

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



Fire fighters and emergency responders representing the Huntington Fire Department, Montgomery Fire Department, Chester Fire Department and Hilltown Community Ambulance gathered on Saturday, Sept. 13 to honor retiring Deputy Fire Chief Charles "Chipper" Dazelle. He is shown in the center wearing a light blue tee shirt. Courtesy photo by John McVeigh

Fire Chief Charles Dazelle retires

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Fire departments and emergency responders from area towns gathered at the Knightville Dam pavilion to celebrate Charles "Chipper" Dazelle's 43 years of service to the Huntington Fire Department.

Dazelle officially retired as a Deputy Fire Chief on July 30, but had started as a young firefighter in the town. The celebratory picnic was hosted by the Huntington Fire Association and included Dazelle's family, friends, well-wishers and members

of the Montgomery Fire Department, Chester Fire Department and Hilltown Community Ambulance.

In a thank you post on the Huntington Fire Department's Facebook page, Dazelle was hailed for his service and leadership. It also stated that, "He rose through the ranks with grit, humility and an unwavering devotion to public service. For many of us, "Chip" is the firefighter, who always showed up, always shared his wealth of knowledge and always knew how to get the job done."

Dazelle's service to the town extended well beyond

the fire department. He served the water and sewer department for 36 years, the Huntington Highway Department for 28 years and as a town Constable for 25 years. He is in his third year as the Superintendent of the Chester Highway Department and said he was about to start a big project in blacktopping Blandford Road.

Dazelle was presented with a wooden plaque that read, "Deputy Chief Charles 'Chipper' Dazelle, 43 Years of Dedicated Service" with an emblem from Huntington Fire-Rescue. He

also received a commendation from Governor Maura T. Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kimberly Driscoll that read, "On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am pleased to confer upon you this Governor's Citation in recognition of your extraordinary 43-year career with the Huntington Fire Department and your leadership as Deputy Chief. We commend your commitment over four decades of change, challenge, and growth. You have been a steady presence through

CHIEF, page 3

WILLIAMSBURG

Porchfest brings visitors to 'Burgy'

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The town of Williamsburg, affectionally known as "Burgy," had an influx of visitors on Saturday, Sept. 13 for their annual Grange Fair, a town-wide tag sale and their first ever "Porchfest."

"From what I could tell, this was the

most people in downtown Williamsburg in recent memory," reported Robert Longey, one of the Porchfest organizers and chairman of the town's Local Cultural Council. "We had people from all over Western Massachusetts and as far away as Virginia and Texas. One of the

PORCHFEST, page 10



Electric Castle performs on the patio at the Exhibit "A" Brewing Company, a gold sponsor of the inaugural Porchfest. Joshua Chaplin and Dayna Webber comprise the duo.

Turley Publications photos by Wendy Long

BLANDFORD

Architects address library expansion

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

"You're still in the early stages," said DRA Architect James Barrett as he presented a program on the Porter Memorial Library expansion.

Seventy-five percent of the construction costs will be covered with a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Participating in this well-established state program, the project benefits from expert oversight, proven design standards and a successful track record of helping similar communities complete library projects on time and on budget.

Barrett had multiple posters available for view and a power-point presentation that covered every facet of the process so far. The expansion project, he emphasized, is in the very early stages and the next step is a review by the MBLC. He was joined by DRA Architect Ronald Pollilo and Skanska's Project Communication

Manger Victoria Clifford.

"Seeing so many people come together in support of the expansion shows the value of the library to Blandford. This expansion has something in it for everyone and is the only place in town to gather," said Library Director Nicole Daviau. She added that she considers it "an honor to have the opportunity to restore the historic library to an adult quiet reading room and provide a screened porch modeled after the original."

Overall, she complimented the dedicated team and community and continued, "We are looking forward to submitting our plans for the grant team to review and approve – months ahead of schedule."

The project will make the building ADA compliant so all can access the library. This will also bring the building into compliance with fire codes for safety, necessary to do even without an expansion.

LIBRARY, page 6

RUSSELL

Russell becomes Purple Heart Town

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

United States Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran Al Varelas conducted a ceremonial program for the Military Order Purple Heart (MOPH) commendations for Russell Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 17 at the Senior Center.

James Cortiss organized the event and turned the program over to Varelas. Varelas is the Commander of Chapter 875 of MOPH. Select Board Chair Wayne

Precanico read both proclamations, announcing Russell as a Purple Heart Town and a town on the Purple Heart Trail. Route 20 is the national Purple Heart Trail and it runs all the way to Oregon.

Several Russell residents have served in the military and have been killed in action and received the Purple Heart posthumously. Other Purple Heart veterans received the medal for injuries received during action and some were present for the program.

Russell will annually recognize Aug. 7 as Purple Heart Day, per proclamation.

Historically, the Purple Heart "is the oldest American military decoration and was created as the Badge of Military Merit, made of purple cloth in the shape of a heart with the word Merit sewn upon it on Aug. 7, 1782 in Newburgh New York by General George Washington" as the proclamation read. The medal was re-established as the Purple Heart on Feb. 22, 1932 by General Douglas

MacArthur.

Marine Staff Sgt. Albert Ireland received nine Purple Heart medals according to Varelas, wounded nine times both in World War II and the Korean War, the most ever given to an individual. Over two million Purple Hearts have been awarded since its inception.

The steel plaques were unveiled by veteran John Hurley and Varelas. The trail plaques will be placed at the town line on Route 20 and the town plaque will be at the Town Hall.

Before the conclusion of the program, Cortiss expressed his appreciation for Varelas' work. State commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Massachusetts, Troy Henke addressed the gathering and said, "It is fitting that Russell takes its place as a Purple Heart Town. This medal is not given lightly; it is a pretty serious medal."

Precanico said, "It's a great thing we're doing as a town." Mark Messier from State Sen. John Velis' office also spoke. Varelas is the Commander of Chapter 875 of the Military Order Purple Heart. Commander of the American Legion Post 356 Douglas Emo attended the ceremony.



Kurt Metcalf, left and Mark Goodness, right, two of Russell's Purple Heart recipients with John Hurley, holding trail sign flanked by Commander Al Varelas. Turley photo by Mary Kronholm



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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Inside the nursery the eggs are hatched and the young fish are well taken care of until they can be out on their own.



The lake trout are huge here in this dome and have teeth.



Jim Moore stands next to some great trail signage.



This is one of the fish domes for the young trout.



This is called a glacial kettle; its not just a big hole.



There are even cellar holes and charcoal kilns here.

Hiking group get tour of fish hatchery

The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers Saturday adventure was hiking to the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery in New Marlborough attending their Housatonic Heritage event here.

The trails are great and it's not just fish. The tour guides were the Friends of the Hatchery and showed us a giant "kettle" formed by glaciers, two charcoal pits, the New Marlborough Monterey Boundary Stone and the unique and beautiful hardwood forest.

A network of hiking trails traverse nearby forests offering visitors additional recreational opportunities. The trails are short and range from easy to moderate. The Red and Upper Trails Nature Trail, Shelby Loop, and Kettle Trail are leisurely walks at the lower elevations of the property, offering excellent wildlife viewing and birding opportunities in the dense forest surrounding the Outreach

Pond. Trails are great for families with the nature signs and hikers of all ages.

The trails are open year round even when the hatchery is not. Not only did the group hike the great trails at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery in New Marlborough, but they also got the full tour of the hatchery operations to learn more about what they do here. People may support the hatchery friends group by visiting <https://hatchery-friends.org>. They are great.

The Berkshire National Fish Hatchery is a cold-water aquaculture facility, the primary mission is supporting the restoration of lake trout populations in the Lower Great Lakes by supplying lake trout eggs to other federal hatcheries and rearing native brook trout for stocking in local waterways to support recreational fishing and educational programs. The group will return to this site.

Submitted photos



The trail signage is excellent providing info on the geology and the wildlife in detail.



John Sullivan Scully donated the land here to the Federal Government to be used as a trout hatchery and to study the fish.

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HUNTINGTON



Old Country Road Band will take the North Hall stage at North Hall. Photo courtesy of Jill Skibel

Old Country Road to perform

HUNTINGTON – Old Country Road is dedicated to the Golden Age of Country Music with songs that take people back to the Grand Ole Opry, the Ryman Auditorium and the Nashville bluegrass music of Hank Williams, Webb Pierce, Patsy Cline and Kitty Wells.

They will perform for free at North Hall, 40 Searle Road, on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 2

p.m. Donations are welcomed. Performers are Ron Jackson, rhythm guitar and vocals; Dan Pilachowski, flat picking guitar; Mark Leveille, mandolin and vocals; Dave Helman, standup bass and guest artist, Chris Boucher, banjo.

People should come early to get a good seat. Doors open about 1:30 p.m. They may visit the website at www.northhallhuntington.org for

program updates. North Hall is wheelchair accessible and air conditioned.

The seven program series at North Hall is sponsored by the Westfield Bank, Easthampton Savings Bank, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and Cultural Councils of: Cummington, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Russell, Westhampton and Worthington.

Friends of Library to hold book sale Oct. 4

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The Friends of the Huntington Public Library announce their annual fundraiser book sale will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the library, 7

East Main St. The library will be closed for regular operations that day. This event offers a wide variety of books for sale across all genres. Shoppers can purchase books for \$1 each or fill their own reusable bag for just \$5.

In addition to books,

the sale features 22 beautifully wrapped gift baskets, priced from \$15 and up. Basket themes include quilt fabric fat quarters, tea and coffee, fishing accessories, candles and spa items, chocolate, children's fun, art supplies, knitting yarn and more. Baskets are available for purchase from this point forward and many will be gone before the book sale, so interested patrons should feel free to stop at the library ahead of time.

All proceeds from the fundraiser directly support the library's programming, special events, summer reading initiatives and the purchase of materials and supplies.

Book donations for the sale are welcome during regular library hours. Community members are encouraged to contribute gently used books to help make the event a success.

For more information, people may email the library at library@huntingtonma.us or call the library at 413-512-5206.



Gift Baskets are available for sale at the Huntington Public Library, as a prelude to the annual used book sale on Oct. 4 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the library. Turley Publications photo by Wendy Long

Rec Committee lists events

HUNTINGTON – On Saturday, Sept. 27 from 3-4 p.m. Recreation Committee will host their annual apple picking at Jameson's High Meadow Farm located at 410 Skyline Trail, Chester.

Huntington residents will receive one discounted bag at \$15 per family. Additional bags are available

at \$25 each. Registration was due by Wednesday Sept. 24 by contacting Brandy at 413-207-2410 or emailing recreation@huntingtonma.us.

Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 5 p.m. at the Huntington Public Library. People may sign up to host a trunk with

their favorite theme by emailing recreation@huntingtonma.us or calling Vicki at 413-667-0085. There will be live music and a bonfire following. This trunk or treat is a collaboration between the Recreation Committee, Huntington Public Library and the Huntington Fire Association.

HILLTOWNS

MassDOT announces I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces it will be performing overnight and daytime line painting, shoulder work and bridge repair operations on I-90 eastbound and westbound in the towns of Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Becket, Blandford, Montgomery and Russell.

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

In Stockbridge and West Stockbridge line painting and shoulder work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 0.0 to mile marker 7.8 nightly now through Thursday night,

Sept. 26 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

In Becket bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 20.0 nightly from now through Thursday night, Sept. 26 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

In Blandford, bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 26.2 nightly from now through Thursday night, Sept. 26 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

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

expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All 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.

