the duo paid the upfront costs themselves but in recent years has organized a town committee to make the event more sustainable.

Vendors are charged \$25 for the weekend; many are returning from previous years but there will be a few new

faces. Vendors include Windy Pines Farm (pure maple syrup, maple candy and maple cream); Grey Raven Farm (lip balms, honey, soaps and lotions), Cindy Camp's goat soaps, and Tie Dye Mike's tee shirts, among others.

Other items available for sale will include quilts, wood working, jewelry, artwork, printing, Scentsy and candles. Local author Steve Cormier will be signing and selling his book on local history and an unsolved murder, "Life and Times of Parley B. Hutchins: the mystery continues."

Children's activities are also offered and include free pumpkin painting, face painting, balloon animals, glitter tattoos and a petting zoo.

Food will include soups, hot dogs, burgers, apple crisp and fried dough. The demonstration of an apple press will take place, with guests sampling the fruits of their labors.

LaPointe says that costs for everything have gone up, and they need to keep some funds in their coffers to front the following year's expenses. In years where there are extra funds, the committee has made a donation to a non-profit in town.

Huntington Recreation sponsors apple picking

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Recreation Committee organized an apple picking event on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 3-4 p.m. 4 p.m. at Jameson's High Meadow Farm, 410 Skyline Trail, in Chester.

Participants must pre-register by emailing recreation@huntingtonma.us or by calling Vicki Mayhew at 413-667-0085 by Thursday, Sept. 28. People should leave their name, address, phone number and the number of people attending.

Cost is \$12 per family for Huntington residents for their first half-bushel bag. Additional bags may be purchased at the regular price of \$20 for a half-bushel. Out of town friends may join at the regular price of \$20.

Those taking part will meet at the orchard, which is located after the farm house, on the right, at or after 3 p.m. The orchard closes at 4 p.m.



The Huntington Recreation Committee has organized trip to Jameson's High Meadow Farm in Chester for an afternoon of family apple picking on Saturday, Sept. 30.

Submitted photo

HUNTINGTON HIGH TO HOLD CLASS REUNIONS



The annual Huntington High School Reunion is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 7 at 11:30 a.m. at Tucker's Restaurant, 625 College Highway in Southwick. Classes from 1953, 1958 and 1963 will be honored. The event includes a luncheon and a raffle. Family, spouses and friends are welcome to join in the festivities celebrating the high school which was in existence from 1907-1963 and became Gateway Regional High School. Those wishing to attend should call Nancy Ruscio at 413-596-4640 or Marilyn Madru at 413-667-3345.

Submitted photo

HCC seeks grant proposals

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Cultural Council is now accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 2024 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 Huntington Cultural Council receives funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. This

year's allocation for Huntington is \$5,500.

Applications are submitted online at <https://massculturalcouncil.smartsimple.com> and are due on Tuesday, Oct. 17. 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.

Friends of HPL to hold book sale

HUNTINGTON – The Friends of the Huntington Public Library will be hosting their Annual Book Sale on Saturday, Sept 30 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the library.

This event will be held inside the library, rain or shine. To avoid confusion, the library will be divided into two sections. Library patrons are advised to enter from the front door in order to

browse the stacks, return and check out books.

Those attending the book sale should enter from the back door, located off of the parking lot. Books are priced at \$1 per book or fill a bag for \$5.

All proceeds benefit the Friends group, which supports special events and materials for the Huntington Public Library.

from page 1

North Hall Arts Festival showcases opera and Broadway

HUNTINGTON – The final performance of the Historical North Hall Arts Festival ends with an Opera/Broadway Showcase on the stage North Hall, 40 Searle Road, on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 2 p.m. presented by the North Hall Association.

The accomplished NYC ensemble, featuring tenor Antonio Abate, soprano Amy Orsulak and pianist Jerome Tan will perform Opera aria and Broadway musical favorites, such as "Music of the Night" from "Phantom of the Opera" to "The Flower Song" from Bizet's "Carmen" and many more.

Admission is free, with donations accepted. All program updates are listed on northhallhuntington.org. It is wheelchair accessible.

The seven program series is sponsored by the Westfield Bank, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and Cultural Councils of: Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Russell, Westhampton and Worthington.

HIRES

settled on a new contract for paraprofessionals. In her comments, she said that people on both sides "felt really heard by Roger." Contract negotiations will continue this year for cafeteria workers and teachers.

Smidy also reported on the district's summer program, which was funded entirely by grants-including transportation, meals, a nurse and programming from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. daily, with wrap-around services available afterwards.

