"Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise." – Benjamin Franklin

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Ashfield, Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Dalton, Easthampton, Florence, Goshen, Granville, Hawley, Haydenville, Hinsdale, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Peru, Plainfield, Russell, Southampton, Washington, Westfield, Westhampton, Windsor, Williamsburg, Worthington

A **TURLEY** PUBLICATION ❙ www.turley.com

October 1, 2026 ❙ Vol. 48, No. 23 ❙ 75¢ www.countryjournal.turley.com

HUNTINGTON

Police Chief offers warning

Garriepy advises policy does not meet new state standards

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Returning Police Chief Robert Garriepy met with the Huntington Select Board at their Wednesday, Sept. 23 meeting and advised them that the town's Use of Force policy is not aligned with standards in new state policies.

He said that he and former Chief Brian Kowal had brought all of the policies up to date during Kowal's first year. But Police Officer Standards and Training now mandates that municipal policies be aligned with new state policies, Garriepy said.

He needs to report this to the state on Friday, Sept. 25, which does not allow time for the policy to be updated, reviewed by legal council and approved by the Select Board.

Garriepy said he will file the report with that policy listed as non-compliant. Select Board Chairman Roger Booth said to tell them that the town just got a new police chief and that work is underway.

"The state is never thinking to reach out to smaller communities," Garriepy said.

Selectman Rob Drabiuk offered to work with Garriepy on aligning the two policies. He can create an automated process to compare the two documents so that

WARNING, page 2

HUNTINGTON





Turley Publications photos by Wendy Long

Above, Finance Committee members Andre Alguero and Bonnie Boguszewski counted the ballots on the firetruck debt exclusion vote, as Moderator George Peterson looks on. Right, Selectman/ Deputy Fire Chief John McVeigh Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger fielded questions from voters regarding funding sought to replace a 30 year-old fire truck at the Norwich Hill Fire Station.

Vote for new firetruck fails

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington's Special Town Meeting opened on a somber note on Monday, Sept. 21 with Selectman John McVeigh announcing that Andre "Andy" Girouard had an accident while working on the kitchen ceiling fans at Stanton Hall.

He had been up in the attic and fell through the ceiling. Fortunately, other people were in Stanton Hall setting up for the Special Town Meeting and the ambulance was called immediately.

McVeigh said Girouard was in critical, but stable condition in the ICU. A prayer was led by Huntington resident Pastor Eric Little of the Cornerstone Christian Church in Chester.

A STM article asked voters to again consider a debt exclusion to purchase and equip a new fire engine for Station 2 on Norwich Hill in Huntington. Approval was sought to appropriate $850,000 to purchase and equip the new fire engine.

As required, the measure had passed by a majority vote during the town's ballot election last spring and now required a 2/3rds vote at a town meeting. Once again, the majority of voters approved the measure but failed to meet the 2/3 approval required.

The STM had 84 registered voters attend and vote. A newly formatted voting card allowed voters to check Yes or No on the

FAILS, page 2

BLANDFORD

Select Board hears about tree work

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Chester/Blandford Police Sgt. Frank Murphy met with the Select Board at the Monday, Sept. 21 meeting to inform the board of the tree work and road closure of Beech Hill Road through last weekend.

All emergency personnel had been notified as well. Murphy said that a crane involved in tree cutting would take from seven to ten minutes to move. Eversource was responsible for the tree cutting.

The road was closed to all traffic except residents.

Building has begun on the solar farm on Chester Road.

Highway/ Fire Station project

The Select Board will take on the highway/fire station project going forward. According to Chair Jackie Coury, who did not want to put another committee together, the board will take the lead and "how do we want to manage it going forward?"

They would like to have someone from town, who has construction background participating along with the Fire Department, Highway Departments. Coury cited the need for an Owners Project Manager and an engineering team.

Member Corinne Shartrand stressed the "need for accountability."

The board will have an information session for the town on Friday, Nov. 13.