CHIEF

from page 1

countless calls, disasters and triumphs—serving not just as a firefighter, but as a mentor to many. Your institutional knowledge and hands-on experience made you a trusted voice in the station and on the fire ground. The Commonwealth thanks you for your dedication to the Town of Huntington and surrounding communities

over the years and wishes you all the best in the years to come."

The event included these distinguished gifts along with some not so distinguished gag gifts from the Huntington and Montgomery fire departments.

The Facebook post announcing his retirement

earlier this summer concluded, "Though we'll miss his presence in the bay, his impact will remain in the community he protected. Thank you, Deputy Chief Dazelle, for a lifetime of service to Huntington. You've more than earned your rest, but your legacy will continue every time we roll out the door."

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GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



Should I claim Social Security early because it is going bankrupt?

Dear Rusty:

My best friend is going to be 62 and wants to begin taking her Social Security immediately.

Her reasoning not to wait is the thought that it is going to run out in 10 years, so she wants as much of her money before that happens. I have paid into Social Security my entire working life (44 years and counting). What are your thoughts on taking it as soon as you are eligible?

Signed:
Uncertain what to do

Dear Uncertain:

Deciding when to claim Social Security is a sometimes-confusing task, but no one should ever claim SS early because they believe Social Security will go bankrupt in the near future. Social Security cannot and will not go bankrupt. What your friend may be referring to is the fact that Social Security will be facing some financial issues in 2033 unless Congress acts soon to reform the program. And they will act, but likely not until they must.

The fact is, Social Security still has about \$2.7 trillion in reserved funds which are now being used to pay full benefits. If that Reserves balance were to be fully depleted, then Social Security would need to go to a "cash basis" (essentially, paying out in benefits only what is received in SS taxes), which would result in about a 21% cut in everyone's benefit. In other words, even if Congress neglected to reform the program, beneficiaries would still get about 79% of their monthly benefit starting in about 2033/2034. Hardly anyone believes that Congress will fail to eventually reform Social Security and, in fact, they already know how to do that reform (they just currently lack the bipartisanship to accomplish it). But neglecting reform would amount to political suicide for all members of Congress, which is extremely unlikely to happen.

Here at the AMAC Foundation, we are confident that Congress

will soon address Social Security's future financial dilemma, and we have been working on potential solutions. We have, for several years, been providing these suggestions to various members of Congress, and those members are now considering our proposals. Thus, we do not suggest making a Social Security claiming decision based on fear of the program going bankrupt.

That fear is unfounded. Instead, we suggest that everyone decide when to claim based upon their individual personal situation, considering their need for the SS money, their life expectancy, and their marital status. And remember, claiming early (before one's SS full retirement age (FRA)) also means Social Security's Annual Earnings Test will apply (the AET limits how much can be earned from working before FRA is attained).

So, our thought on the wisdom of taking Social Security as soon as you are eligible is that it is often not a wise decision and certainly not if that decision is made based on fear of Social Security "not being there" soon. Instead, we suggest making your Social Security claiming decision based upon your unique personal circumstances, including, especially, your life expectancy, financial need and marital status.

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 ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

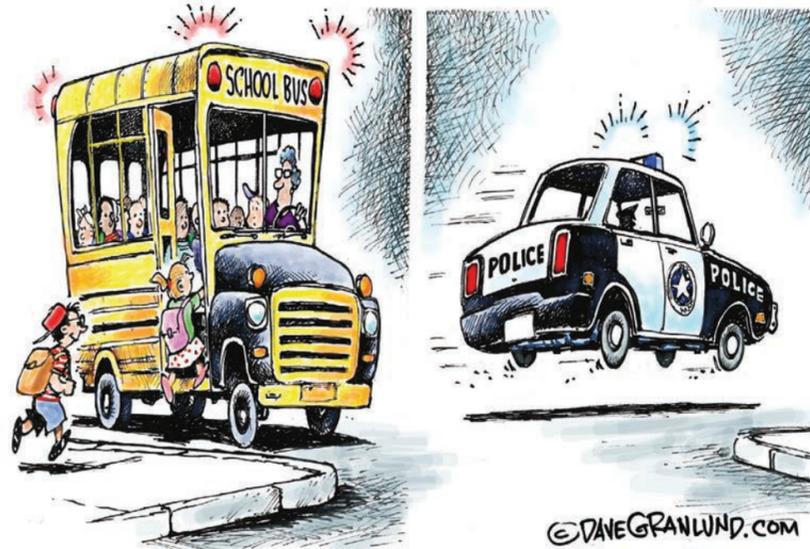
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If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393.

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

OPINION

If you aren't stopping for these flashing lights... Then you'll be stopping for these flashing lights!



GUEST COLUMN

A picture is worth a thousand memories

This column was prompted by a picture. You see, a coworker got out her phone and showed me a vase on her table that was filled with the most interesting velvet red flowers.

"What are these?" she asked. "Coxcomb or Celosia," I replied, and I went on to explain how the flower looks like a rooster's comb, hence the plant's name.

Seeing the image brought me right back to the late 1980s and early 1990s where I had a business growing dried flowers and crafting them into wreaths and arrangements that I later sold at area craft shows. It was a fun experience that I shared

with my parents. Read on to revisit some of my favorite flowers for drying.

Celosias make excellent dried flowers. They are available in three distinct types, crested or "Coxcomb," plumed and wheat. Crested types such as "Fireglow," "Prestige Scarlet," or "Big Chief" make quite a statement with their velvety-feel-

ing, brainy-looking heads in rich shades of red, pink, and gold.

Plumed types come in similar colors, but are feathered in appearance. The "Sparkler" series are multibranching when given ample growing space; just a few plants will provide you with many long lasting stems.

Newer to the catalogs, but really an heirloom, wheat celosia is the most delicate of the three. "Flamingo Feather" has rose tips with a silvery base. Pick often for an abundance of side shoots.

Globe Amaranth is

GARDEN, page 5



Red-eyed vireo

By Ellenor Downer

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sighting of a red-eyed vireo on Sept. 15 at their Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary, located on Massasoit Road in Worcester.

The red-eyed vireo has an olive green back and wings, white underparts, gray crown and a white eyebrow and a black line through its eyes. It has a yellow wash on the flanks. Adults have red eyes hence this six inch tall songbird's name. Immature birds have brown eyes.

It builds a cup shaped nest of grasses, bark and spider webs suspended in the fork of a tree. It sings almost continuously from dawn to dusk with a series of short note phrases, "Here I am, where are you?"

It is frequently parasitized by the brown-headed cowbird, which lays its eggs in other bird's nests.

It feeds on insects, mainly caterpillars and migrates to the Amazon basin for the winter. Vireos are found in

the forest canopy, particularly in woodlands and forests.

Other birds at Broad Meadow

Other birds at Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary included a Nashville warbler on Sept. 16, a great blue heron, a sharp shinned hawk and a broad winged hawk, all on Sept. 15.

Helping birds

Bird friendly windows can prevent collisions, which annually kill millions of birds. Birds can't see glass. Instead, they see whatever happens to be reflected in its mirror-like surface. Often, this is open sky or trees, which, for a bird, are appealing and perfectly safe things to fly towards. It's estimated that between one hundred million and one billion birds die every year in collisions with manmade structures, one of the biggest killers of migratory birds.

Bird-safe glass is specially designed to make glass a visible obstacle to

birds. Bird safe glass is visible to birds while transparent enough for humans to look out. People may visit the Audubon Society at <https://www.audubon.org/news/what-does-bird-safe-glass-even-mean-for-ways-to-keep-birds-safe-from-window-strikes>.

Here are some of the tips they offer. Try placing your bird feeder about 1.5 feet from the window; it will slow them down. Apply a thin film to the outside of the windows. The glass will become visible to birds, but remain transparent to people. As an added bonus for being so eco-savvy, the film will cut down on incoming infrared radiation, so it will also lower summer cooling costs. Keep curtains or shades drawn during the day to reduce reflection. Place window decals, sun catchers, tape strips, ribbons or anything else in a dense pattern in the "2x4" format, a single

BACKYARD, page 5

Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

MassDOT announces high school video contest

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces that entries are now being accepted for the twelfth annual state-wide Safe Streets Smart Trips high school video contest.

Applications are due on Sunday, Oct. 5 by 11 a.m. This contest encourages students to showcase their understanding of roadway safety across all travel modes to try to decrease pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and fatalities. Per the contest guidelines, this year students are being asked to write and produce a 30-60 second video emphasizing “Safe

Walking, Biking, and Driving Behaviors.”

“MassDOT is proud to launch the 2025 Safe Streets Smart Trips Video Contest, now in its twelfth year,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. “By engaging students directly in roadway safety, we not only raise awareness but also empower the next generation to lead the way in creating safer streets for everyone. We are eager to see the creativity and passion in this year’s entries as students highlight the shared responsibility we all carry to keep our roadways safe.”

As an initiative of the Massachusetts Strategic Highway Safety Plan to promote safe walking, bicycling and driving behaviors, the contest is open to all Massachusetts public high school students and features a freshman/sophomore category and junior/senior category.

Grand prize, runner-up and honorable mention videos in each category (freshman/sophomore and junior/senior) will be chosen by a MassDOT panel. Winning videos will be shown Wednesday, Oct. 28 at MassDOT’s annual active transportation conference,

Moving Together, where the creators will receive their prizes including \$600 Amazon gift cards for the grand prize videos and \$300 Amazon gift cards for the runner-up videos. Top videos may also be used in future safety campaigns.

To learn more about the Safe Streets Smart Trips High School Video Contest, people may visit Mass.gov/roadway-safety-video.

Past winning videos can be viewed on the Roadway Safety Video Contest Results page and on MassDOT’s YouTube channel playlist of the 2025 contest winners.

Colleges announce President’s and Dean’s lists

PRESIDENT’S LIST

Southern New Hampshire University
Manchester, New Hampshire

Kimberly Morin of Worthington
Dylan Drake of Westfield
Raphaella DUPRAS of Westfield
Felicia Dearborn of Westfield
Brandon Provo of Westfield
Megen Moynihan of Easthampton

DEAN’S LIST

College of the Holy Cross
Worcester

Maya Guillotte of Westfield, Class of 2025
Olivia Lawry of Westfield, Class of 2026
Lilly Patton, of Washington, Class of 2026

DEAN’S LIST

Southern New Hampshire University
Manchester, New Hampshire

Cody Leveille of Easthampton

College of the Holy Cross lists local new enrollees

WORCESTER –The College of the Holy Cross congratulates the new Crusaders starting at the College in fall 2025.

The following local students will be part of

the Class of 2029 Jackson Mettey of Easthampton and Megan Moran of Westfield. At 837 students, the Class of 2029 includes students from 39 U.S. states and territories and 15 different coun-

tries. This incoming class represents one of the most academically accomplished classes in the college’s history. Admission to the class of 2029 was more competitive than ever with appli-

cations surpassing 10,000 for the first time in Holy Cross history, a nearly 20% increase over the last two years and an admit rate of 19%. Fall classes began on Tuesday, August 26th.

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speak up Blandford

The quality of life in this community that we all treasure would be severely compromised by the Eversource Expansion, Commercial Solar Field Builds, as well as a Battery Energy Storage System being proposed, with little or no significant benefit to the community.

Each one’s voice is powerful. I once asked a U.S. Congressman if a letter from

an individual citizen carried any weight. His answer was, “Absolutely.” He went on to explain that the rule of thumb in Congress was that one well thought out letter from one voter was considered to represent the opinion of several hundred other constituents who thought the same thing but did not write.