In particular, Smidy noted Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger, who did a safety day for children at the camp and worked with staff on cleaning out dirty ductwork in the schools. She also announced that alum, Huntington resident, former teacher and Gateway parent, Melissa McCaul, has been named the Interim Principal for Littleville Elementary School.

School grant

Gateway was one of eight schools in New England selected for a \$100,000 planning grant with the Barr Foundation. At the end of this year, work completed under this grant will result in a plan for creating opportunities to engage and empower students at the high school. If their plan is accepted, she said, the Barr Foundation will fund the implementation. "It could be a game changer for us, and I'm really excited," said Smidy.

Rural aid

Smidy and the Select Board also discussed the issue of Rural Aid, which came in at \$15 million this year, up from \$5.5 million last year but still far short of the \$60 million called for by the Special Commission on Rural School Districts. At this point, Gateway has not been informed as to what their share will be for the current fiscal year.

"Although I appreciate the increase in funding from the state level, it's frustrating to not know how much we're getting at this point in the fiscal year," Smidy said. "I have not considered it a great victory." Smidy reported that she has already met with Anne Gobi, Massachusetts Director of Rural Affairs. At this point, it is not clear if the 33 districts that qualified for Rural Aid funding last year will receive larger amounts, or if the state will opt to expand the number of districts eligible for funding.

Regional agreement

Finally, Smidy reported, they need to work on the regional agreement. The current one has out-dated legislation that needs to be repaired and the state has begun contacting Smidy about this issue, as Gateway's is out of compliance with state law. Information will be coming out soon to set up a meeting.

Booth asked Smidy if she feels the state is still pushing for "super-region-

als" or combined regional school districts.

"When you look at square miles and rules about kids not being on the bus for over an hour, it doesn't seem feasible," Booth said. Smidy agreed, saying they are watching a potential merger between South and Central Berkshire, which at this point isn't going well and a possible merger between Gil Montague and Palmer. The state, she said, is putting money into planning for these mergers, but not putting money into regional transportation.

Change order

The Board also heard an update from Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin about a Change Order for the Crescent Street Improvement Project, originally considered two weeks ago. At that time, Peloquin had advised they verify that the dates and hours of missed work lined up to the water main break that was involved. Those involved met last week and all agreed that the bill was due to hitting the utilities.

The good news, she said, is that they were able to deduct some costs, which actually resulted in a credit. The Select Board voted to accept the change order, plus two applications for payment for July and August. The Crescent Street project is 84% completed, with side-walks remaining.

OBITUARIES

Norman Duane Hathaway, 92

WEST CHESTERFIELD – Norman Duane Hathaway of West Chesterfield, was born Dec. 21, 1930, and passed away on June 20, 2023, at the age of 92.

He worked as a sawyer and helped people set up sawmills. He also worked as a mechanic. He was on the Chesterfield and Goshen Fire Departments as well as being the Chief Constable in Goshen until he retired.

He enjoyed taking walks and doing woodworking in his wood shop. He was also Mason.

Norman leaves his daughter Lori D. Hathaway of

West Chesterfield, a sister Shirley (Rhoades) Smith and her husband Robert of Easthampton, two nieces and many cousins. He was predeceased by two wives, Margaret (Healy) and Jean (Toby) and a son, Gary. He also leaves his beloved dog Duncan.

Williamsburg Funeral Home oversaw his cremation.

Donations may be made to The Chesterfield/Goshen Fire Departments or any local Animal Rescue organizations.

Robert H. Huff, 95

Robert Huff peacefully passed away on Friday, Aug. 18, 2023 with loving family at his side.

He was the husband of Nancy C Hays for 66 years. Rob was born in Strong, Maine on May 1, 1928 to Clarence and Patia (Moore) Huff. In 1955 Rob and Nancy built their first home on Tucker Road, Norwich Hill, Huntington.

When Rob retired, he and Nancy built a beautiful two story log home off Kinnebrook Road in Worthington. When the winters got to be a little more than Rob and Nancy wanted to handle, they built another beautiful ranch in Wilmington, North Carolina just a short distance away from the Atlantic Ocean and Cape Fear River.

When Nancy's health started to decline, they decided to move to Orefield, Pennsylvania closer to son Randy and wife Judy in nearby Fogelsville. Rob loved working with his hands and with wood, he would make art pieces out of wood and Nancy would paint them, they were a great team.

Rob loved building, fishing, hunting, gardening, camping and most of all spending time with the family. Rob was elected to the Huntington School Committee and with his construction and engineering background,



he played an important role in expanding the Gateway Regional High School complex, adding the Middle School building along with a state-of-the-art cafeteria and kitchen.