Veterans programs

Discussion on programs for the town's Veterans included a plea from Shartrand to have local Veterans reach out to her as the list of Veterans' names and addresses is not public information.

The board has funds available for use for Veterans and Veterans programs and Clerk Ted Cousineau wanted to know what kinds of programs might be available for in-town. Shartrand proposed a list of "what we can provide."

Job descriptions

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera brought to the board's attention that two job descriptions for the Water Department have been posted and there are already several applicants, one for a Water Manager and the other for a Water Laborer.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay told the board of required

SELECT BOARD, page 7

HUNTINGTON

Huntington Town Administrator issues scam alert on town website

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin issued a scam alert on the town website after business owner Rosemary Barrett stopped in on Thursday, Sept. 17 over an emailed bill for $4,950 she had received, purportedly from the town.

Peloquin said she reviewed the email and assured Barrett that it was a scam and she did not need to pay the bill. Barrett had recently applied for a special permit, Peloquin said.

Peloquin then posted a scam alert on the home page of the town's website. It read, "We want to make local residents and businesses aware of a fraudulent email circulating that appears to come from the Town of Huntington Zoning Board of Appeals and Town Clerk. The email references a special permit application in Huntington and requests payment of an "Application Review and Approval Fee."

"It instructs the recipient to reply to the email to obtain payment instructions and then send the receipt back by email."

The notice told residents to not send money, not provide banking or personal information, not reply to the email and to not open attachments or click any links.

It went on. "If you receive something like this, verify it by contacting the relevant Town department directly using contact information from www.huntingtonma.us or call the Select Board/Town Administrator office at 413-512-5200.

Peloquin has further advised people to carefully check the address that the email is sent from. "In this case, the sender name was listed as "Town of Huntington, MA (Zoning Board of Appeals)" but the email address was

SCAM, page 3

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



MORE DOCTORS!

NADIA MILLERON
FOR CONGRESS

VOTE INDEPENDENT!

Join the movement at
NadiaforCongress.com

PAID FOR BY NADIA FOR CONGRESS

HUNTINGTON

COA lists upcoming events

HUNTINGTON – The Council on Aging announces Blue Cross Blue Shield Dental Blue 65 presentation on Wednesday, Oct. 7 from 1-2 p.m.

Brian Guagnini, BCBS Medicare Field Outreach Consultant, will return to answer questions and provide information about Dental Blue 65.

Fall birthday celebration and BINGO takes place on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. The movie, "Nancy McPhee" takes place Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 2 p.m.

Musician David Herrera performs on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. This singer song writer plays country music mixed with rock and urban pop vibe mixed with a rock and urban pop vibe.

A free blood pressure check takes place Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 2 p.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 1-2 p.m. respiratory illness updates and blood pressure check takes place.

On Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. the movie "Top Gun" will be shown.

The Do Re Mi Chorus takes place on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 2 p.m.

The Council on Aging welcomes residents and community members to participate in these programs and activities. Whether they''re interested in health and wellness, local history, music, movies or simply spending time with friends and neighbors, there is something for everyone.

For more information, people may call Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283.

WARNING

from page 1

Garriepy can report that a new policy is pending.

Together, the team discussed how to track changes, move everything into the town's new policy format, and document dates of revisions for future reference.

Booth, Drabiuk and Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin were all present. Selectman John McVeigh was absent.

Water run off damage

Also meeting with the Select Board was Mary Arkoette of 21 Nagler Cross Road to discuss damage to her home, driveway and yard from water run-off from the town road onto her property. Arkoette said that a deck washed away recently and that water has been getting into her basement.

She and her daughter Joanna dig trenches to divert as much water as possible and her neighbor has brought his sump pump over to get water out of her basement. Highway Superintendent Brad Curry is away until Tuesday, Oct. 6 and will be invited to the next select board meeting on Wednesday Oct. 7, with Arkoette, to discuss this further.

