

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine and shadows will fall behind you." – Walt Whitman

# 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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## WORTHINGTON

# Community supper celebrates local harvest

By Kathy Koegel  
Correspondent

On Friday, Sept. 20, a line snaked around Sena Farm Brewery as supporters of the Hilltown Market queued up for a dinner celebrating the local harvest.

"Ninety percent of what we are eating tonight is grown right here in the Hilltowns," said Hunt Chase, Director of Community Food Resilience for Hilltown Community Development, the local NGO that supports the Hilltown Market. Sage Farm, Reed Farm, Kinne Brook Farm and Good Bunch Farm had contributed everything from the feta in the beet salad to the chicken and pork barbecued by local food truck Worthy-Que Smoke 'N BBQ. Chase estimated the crowd at more than 140 drawn in by wood smoke of the barbecue and the desire to support locally grown food.

Chase is the person behind the shift two years ago from a mobile farmer's market making various stops in the Hilltowns to a retail

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Hunt Chase, director of community food resilience for the Hilltown CDC celebrated the local harvest with a community supper.



The Hilltown Ham Hocks entertained from the brewery.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel



Worthy Que Smoke 'N BBQ created the supper with chicken and pork from local farmers.

## BLANDFORD

# Select Board discusses road projects

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Highway Superintendent Rene Senecal told the board that the owner of the Old Chester Road property, Shonn Monday, had in fact applied for a curb cut and a permit was granted.

The permit was "mis-filed," said Senecal, under Old Chester LLC rather than the name Monday. In a later conversation Tuesday, Senecal said it really was a "clerical error on our part."

"It's confusing, but he does have a legitimate permit," said Senecal, who added that "he said he was not going to apply for a building permit because he has no intention of building this winter."

Also regarding Old Chester Road, Senecal said that the "state is not inclined to let us do the work under emergency" and instead, he told the board he will use Fair Share funds, which he estimated to be between \$20,000 to \$25,000 for the project.

"We'll fix the road so its passable," he said, using recycled material, working in late spring. The work, according to Senecal, will be a two-phase project because there is "so much work to be done."

### North Blandford Road

There is homeowner's waterline North Blandford Road that needs to be replaced. North Blandford Road was recently paved and

Senecal told Bruce Cooper, the contractor, that he could not allow the road to be dug up and that the existing pathway would have to be used.

Senecal told the board he has had to use a different contractor for line painting and there will be a few thousand dollars increase to the overall cost of about \$30,000. He anticipates about 20 miles of lines to be painted.

### Mack truck repair bill

Funds from the department's Outside Equipment Repair line will be used to cover the cost of the Mack truck repair. According to Senecal, there is an unpaid bill from Ballard's Truck Repair for \$9,300 that must

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## HUNTINGTON

# Library offers books, crafts, games and treats

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Library Director Amanda Loiselle announce activities on the October calendar for the Huntington Public Library.

Events will feature books, crafts, games, and treats! Volunteers are also being sought to serve on a Community Planning Committee, which will meet twice to provide input for the Trustee's Strategic Planning Process. The HPL Book Club will meet on Thursday, Oct. 3 at 4:30 p.m. in the library. New members are always welcome. They will discuss September's pick, "The Banned Bookshop of Maggie Banks" by Shauna Robinson. Abby Jimenez, bestselling

author of "Part of Your World" and "The Friend Zone" called the book "A sparkling bookish story about rules just begging to be broken." It tells the story of Maggie Banks, who arrives in a small town to help her best friend's struggling bookstore, which is banned from selling any books from this century. Copies of the book are available at the Huntington Public Library, while supplies last, may be acquired through interlibrary loans or downloaded digitally through the Libby App. Please stop in and see Loiselle if you need assistance with any of these options. The club will also select their October read at this meeting.

Crafternoon will be held for

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## HILLTOWNS

# MassDOT announces upcoming I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be performing nighttime paving, guardrail and bridge repair operations along I-90 eastbound and westbound from now through Thursday night, Sept. 26.

Lane closures will be in effect, and traffic will be allowed through the work zones. In Otis and Blandford paving operations will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 24.0 to 27.0, now through Thursday night, Sept. 26, from 6 p.m.-6 a.m. each night with work concluding on Friday morning, Sept. 27 at 6 a.m.

Bridge work will be conducted on

I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 22.5, now through Thursday night, Sept. 26, from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. each night with work concluding on Friday morning, Sept. 27 at 5:30 a.m.

In Stockbridge and West Stockbridge bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 1.0 to 3.0, Monday night, September 23, through Thursday night, September 26, from 7:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. each night, with work concluding by 5:30 a.m. on Friday morning, September 27.

Guardrail work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 5.5 to

8.0, now through Thursday night, Sept. 26, from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. each night, with work concluding on Friday morning, Sept. 27 by 5:30 a.m.

In West Stockbridge bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 westbound at mile marker 1.3, now through Thursday night, Sept. 26, from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. each night, with work concluding on Friday morning, Sept. 27 by 5:30 a.m.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce

speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

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

## Bird Club to discuss kestrels



This American Kestrel was photographed in Brimfield by Allen Bird Club member Bill Platenik. The Allen Bird Club invites the public to learn more about local efforts to conserve this small, colorful falcon at a free, public presentation to be held on Monday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Springfield Science Museum.

Photo by Bill Platenik

On Monday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. the Allen Bird Club of Springfield will host the presentation, "Increasing Local Kestrel Populations" in the Tolman Auditorium of the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards St.

In this program, Ben Nickley, executive director of the Berkshire Bird Observatory, will describe his efforts to bolster American Kestrel populations in Western Massachusetts. A scientist passionate about birds and the ecosystems that support them, Nickley initiated a nest box project in Berkshire County.

With the help of organic farmers, local non-profits, community members, and town and state governments, he installs, monitors, and maintains kestrel boxes. He describes the work that benefits our region's most colorful local falcon.

The Allen Bird Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing Greater Springfield area birders together since 1912. This presentation is open to the public free of charge. For more information, people may visit [www.AllenBirdClub.org](http://www.AllenBirdClub.org).

## Gas prices decrease six cents

As average Northeast gasoline prices creep closer to \$3, a confluence of international and domestic developments relating to the economy, the weather and escalating geopolitical conflicts could slow the pace of price declines in the short term.

Looking solely at the supply and demand equation, current data points to a continuation in the steady drop in gasoline prices here in the Northeast. Inventories remain above the five-year average and retailers are switching to less expensive winter-blend fuel. As domestic production remains strong, gasoline demand did increase last week by about 300,000 barrels to 8.7 million barrels a day, according to the Energy Information Administration, but remains well below levels that would indicate impending supply concerns.

But a patch of turbulent weather in the Atlantic is threatening the Gulf Coast, which could see a hurricane make landfall later this week. That, in turn, could lead to disruption in domestic oil and gas markets. Meanwhile, fighting escalated over the past week in the Middle East and markets have reacted by sending oil higher. And the first interest rate cut since March 2020 by the Federal Reserve last week could boost economic activity, in

turn causing a spike in demand.

The average gas price in Massachusetts is down six cents over last week (\$3.20), averaging \$3.14 per gallon. Today's price is 24 cents lower than a month ago (\$3.38) and 63 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.77). Massachusetts's average gas price is six cents lower than the national average.

"The overall trend points to gasoline prices continuing their decline through autumn," said Mark Schieldrop, Senior Spokesperson, AAA Northeast. "But the pace of declines could slow over the next few weeks as hurricane season continues and markets react to global economic news and the latest headlines from geopolitical hotspots."

AAA Northeast's Sept. 23 survey of fuel prices found the current national average unchanged from last week (\$3.20), averaging \$3.20 a gallon. Today's national average price is 17 cents lower than a month ago (\$3.37) and 65 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.85).

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6.5 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance and auto-related services.

## Beartown State Forest campground extends camping season

MONTEREY – The Department of Conservation and Recreation announces Beartown State Forest is extending the camping season two additional weeks until Sunday, Oct. 27.

In July, the campground reopened with more than \$350,000 improvements, including modern bathroom facilities and enhanced amenities.

While the campground was closed,

DCR made significant upgrades to the site including the installation of two brand new bathrooms equipped with running water and flush toilets, several new water spigots, and updated tables and grills. DCR also added internet connectivity and a new year-round staff position to ensure improved visitor service.

Beartown's campground has 12 sites

for tent camping. Campers can explore the 12,000 acre state forest that stretches through the towns of Great Barrington, Monterey, Lee, Tyringham and Stockbridge or take a self-guided hike along the 1.5 mile Benedict Pond loop. They can also fish in Benedict Pond, a shallow 35-acre man-made pond.

To make a reservation and experience the upgraded amenities at

Beartown State Forest, people may visit <https://massdrcamping.reserveamerica.com> or call 1-877-422-6762: camping is by reservation only. The last day for camping for the season at Beartown is now Sunday, Oct. 27. General questions may be directed to Beartown State Forest Headquarters by email at [beartown.forest@mass.gov](mailto:beartown.forest@mass.gov) or call 413-528-0904.

## Massachusetts Department of Revenue to hold amnesty program

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Revenue announced it will administer an amnesty program authorized in the Fiscal Year 2025 General Appropriations Act from Friday, Nov. 1 through Monday, Dec. 30.

The amnesty program will allow non-filers and taxpayers with outstanding tax liabilities to catch up on back taxes and save on penalties. The program aims to bring into compliance those taxpayers who have failed to file returns or have unpaid assessments.

Taxpayers, who meet certain criteria, must request amnesty, file returns and pay outstanding tax and interest liabilities to have eligible penalties waived. Additionally, non-filers, or individuals who failed to file required returns with DOR, may benefit from a three-year limited look-back period.

"I urge individuals and businesses to take this opportunity to voluntarily pay their back taxes and interest begin-

ning Nov. 1," said Geoffrey Snyder, Commissioner of Revenue. "The program is a significant step to help taxpayers come into compliance, including non-filers."

Eligible taxpayers include: individuals, businesses, estates or trusts; taxpayers with unfiled returns, underreported obligations or existing tax liabilities; taxpayers currently under audit that will result in a penalty assessment and taxpayers with pending Resolution cases, pending cases with the Appellate Tax Board, and open Collection cases.

