

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key." – Albert Schweitzer

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

September 28, 2023 | Vol. 45, No. 23 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

RUSSELL

Kim Morgan takes helm as town clerk

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Kim Morgan has been the Town Clerk for only three-and-a-half months.

She was elected at the Annual Town Election June 5 and had no opposition. "I am here to help the residents," she said. "I will do what ever I can do to make things easier and smoother for what it is that I handle," she continued.

Morgan, as a member of the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association, just attended an intensive workshop learning about how elections are conducted. She was on the Western Mass Team of clerks that won the inter-active competition to find 30 errors in a polling place, which had been set up to test clerks.

The position is "so much more than births, deaths and marriages," she said, especially with the presidential primary and election coming up next year.

Town officials, Accountant and Administrative Assistant Nancy Boersig, Collector/Treasurer Wendy Brunet and the members of the Select Board, Chair Tom Kulig, Gloria Farrell and Wayne Precanico were "all very helpful in getting me up and running, and settled as Town Clerk. I couldn't have done it without their help," said



Kim Morgan is the new Russell Town Clerk.

Photo by Mary Kronholm

Morgan.

Kulig said, "I can't say enough good things about Kim. She is prepared, knowledgeable and not afraid to tackle issues." He added that she has already asked that forms be made available to residents online to make things easier.

She realizes the authority and responsibilities that come with the position. She is responsible for the direction, administration, and operation of the Town Clerk's Office, including the maintenance of official town records; coordination and administration of

elections; issuance of various permits and licenses; recording and reporting of vital statistics; conducting the annual census; and other duties in accordance with the provisions of more than 73 chapters and 451

TOWN CLERK, page 10

HUNTINGTON

Gateway receives Barr Foundation Grant

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

"It's not just another grant," said Superintendent Kristen Smidy.

"We've gotten all of these amazing grants and it's been wonderful. But this is a transformational opportunity," said Smidy. She was referring to a one-year, \$100,000 "Meeting the Moment" planning grant from the Barr Foundation, located in Boston, with a goal of reimagining the high school experience for students attending Gateway Regional High School. Barr is a non-profit "investing in human, natural and creative potential," which funds projects in the areas of education, climate change, arts and creativity, and mobility.

Up first will be an online survey to gather input from stakeholders, which will open Monday, Oct. 2 and run through Thursday, Oct. 26. Smidy reported that the team will be communicating with families over the next few

GRANT, page 3

HILLTOWNS

SCBAs go out to bid, Five towns receive FEMA grant

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

It was announced last week that the towns of Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Montgomery and Russell will share in a \$653,314.28 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The towns were notified of their award on a regional grant application to the Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant on Sept. 1. The towns must match 5%, \$36,000 between the five towns, making the full project value \$685,980.

According to FEMA, the

purpose of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program is to "protect the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards."

Funds will be used to purchase new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus to replace 74 units, which are currently in service across the five fire departments.

According to the grant manager, Huntington Fire Chief Josh Ellinger, the units currently in service in most of the towns are around twenty years of age. They are tested annually and the new units will be as well, but the advantage of all purchasing

the same units at the same time will be the interoperability of the equipment across departments. As the towns respond to each other's fires through mutual aid, the importance of this opportunity is significant.

"It's a good feeling to have a win," Ellinger reflected. "It's a win for everybody."

"Two years ago, we sat down as a group of rural department Chiefs to decide what would benefit us all as mutual aid partners," Ellinger wrote in his announcement on social media. "What we all saw as a need were our SCBA in each Department. Having these new units will increase the safety and

survivability of all our firefighters in the region."

Ellinger explained that their 2022 application was unsuccessful. Ellinger said he pulled out the previous submission, "trimmed the fat" and then reapplied. The original grant had asked for an additional four SCBA's per department to meet the needs of future hires. The current grant, he said, is a one to one replacement of units each department already owns.

"It was disheartening the first time around," Ellinger said. "And a year ago items were much cheaper."

Nonetheless, the safety aspect of this project cannot be

overstated-for both firefighters and the public that they serve. "All of the Departments involved, including Chester, have seriously outdated SCBAs that are required to be replaced every ten years per National Fire Protection Agency compliance," said Chester Fire Chief Henry Fristik. "This also benefits the citizens of all of the Hilltowns having their departments' firefighters and mutual aid partners better equipped to help them in their time of need."

"Financially, grants like this save all five communities a significant amount of money but

SCBA, page 2



PAGE 7

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Becket..... | 10 |
| Blandford..... | 7 |
| Chesterfield..... | 10 |
| Classifieds..... | 15 |
| Goshen..... | 12 |

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Hilltowns..... | 2 |
| Huntington..... | 3 |
| Middlefield..... | 10 |
| Montgomery..... | 7 |
| Northampton..... | 12 |

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Opinion..... | 4, 5 |
| Otis..... | 10 |
| Pittsfield..... | 11 |
| Plainfield..... | 8 |
| Russell..... | 10 |

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Stockbridge..... | 7 |
| Schools & Youth..... | 9 |
| Westfield..... | 6 |
| Westhampton..... | 16 |
| Williamsburg..... | 10 |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Worthington..... | 7 |
|------------------|---|



HILLTOWNS

MassDOT announces upcoming roadwork on I-90

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be conducting daytime and overnight hour pavement milling, slope stabilization, bridge and drainage repair operations on I-90 eastbound and westbound in Becket, Otis, Lee and Blandford.

The work will be conducted at various times and locations now through Friday, Sept. 29.

Lane closures will be in place during the construction operations and traffic will be able to travel through the work zones. The schedule for the work and lane closures will be as follows:

Becket Bridge repair operations will be conducted daily on I-90 eastbound at mile marker 17.4 from Thursday, Sept. 28 through Friday, Sept. 29, from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude by 5:00 a.m. on

Friday, Sept. 29 by 5 a.m.

Becket and Otis slope stabilization operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound between mile marker 21.0 and mile marker 22.0 from Thursday, Sept. 28 through Friday, Sept. 29, from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Sept. 29 by 5 a.m.

Lee milling operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound between mile marker 7.4 and mile marker 11.4, from Thursday, Sept. 28, through Friday, Sept. 29 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Sept. 29 by 5 a.m.

Paving operations will be conducted nightly on I-90 westbound between mile marker 12.0 and mile marker 7.4, from Monday, September 25, through Friday, September 29, from 7:00 p.m. to

5:00 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude by 5:00 a.m. on Friday, September 29.

Blandford rainage repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound between mile marker 25.0 and mile marker 30.0 on Monday, September 25 from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Drainage repairs will be conducted daily on I-90 westbound between mile marker 25.0 and mile marker 20.0 from Tuesday, September 26, through Thursday, September 28, from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

Drainage repairs will be conducted at the Blandford service plaza on I-90 eastbound on Thursday, Sept. 28 from 6 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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

work area.

Drivers who are traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

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

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.

Follow @MassDOT on X, (formerly known as Twitter), to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

Baystate Health to hold virtual lecture

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health will hold a free Breast Health Virtual Lecture Series during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October beginning with “The Mammogram Callback” on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 6 p.m.

After getting a mammogram, it is common to receive a callback, which can be stressful and worrisome. Dr. Folashade Ajegba, a radiologist at Baystate Health, will discuss mammography, what a radiologist is looking for, why you might get a callback, what happens next and why the additional information they receive from a callback is a

good thing.

The series continues on Monday, Oct. 16, at 6 p.m. with “Lumpectomy vs Mastectomy.” Treatment options for breast cancer can include surgery as part of the full treatment plan. Dr. Jesse Casaubon of Baystate Surgical Oncology and Breast Specialists will discuss the options for a lumpectomy and a mastectomy, the potential differences, factors determining the surgery, surgical techniques, cosmetic results and recovery.

The series will end on Monday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m., with “Precision Medicine in Breast Cancer.” The treat-

ment of breast cancer has evolved from a “one-size-fits-all” approach to “precision medicine.” Now doctors can tailor medical treatment based on the genetic personality of an individual’s cancer. Dr. Prarthna Bhardwaj, of the Baystate Regional Cancer Program, will discuss how molecular testing impacts targeted treatments and the advances that have been made.

All lectures will be followed by a question-and-answer session. Registration is required for each session by visiting www.baystatehealth.org/breastcancerevents.

DCR restrict Mount Greylock access

Effective immediately and continuing through Friday, Oct. 6, but excluding weekends, the Department of Conservation and Recreation will continue to restrict access to Sperry Road and close the parking area on Rockwell Road at Mount Greylock State Reservation in the towns of New Ashford and Williamstown from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. to accommodate road improvement work.

Sperry Road is expected to reopen for weekend hikers.

Local towns receive funds for infrastructure projects

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation announce MassDOT has received an additional \$80 million in funding from the Federal Highway Administration as part of the annual funding redistribution process.

These redistribution funds represent federal transportation funds that were unable to be used for the programs to which they were originally allocated. As part of this redistribution, MassDOT will add or increase funding for 12 infrastructure projects across Massachusetts.

Local projects that will receive funds as part of this redistribution include: Pittsfield – Intersection and

signal improvements at First Street and North Street and Becket, Blandford, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge - Bridge preservation.

Every year in July, FHWA calculates how much Fiscal Year spending is likely to go unspent and solicits requests from the states for projects that can use the additional funding. Because FHWA obligation authority is a “use it or lose it” proposition, any projects submitted for additional funding must be able to be shovel-ready in the current fiscal year. These funds are available now and must be obligated no later than Sept. 26. Massachusetts’ redistribution funding average for the previous four years had been \$64.9 million.

SCBA

from page 1

they’re difficult to secure as competition from other departments across the country is intense,” Fristik said. “I can’t thank Chief Ellinger enough for his hard work in spearheading the grant application process for the five towns.”

The grant required that equipment earmarked for replacement had to be behind at least two cycles in safety standards. “They’re not bad,” Ellinger said of the units they are replacing, indicating that they are tested annually to ensure they are still operable. “They’re just so far away from the standards that are now in place.”

Fristik added, “Having safe up-to-date equipment also helps with morale and retention of firefighters in a time when finding and retaining volunteers is difficult.”

Town Administrator and Chief Procurement Officer Jennifer Peloquin has worked with Ellinger to develop the

open invitation to bid documents, which were expected to be released on Sept. 26. The deadline for bidder questions is Monday, Oct. 23 and bids are due on Thursday, Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. Sealed bids will be opened on Wednesday, Nov. 1, Peloquin said.

Ellinger’s announcement shared kudos to the others involved with the first application, many of whom have since retired. They include Retired Blandford Fire Chief Dave Mottor and Acting Blandford Chief Adam Dolby; Retired Chester Chief Rich Small, Former Chester Chief Bob Broga, and Chester Chief Henry Fristik; Montgomery Chief Chris Galipeau; and Retired Russell Chief Stew Eggleston and Russell Chief Ed Renaud. Vickers Consulting Services wrote the first grant submission.

Funding will be used to replace the units earmarked for each town in the proposal.

GUNS WANTED

“I come to you” & “buy your guns” right on the spot
I buy all types of firearms and firearm related items

- Pistols • Rifles • Shotguns • Revolvers •

Any age or condition
Fully Licensed to engage in the gun trade

VERMONT GUNBROKER

Licensed Gun Dealer in All New England States

James Cook **802-558-9363**

vtgunbroker.com



FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Northeast Center for Youth and Families is an Intensive Foster Care Agency working with children who have been abused or neglected. NCYF is looking for people to open their homes to children who need a safe and nurturing home environment.

NCYF Provides:
 \$1500 sign on bonus
 Specialized Training
 24 hour on-call support
 Weekly Case Manager Support
 Weekly Tax Free Stipend up to \$1300
 Supportive Team Environment

Please call **Tony** at (413) 575-8545 or **Tanya** at (413) 588-8831 with questions or to apply.



**think
OUTSIDE
of the
BIG
BOX**

**SUPPORT
COMMUNITY
BUSINESSES**

HUNTINGTON

Former Select Board member admits violation

HUNTINGTON – Former Huntington Select board member, Karon Hathaway, admitted to violating the conflict of interest law by, as a Select Board member, directing the delivery of about \$5,000 worth of town-owned asphalt millings to her property for her personal use.