Rob and Nancy were active members of the Norwich Hill First Congregational Church.

He is survived by daughter Bonnie Chandler Schieb and husband Mike of Chicopee; son Gary of Russell; son Dana and wife Lynn of Alton, New Hampshire and

daughter-in-law Judy (Meagher) Huff of Fogelsville, Pennsylvania. Rob is also survived by grandson, Evan; granddaughters, Maura and Kirsten; grandson Cameron; great-grandson Logan and several nieces and nephews.

Rob was the youngest in his family and is the last of his siblings whom all predeceased him; Kendall, Rowena, Mildred and Burchard. The love of his life Nancy passed away on Jan. 22, 2016 and his youngest son Randy passed away on May 2, 2020.

A private family ceremony will be held at the Norwich Bridge Cemetery in Huntington at the family's convenience. In lieu of flowers please consider donations to the United Way of Hampshire County, P.O. Box 123, Northampton, MA 01061.

DEATH NOTICES

HATHAWAY, NORMAN DUANE

Died June 20, 2023

HUFF, ROBERT H.

Died Aug. 18, 2023

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

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Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to

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Job Connection

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The Town of Middlefield is seeking applications for the position of Town Handyperson. This position is a part-time hourly position that will report to the Town Administrator. Duties will include but not be limited to lawn and groundskeeping work, minor carpentry and building repairs, cleaning, snow shoveling, town hall rooftop inspection and drain cleaning, moving furniture, etc. Candidates should possess the ability to lift fifty pounds and be able to climb stairs. Work hours will be determined by the town administrator.

The hourly rate of pay will be \$18.00 per hour. Candidates must pass a general health examination and must submit a completed job application that can be found on the town website.

Applications and letters of interest should be sent to Sean Curran, Middlefield Town Administrator, PO Box 238, Middlefield, MA 01243.

This position will remain open until filled or removed by the town.

Questions on this position can be directed to Mark Doane, TAA or Sean Curran, TA by calling the Town Offices at 413-623-2079.

Middlefield is an equal opportunity employer.

NOTICE

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Your compassion takes you many places, Aries. This week you may be compelled to reach out and do more volunteer work for a nonprofit that you hold dear.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, you are in a frame of mind to learn some new skills, and this is just the week to get started. Begin slowly with a hobby or something that interests you.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
Take a few moments this week to go over spending, as you may determine that you have to reel in your budget a little more than you had expected, Libra.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you may be holding back on conversations for fear of not getting the answers you desire. Everything won't go your way, but failing to act is not the way to go.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, your friends need you to be steady this week, and that's just what you will give them. You like being in a leadership role and someone others can depend on.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
It can be challenging to remain low-key when others are excited all around you, but you must be serious with this new venture you are considering. There will be time to celebrate later.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, family responsibilities may continue to weigh you down a bit more than usual, leaving little time for romance. Try to make time when you can.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
You are ready to make some solid choices for your family and future. They may not align with what others feel is necessary, but stay true to your beliefs and needs.

GEMINI
May 22/June 21
Right now your to-do list is very small, which means you have loads of free time for recreational activities if you choose. Otherwise, you can simply bask in having nothing to do.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
While others may want the spotlight, you are content to work behind the scenes for the time being. There is nothing wrong with being a supporting character.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
You are interested in changing your living space in the days to come, and redecorating is at the top of the list, Sagittarius. Find out ways you can do it without breaking the bank.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
While you are prone to giving all of your energy away to others most of the time you focus mostly on you, Pisces. It's a welcomed change that you deserve.

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57									58			
59				60					61			