Ineligible taxpayers are: taxpayers seeking a waiver of penalties related to assessments already paid; taxpayers seeking a refund of tax or a credit of an overpayment; taxpayers under tax-related criminal investigation or prosecution; taxpayers who received prior amnesty relief in 2015 or 2016 for the same tax type and period; taxpayers in active bankruptcy; taxpayers subject to a tax-re-

lated criminal investigation or prosecution and taxpayers who filed a false or fraudulent return, statement, or amnesty claim.

Eligible taxpayers who have an existing tax liability will receive an Amnesty Eligibility Letter. All taxpayers will complete the Amnesty Request, which will be available on the information web page beginning Nov. 1. Outstanding returns must be filed for the amnesty period(s) requested, and all tax and interest due must be paid by Dec. 30.

If an application is approved, penalties will be waived, as will interest on penalties for the period(s) requested. If an application is denied, interest and penalties will continue to accrue until paid.

Additional information is available on DOR's Massachusetts Tax Amnesty 2024 Program web page, including frequently asked questions and a full list of eligible and ineligible tax types. The web page will also be updated with

video tutorials, and a link to the Amnesty Request.

Taxpayers with outstanding tax obligations not covered by the tax amnesty should communicate with DOR as soon as possible about payment of those obligations. Payment agreements based on individual economic circumstances are available.





# HUNTINGTON

## Domestic Violence Task Force to hold vigil Oct. 16

HUNTINGTON – The Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force will hold a vigil to honor, remember and acknowledge victims and survivors and those, who support them on Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 5:30-:30 p.m. at Stanton

Hall, 28 Russell Road.

This is in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month Vigil. There will be cider and doughnuts. It will be held rain or shine. This is a family friendly event.

### LIBRARY

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all ages on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 4 p.m. Join the staff for an afternoon of crafting: you may bring your own project or use materials available at the library.

All ages are also invited to a game night on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 4 p.m. This event includes pizza, soda and games. A variety of games are available at the library, but feel free to bring your own.

The Cookbook Club will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. The theme for the October meeting is Fall. Pick your favorite fall-themed recipe and join in on a fun afternoon of shared food and great company.

HPL will also take part in the town's Annual Trunk or Treat and Bonfire on Saturday, Oct. 26. Those who stop in at the library's front vestibule will receive a treat and can create their very own Halloween-themed bookmark.

Loiselle also announced that volunteers are sought to serve on a Community Planning Committee as part

of the library's strategic planning process. Loiselle and the Library Trustees are following a process from "Strategic Planning for Results" by Sandra Nelson. As outlined in the book, the committee should reflect the community (a range of age, ethnicity, race, gender, education levels) and include members of different groups, such as parents, business owners, literacy students, educators, service organizations and religious institutions. The CPP will hold two meetings during the strategic planning year: the first to create a community vision for the library, identify barriers, and choose priorities. At the second meeting, the CPP will hear feedback from the staff and Trustees and use that information to make final recommendations about community needs that might be addressed by the library through the strategic plan. If people might be interested or would like more information, they may email Loiselle at librarydirector@huntingtonma.us.

## OTIS

### Playgroup meets every Tuesday

OTIS – South Berkshire Kids, Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, holds explore and play every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in the Otis Town Hall.

Children birth through age five and their parent or guardian will meet with

Anina for this caregiver/children playgroup. This program includes free play, craft, stories and songs.

No registration is required. The program is free and open to the community. For more information, people may visit [www.SouthBerkshireKids.org](http://www.SouthBerkshireKids.org).

## MIDDLEFIELD

### Council on Aging lists lunch menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Council on Aging will serve lunch in the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, on Wednesday, Oct. 2 at noon.

The menu is eat in or take out. The choice is tuna salad or chicken salad, one slice rye bread, corn salad, cherry tomatoes and sugar cookie. People

should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal by Monday, Sept. 30, leave message on machine. Suggested donation is \$4

There will be a blood pressure clinic. They are hosting a Covid / Flu clinic here on Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. with more information later.

## Opera and Broadway come to North Hall

HUNTINGTON – Sunday Sept. 29 at 2 p.m. will be the final free performance on the North Hall stage for the season, located at 40 Searle Road.

Audiences will enjoy an afternoon of opera and Broadway favorites performed by the returning accomplished NYC ensemble – tenor Antonio Abate, soprano Amy Orsulak and pianist Jerome Tan.

The group will perform music from Richard Strauss, Antonin Dvorak, Ralph Vaughn Williams, Frederic Chopin, Alan Menken, Harold Arlen, Giuseppe Verdi and Stephen Sondheim.

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

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



Opera and Broadway musical showcase comes to Huntington on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 2 p.m. Shown are pianist Jerome Tan, soprano Amy Orsulak and tenor Antonio Abate.

Photo by Peri Sossaman

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### Should my husband file and then suspend his benefits?

Dear Rusty

My financial advisor used a computer program, which told my husband to take his SS at age 68, then suspend it after a few months. What I understood was if my husband started and then stopped taking distributions, he would earn delayed retirement credits and thus get more at age 70. I know waiting increases SS amounts, by 8% a year, but does purposely starting and then stopping SS increase distributions even more?

Signed Confused

Dear Confused

Suspending receipt of one's SS benefits after their Full Retirement Age as in your husband's case does result in him earning Delayed Retirement Credits, but the DRCs earned accumulate at the same rate as if he simply waited longer to claim his SS benefit in the first place. DRCs are earned up to 70 years of age, at which point your husband's maximum SS benefit is attained. FYI, DRCs earn .667% of additional benefit for each month benefits are delayed or suspended or 8% per year.

But I see no advantage to your husband starting his benefits now at 68 and then suspending them several months later to earn DRCs, the number of DRCs earned are the same in either case, so he could simply wait to apply for his Social Security benefits until he is 70 to get his maximum amount.

The only rationale I can think of to claim and then suspend after doing so is to get a few months of his benefit payments before suspending. But the few months he received benefits before suspending will be considered when he later unsuspends his benefit, so that his total payment amount will be a bit less at 70 than it would otherwise be if he simply waits longer to claim SS.

And, just for information, he can't "file and suspend" his benefits so that you can receive a spousal benefit from him. That option to file and suspend, enabling a spouse to receive benefits was eliminated by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 while your husband's benefits are suspended, you cannot receive a spousal benefit from him.

So, frankly, I see no advantage to your husband claiming his benefit now and then suspending them a few months later. If his goal is to maximize his SS benefit, then the best way

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## Corrections policy

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

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

## Undecided voters ...



## GUEST COLUMN

### Extending the life of summer annuals



It was a lot of fun decorating the porch in an autumnal theme this afternoon. The switch over from summer to fall always poses a dilemma for me, though. Do I throw out the summer annuals or try and overwinter them?

Or maybe I should take a cutting instead and keep them going that way. Hmmmm.

I usually end up at least trying to keep the annuals that I love, and if successful they become houseplants of sort. There are geraniums, coleus and fuchsias that are now part of my plant family.

Perhaps you too are trying to decide whether or not to haul these annuals or others off to the compost pile. If you are up for an experiment, why not consider taking a few cuttings.

Read, on, straight from the archives to learn the skill.

Getting a piece of stem to form roots is relatively easy. Here are a few tips that will guarantee your success.

First, make sure that the plant you are taking the cuttings from, called the "stock

plant," is insect and disease-free and well hydrated. Plan to take cuttings in the morning before the heat of the day has a chance to cause any wilting.

A clean, sharp pair of scissors or hand pruners is the best tool for the job. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season; in the fall, sooner is better than later.

Begin by examining your stock plant. Those stems with the closest placed nodes are the best choice for cutting material.

Nodes are the point on the stem from which the leaves grow. There is a strong accumulation of hormones in this area; for that reason, stem cuttings are taken just after a node.

Terminal cuttings, (those from the growth tip) three to four inches long are desirable. It is tempting to take longer pieces, figuring that the end result will be a larger plant.

These are likely to wilt before they root or take a very long time to root because the stems are woodier the further down you go. Play it safe with stout cuttings.

There are all kinds of potting mediums in which to place the cutting while it is grows roots. Ideally it should be able to hold enough moisture to keep the cutting turgid yet not hold so much that it rots the stem.

Sand, perlite, and soilless potting mixes have all been used with success. Water is not recommended as "watery roots" will have a harder time adapting to potting soil later on.

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## Election letters to the editor welcome

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that

Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

paper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

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

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

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# OPINION

## HILLTOWN HISTORY

### Calvin Coolidge enjoyed western Massachusetts

By Deborah Daniels  
Correspondent

Yes were boring into me as I was eating at the Comfort Kitchen in Huntington.

I looked up and there was Silent Cal assessing the clientele from a framed photo. So it appears that the 30th President (1923 -1929) Calvin Coolidge (7/4/1872 - 1/5/1933) ate here on one of his forays to get away from public life.

The man ran for public office 17 times and won all positions but one. Running for Northampton School Committee member when he himself had no children was a game breaker.

You might say he owned Northampton, having served as Mayor, moving on to State Representative, Governor of Massachusetts, State Senator, elected Vice President of the U.S. When President Harding died suddenly in office, he became the President in 1923. He was elected President in his own right in 1924. He was in continuous public service for more than 23 years.

Coolidge knew joy marrying the love of his life Grace Anna Goodhue (1/3/1879-7/8/1957), a teacher at the Clark School for the Deaf. He became a successful attorney after graduating from Amherst College. He practiced with a Northampton law firm then opened his own law office in 1898.

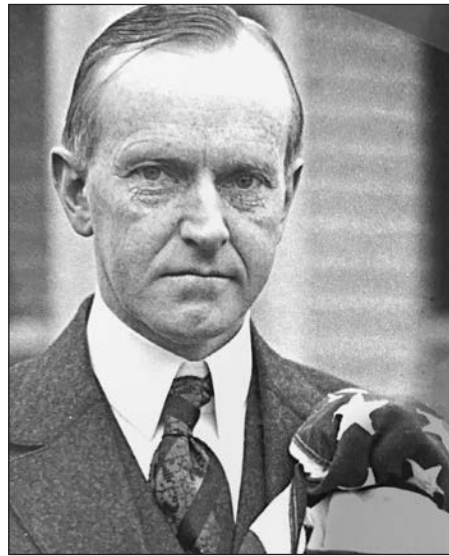
People can see his second floor office located on Main Street in Northampton, next to Fitzwilleys. He had the Springfield Brewery as a client and was counsel for Nonotuck Savings Bank, the largest local bank at the time. He and Grace had two sons, John and Calvin Jr.