Jane Pinsky
Blandford

Reader opposes baiting and hunting coyote with dogs

There was a lone coyote nearby the other night. He (?) sang to the fullest extent of his range from high vibratos to low lonesome wails, giving voice to life’s joys and struggles.

As a long coyote hunting season is about to begin, such a hunt does not seem right. Hunting has a time honored reward of putting

meat on the table. Coyote hunting offers only revenge for our pets and occasional sheep or goats preyed upon. Even worse, methods of the hunt frequently employed include baiting with blocks of frozen guts as well as running dogs after them.

There is no bag limit. To counter the romance of the song mentioned

above, there was a different sound on another night. It was close by and very threatening. Snarls, snapping ferocious yells and barks causing me to hide deeper under the covers of my bed. No, I would not like to be alone in the woods with a broken leg.

I lack enough conviction to condemn friends,

who may take part in the hunt. But it seems cruel to use bait and dogs.

The Lakota name, I read, translates to Song Dog. To me their song, musical or menacing is mystic and the pure sound of wildness to others their song nourishes a bloodlust.

Richard Mansfield
Worthington

GARDEN

another flower that is popular once dried. Clover-like heads on sturdy stems make great bouquet fillers. Nearly all varieties bloom well in the heat of the summer, producing even more flowers after they are harvested.

Cut when head reach the size of your thumbnail for best performance.

Lemon Bee Balm or Lemon Bergamot is the most underused of all the flowers mentioned here, but it shouldn’t be! Whorls of mauve-pink bracts are best cut when three inches long.

Stems are weak, so mix in with other flowers to keep

heads upright or attach stems to a wooden pick for added strength.

Most of us are familiar with the Strawflower, a stiff petaled flower that feels dry even in the garden! To dry, simply insert a 23-gauge wire up through a tiny bit of the stem and into the flower’s calyx, just barely into the head itself. This will give the strawflower a strong “stem” for use in floral arranging.

After the flowers have been wired, be sure to let them dry fully, upright and in the dark to preserve their rich hues. You can also simply pluck the heads and dry them

on a cookie sheet in the dark for hot-gluing later on.

Love in a Mist or Nigella is an old-fashioned beauty that has light blue, white or rosy pink short-lived flowers followed by really neat brown striped seed pods. When fully dry these look like pepper shakers, dropping their seeds to an fro. The pods are desirable for dried wreaths and arrangements.

Keep picking as soon as the heads are fully developed to keep the plant producing.

Prince’s Feather is a member of the Amaranth family and grows lush plumes worth of a prominent

place in your arrangements. Smaller side shoots are great for more delicate work.

Colors are typically shades of burgundy. Plants can grow anywhere from eighteen inches to several feet tall so site accordingly.

Winged Ammobium is a two foot tall, floppy annual that has an abundance of tiny white flowers. It is best picked when the center of the flowers just starts to show its yellow color.

If you wait too long, the centers will turn brown and unattractive. Gather small bunches of ten to twelve stems and secure them with

rubber bands. Here too attach a wooden florist pick to tiny bunches for ease in floral arranging- besides giving the stem some strength, it will give it additional length.

An attic or barn loft are the best options in which to hang your harvest to dry. Flowers dried in the dark will retain their vivid colors very well and the heat will dry them out quickly.

Make small bunches of fresh cut flowers, securing them with a rubber band, not string. The rubber band will shrink along with the stems as they are drying. Hang them upside down and

you will be rewarded with straight stems and upright heads.

Have fun experimenting with floral arranging or wreath making with these everlasting flowers.

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

BACKYARD

decal will not work. Install a screen or net a few inches outside of your windows, to lessen the impact.

Brimfield bird watcher

A Brimfield resident continued watching for migrating common nighthawks in August, but did not have any luck. He has seen them in the past. He had three ruby-throated hummingbirds feeding on jew-

elweed, cardinal flower and nicotiana last month. He saw a pair of American Goldfinch drinking from the drip he has in his yard. He also saw a female pileated woodpecker on the top of a mountain ash where it ate berries for while.

Bird calls

A reader sent an email about a free bird call app called Merlin.. She thought other readers might be inter-

ested. She said, “Just enter your location and press record. I never knew hummingbirds chirp. Now I do.”

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.

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Send Us Your Photos!

countryjournal@turley.com

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



Pioneer Valley

Assembly of God

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

Hilltown Community Church

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

First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

Rev. Jack Kraaz
4 North Main St., Williamsburg, MA 01096
413-268-7557 • burgychurch@gmail.com • burgychurch.org
Facebook: First Congregational Church of Williamsburg
YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHyeekxw5w
Office Hours: Tuesdays through Friday 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Days and Hours of Services: Sundays at 10 a.m.

Holy Family Parish

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

BLANDFORD

Select Board seeks feasibility study on fire station site

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – At the Monday, Sept. 15 Select Board meeting, the board decided to move forward with a feasibility study of another piece of property for the proposed new Fire Station.

The property in question is on the left side of North Blandford Road a couple of lots behind the Highway

Garage location. Fire Chief Adam Dolby has walked the land. There is funding still available in the line item dedicated to this.

What the Select Board hopes to bring to the townspeople is this possible new option, and if it is not suitable as determined by a feasibility study, the question then becomes does the town want to move forward with the salt shed location. Currently, of

all six sites reviewed, the salt shed is the only viable plot of land for a new Fire Station.

Moratorium

The board discussed a moratorium for solar projects, including Battery Energy Storage Systems. Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera relayed the information that Town Counsel Jonathan Eichman told her seeking a moratorium would

be difficult, but there are good reasons to go forward. The town must provide a concrete rationale for asking for a moratorium, which could include continuing to process zoning bylaws and recent developments. A moratorium would put any projects on hold.

The board plans a meeting with the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board and Conservation Commission to

discuss a moratorium, set for Oct. 6. Town Counsel will be on hand as well, according to Ferrera.

Appointment

Assessors informed the board that Michaela Smith would be the new administrative assistant for that department.

Other business

In other business, the

board affirmed the town's liquor fee structure; tabled further discussion of personnel policies; approved full \$270 reimbursement for Ryan Keach's hoisting license and send a reminder to all departments that the next departmental meeting is set for Sept. 29 and accountant Kelli Pontbriand will be available to address various issues and concerns.

Mission Clean Energy holds information session

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Mission Clean Energy's Renewable Energy Director Emma Riley and other Mission staff as well as a representative from Energy Safety Response Group were at the Town Hall on Tuesday from 5 p.m. on to respond to community concerns.

A new development for Mission is the reduction of the watt capacity for proposed battery installation across the street from the Eversource substation on North Blandford Road. Originally planned for 200-watt capacity, the proposed wattage is now 170-watt capacity.

Real Estate Acquisition Manager Dominic LeBel was available to discuss the BESS location on the property along with Senior Development Engineer Jack Hitchcock. Permitting and Development Consultant Russell Edwards, spoke about financial benefits.

Energy Safety Response Group Senior Consultant Shawn Morris was available to respond to residents' questions on protection from fire. Sue Racine commented that she had a lot



Select Board member Jackie Coury chats with Chuck Benson. Turley Publication photos by Mary Kronholm

of questions, but felt there was insufficient data available for Mission to provide definitive answers, for things like fire protection, water sources for emergencies, or potential benefits to the town. Select Board member T.J. Cousineau was "disappointed" that there were not more townspeople present. Select Board member Jackie Coury said she learns something every time as she spoke with both residents at Mission representatives. She heard from residents who were either in opposition or fine, with all things solar. "Insightful feedback is important," she said



Paul Drischka, from left, Mission Clean Energy Engineer Jack Hitchcock, Dominic LeBel and Select Board member, T.J. Cousineau.



Mission Clean Energy Permitting and Development Consultant Russell Edwards, from left, Development Manager Emma Riley and back to camera Tony van Werkhoven.

Climate Act hearings listed

BLANDFORD – The Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board, Department of Energy Resources, Department of Public Utilities, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and EEA Office of Environmental Justice and Equity will hold information sessions and public comment hearings.

The sessions have in-person and remote participation options, to learn about regulations proposed to implement the siting and permitting changes required by the 2024 Climate Act for energy facilities and, in the case of the hearings, to provide oral comments regarding the proposed regulations.

The closest information session is Thursday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. at UMASS Amherst in the Olver Design Building, Room 170, 551 North Pleasant St. in Amherst.

The information session is prior to public hearing sessions, which will begin Wednesday, Oct. 15 with a remote participation link that can be found on the town's website. The in-person public comment hearings begin Monday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. and run through Nov. 5. The closest one for this area will be Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. at the Berkshire Innovation Center, 45 Woodlawn Ave. in Pittsfield. For more details, people may visit mass.gov/energypermitting

Send Us Your Community Dazzler Events

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar events FREE OF CHARGE in our Dazzler Supplement which will be published November 19, 2025.

Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____



DRA architect James Barrett addresses a group of residents along with architect Ron Pollilo about the library expansion plan Saturday morning. Turley Publications photo by Mary Kronholm



Library Director Nicole Daviau reviews site plans with Pam Dirschka, center and Barbara Davenport Saturday morning. Courtesy photo by Victoria Clifford



Reviewing site, from left, are Michael Davenport with DRA Architect; Ron Pollilo, Architect; James Barrett and Paul Dirschka. Courtesy photo by Victoria Clifford

LIBRARY

from page 1

The ability to provide greater access to all materials as well as technology is planned, as well as technology workspace.

As a community hub the library will provide gathering space for residents and patrons, a meeting room available after hours, an adult reading room, a porch,

café and a small meeting area. Library surveys showed that patrons want children to have their own library space with their own materials. This will support literacy and education for the youngest residents and allows them to care for families in their community. Teens currently

have nowhere to go in the Hilltowns. The teen room will provide a safe place supported with books to read, homework help and programs in their own space. Providing these opportunities for positive social engagement beyond the school day was very important to survey respondents.



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

CHESTER

Church holds Sunday service

CHESTER – The First Congregational Church of Chester will hold their worship service on Sunday at 10 a.m.

The Scripture for the week is Luke 16:19-31. The sermon topic is "Who is Your Lazarus?" Pastor Susan Borsella will preach. Everyone is welcome to this open and affirming congregation.

Hamilton Memorial Library lists events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library Book Club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

Their next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 4:30 p.m. in the library located at 195 West Main St. They will be discussing the novel, "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho. Join us for snacks and lively discussion. Extra book copies are available.

Intrinsic Movement Let's Play, Learn and Dance welcomes special guest, Laurel Lenski on

October 16 at 11 a.m. during our regular Story and Fun Time. Lenski always gets the fun going with her contagious enthusiasm and energy. This program is perfect for younger patrons.

Broom Making with Kay Judge of Blue Skye Wellness will take place on Saturday Oct. 4 at 10:30 a.m. She will help people create their own small broom using natural broom corn and hemp cord while teaching them about the history of broom making in Western Massachusetts. Materials will be provided.

Pre-registration is required and program is limited to the first ten participants to sign up. People should call 413-354-7808 to sign up.

The Great Inflatable Race is Saturday, Oct. 25 during Chester's Trunk or Treat event so get an inflatable costume ready for some fun. There will be trophy and medals for the winners. The library staff is also in need of volunteers for more trunks. People may call the Hamilton Memorial Library at 413-354-7808 for more information or to volunteer.

COA announces upcoming events

CHESTER – The Council on Aging meets in the basement level of Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road.