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Type of cat
 - 6. Weaponry
 - 10. Western Christian Church service
 - 14. Significant eruption of pustules
 - 15. Baltic nation
 - 17. Start of American holiday season
 - 19. Unhappy
 - 20. Maintains possession of
 - 21. Metrical foot of one long and three short syllables
 - 22. Mountain pass
 - 23. Vestments
 - 24. Type of dish
 - 26. Escaped quickly
 - 29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
 - 31. Wings
 - 32. Political action committee
 - 34. Touches lightly
 - 35. Stood back from
 - 37. Philippine Island
 - 38. Popular winter activity
 - 39. Type of amine
 - 40. Small freshwater duck
 - 41. Filled with love
 - 43. Without (French)
 - 45. Vetch
 - 46. Swiss river
 - 47. Describes a sound
 - 49. Sign language
 - 50. Hair product
 - 53. Have surgery
 - 57. Quality of being imaginary
 - 58. Far-right German party
 - 59. Drove
 - 60. Former French coin of low value
 - 61. Hard, durable timbers
 - CLUES DOWN**
 - 1. Body art
 - 2. Middle East military title
 - 3. Actor Pitt
 - 4. Container
 - 5. Speak incessantly
 - 6. Relating to algae
 - 7. Jacob ____, journalist
 - 8. Rock TV channel
 - 9. Boat's cargo
 - 10. Most wise
 - 11. Within
 - 12. Chinese industrial city
 - 13. Scotland's longest river
 - 16. Not capable
 - 18. Footwear
 - 22. Savings account
 - 23. Capable
 - 24. Vaccine developer
 - 25. Tax collector
 - 27. Fencing swords
 - 28. Native religion in China
 - 29. Promotional materials
 - 30. A shot in a film production
 - 31. Afflict in mind or body
 - 33. A passage with access only at one end
 - 35. Breathing devices
 - 36. Employ for wages
 - 37. Kids' TV channel (abbr.)
 - 39. Popular Boston song
 - 42. Made amends
 - 43. Selling at specially reduced prices
 - 44. Atomic #18
 - 46. With fireplace residue
 - 47. Unleavened cornbread
 - 48. Draw out
 - 49. Southwestern Alaska island
 - 50. Where the Pyramids are
 - 51. People of Nigeria
 - 52. Smaller quantity
 - 53. Destroy the inside of
 - 54. City
 - 55. Chivalrous figure (abbr.)
 - 56. No (Scottish)

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9		6			1	2	8	
4	7					9		5
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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

S	K	V	T	U	O	S	D	E	T														
S	I	Z	V	N	A	T	I	V	E	R	N	U											
E	I	F	E	R	H	E	R	E	D	E	I	O											
G	E	L	G	E	L	S	T	L	A	V	K	N	O	T	P	L	O	K					
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T	A	V	S	N	A	V	S	N	A	V	S	N	A	V	S	N	A	V	S	N			
U	B	E	C	D	E	I	H	S	S	B	R	A	S	D	V	A	R	S					
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D	E	D	E	D	E	D	E	D	E	D	E	D	E	D	E	D	E	D	E	D			
S	B	T	A	L	C	O	L	C	O	L	S	B	T	A	L	C	O	L	S	B	T		
N	O	E	P	A	V	H	S	H	V	A	S	N	O	E	P	A	V	H	S	H	V	A	S
V	I	N	V	A	H	I	T	V	I	N	V	A	H	I	T	V	I	N	V	A	H	I	T
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CUMMINGTON

Friday Night Cafe returns Sept. 22 at Village Church

CUMMINGTON – The Friday Night Cafe returns on Friday, Sept. 22: from 7-9 p.m. at the Village Church, located in the cultural district of downtown Cummington.

Jeremiah Reagan, Galen and Elijah Sanislo, three quarters of the Caravan of Fools will entertain. Jeremiah, Elijah, and Galen have been playing music together for almost six years. They've played at the Cafe before with the whole band, Caravan Of Fools, but this will be their first time as a trio.

They'll be bringing a set of several never-before-heard original songs accompanied by a few covers of clas-

sic songs to the Cafe. The show is free, donations are appreciated, snacks are provided, but people should bring their own drinks. Masks are welcome and encouraged.

The event is sponsored by friendly folks at the Village Church, who believe music can be a powerful force for building community. The Friday Night Cafe is supported in part by grants from the Cummington, Chesterfield, Williamsburg, Worthington, Windsor, Goshen, and Plainfield Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

News, photo publication policy

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

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

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



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

PUBLIC NOTICES

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket 23 SM 003316
ORDER OF NOTICE

To:
Edward C. Bruneau;
Katherine E. Bruneau
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for REO Trust 2017-RPL1, claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Huntington, numbered 104 Pond Brook Road, given by Edward C. Bruneau and Katherine E. Bruneau to Household Finance Corporation II, dated May 7, 2007, and recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 9124, Page 157,** and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **October 23, 2023**, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of this Court on August 30, 2023.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
23-007632
09/21/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23P0835EA
Estate of:
Arlow H Case, Sr.
Date of Death: 03/04/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy** has been filed by **Colleen Bjorbekk of Colchester, CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
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 the return day of 10/13/2023.**

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 day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 15, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/21/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court

Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD19P0461EA
In the matter of:
Robert S. Decoteau, III
Date of Death: 03/27/2018
CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Sale of Real Estate** has been filed by: **Katelyn H. Decoteau of Blandford, MA** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
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 a.m. on the return day of 10/16/2023.**

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 day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 12, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/21/2023

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON Performance Hearing – Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 5:00 PM FY 2020 & 2021 CDBG Performance Hearing

The Town of Huntington, in association with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will conduct a performance hearing regarding the town's ongoing FY20 & FY21 Community Development Block Grant Programs. The hearing will take place at **5:00 PM on Wednesday, October 11, 2023**, in person at the Town Hall, 24 Russell Road, Huntington, MA 01050. The hearing will review

the projects funded through the town's FY20 & FY21 Community Development Block Grant Programs including the Crescent Street Improvement Project and the Town Hall Ramp Improvement Project. These activities received funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Massachusetts CDBG program.