He only rented a house on Massasoit Street, half of a duplex throughout his political time in office. You can see this house also located in Northampton with a plaque on it. The first house he bought when he left office was the Beeches House on Hampton Terrace in 1930. He enjoyed pets, a menagerie of 'em especially a collie named, Rob Roy. He was given a live raccoon as a Thanksgiving delicacy to be roasted for dinner, but his wife adopted Rebecca the raccoon as a pet.

Coolidge knew sorrow; his mother died when he was 12yrs old. His son Calvin Jr. died of septicemia contracted from an infected foot blister he got while playing tennis on the White House courts at age 16 years. This was at the start of his elected Presidency. His father, his trusted mentor, died shortly after his son died.

What put him on the American public's radar was his telling Samuel Gompers and the New York Police Department they had "no right to strike against public safety by anybody, anywhere, anytime." (the Boston Police Strike of 1919)

He was known as Silent Cal, reserved, frugal and disinclined to talk. Was this a trait he learned growing up in



This is a portrait of Calvin Coolidge.

*Turley photos by Deborah Daniels*



Grace Coolidge is shown holding the family's pet raccoon, Rebecca.



This was Coolidge's home on Massasoit Street in Northampton.



Cut outs of Grace and Calvin Coolidge in the replica of his law office at the Forbes Library in Northampton.



This photo shows Coolidge's home the Beeches at Hampton Terrace in Northampton.



The Coolidge family played a game after Calvin won the Governor's race in Massachusetts.

Vermont? "No man ever listened himself out of a job" was his response to the press. He was the first President to broadcast his inaugural speech over the radio. In fact he made 50 major radio addresses, appreciating the direct communication to the public without newspapermen and congressional commentators distorting his message. Not so silent was he.

Americans were enjoying the first use of electricity, radio and Model T's during his time in office. It was the roaring 20s and WWI had ended. Coolidge greeted Charles Lindbergh after his first trans-Atlantic flight in 1927 and gave him the Congressional Medal of Honor. He helped clean up government corruption on entering the Presidency, he reduced income taxes, stood up for women's suffrage and reduced women's working hours from 52 to 48 hours, guaranteed Native Americans full citizenship and the right to vote, this after some

10,000 had served in WWI. He was good at side stepping thorny issues making full use of the "pocket veto." He did not support Prohibition, but he never spoke out publicly against it. He was a canny politician.

He declined to run for the Presidency again, despite his overwhelming popularity. He retired to Northampton, boating on the Connecticut River in a Hacker wooden speedboat, which he enjoyed. He didn't get to relax long in his retirement, he suffered a coronary thrombosis (heart attack) and died at age 60 in 1933. He loved western Massachusetts. He grew up in farm country Vermont. People can tour his homestead.

They have a video of Coolidge "dancing with a hay rake" in his pin-stripe suit pants and suspenders, helping his father load the hay wagon on a visit home from Congress. He is so agile and adept at it, clearly a farm boy at heart.

I grew up hearing tales that Silent Cal went to dances at what is now Outlook Farm in Westhampton. The Hilltowns were a magnet to this public figure, a place where he came to remember a simpler life and perhaps restore a bit of lost humanity from serving the public for so many years. Forbes Library contains his Presidential Library and Museum on the second floor with actual documents, photos and more about President Coolidge; it is worth a visit.

## GARDEN

I have had good luck rooting cuttings in peat-based potting mixes that are formulated for seed starting. Moisten the material well and fill your clean container of choice up to the top and tamp it down.

Cut only a few cuttings at a time so that wilting doesn't occur while you prepare the stems for insertion into the growing medium. Strip off the bottom one-third of leaves from the cutting.

If you wish to shorten the amount of time it takes for rooting to occur a commercial rooting hormone can be used. These come in powder or liquid forms. Follow the directions on the container. I have found that "less is more"

when using these products.

When you are ready to "stick" the cutting make an indentation into the growing medium with a pencil or dibble first- do not push in with the stem! After the cutting is inserted firm around it well so that it stays in place.

Put the container, cuttings and all in a clear plastic bag and place in a shady location. The humidity within the bag ought to prevent the stems from wilting. Water well, only about once weekly.

After a month or so roots will begin to form.

Transplanting into individual pots can be done once the roots equal or

surpass the size of the cutting. I like to start out with a small pot and transplant up a size or two at a time as the plant grows.

Most annuals prefer a cool but sunny location in the house to overwinter.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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## SECURITY

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to do that is simply wait longer to claim.

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



# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

### Solar: taking the first steps

By Kathryn Koegel  
Guest Columnist

In the first of this series, in last week's *The Country Journal*, I explained more about what is behind the spike in recent electricity bills.

Now, given the bills of July and August and fearful of ever hotter summers, I decided to take the plunge and fully engage with solar companies. Dodging the overwhelming volume of calls from the myriad solar companies, I arranged for meetings with Sunrun, the largest public solar company; Trinity, the largest private company and Valley Solar, a local leader.

Before you meet with anyone, there are a few steps and questions you should ask yourself to save a lot of time.

**1. Find your most recent bill.** Your bill is essential for any solar company to come up with an estimate of how much energy you will use and how that translates to the number of panels. The first step any solar rep will take is to determine how much you spent last year and what your average monthly kilowatt hour will be going forward.

Also, look at the back at the four line items related to renewable energy: You must pay these if you do not have solar. This is a way of building up a pool of money so that Massachusetts can modernize the grid and prepare for the future. These include: Distributed Solar Charge, Renewable Energy Charge, Energy Efficiency Charge, Electric Vehicle Charge. For me, this was adding up to about \$30 per month.



**2. Ask yourself how long do you plan to live in your house.** Solar is typically a 25 to 30 year commitment. Yes, the equipment lasts that long. That is typically similar to the length of use of a new roof. This question brings up all sorts of thoughts, some of them mortal. I am over 50. Hoping that I live into my 80s this is a decision for the rest of my life.

Yikes, the typical "payout" year of the equipment i.e. when what you spend on solar wipes out what you would have paid Eversource, is in seven to ten years. That may seem like a long time to wait, but after that the goal will be to zero out your Eversource bill or generate more than you need and get a credit from them.

**3. Do you have a relatively new roof, does it have any issues.** I bought my house in 2021 and it had just had a new roof put on. Even so, the area over my sun room, which is not pitched as steeply as the rest of the roof, has had issues during the winter.

One of the solar salespeople would not touch that part of the roof for panels unless they redid the type of asphalt up there. If your roof is 20 years old, you really need to focus on that roof before solar. The last thing you want to do is have to have the panels removed, at your own cost, to replace a roof.

**4. How shaded is your house, especially in summer.** This is a very important issue, especially in the wonderfully leafy Hilltowns.

Most of the solar companies use Google maps satellite images of your house, but they may not have captured it at the right time of year. You really need an expert to come out and look at the situation. One homeowner I spoke to could not put the panels on her roof and had to settle for a much more complicated set up on her property that had issues with the distance to the house and the transmission of energy.

**5. Do you plan to get an electric vehicle or a heat pump.** EVs are still pretty rare in the Hilltowns as we have no public charging stations. If you get one you typically have to adapt your own electricity to account for charging. Still, if you do not plan to get one, do you have an adult child living with you who will get one? Are you interested?

The other thing are heat pumps. Heat pumps are essentially devices that use electricity to move heat from a cold place to a warm place and vice versa, to heat and cool a building. Heat pumps are three times more efficient than other heating and cooling methods because they transfer heat instead of generating it. I will fully cover what this most efficient of house heating systems is in a future article. They have taken Europe by storm and there are big rebates for businesses and homeowners in Massachusetts to go this route. If you are a lower-income household, the state may even pay for your to get one.

**6. Do you have cash on hand, need to finance or plan to lease.** Going solar is an investment typically equal to that of a car and you need to get at least three quotes and take a hard look at your finances. For my 1,200 square foot house, the quotes I received varied from around \$23,000 to around \$30,000. Realize that a salesperson will tell you an amount after the federal and state tax rebates, not your actual outlay. You should talk to an accountant about the decision and how the rebates will work with your taxes. State rebates are approximately \$1,000 and Federal \$4,000.

The homeowners I spoke to were most favorable about buying the system up front. "Why would I lease something I am putting on my house," said Lisa

Goding of Huntington. You can finance through a local bank or one that specializes in solar, but realize that paying interest on that loan is a part of your monthly nut until it is paid off.

From speaking to the companies I did, some will be more likely to say: "no money down" and focus on leasing. Realize that if you do this, you are locking into a 25 year contract with a company that hopefully will be in business and that you will be paying a monthly figure to lease that equipment that can go up over time. The figure they quoted me (given that my average monthly Eversource bill was typically around \$170), was \$130 per month. Leasing effectively freezes your bill to a certain extent, but the solar company can increase it incrementally to cover their overhead. Leasing typically adds some complexity if you sell your house as you must do a decent amount of paperwork to turn over that contract.

**7. How much do you want to be engaged with your energy supply.** From speaking with homeowners who had gone solar, this is not a "set it and forget it" program. Things happen. Once you become your own power supply you have to constantly be monitoring the system to check it is delivering. Solar homeowners I talk to described getting a little addicted to checking an app on their phone during various sunny weather conditions and getting jazzed by how much their systems were producing. At the same time, they had been alerted to problems during snowstorms where their panels did not work as expected and did not shed the snow automatically.

**8. Understand that this is a process.** While there are hundreds of solar companies vying for your business, once you sign a contract it is not going to happen tomorrow. The companies I spoke to said they were currently 3-4 months out for installation. When you decide to go solar, your house effectively becomes a power station and there are regulations involved. Paperwork needs to be filed with each town. The solar company does that for you, but this is a process.

**9. Know your salesperson and your "energy concierge" or whatever they call it.** If you look on Facebook in various solar groups, you can find a lot of unhappy customers. SunRun, the country's largest even has an entire Facebook Group devoted to complaining about their customer service. The solar customers I interviewed all had both good and bad things to say about the company they had chosen. I suggest you ask them for local references and actually talk to those people about the process they went through. It will likely save you a lot of aggravation.