The foot clinic is held on the second Tuesday of every month. People should call 413-354-7735 for details and to schedule an appointment.

Tech Help is a drop in format on the second Wednesday of every month. Tech support will help people with their devices and questions.

A flu clinic is coming up in early October. People may call 413-354-7735 for more details and information.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

BLANDFORD ROAD GETS PAVED



The Chester Highway Department is paving Blandford Road from Route 20 to the Blandford border.



This sign warns motorists of black topping on Blandford Road Sept. 15-17 and to expect delays.



This roller smooths Blandford Road in Chester.

Courtesy photos by Don Humason

OTIS

Sherry Steiner to perform at Otis Town Hall

OTIS – The Otis Historical Commission and Otis Preservation Trust presents musician Sherry Steiner on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. at Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road.

This event is in-person only. Steiner will present a short musical performance followed by a question and answer session. Admission is free but registration is required. To register to attend this event or for more information, people may visit www.otispreservationtrust.com or www.townofotisma.com.

There is no charge to attend this event but pre-registration is required. Donations are welcome.

Sherry Steiner is a piano composer and performer of original, improvisational

music, described as meditative, soothing and reflective, where one may find peace within themselves. Her original compositions reflect the environment where she is performing so each and every creation is unique.

She performs live locally and beyond. She has over 800 recordings on SoundCloud that are reaching listeners around the world as well as on YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music and other streaming platforms.

Steiner also makes music on a double-neck ukulele, six string tenor ukulele and seagull merlin dulcimer and is a published writer of off-beat poetry, monologues, flash fiction and musical performance pieces, a former

arts educator, exhibiting visual artist and more.

Otis Preservation Trust works with the Otis Historical Commission to organize and preserve the history and heritage of Otis for future generations by supporting efforts to preserve, restore, repurpose and educate about buildings, monuments, lands and memorabilia of Otis.

OPT is a not-for-profit (501c3) organization operated for fundraising and educational purposes. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Sherry Steiner will perform Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. in Otis Town Hall.

Submitted photo

Town Hall vaccine clinic to be held on Oct. 21

BECKET – Berkshire Public Health Alliance will hold a vaccine clinic on Tuesday, Oct. 21 from 4-6 p.m. at the Becket Town Hall in the Community Room 557, Main Street.

Nurses will do their best to abide by the registration appointment schedule. Unregistered clients will be vaccinated as time and supplies allow. People should wear short sleeves.

Subscribe to the Country Journal online countryjournal.turley.com

Grand piano concert benefits library

OTIS – The Otis Library invites everyone to join them for a one-of-a-kind fundraising event celebrating the power of music and community.

The concert will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 4-6 p.m. at the Farmington River Regional School, 555 North Main Road. On this special evening, two internationally acclaimed pianists, Paul

Posnak and Anita Castiglione, will perform together on two grand pianos, filling the room with classical music, jazz and spirituals celebrating America. Refreshments will follow. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at <https://www.otislibraryma.org/piano-concert> or by calling the Otis Library at 413-269-0109.

The Otis Library is a public library. Founded in

1949, we continue to provide our community with library resources and access to technology. Their collection includes print books, movies on DVD, books on CD, and more. They are also a Central and Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing library, providing patrons with access to materials from across Western and Central Massachusetts.

Fire Chief announces outside burning ban

OTIS – Effective Sept. 18 the Fire Chief prohibits outside burning until further notice due to high fire danger. The use of gas grills are allowed for cooking.

BUCKLAND

Historical Society holds open house Sept. 28

BUCKLAND – The Buckland Historical Society, 20 Upper St., will hold an open house for Sept. 28 from 1-4 p.m.

The Buckland Historical Society Museum, a former circa 1865 School House,

now houses three floors of artifacts and town records.

The Wilder Homestead, a furnished 1775 saltbox with five fireplaces, a restored 1780 English barn and a Shoemaker Shop 129, Rt. 112.

PLAINFIELD

Avery Sharpe Ensemble scheduled to perform Oct. 3

PLAINFIELD – The Plainfield Congregational Church, 356 Main St., will hold the final concert in their Concert at 7 on Monday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m.

The Avery Sharpe Ensemble will perform Avery Sharpe's "I Am My

Neighbor's Keeper," for string quartet, piano, drums, African percussion and double bass. For more information, people may visit plainfieldconcerts7.org. Avery Sharpe is a world renowned double bassist and Plainfield resident.

BECKET

Church to hold turkey dinner

BECKET – The annual harvest turkey dinner sponsored by Congregational Church of Becket will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Guild Hall on YMCA Road.

Sit down or take out is available. The menu will be roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, butternut

squash, coleslaw, cranberry sauce and apple crisp with real whipped cream for dessert. The cost is \$18 per person and free for children under 12.

People may call 413-623-8300 or 413-623-6455 for take out reservations and include what meat they would like. (white, dark, or both). Walk-ins are welcome.

MIDDLEFIELD

Corvette Hall of Fame inducts Kim Baker

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

MIDDLEFIELD – Middlefield resident Kim Baker was inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame in Bowling Green, Kentucky inducted Middlefield resident, Kim Baker, on Friday, Aug. 29.

Three people representing racing, Corvette enthusiasts and GM-Chevrolet employees have been inducted annually since 1998. The ceremony took place at the National Corvette Museum, which now holds Baker's racing suit, jackets and several trophies and whose complex also includes a race track and the assembly plant where Corvettes are built.

Learning that he would be a Hall of Famer was a total surprise, Baker said, explaining that there were 100 people who voted on the nominees. Baker received an email requesting a zoom interview, where they told him he would be inducted into the Hall of Fame. "Something like that hits you pretty hard in a good way," he smiled.

Baker won his first race at Lime Rock Park almost exactly 40 years to the day before the induction ceremony. In fact, Baker won so many races in the 1980s the Corvette was temporarily restricted from competing in the Sports Car Club of America races in 1988.

When the SCCA reinstated the Corvette in 1991, Baker and his team promptly took another world challenge championship. Baker is also known as being part of the world-record setting ZR-1 team with Tommy Morrison. On March 1 and 2 in 1990, they raced for 24 hours at an average speed of 175.885 miles per hour setting a world record that still stands today.

Baker had also been previously named as one of the top ten most influential men in Corvette history by Road and Track Magazine and won the international Bilstein Madonna Award for Racing Excellence twice.

"I was in awe on that stage," Baker said a few weeks after the induction. "I live in a town with 494 people. There I was on a stage speaking before 1,800 people." Baker received a standing ovation for his acceptance speech.

Michael LaRocca, chairman elect of the museum's Board of Directors, opened the induction ceremony by saying, "The purpose of this award is to confer the highest honor and recognition on the most influential individuals in the history of the Corvette. The award recognizes those people who have made significant contributions to their respective fields, each having reached the highest level of accomplishment."

Bryce Berklow, President and CEO of the National Corvette Museum, then introduced Kim Baker



An epic photo of Kim Baker from his racing days, taken by his wife Patricia. Images such as these were frequently used in advertisements by his sponsors like Goodyear Tires and Red Line Oil.

for his induction explaining that privateers like Baker had made the C4 a virtually unbeatable race car. "Kim Baker was at the forefront of those efforts as a driver, engineer and a team builder," Berklow said before showing the museum's video about Baker's career, which can be viewed from the corvettemuseum.org/hall-of-fame website.

Baker opened his acceptance speech by going back to the beginning. "I was five years old when I climbed into my very first quarter midget race car in Springfield, Massachusetts," Baker said. "That car was about the size of my current lawnmower. With my parents cheering me on, I won that first race and I knew that I had found my true love, no offense to my wife." Even as a young child, Baker would progress as a racer to go-carts, mini-bikes and even old cars long before he had his driver's license.

Baker, who grew up in Wilbraham continued, "What I didn't know back then was that one tiny car and one small victory would eventually lead me here tonight, to the Corvette Hall of Fame, accepting the honor of a lifetime."

As a privateer racer, Baker drove Fiats in his early career winning three years in a row and later took a stab at NASCAR racing, but his true fame came from racing Corvettes in the SCCA endurance races of the 1980's. His team Bakeracing so crushed the competition in those races that Corvette was not allowed to compete in the SCCA 1988 and 1989 World Challenge. In an interview at his home in Middlefield, Baker said organizers told him that if Bakeracing entered another race, nobody else would. Undeterred, Corvette established their own Corvette Challenge Spec Series for 1988 and 1989.

It's not as though Baker



Kim Baker behind the wheel.

wasn't willing to play nice. Bakeracing had already sewn up the championship for the 1987 SCCA series with two races remaining it was statistically impossible for them to lose. Officials asked Baker to come in second so that other drivers could keep their sponsors. Baker said he felt that everyone was part of the Chevy family and agreed to the plan as long as the winnings still went to his team. Near the end of the race, Baker went into the pit at the Sebring International Racecourse to let the second car pass him. The new lead car then ran out of fuel and Baker won anyway. In another attempt at supporting other racers during a 24-hour endurance run, they let another racer pass and that car crashed on the final lap, leaving Baker to win yet again.

There is much more to endurance racing than most people realize, Baker said. A 24-hour endurance race is more like a 48-hour endurance race: you are up at least eight hours before the start of the race going over everything from track conditions to tires and oil specifications. You run the race for the next 24 hours, but still aren't done.

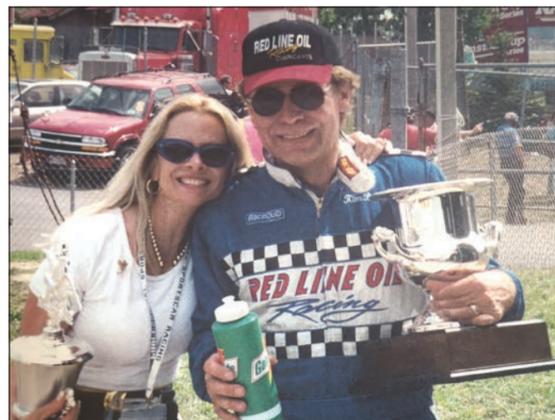
The race is followed by a tech inspection, awards ceremony (hopefully), loading up cars and packing gear. "By then, you've basically aged a year or two," he said.

"Endurance racing is a full time job where you don't sleep and your paycheck might end up being tire smoke."

When asked what those who don't follow racing might be surprised to learn, Baker replied that the public may not realize how dedicated you have to be to physically train for race car driving. Strength training is vital in order to handle these cars at high speeds. You also have to have a lot of heat tolerance as closed cars can reach temperatures of up to 140 degrees, requiring drivers to receive oxygen or hydration after the race. It was not unusual, he said, to weigh eight pounds less by the end of an endurance race.

The real gamble in a racing career, Baker said, wasn't just on the track. It was financial. To stay in business and earn all-important sponsorships racers had to achieve a winning record. In his heyday, Baker was sponsored by Goodyear Tire and had oils made to his specifications from Red Line Oil. Before they were bought out, Flying Tigers would fly his cars across the country for test drives, which Baker said saved a fortune.

Baker says his best accomplishment was winning the three SCCA national championships because they were really tough. All three years it came down to Porsche vs. Corvette. After



Patricia and Kim Baker celebrates his first NASCAR race and win in 1998. Submitted photos



Kim Baker accepts his Hall of Fame nomination at the National Corvette Museum.

their third loss, the leader of Porsche racing asked Baker to head up their racing team. "I weighed it really closely," Baker admitted. "But Corvette was good to me and American made." In the end, he kept his loyalty to the brand and to the engineers that he had worked with over many years.