Hathaway signed a Disposition Agreement in which she admits the violation and paid a \$5,000 civil penalty. In April 2022, when Huntington repaved a section of Route 66, the town's Highway Superintendent instructed the millings or ground-up asphalt, which are usable as an alternative to gravel for roads and driveways, from the project be retained by the town and delivered to the Highway Department garage.

Hathaway was aware of these instruc-

tions. Hathaway's nephew owned one of the excavation companies subcontracted to haul the millings from the job site to the Highway Department. On the first day of the road work, Hathaway's nephew instructed the driver he hired for the job to deliver the millings to Hathaway's home, where a large plywood sign stating "Dump here" was set up near the driveway.

Thereafter, the Highway Superintendent told the driver to stop delivering the millings to Hathaway's home, telling him that, as a Select Board member, Hathaway knew the millings were to be delivered to the Highway Department garage.

The Highway Superintendent also called Hathaway and told her all millings were supposed to be delivered to the

Highway Department. When the town's Administrative Assistant told Hathaway to return the millings to the town, Hathaway replied that she did not have the necessary equipment and would not do so.

The following day, Hathaway's nephew instructed the driver to deliver additional loads of millings to Hathaway's home. When the driver told him that he had been told not to do so by the Highway Superintendent, Hathaway's nephew accurately informed the driver that he had spoken with Hathaway and she had said it was fine and to bring her additional loads.

The driver believed that, as a Select Board member, Hathaway's instructions superseded those of the Highway Superintendent and delivered at least two additional loads to Hathaway's home. In

total, Hathaway received at least eight loads of millings worth about \$5,000. Hathaway's husband then spread the millings over their driveway over the next several days, making them unreturnable to the town.

By, as a Select Board member, directing the delivery of town-owned asphalt millings to her home, where she received them for her personal use, Hathaway violated the conflict of interest law's prohibition against public employees soliciting or receiving valuable, unwarranted benefits given because of their official position.

The Ethics Commission encourages public employees to contact the Commission's Legal Division at 617-371-9500 for free advice if they have any questions regarding how the conflict of interest law may apply to them.

Paranormal author Ronny LeBlanc to speak at library

By Wendy Long
Correspondent



Ronny LeBlanc

HUNTINGTON – Kick off the month of Halloween and spooky activities with Ronny LeBlanc, globally recognized in the world of the paranormal, Bigfoot and UFOs, who will be speaking at the Huntington Public Library on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 6 p.m.

LeBlanc is the author of the best-selling book "Monsterland: Encounters With UFOs, Bigfoot and Orange Orbs," which details the history and connection between these phenomena and highlights his experience in a research area called Monsterland in central Massachusetts. He is the first person to ever cast a Bigfoot print in

Massachusetts from a trackway discovered in Leominster State Forest in the summer of 2010.

He stars in two television shows for Discovery+ and the Travel Channel: Expedition Bigfoot and Paranormal Caught on Camera. He is a regular speaker at UFO, Bigfoot and Paranormal conferences around the United States and has appeared on Coast to Coast A.M. CBS and in cover stories for several newspapers.

LeBlanc has also been featured on "In Search of Monsters," Shock DOcs "This is Halloween," "Conjuring Kesha," "Finding Bigfoot" and "Bigfoot: Fear in the Woods."

This event is free of charge. For more information, people may call 413-512-5206 or email library@huntingtonma.us.

GRANT

from page 1

weeks about how to take part.

Joining Smidy on the Core Planning Team are Amy Mason, teacher of the visually impaired (and district resident and parent); Val Zeh, mathematics teacher (parent of an alum); Taylor Simpson, English teacher; Martha Clark, sixth grade teacher (parent of a child in the district and resident); Linda Hyjek, third grade teacher (parent of child in district and district resident); Bill Brown, district librarian; Cheryl Wright, mathematics teacher; Anne-Marie Fant, English teacher; Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director; high school Principal Jason Finnie and assistant high school principal Will Sullivan.

Six of these team members attended a four day kick-off, or "convening" in late July to guide the planning year for new grant recipients. "It was wonderful. It was the best conference I've ever been to," noted Wright, adding that the first thing she noticed was the availability of food and drinks all day long, with breaks between meetings.

"You just felt like you could focus on the task at hand because your needs were taken care of. And they let us go at a pace where we weren't being pressured to fix anything now. We looked at other schools for ideas on how to gather information. It was nice," said Wright.

The Team will return for four more convenings this year with other New England awardees, who include Agawam, Millbury, Barnstable, CREC Arts (Hartford), Millford, Chelsea and Taunton. Gateway is the smallest of all eight grant recipients. In addition, there will be monthly meetings, site visits and virtual training to attend.

Stakeholder engagement is a big part of this work, and the greater the involvement of students, staff, parents, and community members-the better the

outcome. To that end, the team has created a video announcing the grant, and welcoming the involvement and ideas of everyone. It can be viewed on the homepage of the district website by visiting www.grsd.org.

Smidy explained the timeline for the planning grant year, which begins with gathering information and data (the "learn" phase of the grant) in a variety of ways from September - November. This phase could include shadowing students, site visits from outside observers, and surveys of students, staff, parents and community members using online and paper surveys developed by Barr.

From November to March will be the "dream" phase where everything possible is being put on the table, including site visits to other schools throughout the country once they've identified trends that they want to explore. March - June will be to dig deep and develop a plan for Gateway.

"Barr is a partner in all of this work and resources," Smidy said. "They will review our proposal and if it matches their philosophy of having students be fully engaged in their educational experience, they will fund it indefinitely."

"The work is really aspirational," noted LeBlanc. "The great thing about Barr is that they partner with you long term and continue investing."

Wright agreed, "It feels like they're here to support us all year. We feel like we're going to get there."

"It's hard to describe; it's just out of the box," Smidy mused. "It's the most exciting part. We are programmed to be these administrative leaders and I think we do a pretty good job of that here. But the opportunity to dream and research and maybe dispel assumptions is so potentially powerful. "I get chills," she said.

*In loving
memory*

**DORIS
PLATT**

Feb. 24, 1934 ~
Sept. 25, 2015

*We miss you
every day*

HELP WANTED

Williamsburg
Anne T. Dunphy School

School Nurse
Thursday / Friday

Part-time Cafeteria Helper
10:30-2:00 Monday-Friday
School Year Only

Applications & Information available
at www.burgyschool.org
or at 268-8421

AA/EOE



Apex Homecare

Turning your family's challenges into solutions

**Apex Homecare has immediate Openings
in Huntington, Chester, Northampton,
Westfield, Hatfield and Amherst.**

Hiring experienced CNA's, HHA's and training new staff
looking for a career in Home Care.

Also, online training in your own home at your own pace.
<https://mahomecaretraining.org>

Hourly rates range \$17.00 to \$22.00.

Work Close to Home! Mother's Hours Available!
Great for Retirees Looking to Supplement Their Income.

Apply:

Apexcares.com
Call 413-746-4663

News, photo publication policy

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

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

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



OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Nonagenarian war veteran asks about extra credit for his service

Dear Rusty

I'm turning 95 this year and am caretaker for my wife in our 70th year of marriage. I served before 1968 (1951-53) during the Korean War. How do the "special extra credits for military service" work for me? Is it retro-active? My wife, who only worked a short time, gets half of my Social Security so would it affect hers, too?

Signed: Korean War Veteran

Dear War Veteran

First, I want to express my gratitude for your war-time service to our country and I also applaud your 70 years of marriage. Thank you, and congratulations.

Regarding the "special extra credit" for military service, Social Security FICA taxes weren't withheld from military pay prior to 1957 so you didn't pay Social Security payroll taxes from your military earnings during the years you served.

As a result, Social Security would have no record of your military earnings during those 1951-1953 service years. But when you claimed Social Security later in life, they would have asked if you served in the military and given you "special extra credit" in the form of presumed earnings for your service years.

They likely would have asked for a copy of your DD-214 and would have added \$160 to your earnings record for each active duty month during those 1951-1953 years. Note they do not give you an extra amount of Social Security; rather, for benefit computation purposes, they reflect your earnings for those years a bit higher than are shown in your earnings record, which would likely show zero for your service years.

For example, if you served 12 months active duty in 1952, when your Social Security benefit was calculated they would consider your 1952 earnings as \$1,920 (\$160 x 12), instead of the zero shown in your record because you didn't actually pay FICA tax on your military pay. But whether those extra earnings credits would have any effect on your Social Security benefit is a separate item.

Assuming you had earnings from regular employment over your lifetime and paid into Social Security from those non-military earnings, you became eligible for Social Security benefits from earnings outside of your military service. If you worked and earned a decent salary for at least 35 years, then those special extra credits for your military service years would have no effect on your Social Security benefit.

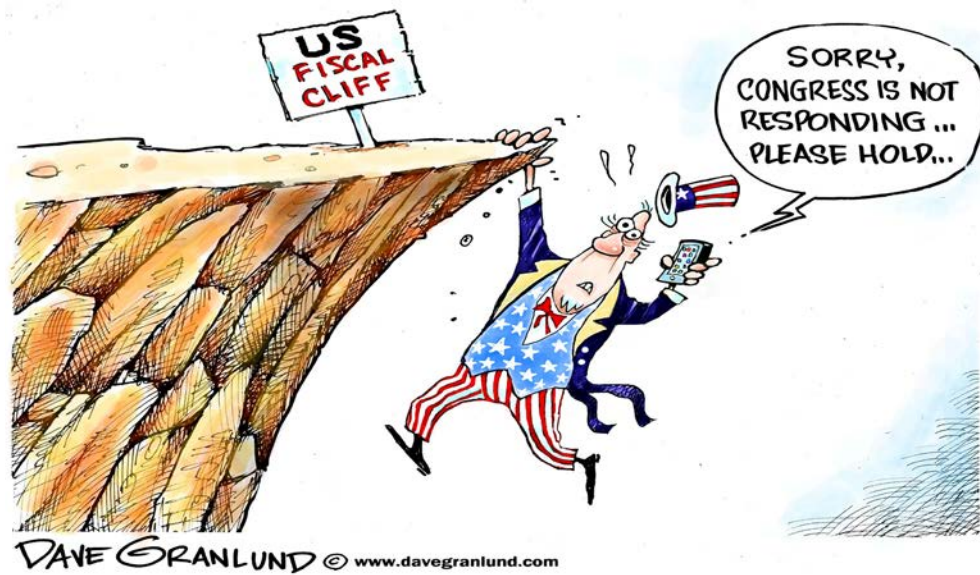
If you had less than 35 years of regular non-military employment, then those extra earnings added for your military service years counted and provided you with a slightly higher Social Security benefit when you claimed.

SECURITY, page 5

Corrections policy

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

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



GUEST COLUMN

Cleaning up and planning ahead



Let's just say that all the rain made vegetable gardening a real challenge this year. Why don't we call it a wrap and do what we can now to get ahead of the game for next year!

Most of my veggie plants have already called it quits. Other than a half row each of carrots and beets, and the last succession of green bean plants, there is pretty much nothing left to harvest in my main garden.

I still have some great peppers in the raised beds. Clean up will start in the main garden for now.

Where do I begin? First, I will haul off whatever I can to the compost pile, excluding as many weeds as possible. I will also leave out thick plant stalks such as broccoli; they will take too long to break down.

Diseased plants are also a no-no; they belong in the trash.

GARDEN, page 5

Types of animal shelters



Did you know there are different types of animal shelters? Years ago, when I first started volunteering in the world of animal rescue, I learned the difference between open admission shelters, limited admission shelters, and local animal rescues.

All three serve a vital role, requiring equal amounts of care and support from us.

Municipal Shelters

Municipal animal shelters are run by a government, operating on a budget just like police departments, public health departments, and more. These shelters work as part of a city or county's animal control division, and are most often funded with taxpayer monies, aiming to assist animals within the shelter's authority while also protecting humans from the potential hazards posed by animals. As per certain regulations, municipal shelters are often contractually required to take in any animal, regardless of health, disposition, or age—including every single dog that's surrendered, every stray cat, animals that are sick, kittens too young for adoption, animals taken from hoarding situations, and so much more. Because of this, municipal shelters are considered "open admission" and risk becoming overstrained. As part of a governmental body, the requirement that falls on these shelters is to serve the public as a whole.