**10. How much do you care about the future of energy and the environment?** As salespeople do, solar reps will try to hone in on what your "hot buttons" are in regard to solar. Was it that July bill for me? Absolutely. For most people, seeing their energy going up each year and as dramatically as it had in Massachusetts was the primary motivator. I finally also told one of the salespeople that I indeed did want to talk about the future of energy and the planet. I am blessed to live in a beautiful spot in the Hilltowns with trees surrounding my property, but not shading my house. I have two children entering adulthood and we all see the changes of climate. I grew up in a place where nobody had air conditioning, but now it's mandatory for Septembers that reach into the 100s. I absolutely love the snow of New England and miss the opportunities for snowshoeing and cross country skiing. What I do know is that it's just getting hotter and perhaps harnessing the energy of the sun makes sense for my children, their children and the future of all of us humans.

## 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 13, 2024.  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:**  
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or email\* them to: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)  
\*Be sure to indicate "Dazzler" in the subject line of your email.

**Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 14.**



## CHESTER

# Hilltown Hikers to take Granite Line railroad tour

CHESTER – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers will hold a Chester and Becket Railroad tour, the Granite Line on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 1 p.m.

Parking is on Hampden Street at the Chester and Becket Trailhead in Chester. From junction of Routes 20 and 102 in Lee, take Route 20 east and drive 18 miles to the Chester/Becket town line, turn right on Hampden Street to the trailhead. GPS 42.279567, -72.988070

Hike rating is an easy 2.5 miles in and back on mostly flat terrain on dirt. This is a special Housatonic Heritage event to hike on a section of the Chester and Becket Railroad. Built in 1896 as a 5.25-mile spur off the Boston & Albany Railroad to deliver granite from the Becket Quarries to the Chester finishing works.

Both Chester and Becket issued bond stock in the quarry company to help in building this line because there was money to be made from the “Chester Blue Granite” for monuments and gravestones. This railroad was blasted out of the steep and winding side of the Walker Brook Valley. The first locomotive to run

on this line was a wood burner, eventually upgraded to a coal burning locomotive.

Participants will see the remains of a wooden trestle still standing on the trail and also learn how this route was used in Chester’s Emery and Granite industry. Special Guest John Garvey of the Chester Historical Society will speak about the Emery Mills located here on the line. Afterwards visit the train model at the Chester Railway Museum on Prospect Street. Donations for the newly conserved Chester Granite Company Finishing Works property are greatly appreciated.

People may register per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water provided. Well behaved dogs are allowed. This event is volunteer lead. Suggested donation is \$10. More details are available by visiting [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com). People may email [westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com](mailto:westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com) or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions. As always hikers should be prepared for rocks, mud and roots and bring trekking poles.

# Hilltown Hikers to hold group hike

CHESTER – Western Mass Hilltown Hikers will hold a group hike to the Chester Granite and Polishing works on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 1 p.m.

Participants should park on Emery Street at the Granite Saw parking lot across from the ballfield

From junction of Routes 20 and 102 in Lee, take Route 20 east and drive 18 miles to the Chester center, turn left onto Main Street and bear right onto Prospect Street under the railroad and turn right to continue on Emery Street to the parking lot across from the ballfield. GPS 42.279570, -72.975155

The hike rating is easy and is one mile on mostly flat terrain on dirt. People should wear sneakers and no open toe shoes.

This is a special Housatonic Heritage event. The Hudson and Chester Granite Company was one of two granite finishing works in Chester for cutting and polishing the granite brought down to the Historic Factory Village on the Chester and Becket Railroad, which was built for this purpose in 1896. “Chester Blue Granite” was brought down the steep mountain railroad from the Hudson and Chester quarry, known today as the Becket Quarry in Becket. The finishing works burned down after many prosper-

ous years in business making monuments and gravestones and has been private property since, until now. In September of 2023 the Hilltown Hikers purchased this lot, including a ten-foot shot saw and all the remains of its buildings and equipment. Participants will tour the property on the newly created walking path and learn about the Granite Industry in Chester and Becket. Donations for the conserved Chester Granite and Polishing Works property are greatly appreciated.

People should register per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water are provided. Well behaved dogs are allowed. This event is volunteer lead. Suggested donation is \$10. More details are available by visiting [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com).

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

For those who want to hike every weekend year round, they can become a Hilltown Hiker member. Tees, hoodies, hats, patches and photos will be for sale/donation at the event. For events, maps, blog and photos, people may visit [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com).

## PITTSFIELD

# Williams Elementary School named National Blue Ribbon School

The U.S. Department of Education recognized 356 schools as the 2024 cohort of the National Blue Ribbon Schools, including nine schools in Massachusetts.

This prestigious recognition highlights schools that excel in academic performance or make significant strides in closing achievement gaps among different student groups.

Williams Elementary School in Pittsfield was named one of the nine schools in Massachusetts named to the National Blue Ribbon Schools along with schools in Brookline, Cambridge, Cohasset, Foxborough, Holliston, Needham, Waban and Wellesley.

“The National Blue Ribbon Schools Award is a testament to the exceptional achievements of students and educators at each of these schools,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona.

“The 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools are raising the bar for our nation’s students, serving as models for effective teaching and intentional collaboration in their schools and communities. As we celebrate their achievements, let us look to these schools for inspiration as we champion education as the foundation of a brighter future for every child.”

The 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools reflect the full diversity of American education and serve students from all backgrounds. While awardees represent a wide array of schools, they share common traits. National Blue Ribbon Schools are led by leaders who articulate a clear vision of instructional excellence and uphold high standards. They showcase effective teaching methods and offer robust professional development for their staff. Data-driven instruction is a hallmark, and there is a

concerted effort to ensure every student succeeds. Collaboration among families, communities, and educators is a key component of their success.

A National Blue Ribbon School award flag displayed in a school’s entryway or on a flagpole is a widely recognized emblem of exceptional teaching and learning. These schools serve as models of effective and innovative practices for educators across the nation.

The Department recognizes all schools based on student performance data including assessment results, student subgroup performance and graduation rates. Schools are recognized in both or either of two performance categories:

Exemplary High Performing Schools: These schools are among the top performers in their state as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools: These schools excel in narrowing achievement gaps between different student groups and the overall student body.

Each nominated school submits a comprehensive application detailing its school culture, programs, assessments, instructional practices, professional development, leadership, family, and community involvement.

Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The Department invites nominations for the National Blue Ribbon Schools award from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by the Council for American Private Education.

# Noir Roots Street Fair happens Oct. 5

PITTSFIELD – The Berkshire Black Economic Council announces “Noir Roots” at Clapp Park in Pittsfield, happening Saturday, Oct. 5 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. for family events and 4-7 p.m. for events for adults.

The Noir Roots street fair will feature local Black businesses, restaurants, and more. In addition to featuring Black businesses and organizations, the street fair will have events for the whole family. These events include a basketball tournament, fashion show, pumpkin carving and more.

Entry is free. They are looking for volunteers as well.

The Black Arts Council has sought

to better understand and engage Black community members by surveying their lived experiences so that Black people can begin to see themselves better represented within Berkshire arts and culture institutions. The Black Arts Council’s goals are to increase Festivals & Street Fairs, build Black Voices & Black Vendor/Art Spaces while also promoting Interactive Performances, Open Mics, & Learning Beyond The Classroom.

For more information about Noir Roots, people may email [arts@berkshirebec.org](mailto:arts@berkshirebec.org) or call 413-281-5235. For more information, people may visit <http://www.berkshirebec.org>.

# Daytime paving operations this week

PITTSFIELD – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces that daytime paving operations will be taking place on Merrill Road (Route 9) in Pittsfield, from the intersection of East Street to the intersection of Junction Road.

Work will begin now and continue through Friday, Sept. 27 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day. Lane closures and lane shifts will be in place during work hours. Appropriate signage and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work area.

Drivers traveling through the affected 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](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

# Berkshire Environmental Action Team receives state micro grant

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire Zero Waste Initiative, a program of Berkshire Environmental Action Team, has been selected as a recipient of one of Mass DEP’s Reduce, Reuse Repair Micro-Grants.

The award will be used to purchase and install a commercial dishwasher at BEAT’s Environmental Leadership and Education Center, located in Pittsfield, as well as to purchase supplies for a stock of at least 100 reusable place settings, including plates, bowls, silverware, glasses, coffee

mugs and tea cups, and some serving dishes and utensils.

The dishwasher will be used by BEAT and BZWI to sanitize all dishware used at BEAT events, both those held at the center and elsewhere in Berkshire County. The 100 plus place settings will also be made available to community groups for public gatherings as well as individuals for private parties. Community members will be able to reserve the type and amount of dishes needed in advance, pick them up at the

BEAT office and bring them back for washing after use.

Berkshire Zero Waste Initiative’s mission is to help move Berkshire County towards zero waste. This project aims to do so by eliminating barriers associated with choosing alternatives to single-use items, especially plastic food ware, including money and time spent on durable dishware and their cleaning. Use of this community resource is intended to be accessible to all, and is expected to be in place by the end of

this year.

This project will be funded in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Learn more about the Reduce Reuse Repair Micro-Grants and this year’s recipients from Mass DEP. This educational program is offered by Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Pittsfield. Learn more about BEAT’s programs and what they do at [www.thebeat-news.org](http://www.thebeat-news.org).



# BLANDFORD



Blandford water department are Mario Godbout, Steve Grondin and Superintendent Gordon Avery with award for best tasting water in the state.  
Turley Publications photo by Mary Kronhoom

## Water Dept. takes second place in water tasting

BLANDFORD – The town’s water came in second place state wide for having the best taste.

This is the first time in the Water Department’s collective history that the town has been successful in a water tasting competition by the state’s Rural Water Association. Sunderland came in first and is eligible to compete at the national level in February 2025 in the National Rural Water Association during Rural Water Week.

Superintendent Gordon Avery said his department’s team, Noreen and Bernie St. Martin, Steve Grondin and Mario Godbout all contributed to the success of the taste of the town’s water. The competition is based on taste, color and aroma.

There were three judges, all from water product distributors in the state. There are just over 250 households on the town water system.

Water Commissioner Chair Michael Keier said, “This is the result of a great effort by everyone involved with the water department.” The other Water Commissioners are Peter Thayer and Brad Curry.

Select Board member Theodore Cousineau said, on learning about the award, “I’m proud of them.”

## Get ready for Community Volunteer Day Sept. 28

BLANDFORD – Volunteers are getting ready for Saturday, Sept. 28 Community Volunteer Day to refurbish the Volunteer Fire Department’s Training Center and Bicentennial Park.