Board approvals

The board approved a request for the town's annual bonfire on Oct. 17 and awarded a heating oil bid from Pioneer Valley Oil that came in at 4.50 over rack-the wholesale per-gallon cost of fuel posted at a distribution terminal's loading rack. The board voted to retain last year's three winter highway department employees with a 2% increase in pay.

Water heater failure

Peloquin reported that the Stanton Hall hot water heater is not working at all. She has a quote for a new, on-demand water heater of $6,635, which includes equipment, installation, electric and plumbing work. She will seek a second bid.

Grant

Peloquin also announced that Westfield Wild & Scenic is helping secure $35,000 from the Nature Conservancy to complete the design phase for the culvert on lower Bromley Road to get the project shovel ready. This would supplement the Division of Ecological Restoration's Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance grant of $81,000.

Other business

Drabiuk and Peloquin reported on their meeting with Civic Plus about the possibility of migrating town hall content from their old web host to this new option.

Candidate for State Representative Jason Perron of Southwick stopped in to introduce himself.

Several agenda items were deferred to when all three board members were present, including mandating payroll direct deposit; setting a boot allowance for the highway department; finalizing an overtime policy; and geo permitting decisions. Booth is also working on language for self-employed contracts for town work that he expects to have at the next meeting.

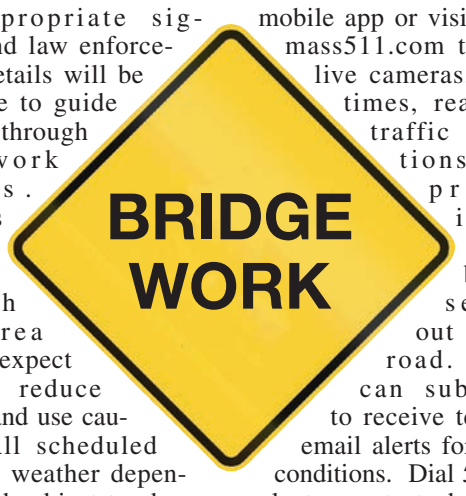
HILLTOWNS

MassDOT announces bridge repairs

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces overnight bridge painting and bridge repairs on I-90 eastbound and westbound in the towns of Becket, Montgomery and Russell.

In Becket, bridge painting will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 20.0 nightly now through the morning of Friday, Oct. 2, from 7 p.m.-5 a.m.

In Montgomery and Russell, bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound at mile marker 36.0 nightly beginning now through the morning of Friday, Oct. 2 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m.



Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work areas. Drivers traveling through the area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

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

FAILS

from page 1

measure. Voters deposited ballots into a wooden box and votes were counted in front of attendees on the stage by Finance Committee Members Andre Alguero and Bonnie Boguszewski.

Forty eight people voted in favor and 36 were opposed; the measure would have needed 56 votes to pass.

Discussion before the vote was led by Huntington Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger, who fielded questions from town residents. This was the second time the fire department sought funding for this purpose this year. A request for $1.2 million at Annual Town Meeting on June 1 also failed to reach the 2/3rds required for the debt exclusion.

This time, the department dropped the amount to $850,000, which the town's Finance Committee had said they were comfortable with.

Ellinger said that Engine 2 is 30 years old this year. National standards say that firetrucks over 20 years old should be retired.

Huntington's fire stations are too small to purchase a firetruck "off the floor," which would be less expensive. Instead, a custom-built truck must be built to fit into the aging firehouse on Norwich Hill. A new firetruck, built to fit a larger, modern fire station, would cost $550,000 to $650,000 less.

If the article had passed, the truck would have gone out to bid and would take two to three years to build.

The current truck holds 1,000 gallons of water, has 19,000 miles and "leaves the station 60 to 70 times a year on calls and another 15 to 20 times on training runs," Ellinger said.

Due to its age and wear, older fire trucks can have electrical, brake and transmission issues. The ladder, he said, has periodically stopped rising. There are no safety measures for firefighters, such as seat belts or air bags and the truck is under load (full of water) 24 hours a day in the garage.