Private Shelters

While some privately-run shelters do contract with one or more municipalities, most are independently-operated nonprofit facilities—not run by a government. Private shelters often have a Board of Directors establishing policies, procedures, operations, and bylaws within the shelter, and while private shelters can be open admission (if they're contracted with a municipality) they're most often considered "limited admission." This means that private shelters can choose which animals they take in, and they are able to turn animals away. Private shelters are typically funded through donations, as opposed to an operating budget.

Rescue Organizations

Nonprofit rescue groups are another alternative to consider when adopting a pet; these groups can have a physical location, but often do not and are "foster-based," relying on a network of foster homes instead. These organizations often take in animals from overburdened open admission shelters, and many function exclusively on donations and the efforts of volunteers.

Limited Admission vs. Open Admission Shelters

Open admission shelters will not, or cannot as per certain regulations, turn away an animal. This creates a problem when intake rates are high and resources are strained.

Limited admission shelters, on the other hand, are not obligated to accept

SHELTERS, page 5

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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



\$12.50 Each
Digital Photos
 TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
 Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

ISSN NO. 0747-2471

Country Journal TEAM



EDITOR
 Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
 Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

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



@ Country Journal



countryjournal.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
 CEO

KEITH TURLEY
 President

DEANNA SLOAT
 Graphics Manager



www.turley.com

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

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Oysters were the fast food of late 1800s

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

Having hiked many times to the areas of three mountain top hotel sites, circa 1850s to admire the spectacular views, one has to wonder about all the oyster shells peeking through the leaf litter.

Who would be eating oysters in land locked western Massachusetts? It is very puzzling to find sometimes epic proportions of dumped oyster shells visible on the ground. The Park Rangers could not enlighten me on the topic. What gives with the oyster shells?

Well it seems that oysters were very much a working man's meal in the mid 1800s. From 1880 to 1901 the U.S. produced 160 million pounds of oyster meat per year. New York Harbor was the largest source of oyster beds, with 220,000 acres of oyster reef in the Harbor.

Barges would be loaded with up to six million oysters for delivery. The Hudson River is 315 miles long and as much as half of it is considered a tidal estuary. That means it has sea water mixed with fresh water as far north as Troy, New York with tides just as in the ocean. This most likely supported oyster reefs, which meant oysters could grow in the river that far north.

Oysters were on the menu. There were descriptions of oyster reefs so high that colonial ships had to navigate around them in Cape Cod, Long Island, New York and around Prince Edward Island.

There is a historic site on the Damariscotta River in Maine called the Whaleback Oyster Shell Midden (dump) with millions of shells that date back more than a thousand years. Now those Indians were some oyster eaters.

What about oysters as nutrition? Well for starters they are a very healthy choice, low in calories, rich in omega three fatty acids (antioxidants), low in fat and high in protein, containing all 9 essential amino acids. They can be eaten raw, baked, boiled, fried, roasted, smoked, pickled, steamed and broiled.

The dish oysters Rockefeller was first created in 1899 in New Orleans as a substitute for baked snails, which were hard to obtain. Not for those with a faint



Oyster shuckers work at their stations.

Submitted photo

stomach as this was baked oysters with spinach, garlic and Pernod in a seasoned sauce. It was named after the wealthiest American John D. Rockefeller. Was this a trial or tribute to the man?

Oysters from New England are known as Wellfleets, Malpeques are from Prince Edward Island, Blue Points are from New York and Kumamotos are from the Pacific Ocean on the West Coast. Unfortunately over harvesting, water pollution and loss of habitat decimated wild oyster beds by as early as the 1900s. Oysters would become a delicacy.

Oysters got a modicum of revenge through the act of shucking them with a sharp flat knife before you can eat one. The knife is inserted into the shell and then twisted to pry open the shell. It is essential you hold the cupped side of the oyster down with the flat side up so you can savor the oyster juice inside when eating it raw.

Should you chew the oyster? The flesh can be plump or springy and it is best not to go beyond two chews, most people slurp 'em down. You order them by the half dozen today and they are served with cocktail or horseradish sauce and lemon. They will have a briny taste and saltines are recommended to cleanse the palate after eating one. Certainly a dining adventure. The taste of oysters is affected by the salinity, alkalinity and mineral content of the seawater.

Not to alarm you but there is a concern about suffering stomach unpleasantness and watery diarrhea from eating raw oysters due to vibrio bacteria or the Norwalk virus. Eat no oysters with cracked shells or a sulfurous odor as they may be contaminated. Better yet get it cooked. Oysters can live for a month out of water. That liquid inside the shell pre-



This is a painting by Everhart Kuhn featuring oysters, dating from 1865 taken from The Smithsonian Magazine. Courtesy photo

serves them.

If you do buy oysters be sure to refrigerate them. Do not sit them in water because this leads them to try and open their shell to feed in water with no saline, causing them to die. Refrigeration would have been primitive in these hotels causing one to ask were these oysters locally harvested or successfully kept on ice?

You may well ask was the aphrodisiac theme a factor in oysters being a popular food choice for Victorians? The Victorian era was 1837 to 1901. All of the hotels were built during this time frame, the Mount Holyoke Summit House became a hotel in 1851, aka Skinner State Park in South Hadley, the Mountain House Hotel was built in 1864 on the summit of Sugarloaf Mountain in S. Deerfield and the Mt. Eyrie House on the summit of Mount Nonotuck in the Mount Tom Reservation in Holyoke was built in 1861.

All of these hotels have oyster shells laying among the grounds that you hike. In some instances they appear to have been dumped by the hotel kitchens. Did the hotels stock up on oysters to attract guests? Fresh mountain air and oysters to rekindle romance? Casanova, the famous Roman lover, was said to have powered up by eating 50 oysters for breakfast every day.

Alas there is little science to support the notion that oysters have aphrodisiac properties. One study done in 2005 did find an increase in testosterone production in animals due to two amino acids that are found in oysters. Well those oysters traveled a long way to get to the hotels to do their magic.

Oysters are filter feeders, they filter



Oyster shells are strewn on the ground at the Eyrie House property in Holyoke on the Mount Tom Reservation.

Photo by Deborah Daniels

water to eat phytoplankton, small bits of algae suspended in sea water. They consume nitrogen and phosphates which are sources of pollution. You might say they are perfect pollution sponges filtering 3-12 gallons of water per day and up to 50 gallons of water per day in ideal conditions. They truly cleanse our oceans.

Fertilized oyster larvae float on water currents for 2-3 weeks till they anchor on a reef to grow and become spat on a shell or baby oysters less than one inch long. They can live for 20 years growing to eight inches in size anchored in one place. They are ready to eat in three to five years.

Oyster reefs are habitat for fish, crabs, barnacles and sea anemones. So the Billion Oyster Project is striving to restore a billion oysters to New York Harbor by 2035. Over 15,000 volunteers are making 15 different reef sites in the N.Y. Harbor.

One ton of oyster shells are collected daily from 80 restaurants in New York City. They are cured on Governor's Island for one year. Then the old shells are placed in tanks and oyster larvae are released into the tank where they go to work to creating clusters of oysters that will be used to recreate new reefs in the harbor. Now that is remarkable. Enjoy some oysters on the half shell as a toast to our ancestors if you can.

SECURITY

from page 4

So, the bottom line is this: if, over your lifetime, you worked for at least 35 years paying into Social Security via FICA payroll or self-employment tax, then the "special extra credits" for your military service years had no effect on your Social Security benefit. But if you worked less than 35 years in which SS taxes were withheld from your earnings, then those "special extra credits for military service" contributed to and increased your Social Security benefit when you claimed.

However, even if you worked for over 35 years outside of the military and the extra credits didn't matter for your Social Security benefit, your service to our country did, indeed, matter a great deal. From one veteran

to another, thank you again for your service to our country.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

SHELTERS

every animal; they can say, "we're at capacity," or they can also accept only a specific group of animals, such as special needs pets or very young kittens, concentrating their resources and offering services that otherwise may not be available. These facilities are often considered "no-kill" as they will not euthanize animals regarded as healthy or adoptable.

Opinion: The Writer's Take

It's our duty to look beyond these labels to become part of the solution. I believe it's a mistake to criticize or

vilify the open admission shelters that so urgently need our support. Without these facilities, the animals would have no place to go—these shelters must exist, and it's our job to help them, not decry them.

To be considered "no-kill," an organization must reach a 90 percent placement rate for the animals in their care, which can include adoption, rescue transfers, and more. This is simply a more achievable standard for the limited admission shelters that can turn animals away, but the good news is that open admission shelters can also reach that

GARDEN

from page 4

At last, I have a clean slate. In preparation for sowing winter rye seed, I scuff up the soil surface.

If any Jumping Worms cross my path, I feed them to the chickens. Stay tuned for an entire article on the subject of these invasive worms next week.

Once prep is complete, I rake the soil smooth and broadcast the seed. At a rate of four pounds per one thousand square feet of garden, I use ten pounds.

It's a good idea to divide the seed in half and try to cover all the area you have once, then go back and fill in the light spots with the rest. After the seed has been sown, I'll drag the flat end of a steel rake over the soil surface to bury it ever so slightly.

My goal is to have the seed sprout now, so that its roots will hold the soil and

its nutrients in place over the off season. Winter rye will put on an amazing amount of top growth by spring—weed whack or mow it first to make incorporating easier.

I am also contemplating "tarping" it to solarize the soil at the same time, then working in the dead plants by hand. Either way, if you do this for a few years in a row you'll watch the organic matter content of your soil soar, reportedly at a rate of three to four thousand pounds per acre!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

from page 4

"no-kill" status, although it requires a tremendous level of support from us, the community.

To help every open admission shelter get to this status, we must get involved. We must use our voices to spread truth and light, and we must contribute to the programming offered by these facilities. The goal of every animal shelter reaching this benchmark requires us to dig deep within ourselves, to identify where our help is needed, and to contribute our skills and efforts.

The employees and volunteers working in the world of animal rescue

are some of the most compassionate and courageous souls I've met; they choose to do what they do because they love animals, and they often put every aspect of their own health on the line. Together, we can help.

It's important that we focus our efforts not on labels but rather on what matters—the animals and the people working to help them.

Editor's Note: The following information was acquired over the course of my career as a journalist, through my work as an animal advocate, and through common knowledge.

WESTFIELD

Westfield River Cleanup set for Sept. 30 and Oct. 14

WESTFIELD – Volunteers along the Westfield River and its streams will join cleanup crews across four states on Saturday, Sept. 30 and Saturday, Oct. 14 for Agawam, according to Mark Damon, president of the Westfield River Watershed Association and coordinator of the cleanup.

“Our volunteers, like many other Source to Sea groups, take a Saturday morning and use it to make a significant difference in our watershed.” For 70 years, the Watershed Association has worked to clean the banks and the waters of the once-polluted Westfield River. “The Westfield River is a lot cleaner than it used to be, largely thanks to our volunteers,” continues

Damon. “There’s still more that we can do, however. Think globally, act locally – here’s your chance.”

There are thousands of people who live near the Westfield River and can access it for fishing, picnicking, walking, paddling and even swimming. “We’ll have small groups working at different sites along the river. When groups like families or teams volunteer, we keep them together. We’re glad to work with the community to keeping it clean and inviting.”

The WRWA is part of the Connecticut River Conservancy which sponsors the annual Source to Sea Cleanup, a volunteer network spanning four states that cares for the

Connecticut River and its tributaries. WRWA welcomes people joining them for the morning on Saturday, Sept. 30 in Westfield or Saturday, Oct. 14 in Agawam) to preregister if possible by contacting the coordinator for their area. Volunteers for the Fall 2023 Westfield River cleanup will gather at 9 a.m., meeting in Westfield in the public parking lot at the end of Meadow Street near the green bridge.

In Agawam, on Oct. 14 volunteers will meet at the Pynchon Point parking lot near the South End bridge circle on River Road. WRWA will distribute gloves and trash bags and offer safety tips, then send off site teams. Organizers target watershed sites in

Westfield, Russell, Huntington, West Springfield and Agawam. Assignments are generally completed about noon or 1 p.m.

Everyone is welcome; children must be supervised by an adult. WRWA will arrange with local communities for pickup of trash and debris recovered at each site. For questions, people may call Mark Damon regarding Westfield locations at 413-977-1577 or email markjdamon@gmail.com or call Sheryl Becker for Agawam area sites at 413-374-1921 or email sherlearth69@gmail.com.

To learn more, people may visit www.westfieldriver.org and www.ctriver.org/our-work/source-to-sea-cleanup.