John Piper works on the molding around the doors getting the more complicated work taken care of so work will go smoothly Saturday.  
Turley photo by Mary Kronholm



George Reichert power-washes the bricks at Bicentennial Park in preparation for planting on Saturday. Snacks and lunch will be available for all volunteers.

## SELECT BOARD

from page 1

be paid. An insurance claim for \$14,830 was paid for damage to the truck but instead was used to pay for a new plow. There is an old plow, which could be sold to help cover the cost.

Senecal said he has not been getting monthly expense reports, nor has the Select Board.

Chair Cara Letendre asked Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara to have the accounting firm provide expense reports with “data from this year.”

### Springfield Water and Sewer gates

Member Theodore Cousineau brought up the removal and opening of Springfield Water and Sewer gates and told Senecal about a dangerous ditch on South Otis Road. The town was prevented from traveling this road until recently and Cousineau wanted to be sure Senecal was aware of the problem.

### Board of Health

Board of Health member Jennifer Girard met with the board and said her department would come in monthly with updates going forward. She told the board that complaints for issues that come under the Board of Health prevue should be in writing so there is documentation in order for the board to follow through. The trash on Nye Brook Road is an ongoing issue according to Girard and her department has bylaws specific to illegal dumping as their recourse.

Regarding the Swap Shop site at the Transfer Station, the Board of Health has applied for a grant through the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection, but no decisions will be made until mid November.

As Risk Management coordinator she has met with the Highway Department on tools and personal protective information. This work will continue in October.

She gave the board a letter of support for signatures for PVPC supporting a Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing. The PRO Housing grant is to “advance housing that is affordable” in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties. There is no commitment for the town. The letter went to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

### Other business

In other business, Cousineau said he reminded contractor Bruce Cooper that the town needs dates of septic service for town businesses. The Board of Health needs this information as well.

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara told the board that the report on Green Communities is due November 5. She has requested Pioneer Valley Planning Commission’s (PVPC) assistance with this. In order to maintain eligibility to participate in the state’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, Blandford must file annual reports.

The Social Media policy is on hold until it has been reviewed by Town Counsel and all departments have had a chance to review it.

Historical Society President Chips Norcross asked the board for assistance in putting lights on the tree for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Historical Society. The board would like to see it continue. The Highway Department can help with the bucket truck. The Historical Society building is a town building.

### Accounting services

Regarding the town’s contract with Eric Kinsherf CPA for municipal accounting services, Ferrara told the board that historically the town has signed ‘renewals’ of the original contract. The scope of work as outline in that contract, said Ferrara, “is not being fulfilled.”

Letendre said in anticipation of an all-department heads meeting the contract should be sent out to be reviewed for any comments from departments.

Ferrara said that “maybe the problems are the result of the new software.” There has been no one on site (in town) since before Covid. Prior to that, there was an accountant presence.

During Public Comment, George Reichert told the Select Board that there is still a need for more volunteers to help out at the Fire Department Training Center and Centikatal Park on Saturday.

Finding volunteers has become difficult. Walk-ins are welcome.



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## CUMMINGTON

## Cummington barn becomes unique studio

By Kathryn Koegel  
Correspondent

CUMMINGTON – Up a dirt road just outside of the village of Cummington is a large, three-story barn with wide original doors sliding to a vista of 15 acres of both tended gardens and wild areas.

Ceramicist Emmett Leader shows where cow stalls lead to an elaborate wooden doorway accented with clay-colored illustrative ceramic plaques and playful wagon-like pieces. To speak to artist Emmett Leader is to open a now-lost world of villages in what was once called the Pale of Settlement, the area where Jews in the Russian Empire were allowed to live from 1791 to 1917. Inside this very American 19th century barn he has recreated the edifice of a wooden synagogue like the ones his ancestors worshipped at.

Leader's story starts with his grandparents who came to the U.S. from Slonim in what is now Belarus. Interestingly, they bypassed New York City and went to Bennington, Vermont and founded the first synagogue there in 1907. Growing up in a small town in Vermont, Leader felt an "otherness" and was drawn to his Jewish roots. At Bennington College he studied art and ceramics. He relocated to Northampton, where he lived for many years working as a builder and restorer of buildings and as a ceramicist.

His grandparent's world continues to call and he has become a well-known creator of Judaica, who sells both locally and through New York markets. He points out one of the whimsical ceramic vehicles which has a niche on the side layered with white, spun fibers. It's not hair but flax, which was traditionally used to protect etrogs, an unusual citrus which Orthodox Jews buy to this day to symbolize the harvest during the festival of Succoth.

He also points out clay vitrines with bird/man figures harvesting wheat. "These could be used to adorn a succoth," he says. A "succoth" is both the name of the harvest festival and the hut that Jews create to eat their meals in during the festival. This year Succoth is celebrated from Oct. 16 to Oct. 23.

Why the bird/man figures? "It's from the Birds' Head Haggadah," he says. A Haggadah is a ritual text documenting Passover and containing prayers and hymns related to it. This particular one was created in Germany around 1300 and all Jewish men, women and children are depicted in the manuscript with human bodies. The faces are birds.

Why express himself through clay?



The view from the second story of Emmett Leader's barn/studio in Cummington.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel



Bowls wait to be fired in his barn/studio.

"The reason I am a potter," he says, "is that the clay is plastic. You can add and subtract, explore your vision and how you want it to look. It gives you so much autonomy." He likes to think about the usefulness of various pottery forms, especially the large glazed bowls he makes. "I remember my daughter as a baby in this," he says.

Fifteen years ago Leader found a decrepit barn outside of Cummington and after mucking out generations of manure, digging out and shoring up its foundation and removing the ramp, which the cows used to ascend to the stalls created an expansive studio. It's a work in progress and it's clear he has diverse interests starting with the very clay he works with.

Turns out Western Massachusetts is filled with clay deposits, including the highly sought after white clay called kaolin that exists near Chester. He prefers to work with the clay found near Northampton and collected a lifetime supply of it when the new Northampton

Police Department was excavated resulting in tons of it becoming available. "It looks gray and fires red," he says. He paid to have it trucked to his property where it sits adjacent to the barn. "Clay in the soil is one of the reasons so many farmers didn't stick around," he says musing about the abandonment of his massive barn.

In addition to making large bowls, the narrative, press-mold pieces and other ceramics, Leader builds bread ovens out of that clay and has done so for synagogues and people seeking them for ritualistic as well as practical use. He himself is a bread maker specializing in challah and a commercial mixer is also in that barn. A large, clearly often-fired bread oven is in the garden.

On the Saturday of the Hilltown Open Studio Tour, which he is participating for the first time this Saturday, Oct. 5 and Sunday, Oct. 6, he will have volunteers tending the oven and making Middle Eastern bread rings. That same day at 11:30 a.m. he will be showing



In his barn/studio he has recreated the wooden edifice of an Eastern European synagogue destroyed in WWII to adorn with his pieces.



The niche in the ceramic lined with flax could hold an etrog, the citrus that symbolized Succoth, the Jewish harvest festival.

how to work with local clay and press molds. His daughter Rachel Leader, a musician who runs a festival dedicated to deeping Yiddish diaspora cultures called KlezCummington, will be playing with friends during the event. The sounds and images of long-gone Eastern Europe will come alive in the 21st century Hilltowns. For more information on the Hilltown Open Studio Tour, including a map and bios of the artists, people may visit [hilltownartalliance.org/open-studio-tour](http://hilltownartalliance.org/open-studio-tour).

## Friday Night Cafe features Hilltown Jazz Quartet

CUMMINGTON – Next up at the Friday Night Cafe on Sept. 27 from 7-9 p.m. is the Hilltown Jazz Quartet at the Village Church, located in the Cummington Cultural District.

The Hilltown Jazz Quartet is Mike Kolodny, saxophone; Laura Pierce, vocals; Ben Kohn, (piano) and Aaron Nebbia, bass. They will present an evening of "All That Jazz," a trip through many of the jazz genres including bebop, swing, Latin and soul along with a dose of the blues.

They will also dig into some "Jazz Insight" around improvisation and how the ensemble creates the music. It will be kind of an "informed performance" listen to some skilled players do what they love,

and learn a little too.

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

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

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### Civil Air Patrol Westover Composite Squadron



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## OBITUARY

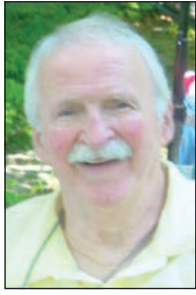
### Harry R. Bishop, 92

HUNTINGTON – Harry Ryan Bishop, 92, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 19 at Baystate Hospital with Priscilla, his loving wife of 67 years, at his side.

Harry was born in Warren, New Hampshire to his late parents Harold and Marion (Weeks) Bishop on May 12, 1932. At a young age they moved to Ware, where he grew up.

He graduated from Ware High School in 1950. He was very active in the Methodist Church and their Youth Group, and then Laurel Park Christian Camp in Northampton, where he met his future wife. Harry married Priscilla in 1957 and moved to Westfield where he was active in Westfield Little Theatre.

Once they began a family, they moved to Huntington in 1960, where Harry lived the rest of his life. He became interested in gardening and hybridized many well-known iris, daylilies, and hostas. He received various awards over the years, culminating in the 2023 Lenington All-American Award for his favorite and most popular creation,



“Itsy Bitsy Spider.”

In later life Harry went back to school at Berkshire Community College where he was awarded high honors with his Associates Degree in Human Services. He used this while working with hospice.

Harry is predeceased by his brothers, Ernie and Tommy. He is survived by his wife, Priscilla (Wright) Bishop; son, Todd Bishop; daughters, Shawn Bishop and Robyn Boucher; son-in-laws, Michael

Dixon and Conrad Boucher; grandchildren, Joe and Crystal Birdsall and Ryan and Tyler Boucher; his brother, David Bishop and sister, Marilyn Clay and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Harry’s funeral will held on Friday, Sept. 27 at the Graham Funeral Home, 27 Russell Road, Huntington. Viewing is 9:30-11 a.m. and service at 11 a.m. Following burial at the Norwich Hill Cemetery, there will be a light lunch at the Huntington Chapel. In lieu of flowers, Harry would have appreciated donations to: Hilltown Community Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 351, Huntington, MA 01050.