A new truck would have safety equipment for firefighters and have space to hold rescue tools such as the jaws of life, cutters, and spreaders for motor vehicle accidents. Vehicle accidents that occur on that end of town require that first responders go downtown and pick up that equipment, costing valuable time.

When asked what it would cost to rebuild the truck, Ellinger replied that another fire chief had reported an end to end rebuild had cost $500,000 and that was assuming the frame was good and not salted up.

The estimated cost to individual taxpayers if the measure had passed was $.62 per $1,000 of valuation. On a $300,000 home, that would come to $198 per year for five years. McVeigh, who is also a Deputy Fire Chief added that, as a debt exclusion, this purchase would go into the tax rate for five years but would come off once it's paid for.

Select Board Chairman Roger Booth noted that old trucks do not have to meet current safety standards. By law, they are not required to be upgraded as long as they are operable and do what they need to do, he said. "I'm a compliance person. It is the right thing to do. But whether or not we do this is up to you," Booth said.

In response to other questions, Ellinger said this truck went out for major repairs five years ago when its brakes failed, at a cost of around $10,000. Other than that, it's had its normal routine maintenance.

One resident noted that the warrant article did not specify five years and asked what would happen if interest rates go up. McVeigh answered that these bonds come through the state and the interest rate is pretty much locked in at 4 to 5% interest.

Booth added that the terms of the debt exclusion (5 years and the interest rate) had already passed and cannot be changed. The only change they could make is the amount asked for.

McVeigh noted that if the article passed and the town "puts skin in the game" by approving it, it opens the door to try to get grant funding that, if secured, could reduce the cost.

One of the last to speak was Janine Curtis who said, "I've lived here over 50 years. My experience has been that the last thing our first responders ever want to do is come and ask for money.

They donate their time, they fix things, they have gone the extra nine yards. When something is 30 years old, as much as you want to keep it and save $200 a year, it is throwing good money after bad. If $200 a year is what it takes for the fire department to have what they asked for, I think they should have it."

Despite her encouragement, the vote fell short. Voters may have saved themselves $200 a year on their property tax rate, but could be in for a surprise on their homeowners insurance. The Insurance Services Office rates towns on a scale of 1 to 10 on the basis of their firefighting readiness.

A score of 1 is the highest ranking; towns that are least prepared or equipped can score up to a 10. Currently, the town of Huntington has an ISO rating of 5.

During discussion, Ellinger said that he is frequently polled by insurance companies about how far the nearest fire station or hydrants are from specific properties. The town could expect its rating to rise if that truck fails and goes out of service. "It would not be a small amount of money to homeowners if the ISO rating goes up to a six," Ellinger said.

An interview with McVeigh the following day revealed that Granville's firetruck had failed while Huntington''s STM was going on and was likely to be pulled from service.

He said that Russell was also looking at pulling one of their firetrucks. The loss of these two trucks would impact Mutual Aid. "If Russell pulls that tanker, we lose 2,000 gallons of water," McVeigh said. "This is starting to have a domino effect because these towns cannot replace these trucks."

McVeigh explained that Connecticut, Maine and Vermont have a provision that subsidizes replacement or even new fire station costs for towns with a population of fewer than 5,000 residents.

He had already been on the phone with state and Federal legislators urging them to adopt a similar model for Massachusetts. He had also reached out to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to see if Community Development Block Grant funding might be available in the future to raise the roof on Station 2 to perhaps allow a fire truck to be purchased off the floor.

A second warrant article was also considered at the meeting, to authorize the Board of Assessors to grant abatements of real and personal property taxes in the amount of up to 100% to members of the Massachusetts National Guard and reservists ,who serve on active duty in a foreign country.

Huntington voters had approved this concept in 2023, but required it be re-voted every other year. When someone applied this year, it came to light that the provision had not been voted on in 2025.

McVeigh said that, going forward, it will be a warrant article at every Annual Town Meeting. After a few questions, and a town official verifying that the amount of the abatement would depend upon time served for that fiscal year, the measure passed unanimously.

Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative
CONTRACTOR: Clean Harbors Environmental Services

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026 • 9 am to Noon
Westhampton DPW, 58 Hathaway Road, Westhampton, MA

Please follow these instructions

Place all items in trunk, back of truck, back seat of car. Clean Harbor Staff will offload all your items after check-in point.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**** Registration OPENS October 1 -14 *** Early registration NOT accepted!*
E-MAIL YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER TO: hrmc@hrmc-ma.org OR CALL 413-685-5498
Registration is required, NO Registration NO Entry, please respect this regulation. 25 Gallon Limit!

WHAT TO BRING TO A HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION?

Pesticides,fungicides, herbicides, insect sprays, small quantities liquid mercury products, rodent killers, muriatic acid, used motor oil, flea powder, no-pest strips , chemical fertilizers, lighter fluid, swimming pool chemicals, rust proofers, wood preservatives, wood strippers and stains, paint thinners, oil based paint, varnish, aerosol cans, sealants, adhesives, fiberglass resins, drain cleaners, oven cleaners, floor cleaners, toilet cleaners, carpet cleaners, metal polish, mothballs, chemistry kits, antifreeze, old gasoline, kerosene, brake fluid, transmission fluid, engine degreaser, carburetor cleaner, radiator flusher, roofing tar and non-latex driveway sealer.

▶ WHAT NOT TO BRING? ◀

NO EMPTY CAN, NO LATEX PAINT, pharmaceuticals, medical waste, fireworks, flares, propane tanks, lightbulbs, batteries.

HRMC

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.

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.

Find it in the
Classifieds



413.283.8393 • classifieds@turley.com
24 Water St., Palmer • www.turley.com

HUNTINGTON

Recreation Committee sponsors apple picking

HUNTINGTON – Apple picking sponsored by the Huntington Recreation Committee takes place Saturday, Oct. 3 from 2-3 p.m. at Jameson's High Meadow, 420 Skyline Trail, Chester.

People should meet at the orchard after the farmhouse, on the right.

Cost is $15 per family for the first bag (½ bushel) for Huntington residents. Additional bags may be purchased at $25 per bag.

Out of town friends may attend for the regular price of $25 per bag. Pre-registration is required by emailing recreation@huntingtonma.us or by calling or texting Vicki at 413-207-1065.

They should leave name, address, phone number and how many will be attending. They may arrive anytime between 2-3 p.m.

Historical Society to host open house at schoolhouse museum

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Historical Society hosts their monthly open house on Sunday, Oct 4 to coincide with the Huntington Fall Festival.

People may take a step back in time and visit the old-time one room schoolhouse, located near 72 Worthington Road and explore the collections of books, documents, maps, artifacts, tools and other historical items.

The Historical Society meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the schoolhouse. Open house hours are from 1-4 p.m. at the Norwich Bridge Schoolhouse Museum.

Trunk or Treat event happening on Oct. 17

HUNTINGTON – Trunk or Treat a collaboration of the Huntington Recreation Committee and Huntington Fire Association takes place Saturday, Oct. 17 from 5-6 p.m. in the Huntington Library parking lot, 7 East Main Street.

Parking is at Pettis Field. There will be live music and a bonfire starting at 6 p.m.

People who would like to host a "trunk" for this event should email the Huntington Recreation Committee at recreation@huntingtonma.us.

Those hosting a trunk should have approximately 200 to 300 pieces of wrapped candy to hand out to the trick or treaters.

They may decorate their trunk with a theme of their choice.

SCAM

from page 1

"Pzcommission.gov@usa.com." Scammers are becoming increasingly convincing and may use real names, addresses, departments and legitimate-looking documents to make their emails appear authentic."

The post advised people to share this information with others, especially anyone currently going through the permitting or zoning process. If in doubt, stop in and verify with town officials before sending any payment and report any suspicious activity to the Huntington Police Department.

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Karon Hathaway said she first learned of this incident when she received a text message and email from the town. "It was an awesome quick response from the Town Administrator to get the word out to everyone," Hathaway said.