Run Stanley 5K run/walk set for Saturday

WESTFIELD – On Sunday, Oct. 1 Stanley Park, 400 Western Avenue, will be hosting the 11th annual Run Stanley 5K trail run/walk, which includes a K9 category, a Munchkin Run and the Stanley Stroll for families. Registration table opens at 9 a.m. The Munchkin Run, a ¼ mile fun run for children 13 and under sponsored by Dunkin’ Donuts, will take place at 10 a.m.

The Stroll and Roll and the K9 category (human and dog) will start at

10:20 a.m. on the 5K course and the 5K run/walk will start at 10:25 a.m. All runs start and finish at the Children’s Pavilion at Stanley Park. Participants will receive a race shirt and registered dogs will receive a race bandana.

There is also the Stanley Cup School Spirit trophy for the school with the most participation in Run Stanley. Form a team and get friends and family involved. When people register, be sure to enter their school name.

Run Stanley 2023 continues the

fundraising efforts to benefit the care of the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary. Please join the community of runners, walkers, hikers, dog owners, and nature lovers of all ages who care about Stanley Park for a fun event that will help to improve the safety and accessibility of its wildlife trails.

There is still time to register. People may visit www.stanleypark.org to pre-register or for more information. Stanley Park is a 501(c)(3) “private” non-profit organization.

Tri-Town History Trail to hold event on Oct. 14

WESTFIELD – The Tri-Town History Trail will hold an event on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

More than a year ago the various sites in the Westfield area got together to talk about collaborative projects. Since all were dedicated to presenting the history of this region, it made sense to coordinate efforts. The Tri-Town History Trail grew out of those first conversations.

As one of the five participants in this event, the Westfield Athenaeum, 6 Elm St., will feature history exhibits located in the Athenaeum’s Reed Room. This room includes an extensive exhibit covering the history of Westfield from founding in 1669 to the present day.

They have a large exhibit on the history of military service in Westfield featuring the stories of a number of Westfield veterans. Both of these displays include many artifacts from the museum and archives collections.

They will also open our newly renovated Smith Room, which features a recreation of a colonial kitchen, displays of Victorian era artifacts, and a display on the history of childhood in New England. For this special day, they will have docents on hand to answer questions about the displays and activities for the kids.

This event is an opportunity for families interested in the history of the region to sample the exhibits and historic sites that are part of the tri-town area. In addition to the history displays

at the Athenaeum, families will be able to see the Old Burying Ground, at 45 Mechanic St. in Westfield, one of the oldest cemeteries in its original location in the United States. At one time there were more than 1,600 graves. Some 1,100 gravestones can still be seen today, featuring unique carvings and beautiful epitaphs.

Another stop on the trail will be the Dewey House at 87 South Maple Street in Westfield. This house, built around 1735, was owned by Joseph Dewey, who operated a saw mill on the river just across the street. By visiting this house, viewers will be able to experience what it was like to live in an 18th century home.

In Granville, participants will be able to visit the Noble and Cooley Center for Historic Preservation at 42 Water St.. At this site families will be able to see the oldest drum factory in the United States and experience demonstrations of original machinery. Participants will also have the chance to see a Civil War drum picked up off the battlefield at Gettysburg.

In Southwick, families will be able to see two historic sites owned and operated by the Southwick Historical Society. The Joseph Moore House, built in 1751, features the story of Moore, who later served and died fighting in the Revolutionary War. The second site is the Charles Gillett Cigar Factory, built in 1872 and is the only remaining site documenting the tobacco industry in the Connecticut River Valley.

104th Fighter Wing earns F-15 superior performer award

WESTFIELD – The 104th Fighter Wing was announced as the F-15 superior performer for the William Tell 2023 competition on Sept 15 in Savannah, Georgia.

The 104FW was also awarded the Lieutenant Colonel James H. Harvey, III Top F-15 Award, and won the Overall Weapons Load Competition. This was the first time the William Tell competition has taken place in 19 years. Airmen from across active and guard wings participated and were tested on aircrew performance in air superiority, weapons and tactics use, weapons loading, maintenance, command and control, intelligence and weapons director competitions.

“It’s a really dynamic environment with no scripts, so it’s on you to figure out the situation and respond accordingly,” said Lt. Col. Matthew ‘Beast’ Tannis, 104th Fighter Wing pilot.

Lieutenant General Russ Mack, deputy commander of Air Combat Command, spoke to the importance of the competition regarding ensuring a lethal and ready Air Force.

The historic competition was named after the legendary Swiss archer and was previously a biennial competition that encouraged the most challenging air-to-air scenarios since 1954. The meet was placed on hold for the past 19 years because of military operations tempo and contingency requirements.

“Nothing forges excellence more than competition,” said Col. David

‘Moon’ Halasi-Kun. “It doesn’t matter if we are talking about a near peer adversary, or every F-15 unit in the Air Force. At William Tell the Barnstormers rose up, performed and dispelled any doubt about who commands the skies and what team delivers Airmen and airpower to dominate the competition.”

During the 19-year hiatus, the Air Force has grown its fleet to include 5th generation aircraft, prioritizing integrated fighter tactics as it faces near-peer threats. While the U.S. Air Force still maintains a steady operations tempo, William Tell planners hope resuming the event will foster the exchange of tactics and better prepare Airmen for combat operations.

The 104th Fighter Wing is made up of highly trained personnel ready to provide air superiority on-demand, anywhere in the world, with 24 assigned F-15C Eagle aircraft. The 104FW is trained to provide 24/7 Aerospace Control Alert, providing armed F-15 fighters ready to scramble in a moment’s notice to protect the northeast United States from any airborne threat and security for one-quarter of the nation’s population and over one-third of the Gross Domestic Product.

The 104FW is always on call to provide emergency response to include security, logistics, communications, explosive ordnance disposal, firefighting, medical support and more to the nation and Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge.

Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.

birth
announcements

engagement
announcements

wedding
announcements

www.turley.com

BLANDFORD

Highway superintendent gives board road updates

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The Select Board received Andrew Shannon’s letter of resignation from the Highway Department, which will be passed on to the Town Clerk.

No resignation is final until the Town Clerk receives it.

Highway Department Superintendent David Waldron discussed with the board the water, presumably a water leak, in front of the Pease home on Russell Stage Road. The water had been tested and was found to have chlorine in it. The Water Department had repaired a service leak just above the Pease home where Kaolin Road intersects Russell Stage Road. It was thought that that leak

was what was surfacing down below that intersection where the Pease home is. Town Administrator Christopher Dunne and Waldron will go to the Water Commissioners’ meeting next week to see what can be done.

The signs indicating cycle area are coming, but no date yet for installation.

Drainage work on Julius Hall Road has begun, according to Waldron, as well as removal of trees on Russell Stage Road.

Chair Cara Mangini asked if it would be possible to put a “bear crossing” sign on Russell Stage Road, below Sperry Road.

Waldron is working on Gibbs Road with the Department of Environmental Protection on the culvert issues.

Dunne reported that he is asking

local contractors if it is possible for them to do a property assessment on town buildings, to point out necessary repairs and prioritize same.

Letendre signed a letter of support for a grant from Community Compact IT for new municipal finance software, which would be cloud-based.

He walked Watson Park with members of the Historical Commission to see what might be possible to accomplish for the park with a PARC grant.

The board approved the purchase of an additional historically correct trash bin for Watson Park at the request of Douglas Emo.

The board also approved the Snow and Ice Management Policy for the town.

Jeff Allen and Deb Brodie have volunteered to take care of weeding the

flower beds at Bicentennial Park.

There was a brief discussion of care and maintenance of the Town Hall generator, the board wants to be sure it’s started at least once a month.

Member Theodore Cousineau brought up the Senate Bill 482 which would enable the state to oversee private water wells. Dunne said he did not expect it to go forward.

The board then had a roll call vote to go into executive session not to return to public session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(1) To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

STOCKBRIDGE

Grange to hold Community Dinner

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Grange is having a community dinner Sunday, Oct. 8 with take out pick up only from noon-1:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Grange Hall, 51 Church St.

The menu features a stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes, vegetable with dessert choices of chocolate cream pie

or apple pie.

Dinner is \$15 per person. Orders may be made by calling 413-243-1298 or 413-443-4352. Reservation deadline is Thursday, Oct. 5.

Grange Community Dinners are designed to raise money for non-profit projects and building maintenance.

Pumpkin Show opens on Sept. 30

STOCKBRIDGE – The Incredible Naumkeag Pumpkin Show, sponsored by the Trustees of Reservation on the former estate located at 5 Prospect Hill Road, opens on Saturday, Sept. 30 and runs through Sunday, Oct. 29.

It will feature more than 1,500 jack-o-lanterns, hundreds of mums, pumpkins and countless gourds, most of which were grown at Naumkeag. Hot cider and treats will be available to purchase on site.

Timed entry tickets are required for this event and must be purchased in advance. Admission is available Wednesdays through Sundays from 5-8:30 p.m. There is also an early hour option from 4-5 p.m.

Tickets for both pumpkin shows went on sale to Trustees members on Sept. 7 and opened to the public on Sept. 11. Details about the shows can be found by visiting www.thetrustees.org/program/halloween.

Kristin Grippo named Community Engagement Director

STOCKBRIDGE – Berkshire Art Center, 13 Willard Hill Road, welcomes longtime faculty member, Kristin Grippo, as the new Community Engagement Director and announce the appointment of three new members to its Board of Directors this fall, which includes Milena Cerna, David Gilbert and Cheryl Mirer.



Kristin Grippo

Having taught children for over twenty years, Grippo has been a faculty educator with Berkshire Art Center for nearly a decade. She has degrees in elementary education, literacy and art history and has pursued infinite creative endeavors from a young age, whether it be crafting Barbie clothes from tissues and tape or selling origami sculptures to fellow neighborhood children.

Grippo is a memoirist, poet and performer who has been known to host local open-mics and appear in pop-up plays and story-telling events. She loves making cardboard robots and super hero masks with her energetic and creative three-year-old-son.

Along with developing curriculum for Berkshire Art Center’s after school art programs across the county, Grippo will be overseeing the organization’s Teaching Institute program as well as managing its volunteers and artists-in-residence. “Having Kristin in her new role as Community Engagement Director will further strengthen all our efforts to respond to the needs of our creative community,” said Berkshire Art Center’s

Board Chair, Mike Zippel.

The first new incoming member to Berkshire Art Center’s Board of Directors is Milena Cerna. With over 30 years of experience as a senior executive in global finance, technology and higher education markets, she has held senior leadership positions in marketing, financial management and strategy development for a number of companies and universities.

David Gilbert also joins Berkshire Art Center’s board as a new member. With a belief that art transforms and renews lives and nourishes communities, he is honored and excited to be part of Berkshire Art Center in its mission to bring art where “people who love art, regardless of age or ability, can gather to experience creative expression.”

The third new board member is Cheryl Mirer, who is a painter, printmaker and mixed media artist. As an Enrollment Counselor at Berkshire Community College, she is passionate about the Berkshire community and wishes to make a difference in people’s lives through art.

BAC is a nonprofit community art center with the mission to encourage people of all ages, means, and skill levels to enrich their lives through hands-on experience in the visual arts.

For more information on Berkshire Art Center, people may visit berkshireartcenter.org, call 413-298-5252 extension 100 or email info@berkshireartcenter.org.

MONTGOMERY



Ron and Ronnie performing at the weekly “Music in Montgomery” series at Montgomery Town Hall. Performances are free of charge and begin at 3 p.m. every Thursday.

Photo by Wendy Long

‘Music in Montgomery’ series thriving in new locale

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

MONTGOMERY – “Music in Montgomery,” a weekly live music performance held on Thursday afternoons beginning at 3 p.m., has moved to a new location at Montgomery Town Hall.

The move was necessary due to the closing of their former performance space at the Montgomery Marketplace. The new space seems to agree with the public, who are turning out in record numbers.

A performance by Ron and Ronnie on Thursday, Sept. 21 drew nearly thirty attendees, remarkable for such a tiny town. Participants seemed to be enjoying the two guitar players/singers who featured “heart songs from the 1940s forward.”

September’s lineup will conclude

with Larry Southard on vocals and guitar on Thursday, Sept. 28. October performers include Friendlier With Two (Kara and Jerry Noble) on Thursday, Oct. 5; Ravenwood (Barry Searle & Company in jazz mode) on Thursday, Oct. 12; The Hilltown Grillbillies on Thursday, Oct. 19; and Larry Southard on Oct. 26.