In 1998, after finishing his Corvette racing career, Baker's wife Patricia encouraged him to buy a car and try his hand at NASCAR racing. Hesitant at first, Baker went ahead. Still working with Red Line Oil, who formulated innovative lubricants for more power and fuel economy, Red Line's owner offered Baker \$25,000 if he won his first race. It had to seem a safe bet with Baker only owning his car for two weeks. "Against all odds, amidst smoking wrecks and chaos, we won the Watkins Glen 150," Baker said, a win he credits with the fact that the first two cars ahead of him hit each other on the last lap.

The difference between SCCA and NASCAR racing was what Baker and his wife call "the level of gentlemanliness." "When you're in endurance sports car racing, the drivers are more gentlemanly, especially for the first part of the race. Although, by the last lap, nobody is being gentle." In NASCAR road races, they'll bump you at any moment and say it was an accident, Baker said.

A quick search of Kim Baker on YouTube brings up a number of highlight reels, including this year's induc-

tion speech and his 1992 come-from-behind win at the Lime Rock Challenge (defeating Paul Newman, who crashed). Somewhere, fans can also find viral footage of his Crew Chief's reaction to Baker winning the Pepsi 150 in 1998. Baker had taken on a pit crew that had never won a race; after coming in first, his crew chief, a former gymnast, was caught by television cameras doing a series of backflips.

After racing, Baker kept his hand in the business as a racing trainer, strategist, test driver, tire tester for Goodyear and racing consultant. He did future model testing for a time and today markets vintage cars, consults to Corvette buyers, gives racetrack driving tips and helps the current generation of racers set up their cars to be competitive on the track. He still lives the interest he says was sparked by a little bit of engineering and a passion for racing.

As he neared the end of his speech, Baker named the many people who shaped his career and success, most of whom were in the room to witness his induction. From strategists, Corvette engineers, sponsors and supporters, Baker set out to name them all. He called his Pit Crew-all of whom were there-the real athletes, who could "vault over the wall like Olympians."

Baker ended his speech with, "Now the long eventful days of the track are behind me, unfortunately. And yes I do miss it all. But tonight, I look forward to my continued alliance with Corvette and the National Corvette Museum, and someday meeting that next quarter midget racer who will become a champion."

Congregational Church to hold service and harvest dinner

MIDDLEFIELD – In the early days, when the

Middlefield Congregational members faithfully attended

church each Sunday, they also knew that, besides the importance of worship, there was the opportunity for fellowship.

This emphasis is still strong with Pastor Susan Borsella and the members of the church warmly greeting each other and preparing a dinner held after service. All are invited to join them on Saturday, Oct. 11 for a 5 p.m. service followed by a harvest dinner. People should RSVP to Mark Doane at 413-623-5465 by Sunday, Oct. 5.

The Middlefield Congregational Church was reconstructed in 1902 from fragments of the 1847 Baptist and the 1853 Methodist meet-

inghouses. They moved the Baptist meetinghouse to the Congregational foundation after the fire. They saved the old Methodist Church in half and attached it to the new creation. It is an "L" shape, one-and-a-half story structure with a square entrance tower and Queen Anne detailing. It was truly a composite house of worship. The tower was added to the other structure in 1903.

New windows were provided with money from the Baptist church. Asher Pease donated the ornamental ceiling [now removed], Oliver Blush a large ornamental chandelier, Mrs. H. E. Stanton of Huntington was instrumen-

tal in providing the ornamental window for the gable. The new church was a real symbol of unity and was dedicated on Jan. 14, 1904. A parishioner stated, "All the world is pleased now at this rare combination."

When people worship at Middlefield Congregational Church they are standing in a building that has symbolized the coming together of people and hope for the future that started in 1904.

The first organist to use the Estey was Ida Bell Eame. Other organists included Francis Coltrell Prew, age eleven, Ethel M. Pease, Dorothy Prew Lyman, Gertrude Mile, Shirley Olds

Van Parys, Wendell R. Cook, Mary E. Sternagle, Majore Pease Batorski and Elizabeth P. Seefeld.

Francis Pease, writing briefly about the Middlefield Church said, "The Church, as we look at it today, seems to be a monument for long past times when the religious beliefs were an important factor in our everyday living. The building represents three denominations, Baptist, Congregational and Methodist, each at one time very active, and with small but dedicated membership. Even until the mid-twenties of this century, the dependence of church and town on each other was very evident."



This is a drawing of the Middlefield Congregational Church.

Submitted drawing

WESTHAMPTON

Westhampton Public 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, October 13 for Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day. People may check the town website or Facebook or Instagram @ WesthamptonPublicLibrary for library updates. To place a request for curbside pickup, people may email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386.

Recurring Programs include computer help with Bob Miller on second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon, Knitting Group on Mondays at 6 p.m., yoga on Mondays at 6 p.m., Scrabble Group Tuesdays at 2 p.m., Book Group on fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m., Walk-in Wellness Clinics with Westhampton's Public Health Nurse on first and

third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. and new Energy Advocate Office Hours third Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. The first office hour is Wednesday, October 15.

Drop in on the third Wednesday of the month and meet with Hannah, the regional Energy Advocate, for one-on-one support to learn about and take full advantage of energy efficiency programs available to residents. Yoga is drop-in, first-come/first-served and registration is not required. Please check Facebook and the town calendar for updates on yoga at the library.

Other activities are Coffee and Chat on Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon and Tech Connect drop-in tech help on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 2-4 p.m.

For Children and teens, book or treat, back by popular demand takes place the week leading up to Halloween on Saturday, Oct. 25 to Thursday, Oct. 30. If

they check out a book, they get a treat ban of non-candy Halloween themed surprises.

CFCE Music Class with Naomi will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4 at 11 a.m. CFCE Playgroup Leader Naomi offers a special Saturday music class. Older siblings are welcome. People should email Naomi at nedelman@collaborative.org to sign up. CFCE Playgroup with Naomi meets Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Story time with Emily is Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Children and teens may join a rotating schedule of after school fun at Westhampton Public Library every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult or sibling 12 years of age or older. Activities include: LEGO Club first Thursday, Oct. 2 at 3:30 p.m.; open crafting second Thursday, Oct. 2 at 3:30 p.m.; Switch Happy Hour on third Thursday, Oct. 16 at 3:30 p.m.; Comics Club fourth Thursday, Oct. 23 at 3:30

p.m. and Drop-in Games fifth Thursday, Oct. 23 at 3:30 p.m.

Teen Craft Nights is the third Thursday, this month Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. Teens should email Emily at awayne@cwmar.org to sign up. This month they'll be making punch needle mushroom frogs.

October/November artist Phil Dowling has photographs on exhibit. A reception will be held Thursday, Oct. 9 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. His photo exhibit casts a wide net of experiences that moved him grand vistas as well as lots of birds and other critters he has encountered. The photos are printed on archival canvas and framed with locally harvested wood.

On Sunday, Oct. 12 from noon-4:15 p.m. is the 18th Annual Westhampton Fall Festival in the Westhampton town center. There will be great food and fun. Other activities include an interfaith church service at 10 a.m. and from noon-4 p.m. 5K Road Race, Steeple Tours

with Valley Views, Axe Throwing and Lumberjack Demo, Blacksmith Demo, History Museum, Corn Husking, Cider Making, Sledge Hammer Throw - Skillet Toss - Brightspot Therapy Dogs - Cow Pie Bingo - Firefighter's Brigade, Potato Cannons, Giant Pumpkin Competition, Scavenger Hunt, Farm Animals, Haybale Maze, Lawn Games, Children's Games and Crafts and much more.

Westhampton Public Library 15th Anniversary is Friday, Oct. 17 from 5:30-7 p.m. People will celebrate 15 years-our crystal anniversary-in the "new" library building. The evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres and sweets from State Street Fruit Store plus a trip down memory lane with a library slideshow. At 6 p.m. people will hear a series of remarks from community members in celebration of 15th anniversary. Then, at 6:30pm the evening will close out with a library-themed singalong

with Jim Armenti. All ages welcome. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Public Library and the Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring this event.

Becoming Better Neighbors: LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Empathy in Action workshop meets Thursday, Oct. 23 from 6:30-8 p.m. It is facilitated by Dr. Nina Tissi-Gassoway and Cas Rego-Martin, MPPA.

Western Massachusetts is known as a safe haven for LGBTQ+ people. At a time when queer and trans communities are under attack, LGBTQ+ individuals and families in hostile states are moving to our valley and laying down new roots. This session will provide an introduction to LGBTQ+ topics including terminology, pronouns, and good practices for being an empathetic ally. Participants will leave with deepened knowledge about their local LGBTQ+ community and new ideas to support queer and trans people in their lives.

Abandoned Westhampton lead mine dates back to 1678



Historic Northampton hosted a walk to the lead mine hosted by Wayne Perrea on Saturday, Sept. 13.

Lead ore was found in this seam located in Westhampton about 1678.

Turley Publications by Deborah Daniels

WESTHAMPTON – A seam with lead ore was known to exist in Westhampton since 1678, but it was not actively mined until 1765.

A group of miners were searching for silver, which was found with galena or lead glance, a mineral present in this mine. Unfortunately there was not enough present to make a profit for investors. Wayne Perrea, a Loudville native rock hound, led the walk sponsored by Historic Northampton.

Perrea spoke about the history and challenges the three slaves had extracting the lead and bit of silver from the mine. He had samples of galena. The mine is not much to look at now, but it was a beehive of activity clearing trees, hammering bedrock and hoisting rock out of the seam and smashing the rock to glean out the valuable ore. The three slaves were Cato, Cesar and Tom and they lived at the site.

People would never recognize it today as a mining site. There are tailings nearby, rock debris from mining efforts that lay about but as Perrea pointed out much has been cleared as the land is privately owned now. The Manhan River is nearby and it is very popular with mineral clubs and rock hounds,

Fall Festival set to take place on Oct. 12

WESTHAMPTON – A Fall Festival sponsored by Friends of the Westhampton Public Library and Westhampton Elementary School PTO will be held on Sunday, Oct. 12 begins at 10 a.m. with an interfaith service.

At 12:30 p.m. there will be a 5K Run/Walk for the Hills. From noon-4:15 p.m. there will be steeple tours with valley views, axe throwing and lumberjack demo, blacksmith demo, skillet toss, potato cannon, history museum, corn husking, cider making, fiber spinning, cow ie bingo, giant pumpkin competition, therapy dogs, hay bale maze, mushroom cultivation, scavenger hunt, farm animals, lawn games, children's games and crafts and more.

Fresh doughnuts, hand-cut fries, burgers, barbecue sandwiches, desserts will be available. At 4:15 p.m. the great pumpkin roll will happen. There will be free admission and parking. The event will be held rain or shine. The event is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Westhampton receives \$971,856 in MVP Action Grant

WESTHAMPTON – The town of Westhampton announces it has received a \$971,856 climate resilience grant to install a 75kW ground mounted solar array and energy backup system at the Westhampton Elementary School.

Awarded by the Healey-Driscoll Administration's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, which is administered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, these competitive grants support communities to identify climate hazards, develop strategies to improve resilience and implement priority actions to adapt to climate change. Westhampton is one of 54 projects to receive action grant funding in the latest round of applications. The project will launch October 2025. Final design and permitting will be completed by June 30, 2026 and construction will be completed by June 30, 2027.

"The town is grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration for its support of this project and for its commitment to help municipalities achieve great-

er community resilience. This project would not be possible without the support of the Commonwealth" said Select Board Chairman Susan Bronstein.