Peloquin said that Barrett is the only person in town who reported receiving this. She has not heard of anyone falling for the scam. She encourages anyone receiving this to forward it to the police department. She also said that a google search earlier this month had revealed that this scam is happening nationwide.

MIDDLEFIELD

Middlefield Public Library announces upcoming news

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Public Library hosts a "Soup & Stories" on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Middlefield Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail.

All ages are welcome. People are invited to enjoy some homemade soup and bring favorite reading to share.

Two positions for Finance Committee will be decided at the upcoming joint Finance and Select Board meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 7. Two members, Ken Murray and Louise Harlow, have stepped down. Harlow is focusing on her role as archivist at the Town Museum and as head of the Historical Committee. Other topics to be discussed will be posted on the Middlefield Town Website.

Middlefield 250th

250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence was celebrated on Sept. 19 at the town hall and at the gazebo recently. The Eagles band entertained the crowd after presentations at the Town Hall. Senator Markey joined the crowd just in time to partake in a delicious dinner served in a patriotic style.

Senator Markey presented the town of Middlefield Select Board chair with a hand printed replica of the document that was originally read at the first public meeting in July 1776.

The replicas were crafted by historian Gary Gregory at the Museum of Printing in Haverhill. They were produced using traditional 18th-century wood press techniques and handmade paper to accurately replicate the labor-intensive process of 1776.

Prior to the ceremony several people spoke, culminating with the Declaration being read aloud by a member of each table.

Vaccine clinic set for Oct. 7

MIDDLEFIELD – Hampshire Public Health Shared Services Collaborative will host a fall Vaccine clinic on Wednesday, Oct. 7 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Middlefield Town Office, 188 skyline trail.

Flu vaccine both regular (six months+) and COVID vaccine (Pfizer (65+ and 18+ considered high risk). People should bring their insurance card, vaccines are free.

Limited walk-ins will be accepted, but pre-registering is recommended.

People may register online at northamptonma.gov/2219/vax.

People needing help registering may call 413-587-4903 or email nurses@norhtamptonma.gov.

Funny Raising Comedy Show benefits Middlefield Fair

MIDDLEFIELD – Funny Raising Comedy Show benefits Middlefield Fair on Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Dalton American Legion, 258 North St., Dalton. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. and features three comedians. Tickets are $25. There will be raffles, 50-50, cash bar, snacks. 21+ rated R for adult content and language. People may call or text Diane at 413-446-6232 for more information.

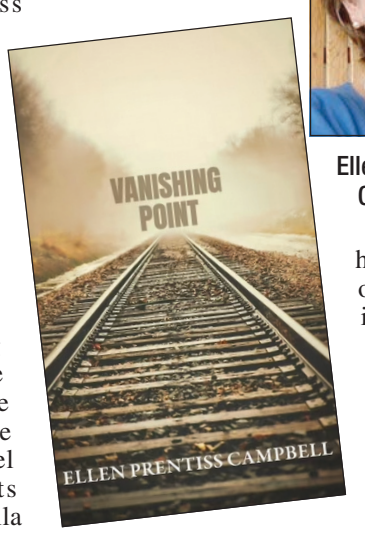
CHESTERFIELD

Chesterfield Friends of Library host author event

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Friends of the Library will host an afternoon program on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 2 p.m with author, Ellen Prentiss Campbell at the Chesterfield Community Center, 400 Main St.



Ellen Prentiss Campbell



She is also discuss her process of researching, writing and imagining.

She is an exciting, vibrant author of a number of novels, including her latest; the story about the turbulent life of Scalp Level school artists George and Lila Hetzel.

The program is free and open to the public.

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

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

OPEN HOUSE
Join us to tour
17 Blandford Hill Rd.
October 3, 11am – 1pm
Presenting a distinguished 1873 Colonial offering 2,254 square feet of beautifully maintained living space. Don't miss the opportunity to own a piece of history.
$299,900
Evamarie Best
413-241-1848
Eva.Best@comcast.net
142 Westfield Road
Russell, MA 01071
WOLCOTT REALTY

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Hydrant Flushing Notice

The Town of Huntington Massachusetts Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants beginning Monday, October 5, 2026 through Friday, October 16, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM.