November’s calendar features the return on Kara and Jerry Noble on Thursday, Nov. 2; Barry Searle, Sara Miller, and Pete Rzasa on Thursday, Nov. 9; Ed Bentley & Friends, “Men of a Certain Age” offering country, rock and folk music on Thursday, Nov. 16; and Larry Southard closing the month again on Nov. 30. There will not be a performance on Thanksgiving.

Admission is free. People may call Dale Rogers for more information at 413-875-5205.

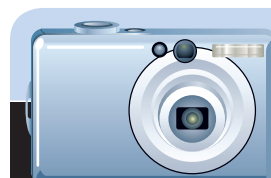
WORTHINGTON

Worthington to hold flu clinic Oct. 19

WORTHINGTON – A flu vaccine clinic will be held at R.H. Conwell Elementary School, 147 Huntington Road, in the art room on Thursday, Oct. 19 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The clinic is open to the communi-

ty – students, parents, staff, municipal employees and anyone else interested. Walk-in are welcome. Pre-registration is preferred by calling 413-587-1314 or visiting <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/northampton>.



Send Us Your Photos!

countryjournal@turley.com

PLAINFIELD

FIREFIIGHTERS GATHER AT PLAINFIELD FIREFIGHTER'S BARBECUE



Shown at the 53rd Plainfield Firefighter's barbecue held earlier this month, these public safety personnel attended the event. Those in attendance include the newly appointed State Fire Marshal John Davine, retired Northampton Fire Chief, District 10 Fire Warden Gil Loud and crew, Fire chiefs from Windsor and Ashfield, as well as Plainfield Firefighters, EMT's and Police. *Submitted photo*



This 2015 Ford Expedition replaces a 2004 Ford Expedition as Car 1 in the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department. *Submitted photo*

Fire Dept. gets new vehicle

PLAINFIELD – The Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department put a new “used” Car 1 in service.

The Plainfield Volunteer Fire/EMS Department replaced its Car 1 vehicle. The old vehicle, a 2004 government surplus Ford Expedition became an unreliable and unsafe vehicle to use by department members due mostly to a rusting underbody framework from too many Plainfield winters.

The Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters Association was able to find a great replacement for this vehicle; a 2015 Ford Expedition in Georgia, through a used car dealer in Williamsburg. This vehicle showed no rust and promises to give the PVFD many years of service.

This week, the vehicle was detailed and the department awaits a back ordered Motorola mobile radio system and complete emergency lighting installation. This was a major purchase for the fire association of over \$20,000, which would not have happened without the support through the annual fund drive letter and annual barbecue.

This public support allows Emergency Medical Technicians and First Responders to have quality equipment and apparatus. They can't continue their response to emergencies, 24/7 without this critical fundraising support.

When You Need It Done Right!
Call 413-568-3164

COOPER EXCAVATING
And Trucking Inc.

- Excavation & Site Work
- Drainage
- Gravel & Asphalt Driveways
- Septic Design, Installation & Pumping

Serving Hampden & Berkshire Counties
413-568-3164 | cooperexcavatingma.com

VISA, MasterCard, AMERICAN EXPRESS, DISCOVER

TARGETED MARKETING LOCAL RESULTS

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.newspapers.turley.com

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS
BARRÉ GAZETTE
COUNTRY JOURNAL
CHICOPEE REGISTER
THE JOURNAL REGISTER
THE LUDDLOW REGISTER

QUABOAG CURRENT
THE SENTINEL
THE SUN
WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
TOWN REMINDER
WARE RIVER NEWS

Turley Publications

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

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN PORK LOIN END CHOPS \$2.29 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF T'BONE or PORTERHOUSE STEAKS \$7.99 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER ROASTER or STEAKS \$4.79 lb |
| USDA INSP. FROZEN TWIN PAK PORK SPARE RIBS \$1.99 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS \$7.99 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG..... \$1.89 ea |
| USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI PEPPER JACK CHEESE..... \$3.99 lb | USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS TRAY PAK CHICKEN TENDERLOINS... \$1.99 lb | USDA INSP. FROZEN SALMON FILLETS FULLY COOKED W/ GRILL MARKS..... \$5.99 ea |
| SLICED IN OUR DELI ROAST BEEF \$7.99 lb | USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN 31/40 COUNT RAW SHRIMP 2 LB BAG \$8.88 ea | |
| GREAT ON THE GRILL | USDA INSP. STORE MADE CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN THIGHS.. \$2.99 lb | |
| USDA INSP. STORE MADE BBQ MARINATED BEEF BLADE STEAKS \$6.99 lb | USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG \$3.99 lb | |
| USDA INSP. STORE MADE KOREAN BBQ BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS \$3.35 lb | | |

SALE DATES: 9/28/23-10/4/23 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

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

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

NOTICE

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

CENTER STREET AUTO PARTS OF CHICOPEE, INC.

We will pay you top dollar for your car AND we will pick it up! Call us for a price!

- Top-Of-The-Line Auto Salvaging Services
- First-Rate Used Auto Parts
- Top-Grade Auto Body Parts
- Sell Your Old or Used Car to Us

“Serving all of Western Mass.”

centerstreetautoparts.com
651 Center St., Chicopee 413-733-2778

\$\$\$ Money on the Spot for All Vehicles

AMERICAN LEGION POST 185
478 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills
(413) 301-0944

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- Monday - Starting 9/11 Open for Football with 50¢ Wings
- Tuesday - Music Bingo 7-10pm
- Wed. - Karaoke - Henry 7-11pm
- Thursday - Karaoke - DJ PaPo 7-10pm
- Friday 8th - Shovelhead 7-11pm
- 16th - Paul's Music Show 7-11pm
- 22nd - Murphy's Law 7-10pm
- 29th - Faith Rheault Acoustic 7-10pm
- Saturday - Open
- Sunday - Starting 9/10 for Football 1-6pm

FREE BASKET OF FRIES WITH PURCHASE COUPON
Expires 9/30/23

CULVERINE FIREARMS

BUY / SELL QUALITY FIREARMS

www.culverinefirearms.com

(413) 789-7466

1325 Springfield Street #7
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Holyoke Community College to hold pickleball classes

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is running a series of pickleball clinics this fall for beginners and other players who want to improve their game all the way up to tournament-level play.

The group classes will be led by pickleball coach and racquet sports instructor Kelly Canniff, who has 25 years' experience educating children, adolescents and adults.

Starting Tuesday, Oct. 3, the sessions run on select Tuesday and Thursday mornings on the indoor pickleball courts at the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation on the main HCC campus,

303 Homestead Avenue. The cost for each 90-minute session is \$90.

Pickleball 101 will run Tuesday, Oct. 3 and Thursday, Oct. 5, with sessions at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. These sessions are geared toward people who have played a few times and covers topics such as serving, developing a forehand, scoring, basic rules, positioning, and strategy.

Pickleball Intermediate Level will run Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 8 a.m. and Thursday, Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. and is designed for players who have taken beginner classes or already have some familiarity and experience with the

game and want to advance their play by improving their groundstrokes, overhead shots, volleys and serves and adding direction, control, and accuracy.

Pickleball Tournament Ready Prep runs Tuesday, Nov. 28 and Tuesday, Nov. 30, with sessions at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. These are designed for players who want to prepare for tournament-level play, with practice that will help them improve shot variety and accuracy and develop better strategies for playing doubles. Slots are limited. To register, people should visit hcc.edu/health-and-fitness.



Retired HCC president named to Mass. Board of Higher Education

HOLYOKE – Recently retired Holyoke Community College president Christina Royal has been named to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education by Gov. Maura T. Healey.



Christina Royal

Royal, who lives in Northampton, was one of three new board appointments announced Sept. 19, along with the reappointment of board chair Chris Gabrieli.

"Equity is at the center of our administration. I'm proud to be appointing members of the Board of Higher Education who share this commitment and will work to expand access to affordable, high quality higher education for every student," Healey said. "Massachusetts has long been a leader in higher education, and I'm confident that under the leadership of Chair Gabrieli and the other board members we will continue to lengthen our lead and deliver results for the people of Massachusetts."

The 13-member Board of Higher Education is the statutorily created agen-

cy in Massachusetts responsible for defining the mission of and coordinating the Commonwealth's system of public higher education and its institutions.

"I am grateful to serve on the Board of Higher Education for Massachusetts and look forward to supporting our system of public higher education in a new capacity," said Royal. "As president of HCC for seven years, equity was a significant priority, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue this work at the state level, in support of our students and institutions."

The two other new appointments to the board include Danielle Allen, a Harvard University professor, and Harneen Chernow, director of the 1199SEIU Training and Employment Fund.

Royal, who wrapped up her tenure as the fourth president of HCC in July, is the president of Infinite Unlearning, LLC.

Parkpoom Seesangrit graduates from MWCC

GARDNER – Mount Wachusett Community College celebrated the academic achievements of its graduates during the college's 58th Commencement on May 17.

Parkpoom Seesangrit of Pittsfield graduated on May 17. A total of 609 students, including 21 veterans, graduated, with 450 associate degrees and 229 certificates being conferred.

Zoe Stern makes Ithaca College Dean's List

ITHACA, NY – Ithaca College named Zoe Paradis Stern of Westhampton spring 2023 Dean's List.

Founded in 1892, Ithaca College is a residential college dedicated to building knowledge and confidence through a continuous cycle of theo-

ry, practice and performance. Home to some 5,200 students, the college offers more than 90 degree programs in its schools of Business; Communications; Humanities and Sciences; Health Sciences and Human Performance and Music, Theatre and Dance.

Bird club presents program on 'Everglades Before and After'

SPRINGFIELD – On Monday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. the Allen Bird Club of Springfield will host the presentation, "The Everglades: Before and After" in the Tolman Auditorium of the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards St.

In this free, public program, presenter Tom Tynning will describe the Everglades remarkable mix of physical and biological aspects as well

efforts to restore the natural flow and quality of water to Everglades National Park, where a remarkable mix of subtropical organisms exists.

Tynning, who is an environmental scientist, teacher, birder and herpetologist, will describe the history and ecological importance of this enormous "river of grass" and the area's other amazing natural wonders.

The Allen Bird Club is a nonprofit organization that has been bringing Greater Springfield area birders together since 1912.



Congratulations!
Austin Sojkowski of Westhampton graduated from 6th grade at Westhampton Elementary recently. He is the son of Daniel and Lyndsay Sojkowski. He is shown here with his dog Rogue.
*Picture was taken by his great grandmother, Connie Dragon

3 EASY WAYS TO REACH US

PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7017
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

Editor
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com

Subscriptions
cgriswold@turley.com

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

WEB
www.countryjournal.turley.com

@Country Journal

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

Hull forest products
Growing Beauty and Value in Your Forests Since 1965

- Woodland Management
- Chapter 61 / Stewardship Plans
- Careful Timber Harvesting
- Always Buying Logs & Timber
- Family Owned & Operated

www.hullforest.com
Station Road, Russell, MA
Call today for a free consultation!
(415) 862-3340

JAMESON'S HIGH MEADOW FARM

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

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

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, October 1st
11am - 1pm
301 Main Road, Montgomery
NEW LISTING! 3 Bed Cape

Huntington - 12 acres with a million-dollar view. Very Special Property. **\$435,000**

Huntington - Retail Building 4,000 sq. ft., possible apartment. Thriving antique business not included. **\$280,000**

JAMES ADAMS
#1 Selling agent in the Hilltowns
413-205-7580 cell
Office: 413-238-0300
HilltownRealEstate.com

HILLTOWN REAL ESTATE
by Adams Realty

MIDDLEFIELD

Middlefield Days happens Oct. 13 and 14

MIDDLEFIELD – A Bonfire and Star-Gazing with the newly formed Middlefield Astronomy Club will kick-off the 15th Annual Middlefield Days, on Friday, Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

The very popular pig roast from last year will return as a highlight of the day with activities on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Town Center. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 15.

All are welcome to attend. There will be a restored antique tractor collection; wagon rides through the Middlefield Historic District with open

views of the mountains west of the village and exhibits highlighting local natural treasures including: the Stone Arches, rocks and minerals, invasive species, fireflies and maps of the town's woodlands and waterways.