## DEATH NOTICE

**BISHOP, HARRY R.**

Died Sept. 19, 2024  
Viewing 9:30-11 a.m. Service 11 a.m.  
Graham Funeral Home, Huntington

## Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

## LENOX

### Scruggs presents ‘Chiaroscuro Enfilade’ at The Mount Oct. 3

LENOX – Choreographer Fiona Scruggs will present her evening-length performance of “Chiaroscuro Enfilade” at The Mount on Thursday, Oct. 3 at 5 p.m.

The performance will be danced by members of Qualia Dance Collective, the Berkshire-based dance company founded by Fiona Scruggs. Company members performing on Oct. 3 include Veronica Bone, Kendra Lassar and Fiona Scruggs.

The piece embodies the moody drama of Baroque art and music, employing strong diagonals, dynamic movement, and intimate vignettes drawn from scenes of everyday life. Performed as the golden hour turns to dusk, “Chiaroscuro Enfilade” is staged as a progressive journey from the French Flower Garden, down the Lime Walk, and concluding in the sunken Italian Garden. Following the performance, there will be a reception and meet and greet with the artists in the Italian Garden.

Tickets are free, but RSVPs are strongly encouraged. Reserve free tickets

by emailing [info@qualiadancecollective.com](mailto:info@qualiadancecollective.com).

Donations will gratefully be accepted at the door. Donations support the artistic process, rehearsals, and production of this work. Suggested donation is \$20.

The audience will travel with the performers from the French Flower Garden, through the Lime Walk, to the Italian Garden. Limited seating will be available at each viewing location. If you require a seat, people should arrive early and notify a staff member.

If The Mount cancels a program due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, “Chiaroscuro Enfilade” will be rescheduled for Thursday, Oct. 10 at 5 p.m. Ticket holders will be notified by email.

The Mount is a Massachusetts Cultural Council UP designated organization welcoming participants of all disabilities. Please contact The Mount at 413-551-5100 or by email, [info@edith-wharton.org](mailto:info@edith-wharton.org), to discuss accommodations needed to participate fully in this event.

## HOUSATONIC

### Berkshire Pulse to hold community classes

HOUSATONIC – Berkshire Pulse, a non-profit South County’s dynamic dance and performing arts education center located in the heart of Housatonic, announces a line up of new community classes for the fall 2024 session.

There is no commitment necessary, community classes run on a drop in basis. Tuition assistance is available! For more information and registration, people may visit [berkshirepulse.org](http://berkshirepulse.org) or call 413-274-6624.

On Mondays and Fridays from 10-11a.m. there is a dance based cardio class with Christine B for all levels age 18 plus.

Litefeet with Raymon P. is on Tuesdays from 5:45-7 p.m. for beginners ages 10 plus. Litefeet is an elec-

trifying hip hop street dance style that was created in Harlem, New York.

On Wednesdays from 6-7p.m. there is African Rooted Dance with Noel S. for ages 12 plus. -

On Saturdays from 2-3:15 p.m. there is beginner/intermediate for ages 12 plus -House dance with Angelica P. is and techniques such as Horton, VopJazz, Contemporary, West African, House, and Hip-Hop.

There are plenty more community classes offerings this session. People may check out the schedule by visiting [www.berkshirepulse.org/course-list](http://www.berkshirepulse.org/course-list)! Classes run through Dec. 14. These programs are presented in part thanks to funding from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and Barr Foundation.

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## WORTHINGTON

### SUPPER

from page 1

home at 19 Sawyer Road in Worthington that also offers grocery delivery. “Our store is open year-round at, operating Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Our delivery service continues until the week before Thanksgiving, offering home delivery for just \$5 or free pick-up at B&D’s in Huntington or Pat’s in Williamsburg,” says Chase.

“As the only farmer-led nonprofit grocery store in the country, we are unique and learning as we go,” he says. “Our commitment to the local food system sees that 80 cents of every dollar spent returns to the local farms. By supporting us, customers can embrace the seasons with fresh, locally grown produce while contributing to the local economy.”

The market is committed to providing fresh produce to lower income families in an area without supermarkets. “This year we started going into various communities and offering a “pay what you will” model. “These markets, held six times a month, will continue through November. The funds raised from them go back into our free food distribu-

tion efforts. We hope this becomes a self-sustained program supported by the community. These markets are open to all and have been a tremendous success.”

The pay-what-you-will markets can be found at: Chester Commons, Chester: first Thursday of the month from 10 a.m.-noon; It Takes a Village, Huntington: second Thursday from 10 a.m.-noon; Westhampton Woods, Westhampton: third Thursday from 10 a.m.-noon; Highland Village, Goshen: first Tuesday from 10 a.m.-noon; Cummington Community House, Cummington: second Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. and Plainfield Town Hall, Plainfield: third Tuesday from 1-3 p.m.

This year the Hilltown Market “secured the Local Food Purchasing Assistance Plus grant. “This has enabled us to continue distributing food through the store and support local farmers in providing free CSA shares to self-identified food-insecure individuals or partnering with food pantries and meal services for weekly deliveries,” says Chase. “We’ve collaborated with sever-

al wonderful pantries and meal service providers, including the Chesterfield COA, Huntington Food Pantry, Goshen Survival Center, Community Action Greenfield, West County Food Pantry, Hinsdale Food Pantry, Williamsburg COA, Northfield Food Pantry, Charlemont Food Pantry, Ashfield Food Pantry, Stone Soup, Westhampton Food Pantry, and the Northampton Survival Center.”

Farms distributing to these food pantries include: Sawyer Farm, Lombrico Farm, Romeo Farm, Hart Farm, Sage Farm, Intervale Farm, Cure for Boredom, Fern Hill, Stone Bridge Farm, and Good Bunch. Additionally, farms offering CSA shares include Momentum AG (to students at New Hingham School), Fox Trot Farm (summer and winter shares), Hart Farm (summer and winter shares), Four Corners Farm (summer shares), and Intervale Farm (summer shares).

Chase is proud of the accomplishments of the market at distributing to the food insecure in the Hilltown as well as supporting the work of local

farmers. “Through these partnerships, we’ve given away \$142,293 worth of food and are on track to reach \$150,000 by the end of the season. Through the store alone, we’ve distributed another \$27,000. Our goal is to distribute \$200,000 worth of locally grown food by May 2025, ensuring that our Hilltown farmers not only survive but thrive while making a meaningful impact on our local food system. This is a testament to the power of community and the potential for a more equitable food system,” he says.

Judging by the interest at Sena Farm, a Worthington microbrewery located in an old cow barn, the project is a success.

“At Hilltown Market, our vision is simple yet powerful: everyone deserves access to healthy, locally grown food, and our farmers deserve economic viability,” says Chase. “Together, we’re building a stronger, more equitable food system that benefits our community. We look forward to continuing this important work and seeing its lasting impact on the Hilltowns.”



## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

# HCC offers free computer literacy training course

HOLYOKE – In partnership with the nonprofit CanCode Communities, Holyoke Community College is offering a free six-week beginner computer training course starting Monday, Sept. 30.

The real-time, instructor-led online classes will run Mondays and Wednesdays from Sept. 30 to Wednesday, Nov. 6 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Laptops and WiFi hotspots for internet access will be provided for students, who need them.

The program is aimed at helping individuals build essential computer skills for both personal and professional development. Participants will explore the Microsoft Office program, learn how to create resumes, manage calendars and

send email, and be introduced to the world of artificial intelligence.

Funding for the program comes from the Western Mass Alliance for Digital Equity. To sign up for classes, people should email [admissions@can-code.org](mailto:admissions@can-code.org) or call 518-238-6808, extension 702.



# 24-hour theater festival returns

HOLYOKE - The annual Phillips Festival, an evening of short plays written, directed and staged in 24 hours by Holyoke Community College alumni, students, staff and friends, returns on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. for its seventh year.

The festival raises money for the Leslie Phillips Theater Fund for Arts and Education, honoring the legacy of Leslie Phillips, founder of the HCC theater program. To produce the Leslie Phillips Festival, HCC alumni, students and staff register to participate as writers, directors, actors or members of the stage crew.

This year, writers will meet with the actors on Friday, Sept. 27, the night before the show, to receive props, prompts and character assignments. They have until 6 a.m. the next morning to write their plays. Two hours later, actors and directors meet for day-long rehearsals.

All the original plays will be performed that evening, Sept. 28, starting at 7:30 p.m. Funds raised from the festival enable the HCC Theater Department to hold master classes, make capital improvements, and hire guest artists.

The Phillips Fund is administered by the HCC Foundation. This year's festival is also supported by a \$2,500 grant from the Mass Cultural Council.

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

Festival tickets can be purchased in advance at [hcc.edu/phillips-2024](http://hcc.edu/phillips-2024) or at the door.

General admission tickets are \$15 and \$10 for students (14 and up) and seniors (65 and up). Tickets are \$5 for HCC students who bring their HCC ID. All proceeds benefit the Leslie Phillips Theater Fund for Arts and Education.

# Clark Art Institute holds free lecture

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 5:30 p.m. the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., in the Manton Research Center auditorium, their Research and Academic Program presents a free lecture by artist-scholar Andil Gosine, York University / Beinecke Fellow.

In it he previews his bronze sculpture *Ixora Coccinea* from his forthcoming exhibition *Nature's Wild* at the Art Museum of the Americas (June 2025). Gosine considers contemporary and historical personal and sociopolitical catalysts for his sculpture. *Ixora Coccinea* is at once invested in contestation of anthropocentrism, observation and documentation of the historical significance of the labor system of Indentureship to the formation of Caribbean space and culture and reckoning with traditions

of public monument-making practices. Its propositions, particularly as a contemporary and future-looking eco-aesthetic strategy, emerge from and engage with intersecting ruminations across these concerns.

This program is free and accessible seats available. For more information, people may call 413-458-0524. A reception at 5 p.m. in the Manton Research Center reading room precedes the event. For more information, people may visit [clarkart.edu/events](http://clarkart.edu/events).

The next Research and Academic Program lecture, presented by Adrian Anagnost, charts a cross-cultural history of visualizing territoriality in the lower Mississippi River Valley and the Gulf of Mexico. This event takes places on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 5:30 p.m. in the Clark's auditorium.

## WESTFIELD

# St. Joseph's Church to hold roast pork dinner on Oct. 20

WESTFIELD – Back by popular demand, St. Joseph's National Catholic Church at 73 Main St. is hosting a community stuffed roast pork dinner on Sunday, Oct. 20 at noon.