All persons with questions or comments regarding the performance hearing will have an opportunity to submit comments up until and through the public hearing. Please submit comments to **John O'Leary at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission @ joleary@pvpc.org or 413-781-6045.** Persons who require special accommodations should contact the Town prior to the hearing date at 413-512-5200. 09/21/2023

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Amber Small to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated December 3, 2020 and recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 13883, Page 90, subsequently assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 14426, Page 165 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on October 12, 2023 at 6 Maple Street, Huntington, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: The land in HUNTINGTON, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, being bounded and described as follows: COMMENCING on Maple Street at the cor-

ner of land of C.M. Lindsey and THENCE WESTERLY on land of said Lindsey, one hundred fourteen (114) feet and eight (8) inches to land formerly of one Hawkins; THENCE SOUTHERLY on said Hawkin's land forty-four (44) feet to land now or formerly of one Church; THENCE EASTERLY on said Church land to said Maple Street; THENCE SOUTHERLY on said Maple Street forty-four (44) feet to the place of beginning. For title reference, see deed herewith. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. **TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.**

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Present Holder of said

Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS PC PO Box
540540 Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
23-003112
09/21, 09/28, 10/05/2023

TOWN OF BLANDFORD PLANNING BOARD
1 Russell Stage Road
Blandford, MA 01008
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Blandford Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 at **6:00 PM on October 4, 2023.** The nature of this hearing is to present a proposed amendment to the Zoning Bylaws pertaining to Small Scale and Medium Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations: Sections XIII, 8.1.2, Section IX and Table of Uses:

• **“ SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION, SMALL SCALE GROUND MOUNTED:** A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and not roof mounted and has a rated nameplate capacity of less than 20 KW DC or occupies less than 1750 square feet of surface area.”

• **“ SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION, MEDIUM SCALE GROUND MOUNTED:** A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not roof mounted and has a rated nameplate capacity between 20 KW DC and 250 KW DC or occupies greater than 1750 square feet and less than 40,000 square feet of surface area.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated. If unable to attend please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008. Failure to make recommendations on the matter for review shall be deemed lack of opposition thereto.

Paul Martin, Chair
Blandford Planning Board
09/21, 09/28/2023

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THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON IS HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT POSITIONS: Full Time Superintendent, Full Time Truck Driver/Equipment Operator/Laborer, Part Time Administrative Assistant, Seasonal On Call Sidewalk Machine Operator, Seasonal On Call Pickup Truck Driver for Plowing and Sanding, and Seasonal On Call Dump Truck Driver for Plowing and Sanding. For more information, please visit **www.huntingtonma.us**, email **admin@huntingtonma.us**, or call **413-512-5200**. Positions are open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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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.



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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Hikers tour Chester Historic Factory Village

CHESTER – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers second Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area hike of the 2023 season was a guided tour of the Chester Historic Factory Village Tour narrated by both Dave Pierce of The Chester Foundation and John Garvey of Chester Historical Society.

The group toured the village located on Route 20 in the beautiful valley on the Westfield River in between Gobble Mountain and Round Top Hill. The Factory Village center was established only because the Western Railroad came through and then multi-

plied to churches, a tannery, grist mill, and factories like the bedstead factory on Walker Brook.

Water power from this brook proved to be a winner in creating industry here. The discovery of emery here also boomed the town into a hub of activity. Main Street, with the Riverside Inn, Pease dry goods store, feed store, bowling alley, skating rink, mobile gas station (now Carm's), Aladdin's Ice Cream shop...and of course the Chester Factories Train Station all were located here including even more and many remain to this day. Chester was the hub of the Hilltowns then and now.



The participants in the Hilltown Hikers guided tour stand by the Chester granite saw blade
Submitted photos



Participants in the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area hike listen to the tour guide at the Chester and Becket Railroad Trailhead.



One of the tour guides talks to the hikers by the Hudson and Chester Granite Works stone cutting saw, the last of its kind in Massachusetts.

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. 15th.

Deadline for submissions is October 16th

Community Holiday Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

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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.**