Artisan and Tag Sale vendors will be selling their goods on the grounds and local art and photography will be exhibited in the Church Community Room. Coffee, cocoa and Sweet Treats will be provided by the Council on Aging along with town memorabilia in the Senior Center. Cider and donuts will be available in the exhibit area.

New this year is a grass Labyrinth walk across from the Highway Department. The Fire Department will have an open house to showcase both its equipment and services.

The Police Department will be showing off its new vehicles and the State Police will be back this year with its popular K-9 demonstration. Children can enjoy games including a corn toss as well as carving and taking home their own pumpkin.

Back again is the 50/50 raffle where the lucky winner takes home half of the sale of raffle tickets. The winner will be

drawn after the Town Photo, which will include as many people as possible from Middlefield who can meet at 1:30 p.m. on the steps of the church.

Free spaces for Artisan and Tag Sale vendors are available. For information and to reserve a space, they should email catya@pobox.com. For more information about the 15th annual celebration, people may email croth@umass.edu. Middlefield Days is funded in part by the Massachusetts and Middlefield Cultural Councils.

WILLIAMSBURG

Town of Williamsburg to hold special election Nov. 4

WILLIAMSBURG – There will be a Special Election in Williamsburg on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. for a vacancy on the town's Select Board.

Early voting is possible, although there will not be early voting hours at the Town Clerk's office. People can go to the Town Clerk's office during office hours either to cast an early vote or to request

that the Clerk mail them an early or an absentee ballot.

The last day to register to vote in this special election is Wednesday, Oct. 25, which can either be done online or at the Town Clerk's office. There are three Select Board candidates: Richard Kisloski, Patrick Summer and Paul Wetzel.

CHESTERFIELD

Chesterfield Congregational Church to hold breakfast

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Congregational Church, 43 Main Road, Route 143, will be having its monthly breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 8 from 8-10 a.m.

The cost of the breakfast is a voluntary donation. The menu for this month is pancakes with or without blueberries, French toast, both with

pure Chesterfield maple syrup or blueberry/rhubarb sauce, free range, organic, farm-fresh eggs any style, breakfast sandwiches, sausage, home fries, excellent home-made corned beef hash, juice, tea and coffee.

Also, featured this month is home-made ginger date pumpkin bread. All are welcome to attend.

BECKET

Becket Athenaeum remains open during parking lot closure

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, the Becket and Washington's Community Library, 3367 Main St., parking lot will be closed part of this week and should reopen Thursday due to a well project.

The Athenaeum will be open Tuesday from 1-7 p.m., Wednesday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. with closure on Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. instead of 7 p.m., Thursday from 1-7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

People may park by the Becket Federated Church, cross Route 8 and enter the library via the stairs. For accessible access, cautiously drive into the driveway off Route 8 watching for

oncoming traffic, park in the handicap spot at the top of the parking lot and enter using the ramp. Exit the parking lot the same way.

Library patrons should be conscientious of neighbors and other patrons by not blocking the driveway.

Staff is uncertain if there will be space in the upper portion of the parking lot for a person to sit in their parked car while accessing the Internet. If there is not, Internet should still be accessible when parking by the church or from the picnic table on the side lawn. Additionally, the Becket Town Hall has high-speed WiFi available from their parking lot.

OTIS

Transfer Station closed Oct. 9

OTIS –The Otis Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, Oct. 9 for the

Columbus Day holiday. It will be open on Tuesday, Oct. 10 from 7a.m.-3 p.m.

Otis Library presents a 'Pirate Party'

OTIS – Ed the Wizard's "Pirate Party" will take place Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 5 p.m. at the Otis Library.

Ed proclaims, "Arr me matey's, Partake in me Pirate Party Adventures! Iffin you dare. Escape from the brig, Hoist the main sales, Hunt for treasure and more." Each pirate participant will leave with "booty" to bring home. This program is designed for children ages 5 to 8, however, all ages are welcome

to attend.

Pre-register is required by calling the Otis Library at 413-269-0109 or stop by the library.

Registration is still available at the time of the event.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

RUSSELL

TOWN CLERK

from page 1

sections of the Massachusetts General Laws.

In Massachusetts, Town Clerk was one of the earliest offices established in colonial towns although the title itself may not appear in the earliest records. The settlers were well aware of the importance of keeping accurate written records of their agreements and actions including grants of land, regulations governing animals, the collection of taxes and the expenditure of town funds. Earliest records dating to the first half of the 17th Century show that someone was given the specific duty of writing down town orders, actions taken at town meetings.

By the mid-17th Century, the title Town Clerk appears in town records and that title stands today.

Morgan said she is intent on learning the nuances of the job and fine-tuning and streamlining as much as possible.

The new hours for the Town Clerk Office are Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Friday from 3:30- 5:30 p.m.

She encourages residents to call her, leave a message on the office telephone at 413-862-6207 and she is happy to make special arrangements if office hours are not helpful.

A singular advantage, according to Morgan, is her knowledge of the Commonwealth and how it works. This knowledge was gained from her 21 years at Westfield State University.

She retired this month from her position as the Executive Assistant to the Provost at Westfield State.

BAC holds Fall for Oysters Oct. 1

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will celebrate the season with its annual Fall for Oysters event on Sunday, Oct. 1 from 1-4 p.m.

The fundraiser at the Arts Center will include oysters, wine tasting and

music by Bernice Lewis and Amy Attias. Tickets, which include two oysters and two glasses of wine, are \$25 per person in advance or \$30 at the event. For more information, people may visit www.becketartscenter.org.

Berkshire Public Health Alliance announces two vaccine clinics

BECKET – The Berkshire Public Health Alliance will hold two vaccine clinics I the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main St., on Wednesday, Oct. 11 from 4-6 p.m. and Thursday, Oct. 19 from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Flu and Covid vaccines will be available. People should pre-register by

visiting the following website <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/berkshire?site=becket-town-hall>. People should wear short sleeves. Nurses will do their best to abide by the registration appointment schedule; unregistered clients will be vaccinated as time and supplies allow.

BCC to hold roasted turkey dinner

BECKET – There will be a roasted turkey dinner sponsored by the Becket Congregational Church on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Guild Hall on YMCA Road.

It will be an eat-in or take-out. People should call for reservations for take out by

calling either 413- 623-8300 or 413-623-6455.

The menu includes turkey, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, coleslaw, cranberry sauce and apple crisp with whipped cream for dessert. Cost will be \$16 per adult and \$8 for children under twelve.

Submissions are always welcome.

Send us your engagement, wedding, baby, anniversary and graduation news and photos.

Country Journal
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
email: countryjournal@turley.com

PITTSFIELD

First Fridays Artswalk in downtown set for Oct. 6

PITTSFIELD The First Fridays Artswalk in downtown Pittsfield returns on Friday, Oct. 6 from 5-8 p.m.

People may enjoy an Art Market on Dunham Mall with live drumming by Star nii, live music in Persip Park with Fannie Pack, a live art demonstration with Nicole Herasme, opening receptions, open studios and a free kids' paint and sip Highlights include Living in Recovery's "PhotoVoice" at Barrington Stage Company's Wolfson Center and "The Journey III" an exhibition featuring the work of fifteen artists from different countries in Latin America and Europe, presented by Katunemo: Art and Healing at Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.

Other participating venues include Berkshire Art Center, Clock Tower Artists, Hotel on North, Krol Headquarters, Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, Marchetti Headquarters, Marketplace Cafe, Methuselah Bar and Lounge, NUarts gallery + studios, Soda Chef, the Unitarian Universalist Church and Witch Slapped.

People may visit [this link](#) for a dig-

ital tour for October at <https://pocket-sights.com/tours/tour/Pittsfield-October-6-First-Fridays-Artswalk-in-Pittsfield-MA-8787>. Living in Recovery will present "PhotoVoice" at Barrington Stage Company's Wolfson Center, 122 North St., on Friday, Oct. 6 from 5-8 p.m.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. has partnered with Katunemo: Art and Healing to bring "The Journey III," an exhibition featuring the work of fifteen artists from different countries in Latin America and Europe, to their conference room at 33 Dunham Mall for one-night only from 5-8 p.m. Katunemo: Art and Healing is a space where artists empower and support one another to take their art to the next level.

"The Journey III" is part of a celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Also in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, 23 year-old artist Nicole Herasme will demonstrate her painting process at Sotille Park, 200 North St.. This free live painting demonstration will be during First Fridays Artswalk from 5-7

p.m., rain or shine.

Fannie Pack will take the stage at Persip Park, 175 North St., from 5-8 p.m. as part of the First Fridays Artswalk. Fannie Pack is a band that makes people smile and compel them to dance.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will host a Free Kids' Paint and Sip on from 5-7 p.m. in the auditorium at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 67 East St., as part of the First Fridays Artswalk. There will be a bonus painting craft on wooden pumpkin ornaments sponsored by St. Stephen's. This free Halloween-themed Paint and Sip is best suited for ages 5 to 12, although younger and older children are welcome. All materials, instruction, snacks and juice will be provided. Children are welcome to drop in anytime over the course of the event and all children must be accompanied by an adult. The auditorium is on the second floor of the parish house and the entrance is on Allen Street.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., in partnership with CozQuest Creative, will be

curating an Art Market on Dunham Mal, 100 North St from 5-8 p.m. The Oct. 6 Art Market will feature local artists, artisans, makers and Lucia's Latin Kitchen. Star nii, a professional percussionist and composer from Accra, Ghana, will play live at the market from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Aerofauna Studio presents The P.E.B.E. Project with the artistic stylings of Natalie Zoe White at The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pittsfield, 175 Wendell Avenue, through Oct. 23. There will be a reception with the artists on Friday, Oct. 6 from 5-7 p.m., as part of First Fridays Artswalk.

First Fridays Artswalk is supported in part by a grant from the Mass Cultural Council, and a grant from the Pittsfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. This program is also supported in part by The Feigenbaum Foundation as well as a grant awarded by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's Arts Build Community initiative with funding from the Barr Foundation.

'Downtown Blooms' nature-inspired project begins this fall

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., Pittsfield Beautiful, The City of Pittsfield, and the Downtown Pittsfield Cultural Association, in partnership with MassDevelopment's Transformative Development Initiative, Selbert Perkins Design and Jennifer O'Donnell, Gardener on the Hill, will implement nature-inspired gardens in downtown Pittsfield as part of a three-year project beginning in the fall of 2023.

The new gardens are made possible by this new partnership entitled "Downtown Blooms" and will have a focus on native perennials, pollinators and water resilience.

Phase One of Downtown Blooms, fall 2023 preparation and spring 2024 planting, will include 30 plus raised beds located along North Street from Park Square to Maplewood Avenue. Phase Two, fall 2024 preparation and spring 2025 planting, will identify 20 plus additional beds in this area for planting in 2025. Phase Three, fall 2025 preparation and spring 2026 planting, will concentrate on the medians and areas along South Street and from

Maplewood Avenue to Wahconah Street.

The curated wilds cape design of these plantings is created with repetitive, matrix designs, that are not only beautiful, but will enhance the quality of life, local community and ecosystem at large. The long-term goal is to have plantings that require less maintenance and less water and that will have colorful blooms from spring until fall.

In addition, as part of Downtown Blooms, Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. will be hiring a contractor/landscaper for streetscapes immediately, to provide ongoing maintenance of all planting beds from 700 North St. to 163 South St.

A downtown study completed in 2023 as part of MassDevelopment TDI Technical Assistance included branding, wayfinding and placemaking and specifically, identified that new plantings would improve the look and feel of downtown Pittsfield. The study was led by consultant Selbert Perkins Design who evaluated the alternative-transportation experience and mapped and identified critical points of entry to the district as well as

spaces where murals, music, wayfinding, plantings, lighting, and art could critically improve the pedestrian experience in the downtown. One of the goals of the TDI partnership is to manage the magnitude of the streetscape by creating pockets of activity that are hands-on, aesthetic, and engage the mind and line of sight.

Selbert Perkins Design subcontracted with Boston-based, Jennifer O'Donnell, a naturalistic landscape designer, artist, and creative consultant, to assist with native plant selection and a planting scheme for downtown Pittsfield. Plants were selected for draught resistance, native and pollinator qualities, and ease of maintenance. O'Donnell provided input to the TDI partnership through her company, Gardener on the Hill.