This community dinner will feature delicious and juicy stuffed roast pork, Au Gratin potatoes, fresh corn off-the-cob and apple sauce. Homemade apple crisp with ice cream will be served for dessert. Beverages included are coffee, fresh apple cider and bottled water.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. For tickets, people may call Cliff at 413-977-2007. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, Oct. 17. A limited number of meals-to-go will be available at 12:30 p.m. When buying tickets, people should indicate if they are eating at the Social Center or planning take-out. Parking is available at the Clinton Avenue parking lot. All are welcome. Besides the traditional New England fall dinner there will be a raffle.



The Second Annual "Whimsical Fairy Walk" presented by Stanley Park, 400 Western Avenue, Westfield, will take place Saturday, Oct. 12 and Sunday, Oct. 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Submitted photo

# Stanley Park to host fairy walk

WESTFIELD – A whimsical walk that will be sprinkled with fairy houses for a magical experience of the natural world will take place Saturday, Oct. 12 and Sunday, Oct. 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Stanley Park 400 Western Avenue.

Volunteer builders create a fairyland of small structures built out of natural materials, opening a portal to the imagination and the incredible world around us through deep observation of nature's gifts. People should contact the Development Office for information on submitting a fairy house.

The fairy houses will be sprinkled throughout the Woodland Wildflower Garden leading out to the Enchanted Oak Tree. Arts and crafts will be in

the Beveridge Pavilion on both days. Sunday's event will also include a Fairies of the Seasons puppet show from noon-12:45 p.m. on the Beveridge Pavilion stage.

There is still time to register as a builder for those who want to create their own fairy or gnome house by email [development@stanleypark.org](mailto:development@stanleypark.org) to register. Parking for this event is in Rose Garden parking area accessible using Gates 2, 3 and 4.

This event will be held rain or shine and is free of charge however donations are accepted and greatly appreciated. Stanley Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. A donation is tax deductible as allowed by law.

# 'Dinner and a Show' supports the Friends of the Westfield Athenaeum

WESTFIELD – On Friday, Oct. 18 beginning at 6:30 a.m. in St. John's Luthera Church, 60 Broad St., there will be a pasta dinner followed by the play, "An Accidental Wedding" by Steve Henderson.

The play is a hilarious encounter with a wouldn't-be-groom, an irate match maker and a tall tale like they write tall tales about. This is a highly interactive, roll in the aisle comedy people won't want to miss.

The show to follow dinner. Dinner

will include salad, pasta, meatballs and make-your-own-sundae dessert. Tickets are just \$20 for the dinner and show and must be purchased by Friday, Oct. 11 by visiting <https://www.friendsofwestath.org/dinner-theater> (no service fee for online purchases) or at the Westfield Athenaeum, 6 Elm St. The Friends of the Westfield Athenaeum is an all-volunteer independent 501(C)3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to support the programs and services of the Westfield Athenaeum.

## MONTEREY

# Bidwell House Museum host Peddler's Pack of spooky tales

MONTEREY – On Saturday, Oct. 5 at 4 :30 p.m. Peddler's Pack of Spooky Tales with Dennis Picard will be held at Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road.

Members are \$15 and non-embers \$25. While researching various topics in town records, journals, and old newspapers, Dennis Picard has been surprised at finding numerous stories of the supernatural. Tales of witches, vampires and weird occurrences are mixed in with otherwise mundane daily

records. Picard has saved these stories in his files and will share some of his favorites during this hour-long program.

Dennis D. Picard has been a museum professional in the living history field for over forty years. He began his career at Old Sturbridge Village in 1978 and also served on the staff of Hancock Shaker Village, Fort Number Four, the Sheffield Historical Society and Storrowton Village Museum in West Springfield, from which he recently retired. Picard, with his background and

museum experience, has authored many articles on the lifestyles and folkways of New England and has also served as a consultant for many Historical Societies and Museums.

Space is limited for this program and pre-registration is required. Tickets can be reserved on the by visiting <https://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org/event/peddlers-pack-of-spooky-tales-with-dennis-picard/>.

The Bidwell House Museum is open for guided tours from Memorial

Day to October. Tours are by appointment only on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 11 a.m., 1p.m. or 3 p.m. Tours can be booked by calling 413-528-6888 or emailing [bidwellhm2@gmail.com](mailto:bidwellhm2@gmail.com). The Museum grounds-194 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, self-guided trails and picnic sites-are open every day, dawn until dusk, free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website by visiting [www.bidwellhousemuseum.org](http://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org).



# NORTHAMPTON

## Forbes Library to install new bathroom ventilation

NORTHAMPTON – A long-awaited project to improve the ventilation system and accessibility of Forbes Library’s seven bathrooms began on Monday, Sept. 23.

The work is anticipated to be completed within three months and is being done by Keiter Corporation. While the library is anticipating disruption during the construction, bathrooms will be

closed in phases.

Automatic door openers to bathroom doors will be installed to improve access for people with disabilities. A threshold lip that prevents wheelchairs and walkers from easily entering the bathrooms will be removed.

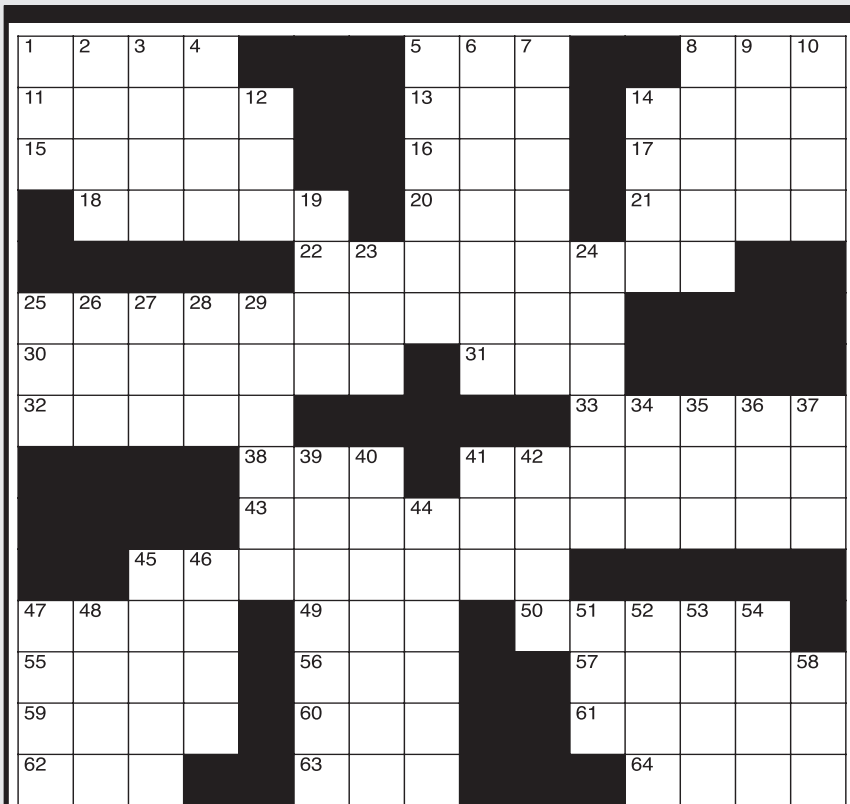
The new bathroom ventilation system will improve the functionality and safety

of the bathrooms. Additionally, new water fountains with water bottle filling stations will be installed on two floors.

“This project will make the library more accessible, more convenient and more comfortable to use. It is something we have needed for a long time and we are very grateful to the city of Northampton and everyone else who worked to make

this project a reality,” said Lisa Downing, Library Director.

Funding for this project is coming from the city’s Capital Improvement budget, federal Community Block Grant Funds, Community Preservation Act funds, the Friends of Forbes Library and individual donors. The budget for this project is \$372,418.90.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Unequaled
- 5. \_\_\_-fi (slang)
- 8. Synthetic resin
- 11. Chadic language
- 13. Influential come Election Day
- 14. Bucket
- 15. European river
- 16. Earn a perfect score
- 17. Horizontal passage
- 18. Barely sufficient
- 20. Dekaliter
- 21. Goo Goo Dolls hit
- 22. Australian city
- 25. Female servants
- 30. Plumbing fixtures
- 31. Tooth caregiver
- 32. Book of Esther antagonist
- 33. Say aloud
- 38. Thyrotrophic hormone
- 41. Absolute
- 43. Untimely
- 45. Area or neighborhood
- 47. Juicy fruit
- 49. Expresses distaste, disapproval
- 50. S. American rodents
- 55. Swedish rock group
- 56. Influential American president
- 57. Volume
- 59. Begged
- 60. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Good friend
- 63. Body part
- 64. Tableland
- 2. Body parts
- 3. Invests in little enterprises
- 4. Rock legend Turner
- 5. Dug into
- 6. Laughed
- 7. Northern European nation
- 8. San Diego ballplayer
- 9. Eight
- 10. Substitutes (abbr.)
- 12. Moved swiftly on foot
- 14. Compensated
- 19. Volcano in the Philippines
- 23. Speak ill of
- 24. One who publishes
- 25. Expression of bafflement
- 26. Macaws
- 27. Matchstick game
- 28. We all have our own
- 29. Divinatory
- 34. Explosive
- 35. Follows sigma
- 36. Sea eagle
- 37. Type of bread
- 39. Bit used with a set of reins
- 40. Time away from work
- 41. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- 42. Lots on your plate (abbr.)
- 44. Actor Brosnan
- 45. It's part of packaging
- 46. Towards the oral region
- 47. Public Theater creator Joseph
- 48. Ancient Syrian city
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Mollusk
- 53. A French abbot
- 54. Hoagies
- 58. Not present (slang)

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Barrels per day (abbr.)

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**

**Mar 21/Apr 20**  
A disagreement may have you questioning a relationship. Do not get ahead of yourself, as you'll figure out that the turmoil will subside soon enough.

**TAURUS**

**Apr 21/May 21**  
Group activities or time spent with a significant other may not go as well as usual this week, Taurus. With your mind elsewhere, it's hard to focus on having fun and others will catch on.

**GEMINI**

**May 22/June 21**  
Do not believe everything you hear this week, Gemini. There are a lot of rumors floating around, and only a portion of what is being said is accurate. Get the facts first.