The grant will make it possible for the town to implement energy goals identified in the Town's 2021 Resilient Westhampton Master Plan also funded by a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant.

The project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the elementary school as part of a larger effort to reach energy independence by converting municipal buildings from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The town recently completed solar panels at Town Hall and construction will soon be under way to solarize the Public Safety Complex followed by the elementary school next year. Solar energy at municipal buildings will also result in significant energy cost savings for the town.

Teri Anderson, Project Manager, and Chair of the Master Plan Implementation Committee said "Another important aspect of the project is to improve the capac-

ity of the elementary school to serve as a warming and cooling center during severe weather-related events, climate disasters or other emergencies by having a renewable energy backup system that allows the facility to operate during power outages."

The elementary school will partner with the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation's Cooler Communities program to provide every student with a free copy of the book "The Energy Detectives: The Secrets of the Sun." The books are accompanied by comprehensive curriculum and a professional development seminar to support teachers in bringing the material to life in their classrooms.

Community members will be invited to participate and learn more about the project at upcoming public information and educational meetings. The town will partner with the University of Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the Hilltown Community Development Corporation to provide community information sessions about solar

energy, energy efficiency and climate resilience on private and public property for town residents including seniors and low-income households, businesses and surrounding municipal officials.

The town is partnering with PowerOptions, Inc. and Solect Energy to design and install the system. "Solect is proud to work with the Town of Westhampton on this cutting-edge solar and microgrid energy storage project to provide sustainability and emergency backup power for the elementary school. It's been inspiring to see such hard work, commitment, and collaboration from Westhampton's project team. Congratulations to

Westhampton." said Andreas Schmid, VP of Business Development at Solect Energy.

The MVP program, created in 2017, provides funding for community-driven climate resilience planning and action. Ninety-nine percent, or 349 out of 351 of the Commonwealth's cities and towns, are participating in the program and over \$210 million has been awarded for local climate resilience planning and projects. Communities originally enrolled in the program by completing the MVP Planning Grant process (MVP 1.0), which then opened up access to apply for an MVP Action Grant, or implementation funding.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

WORTHINGTON

HCHC celebrates 75 years of health care

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

WORTHINGTON – The Hilltown Community Health Center will celebrate 75 years of providing quality health care to the people of Western Massachusetts on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Worthington Historical Society, 6 Williamsburg Road.

The public is invited to attend. This year also marks the organization's 50th year as a Federally Qualified Health Center, from its humble beginnings by Nurse Florence Bates 95 years ago.

Bates came to Worthington in 1930 as a Red Cross nurse where she made house calls on foot, by carriage and by Model T to bring health care to people in the Hilltowns of Western Massachusetts.

By 1950, she was part of forming the Worthington Health Association, a precursor to HCHC. As the group's vision for the region grew, so did their need for funding. In 1975, Western Massachusetts musician Arlo Guthrie hosted a benefit concert at Sena's Farm to raise funds for the health association. One year

later, the group received their federally qualified health center designation.

Growth at HCHC continued, with the Huntington Health Center opening in 1981 for the southern hill-towns, the Gateway School-Based Health Center opening in 1998 and the John P. Musante Health Clinic opening in Amherst in 2018.

Today, HCHC serves over 8,000 patients with 31,000 visits a year from these locations, treating patients who speak 16 different languages.

The celebration will include commendations to HCHC's Founders Circle Honorees: Arlo Guthrie, John P. Musante, Mary P. Allison, Roy and Helen McCann and Steffen W. Plehn. Guthrie organized and headlined the concert in Worthington that raised funding for the Worthington Health Center. Musante was the Amherst Town Manager who helped establish the satellite center in Amherst that was named in his honor. Donations from Allison, the McCanns and Plehn all helped fund the non-profit health center.

Current employees of HCHC are nominating and voting on a recipient for the

Florence Bates Award for staff excellence, which will also be announced at the event. HCHC is creating an anniversary video that will be shown that day, and includes interviews with long time employees, board members and patients.

The Lithia Trio will perform and includes Bruce Madero on guitar, mandolin and vocals; Amy Attias on violin, guitar and vocals and Dave Christopolis on bass, guitar and vocals.

Chief Executive Officer Dr. Michael Purdy and Chief People and Compliance Officer Debra DiStefano, Ph.D. gathered a group of former employees and supporters to share stories from earlier days with the Health Center. Dorothy Hague worked as a dental assistant for 35 years and later trained new dental assistants, including all four currently working for HCHC. Mary McCready originally worked at Huntington physician Dr. Huffmire's office until it closed in 1981. She said they were able to get a Physician Assistant part time to continue providing health care in the town with McCready answering the phone. In time, the Worthington Health

Center reached out and opened a Huntington Office in 1988.

Also present were Dawn Koloszyk who had been a receptionist and later worked for the Director of Operations; Pat Nugent who worked for 33 years in both reception and billing and Suzanne Kulik who served on the HCHC Board from 1978-1989 and again from 1997-2003.

When asked about the greatest joys/challenges from those days, Koloszyk said, "Working with the people, who you really knew. I think we did a lot to keep that going with get together, making the staff happy. It was a second family."

Nugent agreed saying she'd recently spoken with a former doctor who told her that the time she spent at HCHC was treasured.

DiStefano then asked about the greatest challenges. The women agreed that staff turnover and equipment were always a challenge for the health center. Both DiStefano and Purdy reported that it remains so today. They recalled at one time having xray machines in a lead lined room. A simple fax machine was described as a



Dawn Koloszyk and Pat Nugent share a 1996 HCHC newsletter that includes their picture on the front page. HCHC will celebrate its 75th anniversary on Oct. 4.

Turley Publications photo by Wendy Long

"game changer." Computers, they said, were late in coming and bookkeeping was done by hand. Kulike, who had served as the treasurer of the Board for some years, showed pie charts that she had drawn by hand for the annual report. Nugent remembered licking stamps and envelopes for early mailings. And early dental care was provided without wearing gloves, masks or eye protection.

In sharing old newspaper articles, photos and other memorabilia, Nugent showed a photo of office workers whose knees were pressed

against the photo copier, saying that was the only way they could get the machine to work. And most of them remembered a lab that was painted turquoise and magenta, which would be deemed an unusual choice today.

DiStefano then asked the group what they thought had kept the health center going. McCready felt that the need for health care kept everyone committed. Koloszyk agreed, adding, "You always got good care at both places. And maybe a little bit more attention than you'd get in the city."

EASTHAMPTON

ROBERT DRAGON SWORN AS EASTHAMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPTAIN



Acting Mayor Salem Derby did the honors. Robert "Bobby" is the son of Robert and Joyce Dragon and grandson of Bob and Connie Dragon, all of Westhampton. He is married to Megan Conner Dragon and they have one son, Bennett. Pictured are Robert Dragon of Westhampton, third from left, was sworn in recently as Captain of the Easthampton Fire Department. Shown with him are from left, Fire Chief Chris Norris, Acting Mayor Salem Derby, Robert Dragon and Senator John Velis.

Photo by Connie Dragon

NORTHAMPTON

Cooley Dickinson announces \$850K challenge

NORTHAMPTON – Cooley Dickinson Hospital is harnessing the power of an \$850,000 challenge to help complete Transforming Emergency Care: The Campaign for the Cooley Dickinson Emergency Department.

The formal announcement of the challenge was made at a recent gathering hosted by Curran and Keegan Financial. Challenge donors include local companies Diversified, LLC, All States Materials Group and individual contributors who hope this challenge inspires others to give.

"Some of our closest friends have come forward to help us maximize our fundraising efforts before the campaign comes to a close," noted Diane Dukette, Chief Development Officer. "Together, they have generously committed to matching every dollar that comes in, up to \$850,000."

The campaign supports the \$26 million expansion and renovation of the Emergency Department, ensuring that Cooley Dickinson continues to meet the ever-evolving emergency medicine needs of all members of the community. With patient visits to the department doubling from 17,000 in the 1970's to nearly 34,000 in recent years the project will increase the Emergency Department

space by 40%, and support 32 patient rooms, expanded behavioral health spaces and a state-of-the-art suite for a CT scanning and imaging.

"When completed, this project will enhance the patient experience by reducing wait times and ensuring that we have the best and newest, equipment to provide care," shared Sarah Burgess, MPH, RN, CEN, EMT-P, Nurse Director, Emergency Department. "The renovation also reconfigures our space so that we can better and more efficiently coordinate care."

"Our teams from facilities, nursing, leadership, physicians, support services, and so many more have all worked together to help move this renovation forward with as little impact to patient experience as possible," Burgess noted. "The newly expanded section of the ED is open and in use as we work to complete renovations in the former space. When the project is finished - combined with our amazing care teams - I am confident that we will have the best ED in the Valley."

"With just over \$12.7 million raised to-date and less than four months left in the campaign to secure the challenge, every gift is critical," continued Dukette. "From the recent bequest from the estate of Rob Brooks to a gift from a nine-

year old girl from Amherst who donated the proceeds of her lemonade stand to the campaign there are so many ways that our community has stepped forward with support."

Individuals and organizations contributing to Transforming Emergency Care: Campaign for the Cooley Dickinson Emergency Department can increase the impact of their donations through this community challenge. All gifts and pledges, up to \$850,000 and by 12/21/2025 will receive a 1-1 match.

Contributions may be sent to the Cooley Dickinson Hospital Development Office, P.O. Box 329, Northampton, MA 01061-0329 or made on the organization's website at cooley-dickinson.org/giving.

Cooley Dickinson Hospital is a not-for-profit, acute care hospital that offers community-based programs and services in Northampton. A member of Mass General Brigham, Cooley Dickinson has been advancing the health of people in the Pioneer Valley since 1886. The organization includes community-based primary care and specialty practices in Hampshire and Southern Franklin counties, and a VNA & Hospice program that provides home health and hospice nursing and rehabilitation visits.

WILLIAMSBURG

PORCHFEST

from page 1

Facebook posts by Exhibit A was seen by almost 60,000 people. Considering it was the first weekend of the BigE and Taste of Northampton was going on at the same time, we were still packed. I think the least attended performance had 35 people and the most may have had 150 plus."

Longey credits the success of the inaugural Porchfest to a number of people. "Natasa Polovic and Tara Winters really made this possible. Lesley Ham got the word out to various news outlets," he said, adding that many other people including sponsors had stepped up.

One of the performance spaces was the patio in front of sponsor Exhibit A. "It's a perfect performance space and beer makes everything better," Longey said. At midday, the duo Electric Castle-composed of Dayna Webber and Joshua Chaplin-performed for patrons there. Exhibit A moved their micro-brewery from Framingham to Williamsburg last year and were gold sponsors for this year's Porchfest.

Across the street, local favorite Jen Black was joined by other instrumental musicians and vocalists unabashedly singing along outside of the Williamsburg Market. Black is a frequent leader of similar events in the town bringing people together to play and sing music.

Success, Longey said, was also due to the calibre of the performers. Louise Coombe, Stephen Katz, Paired Down, Dayna Gross, Wild Thyme, Don Chiulli and Holly Munoz were also among those performing throughout downtown, throughout the day.

"I think it's safe to pencil in Sept. 12, 2026 for the Second Annual Williamsburg Porchfest," Longey concluded. "I think it's important to note that we did all of this with just community support and musicians who want to perform. We didn't get any of the grants we applied for from the state. It's sort of a sign of the times. The good news is we figured out how to do it once and I think we have some ideas for doing more community-sponsored sustainable cultural events in the future."