Pittsfield Beautiful, a non-profit organization supported entirely by donations and volunteers, will curate the plant selection, determine planting requirements, manage the phased approach, and will oversee Downtown Blooms planting events, which will be organized by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. will be taking over softscape maintenance, and the City of Pittsfield will support the project with engineering, hardscape maintenance, and watering of the new plantings.

For more information on Downtown Blooms, people may call Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. at 413-443-6501.



This is the final Downtown Blooms logo for the partnership to implement nature-inspired gardens in downtown Pittsfield as part of a three-year project beginning in the fall of 2023. Submitted logo

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

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

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

Dale's Structural & Carpentry
Home Improvement • Additions • Restorations • Remodeling
Timber Frame Homes Kitchen & Baths
Residential Drywall • Paint • Trim Work
Seasonal Homes & Camps Windows • Doors
Garage Repairs Decks & Stairs
Carriage & Colonial Barns Interior & Exterior Finishes
Structural Repairs - Wood - Masonry
Sagging Floors • Beams • Sill Timbers • Columns • Termite Damage
Foundation Repairs • Piers & Footings • Chimney Rebuilds
413-667-3149

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

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

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

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

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

GET NOTICED!!!
To Advertise On The Business Directory
Contact Your Advertising Representative
Theresa at 413-283-8393 • twegiel@turley.com

Schilling TV
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
• TV, Audio, WiFi
• Outside Digital TV Antennas
• Wall Mounted TVs
• Cell Reception Antennas
SONY LG SAMSUNG DENON
Since 1948 **413-443-9235** We Deliver
215 Fourth St., Pittsfield, MA

GOSHEN

Goshen COA lists upcoming events

GOSHEN – The Goshen Council on Aging luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at noon in the Goshen Town Hall.

The Ledges in Goshen will be cooking for us. Tiffany will create a variety of unique fall offerings using local fresh ingredients including some creative squash dishes. People should call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 by Tuesday, Oct. 3 to let the COA know if they are able to join us. Suggested donation is \$5.

Tai Chi class

On Tuesdays, Oct. 3, 17 and 31 Tai Chi class will continue every other week in October. The instructor Richard Larson learned Tai Chi at the School of Tai Chi Chuan in New York City. He will be teaching the Eight Ways.

There are many benefits to Tai Chi practice including improved balance, improved flexibility and improved peace of mind. People should wear comfortable clothing and supportive shoes. All abilities are welcome and they can modify the approaches as needed so that everyone the Pauline Productions program will take place Monday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. in the First Congregational Church of Ashfield. A talented cast of performers will present a mix of creepy, comic and thought provoking stories. It is funded in part by the Cultural Councils of Ashfield, Goshen,

Williamsburg, and Conway. People may Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 by Monday, Oct. 16 so she can order tickets.

In person exercise class continues with instructor Joan Griswold on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Goshen Town Hall, 42 Main St. People should wear supportive footwear and bring water and free weights if you have them. There is a brief health questionnaire Joan will have them fill out. This class is also offered simultaneously on Zoom, so if they prefer this method please contact Joan for the link at joan@bybhealth.com.

Knitting and Crafts Group

On Wednesday, Oct. 4 Knitting and Crafts Group will meet in the upstairs Dining Room at the Goshen Town Hall, 42 Main St. from 1-3 p.m. Last month, the group learned how to create origami cranes for a special project. People should bring whatever craft or needlework project they are working on and work together with this great group.

Community Connections Group

On Friday, Oct. 6 from 10-11 a.m. Community Connections Group meets in the dining room on the second floor of the Goshen Town Hall. People will enjoy some fall inspired snacks while they chat about Fall Prevention!

Highland Valley Elder Services lunch

On Tuesday, Oct 17 and Tuesday,

Oct. 24 Highland Valley Elder Services lunch is on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month, pick up from noon-12:30 p.m.. On Tuesday Oct 17, the meal will be chicken and cheese Enchilada or broccoli and cheese casserole and on Tuesday, Oct 24 the meal will be cauliflower cheddar soup or lasagna rolls plus vegetables, milk and dessert. If people have not signed up and would like to for November, they may call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-9354 to fill out a brief intake form. There is a suggested \$3 donation that is given to Highland Valley Elder Services to offset the cost of the meal.

Games Group

On Wednesday, Oct 18, the Games Group will be from 1-3 p.m. and continue on the third Wednesday of each month. They have a variety of games and are always welcome to learning more and meet in the upstairs dining room at the Town Hall.

Practical Aging Issues Group

On Thursday, Oct 19, the Practical Aging Issues Group will meet from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the upstairs Dining Room of the Town Hall. This month they will have a discussion facilitated by Michael Archbald from the Foothills Health District about Home Care services and options for themselves and loved ones.

GCC accepting applications

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

Applications are due Tuesday, Oct. 17 and can be submitted to the Goshen Cultural Council using the online application by visiting <https://massculturalcouncil.smartsimple.com/>. People may call Nancy Wood at 413-268-7973, if they have questions about the application.

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

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

NORTHAMPTON

Friends of Forbes Library announce upcoming events

NORTHAMPTON – Friends of Forbes will hold an Artisans Fair, Sunday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Forbes Library, 20 West St.

There will be free parking in the Smith College parking garage and the Green Street lot. There will be 44 artisans, Holyoke Hummus Food Truck, Crave Food Truck and Crooked Stick Pops.

Calvin Coolidge Historic Site Museum passes

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Presidency of Calvin Coolidge, the President Coolidge State Historic Site in Plymouth Notch, Vermont provided the library with two for one admission coupons to visit his childhood home and village. The site, about two hours from

Northampton, is open through Oct. 22 Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and is closed Mondays. Admission is \$12 per adult, \$6 ages 6-14 and under age is free.

Library Programs

On Thursday, Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. Judy Messer will talk about Portraiture. September gallery artist, portrait photographer Judy Messer will be hosting an open floor platform to talk about any portrait questions they may have or to learn more about the making of the images in the show: Binding a Valley: Pioneer Valley Book Makers in the '90s, a documentary portrait series.

Terrific turtles presented by Mass Audubon will be held Saturday, Sept. 30 at 11 a.m.

They will explore the wonderful world of turtles by playing games, touching a variety of turtle shells, and making a turtle craft. They will also get to meet Pita the live ornate box turtle and learn about her life, diet and behavior.

On Saturday, Sept. 30 at 4 p.m. people are invited to grab a book and a lounge chair and head to the library for Let Freedom Read, a statewide read-in to celebrate the freedom to read. "Libraries across the nation and in Massachusetts have experienced a surge in book challenges," said James Lonergan, Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. "We may not agree on what to read, but hopefully we can all agree that the freedom to choose what we want to read is a vital part of a democratic society. Libraries across the

Commonwealth develop collections that meet the diverse needs of the communities they serve. Everyone is welcome to find a good read from their library and join the celebration," he added. Weather permitting this will be held outside, otherwise it will be in the Coolidge Museum. Light refreshments will be served.

A free five-session class, called The Stolen Beam, will be held online this fall, sponsored by Forbes Library in a series developed and facilitated by members of the Reparations Committee of the Jewish Community of Amherst. The class meets on Zoom for five consecutive Tuesdays: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Dec. 5 from 7-8:20 p.m. with the last class going from 7-8:50 p.m. There is no fee to participate. Registration will open on Monday, Oct. 2.

Calvin Coolidge Standing Committee supports joint statement

NORTHAMPTON – The Calvin Coolidge Standing Committee of the Forbes Library Board of Trustees voted at its Sept. 11, 2023 meeting to support the joint statement of thirteen presidential foundations and centers "regarding the future of our nation and an urgent call to action for all Americans."

The library's Board of Trustees also endorsed the statement at its Sept. 21 meeting.

The joint statement, released on Sept. 7, reminds citizens, "As a diverse nation of people with different backgrounds and beliefs, democracy holds us together. We are a country rooted in

the rule of law, where the protection of the rights of all people is paramount. At the same time, we live among our fellow citizens, underscoring the importance of compassion, tolerance, pluralism and respect for others."

It goes on to say that "Civility and respect in political discourse, whether in an election year or otherwise, are essential," warning that the world is watching "our own house in disarray."

"Each of us has a role to play and responsibilities to uphold," the statement continues. "Our elected officials must lead by example and govern effectively in ways that deliver for the American people." The statement admonishes citizens to "engage in civil dialogue; respect democratic institutions and rights; uphold safe, secure, and accessible elections; and contribute to local, state, or national improvement."

In adding the Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum's voice to the statement, Standing Committee President J.R. Greene said, "Coolidge was a true conservative, believing that

the system of government established by the founding fathers was the best in the world." He stated that, "Democracy is obedience to the rule of the people." He also spoke of the "righteousness of democracy" and that "its foundation lays hold upon eternity."

Greene added, "Coolidge also observed, 'the difference between despotism and democracy is not a difference in the requirement of obedience, it is a difference in rulers.' He stated, 'We are very proud of our democracy. We are very proud of our form of government. We believe that there is no other nation on earth that gives to the individual the privileges and rights that he has in America.'"

"In light of this philosophy," Greene concluded, "our board voted unanimously to endorse the Presidential Libraries declaration."

The joint statement was released by the George W. Bush Presidential Center and was co-signed by presidential centers and foundations from Presidents Hoover through Obama, with the exception of the Eisenhower Foundation.

WE'RE ALL EARS

Questions?
Comments?
Story Ideas?

Let us know how we're doing.

Your opinion is something we always want to hear.

Contact countryjournal@turley.com

Country Journal, 24 Water St., Palmer • 413-283-8393



Al's Tire & Auto Repair

When it comes to tires we do it all,
from wheelbarrows to big rigs.

MOST MAJOR TIRE BRANDS AVAILABLE
Brakes, Shocks, Struts, Front End Repairs & Alignments
Air Conditioning Service, Check Engine Lights

918 Southamptton Road, Westfield, MA 01085
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mike Morin **562-3391** Alice Morin **562-1704**

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | | | 9 | | | | | 10 |
| 11 | | | | | | | | 12 |
| 13 | | | | 14 | | | | 15 |
| 16 | | | | | | | | 17 |
| 18 | | | | | 19 | 20 | | |
| | | | | | 21 | | | 22 |
| | | | | | | | | 23 |
| | | | | | | | | 24 |
| | | | | | | | | 25 |
| | | | | | | | | 26 |
| | | | | | | | | 27 |
| | | | | | | | | 28 |
| | | | | | | | | 29 |
| | | | | | | | | 30 |
| | | | | | | | | 31 |
| | | | | | | | | 32 |
| | | | | | | | | 33 |
| | | | | | | | | 34 |
| | | | | | | | | 35 |
| | | | | | | | | 36 |
| | | | | | | | | 37 |
| | | | | | | | | 38 |
| | | | | | | | | 39 |
| | | | | | | | | 40 |
| | | | | | | | | 41 |
| | | | | | | | | 42 |
| | | | | | | | | 43 |

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outsourcing (abbr.) 4. Post 8. German city on edge of Black Forest 10. "___, but goodie" 11. Spiced stew 12. Passionately 13. Monetary units 15. Group of living organisms 16. Organic compound derived from ammonia 17. High honors 18. 5-year-olds' classes 21. Swiss river 22. Old woman | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23. Cash machine 24. A way to soak 25. Hair product 26. Deride 27. "The Blonde Bombshell" 34. Cause to become insane 35. Bluish greens 36. Supported with money 37. Type of equation 38. Court officials 39. Indian god 40. Rids 41. Leak slowly through 42. Units of ionizing radiation 43. Midway between south and southeast | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Native of Slovakia 2. Deli meat 3. Fibrous substance in fungi 4. Cutting 5. Vedder and Van Halen 6. Horror comic novelist 7. Rulers of Tunis 9. Shaped like a circle 10. Make a pig of oneself 12. Aphorism 14. Witness 15. Single Lens Reflex 17. Freshwater fish 19. Nautical ropes 20. Leg (slang) 23. Pokes holes in 24. Moved quickly on foot 25. Fix-it shops 26. Type of bread 27. Repaired 28. Synthetic diamond (abbr.) 29. Type of drug (abbr.) 30. German city along the Rhine 31. Animal disease 32. Martini necessities 33. Get away from 34. Village in Mali 36. Djibouti franc |
|---|---|--|