**CANCER**

**June 22/July 22**  
Cancer, you are usually outgoing and easygoing, but this week you may be feeling more reserved and shy. Are you missing someone? If so, get in touch and you'll feel more like yourself.

**LEO**

**July 23/Aug 23**  
Friends or family members may be making more demands on your time, Leo. You want to go along with it, but be careful not to stretch yourself too thin.

**VIRGO**

**Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, someone close to you might be feeling under the weather and could use a little extra support right now. Perhaps you can make soup or drop in for a visit to cheer this person up?

**LIBRA**

**Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Seek out quiet spots right now, Libra, as lately your life has been a bit of a whirlwind. Change is good, but so much change at one time can be exhausting.

**SCORPIO**

**Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Take a step back from all of your responsibilities. Things will not go haywire if you take a break for a few days or even a week. You can commit fully again after some rest.

**SAGITTARIUS**

**Nov 23/Dec 21**  
There's no point getting into an argument over a situation beyond your control, Sagittarius. Instead, wait until the time is right to express your thoughts and work out a solution.

**CAPRICORN**

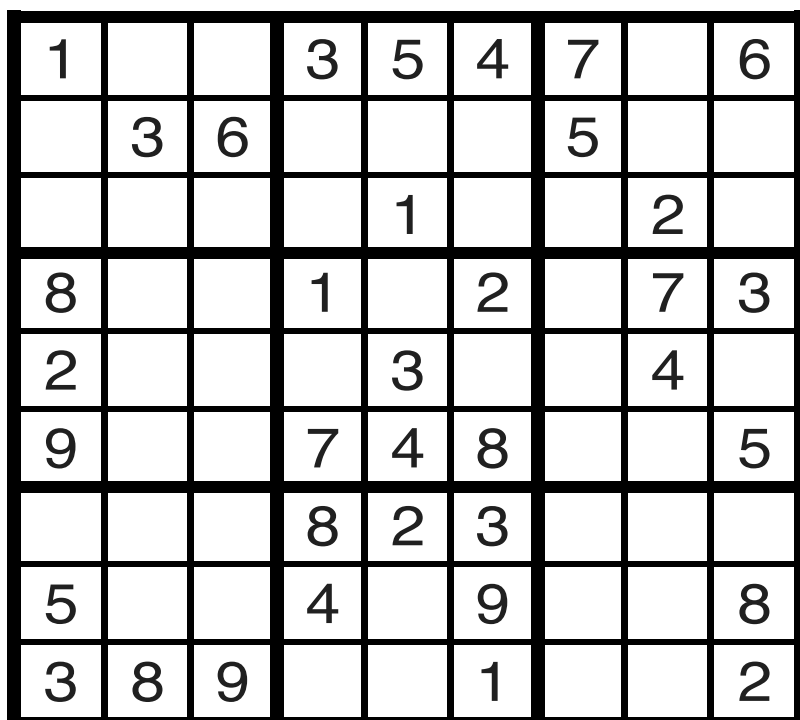
**Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, even though you may want to expand your friend network right now, you aren't sure how to begin. Social media can connect you with those nearby.

**AQUARIUS**

**Jan 21/Feb 18**  
It is a good idea for you to have set deadlines for your goals, Aquarius; otherwise, you may keep putting things off. With dates on paper, you can check things as they get done.

**PISCES**

**Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, you want to return to a relationship right where you left off, but the other person may not be on the same page right now. Give it a little more time.



# SUDOKU

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**answers**

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## WANTED

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

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## SERVICES



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

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## SERVICES

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## SERVICES

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

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## HELP WANTED

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

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

**PART-TIME SNOW PLOW DRIVERS NEEDED** for the Town of New Braintree for the 2024-2025 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 **hwy-secretary@newbraintree.org.**

**THE TOWN OF PALMER DPW** is seeking contractors for snow removal for the upcoming winter season. If interested, contracts are available on the town website or at the DPW office. Completed contracts with a copy of the necessary insurance forms can be delivered to the DPW office located at 1015 Bridge St. Palmer. Rates have been increased for fiscal year 2025. Please call our office at **(413) 283-2615, M-F, 7a-330p,** with any questions.



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

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

### THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS NOTICE OF TAX TAKING TOWN OF HUNTINGTON OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR

TO THE OWNERS OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on October 15, 2024 at 10 o'clock a.m. at the Collector's Office, City Hall, PO BOX 550, Huntington, MA 01050, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, the following described parcel/s of land will BE TAKEN FOR THE Town of Huntington for non-payment of taxes due thereon, with the interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Sue Fopiano, Collector

Property Location: BROMLEY RD  
Assessed Owner(s): HILL JIMMIE  
C/O EILEEN SULLIVAN- BOSS

171  
Tax Bill# 45 Map/Parcel ID: 255 22 0  
Subsequent Owner (if applicable):  
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 87120 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 10146 Page 207

2024	REAL ESTATE TAXES	54.79
	WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
	INTEREST	5.44
	ADDITIONAL CHARGES	90.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	150.23

Property Location: BASKET ST  
Assessed Owner(s): KAZIMIERCZAK CASIMIR  
KAZIMIERCZAK IRENE

Tax Bill #: 47 Map/Parcel ID: 255 24 0  
Subsequent Owner (if applicable):  
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 596772 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 3286 Page 66

2024	REAL ESTATE TAXES	342.13
	WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
	INTEREST	32.39
	ADDITIONAL CHARGES	90.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	464.52

Property Location: 25 GOSS HILL RD  
Assessed Owner(s): PYCH GERALD  
PYCH WANDA

Tax Bill #: 126 Map/Parcel ID: 324 43 0  
Subsequent Owner (if applicable):  
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 117612 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 6491 Page 254

2024	REAL ESTATE TAXES	2,251.91
	WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
	INTERST	250.91
	ADDITIONAL CHARGES	90.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	2,592.82

Property Location: GOSS HILL RD  
Assessed Owner(s): SIDAMONIDZE ANZOR  
Tax Bill #: 142 Map/Parcel ID: 324 58 A  
Subsequent Owner (if applicable):

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 101494 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13100 Page 136

2024	REAL ESTATE TAXES	84.56
	WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
	INTEREST	9.89
	ADDITIONAL CHARGES	90.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	184.45

Property Location: 5 BEAN HILL RD  
Assessed Owner(s): STEINS JOHN E  
Tax Bill #: 361 Map/Parcel ID: 442 23 B  
Subsequent Owner (if applicable):

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 98010 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 8028 Page 116

2024	REAL ESTATE TAXES	2,036.75
	WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
	INTEREST	39.06
	ADDITIONAL CHARGES	75.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	2,150.81

Property Location: COUNTY RD  
Assessed Owner(s): HAMLET HOMES LLC  
Tax Bill #: 440 Map/Parcel ID: 444 13 A  
Subsequent Owner (if applicable):

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 2867859 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 11584 Page 181

2024	REAL ESTATE TAXES	2,724.37
	WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
	INTEREST	295.42
	ADDITIONAL CHARGES	90.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	3,109.79

Property Location: 110 COUNTY RD  
Assessed Owner(s): RICHARDSON KEVIN  
RICHARDSON CARRIE  
Tax Bill #: 514 Map/Parcel ID: 444 70 0  
Subsequent Owner (if applicable):

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 131986 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 6457 Page 34

2024	REAL ESTATE TAXES	14.85
	WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
	INTEREST	0.26
	ADDITIONAL CHARGES	75.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	90.11

Property Location: 6-8-10 MAIN ST  
Assessed Owner(s): Graham Paul  
Tax Bill #: 805 Map/Parcel ID: H1 46 0  
Subsequent Owner (if applicable):

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 18164 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13224 Page 321

2024	REAL ESTATE TAXES	94.82
	WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
	INTEREST	3.24
	ADDITIONAL CHARGES	75.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	173.06

Property Location: 27 RUSSELL RD  
Assessed Owner(s): VALENTINE BRITTANY  
Tax Bill #: 1023 Map/Parcel ID: H5 21 0  
Subsequent Owner (if applicable):

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 18208 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13506 Page 328.

2024	REAL ESTATE TAXES	85.11
	WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
	INTEREST	1.60
	ADDITIONAL CHARGES	75.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	161.71

Property Location: 106 NORWICH LAKE  
Assessed Owner(s): CHARLAND JAYSON  
Tax Bill #: 1161 Map/Parcel ID: L5 48 0  
Subsequent Owner (if applicable):

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 47916 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13877 Page 187

2024	REAL ESTATE TAXES	40.79
	WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
	INTEREST	1.50
	ADDITIONAL CHARGES	75.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	117.29

Property Location: NORWICH LAKE  
Assessed Owner(s): LAPORTE DAVID E  
BRENNAN KATE A  
Tax Bill #: 1283 Map/Parcel ID: L6 97 0  
Subsequent Owner (if applicable):

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing approximately 2787 square feet of land and being a part of the premises recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 12409 Page 9

2024	REAL ESTATE TAXES	195.56
	WATER/SEWER LIENS	0.00
	INTEREST	22.82
	ADDITIONAL CHARGES	90.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	308.38

09/26/2024

# Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

**THE TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING FOR PART-TIME PLOW DRIVERS** This is an on-call position. Duties require a background in light and heavy equipment operation. High School Diploma or G.E.D. is required or experience may be substituted. Snow plowing experience is preferred but not required. Must have a valid, clean MA Driver's License and a DOT physical card. Starting pay is \$20.82/hour or \$23.85/hour with a Class B License with air brakes. This position is not eligible for benefits. Alcohol, controlled substance and criminal background testing is mandatory. Applications are available on the Town Website @ [wbrookfield.com](http://wbrookfield.com) Application deadline: Friday, November 1, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. Please contact: Jim Daley (508) 867-1417 or via email [jdaley@wbrookfield.com](mailto:jdaley@wbrookfield.com) The Town of West Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity at all levels of the workforce. EOE

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#### FOR RENT



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

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ASSISTANT TOWN COLLECTOR

GYM SUPERVISOR - P/T HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 1

PUBLIC WORKS SKILLED WORKER

RECYCLING ATTENDANT - P/T

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24P1950EA

Estate of:  
A.Gail Lucier  
Also known as:  
Alma Gail Lucier  
Date of Death: 06/01/2024  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been

filed by **Marcella-Jo Kane** of Westfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Marcella-Jo Kane** of Westfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and

objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/10/2024**. This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Represent-

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: September 12, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
09/26/2024

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