Tag sales abounded in the downtown area and along side roads.

Following a long tradition, the Williamsburg Grange held their annual fair on that same date. The Grange Hall showcased a range of exhibits, including canning, quilt making, gardening, and hand crafts. Monitoring the entrance that morning was Russ Warriner, who was born and raised in Williamsburg. He said he joined the Grange as soon as he was old enough and that his mother, Verna Warriner, was the first woman

president of the Grange in 1972. He took a "demit," a sort of honorary leave that allows a member to return later in order to serve as a gunner and crew chief with the U. S. Army in Vietnam. Warriner said he served for eight years, nine months, 21 days and maybe three hours, "But who's counting?" He received the Purple Heart and wrote two books about his experiences in the war: "Empty Tombs and Backseat Memories" and "Surviving Combat Memories." Another author, David Arenstam wrote a book about Warriner, called "Homecoming: A Soldier's Story of Loyalty, Courage and Responsibility" After the war, he helped set up gatherings of people, who had served in his unit or in ones like it and over 1000 veterans have taken part.

Schooled in Williamsburg as a child, Warriner returned after many years away and took up the post of Steward for the "Burgy Grange," where his tasks include making sure all of the stations are prepared for their monthly meeting, held the first Saturday of each month.

Outside of the Grange, the grounds are filled with vendors who've paid a fee for the privilege of selling their wares. Inside, visitors pour over the exhibits and speak with Grange members. At the door to the Grange sits its steward.



Jen Black, left, leads musicians and singers in a community sing outside of the Williamsburg Market.

Turley Publications photos by Wendy Long



"Burgy" Grange Steward Russ Warriner stands with a photo of his mother, Verna Warriner, receiving the gavel after being named the Grange's first female president in 1972.



Grange Fair Committee members, from left, Shannon Wade of Goshen, with Olivia Mariti, Hannah Black and Becky Houlihan, all from Williamsburg. Not present for the photo was Daria D'Arienzo.

STOCKBRIDGE

BAC to move out of Pittsfield location

STOCKBRIDGE – Berkshire Art Center, the region’s leading nonprofit visual arts education organization with its primary location in Stockbridge, today announced it will transition out of its small annex at the Brotherhood Building on North Street in Pittsfield.

The decision reflects BAC’s commitment to strengthening its long-term impact and deepening how it serves the community through expanded scholarships, partnerships and new flexible programs. While

the Pittsfield studio space will close, BAC emphasizes that it is not pulling back from the city. Instead, the organization is reimagining how it engages the community in more sustainable and collaborative ways. Plans are underway to expand pop-up programming and partnerships with schools, cultural institutions, artists, and local organizations throughout the city.

Looking ahead, BAC is developing a reimagined approach to community engagement across the Berkshires, combining flexible programming with innovative partnerships. Under new leadership, the vision is to expand access to high-quality visual arts experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds, positioning BAC as a place where creativity not only lives, but thrives in new and unexpected ways.

“Berkshire Art Center remains deeply committed to Pittsfield,” said Laura Thompson, Executive Director of BAC. “This change allows us to focus resources where they make the most difference and to bring art experiences directly into the community. By expanding scholarships, transportation support, and partnerships, we can better respond to the needs

of Pittsfield residents and ensure that more people have meaningful opportunities to engage with the visual arts.”

That commitment is already reflected in action, by making programming accessible at Citizens’ Hall, BAC’s 1870 schoolhouse in Stockbridge. Earlier this summer, BAC received support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to provide scholarships and transportation reimbursements for Pittsfield students to attend April camp. Ongoing partnerships with Berkshire Bank, Lee Bank and Greylock Federal Credit Union have enabled the center to offer scholarships for adults and children to participate in studio classes. Additionally, BAC is grateful to the Pittsfield City School District for welcoming BAC’s teaching artists back into its after school programs, a partnership that has thrived for over 18 years.

BAC will also continue to offer its robust range of classes, workshops and events at its Stockbridge campus and other strategic locations, ensuring that Pittsfield residents have multiple pathways to engage with the arts. More details about expanded Pittsfield programming will be announced later this year. For updates on upcoming programs and opportunities to participate, people may visit www.berkshireartcenter.org.

Berkshire Art Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high-quality, accessible visual arts education and experiences for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. With its main campus in Stockbridge, BAC nurtures creativity, builds community, and fosters lifelong engagement with the arts across the Berkshires.

CUMMINGTON

Rep. Sabadosa hosts Town Hall

CUMMINGTON – State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa will hold a Town Hall discussion on Monday, Sept. 29 at 6-8 p.m. at the Cummington Town Hall, 33 Main St.

The event will feature updates on the legislative session, specific policy updates, and a question and answer session. All are welcome to attend.

Family Contra Dance event set to take place on Oct. 17

CUMMINGTON – A family Contra Dance will be held in the Cummington Community Hall, 33 Main St. on Friday, Oct. 17 from 7-9 p.m.

This is a beginner and family friendly event; smoke and alco-

hol free. All dances are taught. Admission is by donations. All amounts are welcome large or small. Caller is Steve Howland with Annika Amstutz and George Wilson, fiddles and Becky Hollingsworth, piano.

This is supported in part by a grant from the Cummington Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. People may email showland@mac.com or call 413-522-3320.

FLORENCE



Over 30 team members from Florence Bank marched in Springfield Puerto Rican Parade.

Submitted photo

Florence Bank team marches in Puerto Rican Parade

FLORENCE – Over 30 team members from Florence Bank marched in the 35th Annual Springfield Puerto Rican Parade in September and the bank was also a \$2,500 Merengue event sponsor.

Two bank vehicles accompanied the marchers on the 1.9-mile route that began at the intersection of Main Street and Wason Avenue and proceeded downtown. The parade drew roughly 4,000 marchers and a crowd of 10,000 spectators.

After the parade, held

each year to empower the community by celebrating Puerto Rican culture and preserving its heritage, spectators enjoyed cultural music, food and a variety of vendors. Florence Bank had a presence among the vendors.

“It was a really cool event,” said Paola Sherman, the bank’s community loan originator who has a focus on serving the area’s Latino community. Sherman inspired her colleagues to march in the parade.

“There was good ener-

gy,” she said.

Sherman, who started in her role at Florence Bank a year ago, moved to the region from Argentina 15 years ago as someone, who did not speak English.

“I know it’s hard to move here with a different culture and language,” she explained. “I can help with any questions customers, who don’t speak English have. I help people through the process.”

President and CEO Matt Garrity said the bank is proud to support community events that celebrate

cultural heritage. “We want to be a good neighbor in all the communities we serve and do our best to connect with residents, businesses and nonprofit organizations on a local level,” he said.

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield and Springfield.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD Senior Center Crawlspace Structural Repairs and Renovations – Phase II Invitation to Bid

The Town of Middlefield is accepting Bids from state certified general contractors to make repairs and renovations to the crawlspace area in the Town Senior Center located at 169 Skyline Trail in Middlefield, MA 01243. Work will include selective building demolition, existing building services MEP/FP selective demolition and new services, construction of an access door to the crawlspace, installation of ventilation equipment, the installation of insulation in the crawlspace, insulation of utility lines, and related work included in the plans and specifications.

Bid documents will be available commencing on September 29, 2025, by contacting the Town Assistant Administrator at middlefield.assistant@gmail.com, or by calling the Middlefield Town Hall at 413-623-2079 ext.2. Bids can also be picked up at the Select Board Office in person, from the Middlefield Administrative Assistant on Mon-

days from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Wednesdays from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. The Select Board Office is located in the Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield MA 01243. There is no cost for the first set of Bid Documents.

A Pre-bid Site Visit will be held for all interested parties on October 6, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. at the front entrance to the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243.

The Bid deadline is October 15, 2025, at 2:00P.M. Bids will be opened immediately after the close of Bidding. The project will start immediately after award (approximately October 22, 2025) and shall be completed no later than December 12, 2025.

Note: Massachusetts Prevailing Rates are required to be paid on this project.

Questions can be directed to Curt Robie, Member, Select Board by calling 413-623-2079, 413-374-2082, or by email: middlefield.CDR@gmail.com.
09/25, 10/02/2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Justin Day to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Inland Bank and Trust, dated December 17, 2015 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 12155, Page 171, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Inland Bank and Trust, its successors and assigns to Wells Fargo Bank N.A., recorded on September 27, 2018, in Book No. 13089, at Page 30 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to J.P. Morgan

Mortgage Acquisition Corp., recorded on February 2, 2021, in Book No. 13965, at Page 108 J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. to DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc., recorded on May 19, 2022, in Book No. 14556, at Page 212 DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp., recorded on November 1, 2024, in Book No. 15273, at Page 290 DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp., recorded on June 20, 2025, in Book No. 15452, at Page 123 J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCAF Acquisition Trust, recorded on June 20, 2025, in Book No. 15452, at Page 126 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on October 14, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 14 Pleasant Street, Huntington, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

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

Beginning at the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of James Kirby at a stone post on the westerly side of Pleasant Street, so-called:

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

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

thence NORTHERLY on land formerly of Fred P. Stanton one hundred and nineteen (119) feet

to a stone post at land of said Kirby;

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

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

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and

place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

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

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

Town Of Russell 2026 Tax Classification Hearing Legal Notice

There will be a Tax Classification Hearing held at the Board Of Selectman's Office at Russell Town Hall **Tuesday, September 30, 2025@ 6:00 p.m.** to discuss the determination of the Fiscal Year 2026 tax rate of the residential, commercial, industrial, open space, and personal property as set forth in Chapter 40, Section 56, as amended by Chapter 79 Acts of 1982 and Chapter 79 on the Acts of 1983, General Laws of Massachusetts.

The Board of Selectmen and Assessors will be present to provide relevant data and information.

All interested persons may present their views at this hearing.

Town of Russell
Board of Selectmen
September 25, 2025
09/25/2025

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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PART TIME SNOWPLOW DRIVERS NEEDED

Part time snowplow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2025-2026 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL License. If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at (508) 867-2451 or email hwysecretary@newbraintree.org.

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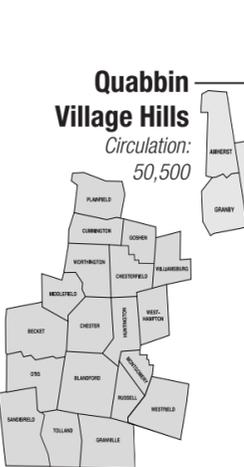
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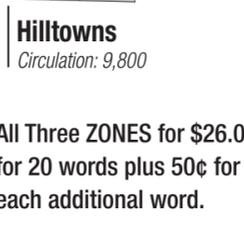
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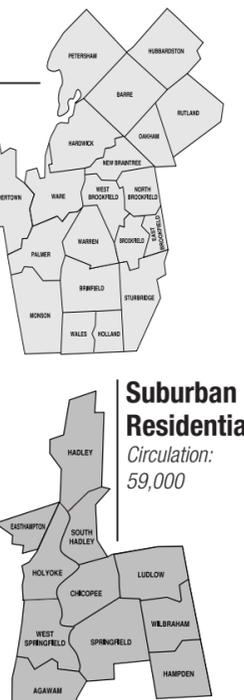
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OBITUARY

Lorraine Agnes (Brueno) Bean, 94

Lorraine Agnes Bean (née Brueno) of Blandford, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on Sept. 6, 2025, at the age of 94 surrounded by her loving family.