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>ARIES Mar 21/Apr 20</p> <p>There is nothing wrong with a bit of self-indulgence. But you do not want to go overboard with your treats and other must-haves. Moderation is key in everything.</p> | <p>CANCER Jun 22/Jul 22</p> <p>Everyone wants a piece of you right now, Cancer. It is equally flattering and exhausting. You'll have to be choosy regarding where and with whom to dedicate your time.</p> | <p>LIBRA Sept 23/Oct 23</p> <p>Libra, you do not need to struggle if you simply call in a few favors. Reach out to your network of people and figure out how you can make things work.</p> | <p>CAPRICORN Dec 22/Jan 20</p> <p>You may find that things are very profitable for you this week. If you are an entrepreneur, business will be solid. If you perhaps sell on the side, money will flow.</p> |
| <p>TAURUS Apr 21/May 21</p> <p>You have a no-nonsense bearing that immediately has people drawing close to you and trusting you, Taurus. Put that out in full force as you try to win favor on the job this week.</p> | <p>LEO Jul 23/Aug 23</p> <p>Listen to the messages swirling around in your head right now, Leo. Your intuition has been on target so there is no reason to doubt yourself now. Keep moving forward.</p> | <p>SCORPIO Oct 24/Nov 22</p> <p>Scorpio, do not chase people down, simply wait for them to come to you with your natural magnetism. You don't want to exert energy this week unnecessarily.</p> | <p>AQUARIUS Jan 21/Feb 18</p> <p>For quite some time you have been focusing on everyone but yourself. You have to change your ways if you can get the rest and healing that you need right now.</p> |
| <p>GEMINI May 22/Jun 21</p> <p>Gemini, don't let your quest for excitement pull you in too many different directions right now. You need to stick to one plan for a certain amount of time and see things through.</p> | <p>VIRGO Aug 24/Sept 22</p> <p>Virgo, is a particular relationship getting too intense for you? It might be the time to ease up a bit and take a step back. Distance could provide the clarity you need.</p> | <p>SAGITTARIUS Nov 23/Dec 21</p> <p>Sagittarius, rather than showing people all of your cards, hold some information close to the vest and maintain a bit of mystery. Others likely will be intrigued.</p> | <p>PISCES Feb 19/Mar 20</p> <p>There is no doubt that you've earned a few commendations, Pisces. But this week you need to accept congratulations without being boastful. Exhibit both humility and pride.</p> |

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

SUDOKU

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

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

answers

To advertise here
contact Teri at
413-283-8393
or email:
twegiel@turley.com

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>WESTFIELD AUTO PARTS INC</p> <p>AUTO PARTS & SUPPLIES</p> | <p>NATIONALLY ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">WHOLESALE RETAIL</p> <p>★ Complete Auto Machine Shop Service ★ Engine Rebuilding Of All Kinds ★ Authorized Caterpillar Hydraulic Hose Dealer ★ Hydraulic Hoses</p> <p>Call "DALE" 8-12 BIRGE AVE., WESTFIELD</p> | <p>Now stocking Car Quest Filters made by WIX, Amalie Oil, Bailing Twine & Tractor Parts</p> |
| <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Dial 568-8944 or 568-1611 FAX # 568-1554</p> | | |

OBITUARY

Charles D. Graton, 60

HUNTINGTON – Charles D. Graton, 60, of Huntington, passed away suddenly Sept. 15, 2023 at Noble Hospital in Westfield, after an unknown medical event at home.

Charlie was born April 13, 1963, in Holyoke to Julien and Gloria Graton. He married Michelle (Wasserman) Graton Sept. 7, 1996. They had celebrated 27 years married just one week prior to his passing.

Charles leaves his parents, Julien and Kathleen Graton of Chicopee, his wife Michelle and their daughters, Madelyn Graton and Brandy Kellogg; his granddaughter, Sadie; grandson, Jonathan, all of Huntington; his brother, Donald Boivin and wife Paulette of Chicopee; brother Michael Graton of Georgia and his brother Steve Pszczola and wife Toni. He also leaves behind many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Charles is predeceased by his mother, Gloria M. (Bernard) Graton of Southamptton; his maternal grandparents Marguerite and Omer Bernard, and his paternal grandparents Marcel Graton and Lillian Graton.

He attended Hampshire Regional High School, and later achieved his GED. Charles began working for Turbocare in Chicopee in 1995, which later became EthosEnergy. Starting in the machine shop, and traveling the world working on power plants, he climbed his way up to a supervisory position and weathered many changes in the company over 28 years. He was most



recently the Product Service Manager.

Charlie will be remembered by family and friends for his witty sense of humor, captivating storytelling, honor, loyalty, integrity, curiosity and ability to figure out how to fix almost anything in the most creative way possible. His smile and laughter were contagious and he made such a powerful impact on everyone he encountered.

He was a Harley Davison guy, whether it was working in the garage or riding, he loved his motorcycles. His 1974 Shovelhead was his true bonus child and he enjoyed a lot of campouts with the friends he made while learning the ins and outs of that bike.

In addition, he loved reading, taking family vacations to the beach, Fridays with the boys, watching his grandson's sports practices and games, often bringing his granddaughter along, taking his lunch breaks at his parents house, he had recently purchased a camper and began kayaking with his wife. He would always do anything to make the kids happy, he was such a proud Pe'pere.

A kind and gentle soul, family and friends meant everything to him. Charles was always there for anyone, whenever they needed anything, at the drop of a hat. He is and will be sadly and greatly missed.

A Memorial Service and Celebration of life for Charles will be held Sunday, Oct. 8, at noon at Strathmore Park, 950 Westfield Road in Russell.

DEATH NOTICE

GRATON, CHARLES D.

Died Sept. 15, 2023
Services Oct. 8, 2023

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.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Legal Notice Town of Huntington Invitation for Bid Scott Technologies, Inc. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Units

The Town of Huntington seeks bids from qualified firms to provide Scott Technologies, Inc. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Units for the Fire Departments of the towns of Huntington, Russell, Montgomery, Blandford, and Chester. The complete Invitation for Bid is available at the Selectboard/Town Administrator Office located at the Huntington Town Hall, 24 Russell Road in Huntington, online at huntington-ma.us, or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Proposals must be submitted by Thursday, October 26, 2023 by 3:00 p.m. via mail to Town of Huntington Selectboard, PO Box 430, Huntington, MA 01050 or delivered to the Selectboard/Town Administrator office. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids if it is deemed in the best interest of the Town. The Town of Huntington Selectboard will be the contracting authority.

Jennifer Peloquin
Town Administrator
09/28/2023

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in exe-

cution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Amber Small to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated December 3, 2020 and recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 13883, Page 90, subsequently assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 14426, Page 165 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on October 12, 2023 at 6 Maple Street, Huntington, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: The land in HUNTINGTON, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, being bounded and described as follows: COMMENCING on Maple Street at the corner of land of C.M. Lindsey and THENCE WESTERLY on land of said Lindsey, one hundred fourteen (114) feet and eight (8) inches to land formerly of one Hawkins; THENCE SOUTHERLY on said Hawkin's land forty-four

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

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement

made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

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

Lakeview Loan Servicing,
LLC
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS PC PO Box
540540 Waltham, MA
02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
23-003112
09/21, 09/28, 10/05/2023

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No. HS23P0582EA
Estate of:
Harry R. Pease
Also Known As:
Harry Pease
Date of Death:
June 23, 2023

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Tara E. Pease of Huntington, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Tara E. Pease of Huntington, MA has been informally appointed as the

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

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
09/28/2023

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

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

Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations: Sections XIII, 8.1.2, Section IX and Table of Uses:

• "SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION, SMALL SCALE GROUND MOUNTED:"

A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and not roof mounted and has a rated nameplate capacity of less than 20 KW DC or occupies less than 1750 square feet of surface area."

• "SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION, MEDIUM SCALE GROUND MOUNTED:"

A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not roof mounted and has a rated nameplate capacity between 20 KW DC and 250 KW DC or occupies greater than 1750 square feet and less than 40,000 square feet of surface area.

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

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



- Check Out Our For Sale, Services, Pets and Other Classifieds
- Real Estate: For Sale, For Rent & Vacation Rentals
- Help Wanted: Part Time & Full Time Career Opportunities

Call to place your classified ad:

413-283-8393

the best around
CLASSIFIEDS
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Reaching readers in
50 local communities every week.



Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

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

FIREWOOD

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

HAY FOR SALE

ROUND, WRAPPED HAY BALES, First & Second Cutting. Dry & Wet. Worthington, MA. Call **(413)478-0178**.

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

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

JUNK REMOVAL

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

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

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

SERVICES

CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

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

HELP WANTED

P/T ASST. ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIAN The Town of Wilbraham seeks qualified applicants to fill a Part-Time Assistant Adult Services Librarian vacancy. For application and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov**. Open until filled. EOE

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

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings 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.

Classified Advertising DEADLINES

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON

HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON



Grow Your Business With Local Advertising!

Call Teri at 413-283-8393
twegiel@turley.com

for advertising rates and information
www.turley.com

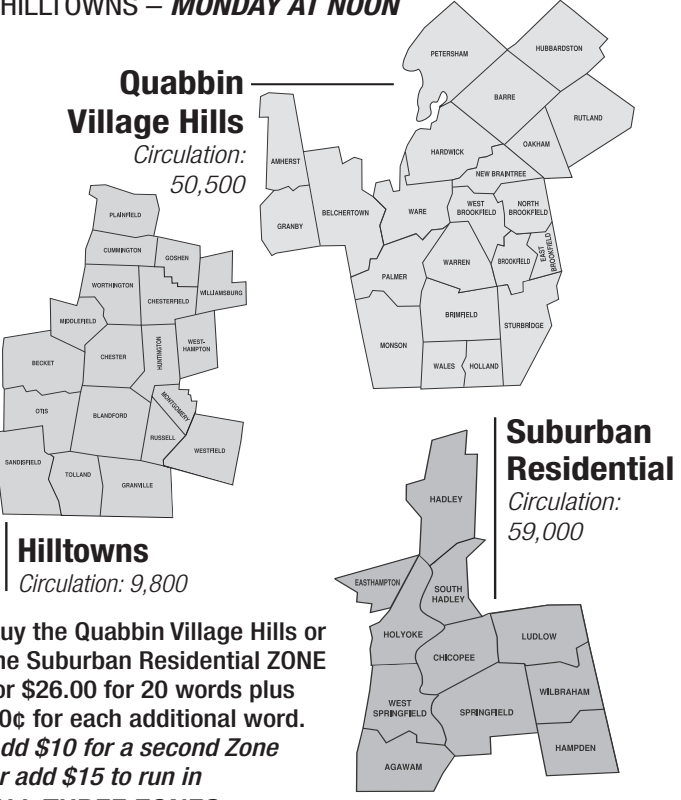
Find archives of this local newspaper at **www.newspapers.turley.com**

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – **FRIDAY AT NOON**
HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

| CATEGORY: | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | Base Price \$26.50 | 22 | Base Price \$27.00 |
| 23 | Base Price \$27.50 | 24 | Base Price \$28.00 |
| 25 | Base Price \$28.50 | 26 | Base Price \$29.00 |
| 27 | Base Price \$29.50 | 28 | Base Price \$30.00 |
| 29 | Base Price \$30.50 | 30 | Base Price \$31.00 |
| 31 | Base Price \$31.50 | 32 | Base Price \$32.00 |
| 33 | Base Price \$32.50 | 34 | Base Price \$33.00 |
| 35 | Base Price \$33.50 | 36 | Base Price \$34.00 |
| 37 | Base Price \$34.50 | 38 | Base Price \$35.00 |
| 39 | Base Price \$35.50 | 40 | Base Price \$36.00 |



Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____

Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words

Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**

Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**

Subtotal _____

x Number of Weeks _____

TOTAL Enclosed _____

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):

Quabbin

Suburban

Hilltowns

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

WESTHAMPTON

MUCH NEEDED SIGN MARKS GREENBERG FOREST



The sign marks the Kestrel Land Trust Greenberg Family Conservation Area parking lot on Southampton Road in Westhampton.



Westhampton resident Mark Thornhill, left and Luke Beeson, of Kestrel Land Trust, assemble the pieces of a sturdy signpost for the Greenberg Family Forest Conservation Area on Southampton Road, Westhampton.



Mark Thornhill and Luke Beeson set the signpost in place. Photos by Barbara Pelissier

Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 15th.

Deadline for submissions is October 16th

Community Holiday Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

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

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