Born on Aug. 19, 1931, in Westfield, Massachusetts, Lorraine spent her early years in the community where she would later build both her personal and professional life. She dedicated much of her career as an administrative assistant with Digital Computer Systems in Westfield, where her diligence and commitment were

deeply valued.

Lorraine was married to Irving L. Bean for 73 years until his passing. Their long and enduring partnership was a testament to their shared devotion and strength through the decades.

She is lovingly remembered by her children: Lorrie A. Bean and her partner Frederick Benda; Albert I. Bean and his wife Gail Babinski Bean; Brian J.



Bean and Robin Bean and his partner Catherine Haliday; 11 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren, loving sister-in-law Christine Ferst, nieces and a nephews.

Lorraine was predeceased by her parents, Alfred Brueno and Agnes (Lemieux) Brueno, sister, Doris Platt and infant brother. She also leaves behind cherished

memories with those who knew her as a friend, neighbor, and community member.

May her memory bring comfort to those who knew and loved her. A graveside service will be held on Oct. 4, 2025 from 10 a.m. at Norwich Bridge Cemetery 50 Littleville Road, Huntington.

Donations in her memory can be sent to the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association, 1 Bromley Road, Huntington, MA 01050. www.firtonadams.com

DEATH NOTICE

BEAN, LORRAINE AGNES (BRUENO)

Graveside service Oct. 4 10 a.m. Norwich Bridge Cemetery, 50 Littleville Road, Huntington Donation in her memory to Hilltown Community Ambulance Association, 1 Bromley Road, Huntington, MA 01050

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

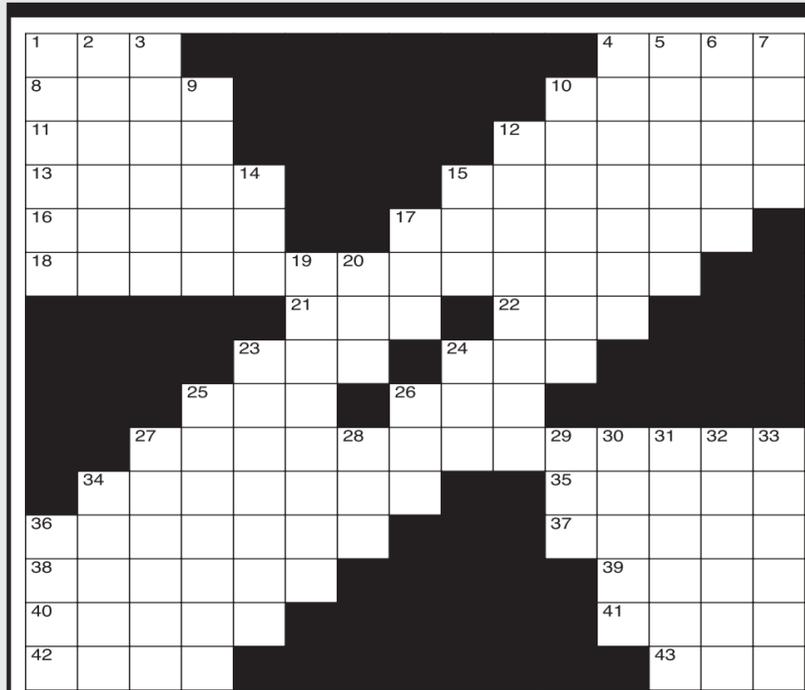
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Gas usage measurement
4. Muslim mystic
8. Towards the mouth or oral region
10. Monday (Spanish)
11. Frame for a coffin
12. Rub out
13. John ____, English educator 1467-1519
15. Small round particle
16. Chilean seaport
17. News service
18. Pay for dinner
21. Glamorous city
22. Subway rodent
23. "The Raven"

author

24. Buddhist festival
25. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
26. Indigenous person of Thailand
27. "The Blonde Bombshell"
34. Series-ending episodes
35. Bluish greens
36. Aquatic mammal
37. Unit of measurement
38. Eye membranes
39. Indian god of dissolution
40. People of Scotland
41. Leak slowly

through

42. Rock icon Turner
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Large hat covering
2. "From what is earlier" (Latin)
3. Celtic
4. Retirement region
5. A way to change posture
6. Touches
7. A small island
9. Rubbish
10. A citizen of Laos
12. A place to dance
14. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
15. Mild expression of

surprise

17. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
19. Descriptions
20. Men's fashion accessory
23. Thieves of the sea
24. Prohibit
25. Card game
26. French and Belgian river
27. Underling
28. Downwind
29. Type of medication
30. German city
31. Animal disease
32. Martini ingredients
33. Get away from
34. Stuffed (French)
36. Type of precipitation

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Partnerships require extra attention this week, Aries. Focus on clear communication and mutual understanding. Compromise will lead to positive outcomes in all situations.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

You may find yourself redecorating or enjoying quiet time in the house, Cancer. Your life right now puts a strong focus on domestic pursuits and you may spend more time at home.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

This week is a great time for self-improvement and setting new goals, Libra. Project confidence when interacting with your professional network, and pursue what matters to you.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Your professional life takes center stage this week, Capricorn. Opportunities for recognition and advancement may pop up. Showcase your people skills.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

This week your health and wellness comes into focus, Taurus. Consider a new exercise program or make adjustments to your diet. It's also a good time to get organized.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, your mind is sharp and curious. Consider taking a class or joining a group hobby you find engaging. This week largely will be about local connections.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

You are comfortable being out of the spotlight, Scorpio. This will serve you well when you spend some time in quiet reflection this week. Look inward and assess your goals.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, broaden your perspective. This is a fine week for learning new things or engaging with novel ideas. Embrace any challenges that get you thinking.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you might feel a surge of inspiration related to hobbies, artistic pursuits or even your social life. Embrace all of the creative endeavors that will come your way.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, financial stability is a key theme in your life right now. Review your budget and look for practical ways to save money. You also may have to seek ways to boost your income..

SAGITTARIUS

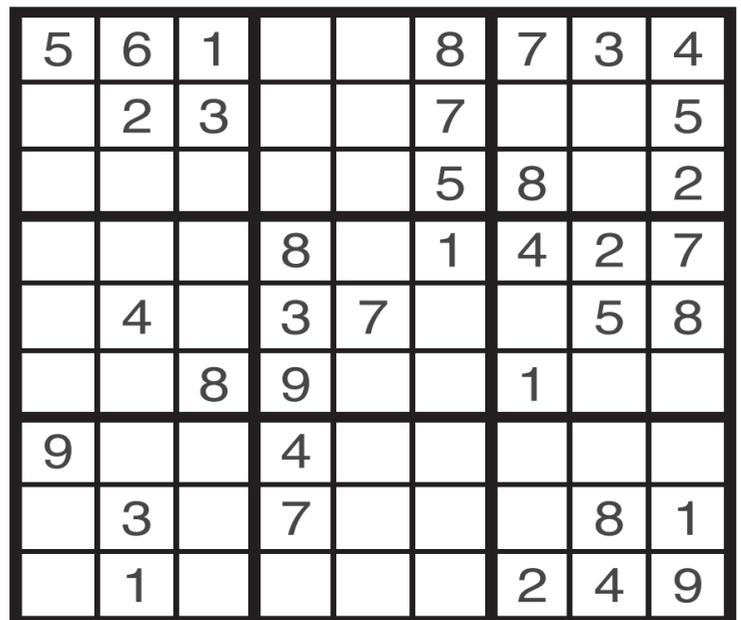
Nov 23/Dec 21

Connect with your friends or community and take part in group activities that bring you joy, Sagittarius. You might just find new inspiration to widen your social network.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you might be dealing with financial matters that require collaboration with family members. It is important to have open conversation before reaching any conclusions.



SUDOKU

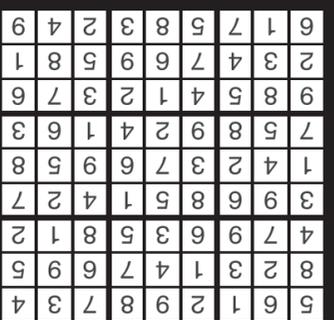
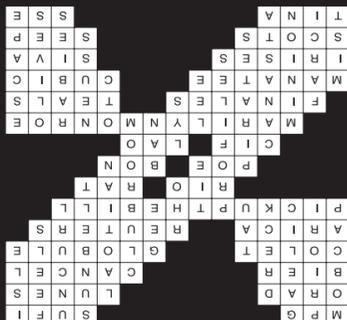
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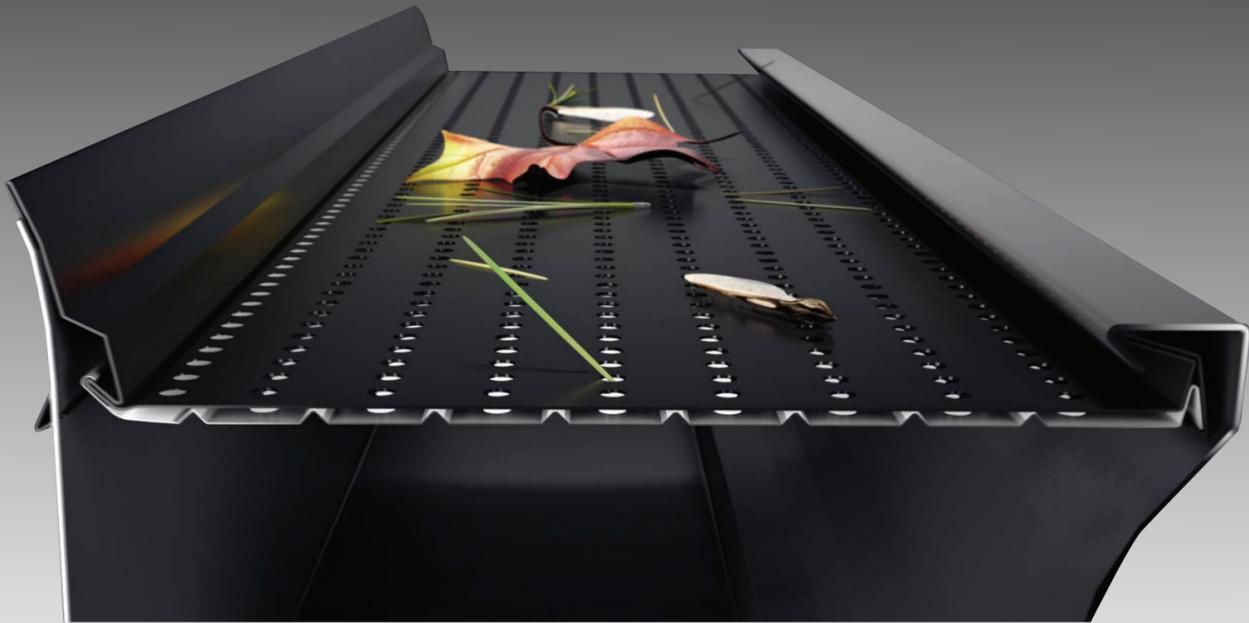
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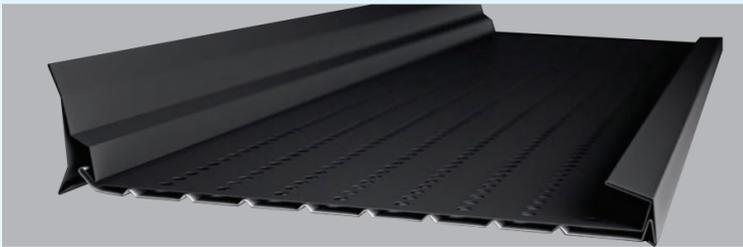
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