You may see them operating hydrants and valves and notice water running down the street. Although it may appear to waste water, this is an important preventative maintenance activity we undertake to maintain the integrity of the water system and allow us to continue to deliver the highest quality water possible to our customers. The primary purpose of this program is to verify the proper operation of our towns fire hydrants through periodic inspections, flow testing, and preventative maintenance.

Secondarily, a proactive hydrant flushing program is the key to mitigating water quality related aesthetic problems by removing accumulated iron and manganese mineral deposits from the water line. Fire hydrant flushing may cause temporary inconveniences such as a reduction in water pressure and aesthetic issues such as discoloration of the drinking water. Discolored water poses no threat to the public's health, but it will stain laundry and if consumed it may have an unpleasant taste. Residents should be certain all discolored water is out of their home's plumbing and hot water heater prior to laundering clothes or drinking. If you notice discolored water coming from your fixtures, please flush the cold-water side for approximately 5 minutes. Although residents may experience some temporary inconveniences, the flushing program is necessary to maintain a good water supply for both firefighting and domestic purposes. Your cooperation with this program is appreciated.

If you experience continued loss of pressure or water discoloration, please contact the town Water Department at 413.512.5207, or email WaterSewer@HuntingtonMA.us.

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



Mom worries daughter making bad Social Security decision

Dear Rusty:

My question is not for me, but for my daughter who is 62 years old.

She does not want to take her Social Security now. Her husband was a doctor and passed away recently. She had been married to him for more than 10 years and, in the meantime, he married someone else.

I thought the President erased taxes on earned money so that people could collect what was due them no matter what they earned.

My daughter keeps telling me she has already earned too much this year and cannot collect her widow's benefits until next year. I don't understand what no tax on Social Security means then.

Also, she wants to wait until she is 67 before she collects her own money. She has been a nurse and believes her own benefits may be larger than her widow's benefits. Is she correct to wait for that long?

Signed: Worried Mom

Dear Worried Mom:

Your daughter is likely correct. There are two factors which come into play in your daughter's circumstance – one is the Annual Earnings Test (for those collecting early SS benefits), and the other relates to Federal income tax on SS benefits received. I'll try to clarify both of these for you:

If your daughter claims her widow's benefit at age 62, her benefit will be significantly reduced by approximately 20+% from what she would get at her SS full retirement age, and that would be a permanent reduction.

And, if she works, which you imply she does, she would also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test which limits how much she can earn by working prior to reaching her SS Full Retirement Age, which is age 67).

The earnings limit for 2026 is $24,480 (changes yearly) and, if her annual 2026 earnings exceed that amount, Social Security will take away $1 of benefits for every $2 she is over the annual limit.

For example, if she is $25,000 over the limit, SS would take way benefits equal to $12,500. That would mean she wouldn't get any SS benefits for the remainder of this year and likely some of next year also. And, if her earnings are significantly more than the annual limit, she may even be temporarily ineligible to receive a widow's benefit (until she either reaches her FRA or earns less money).

FYI, the Annual Earnings Test will go away when your daughter reaches age 67 but, until then, the AET will likely restrict her ability to receive Social Security benefits if she continues to work full time.

The next factor to be aware of is the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill," which the President claimed means "no tax on Social Security." This is an entirely different factor than the Annual Earnings Test described above.

The above AET discussion dealt with SS earnings limits while taking benefits before FRA, whereas the OBBB deals with income tax on Social Security benefits actually received.

The OBBB (enacted last year) provides an extra $6,000 deduction per person on the tax return filed with the IRS for those 65 years of age or older. That extra IRS deduction is designed to offset either totally or partially any income tax which is levied on Social Security benefits received by those age 65 or older. It's also important to know that the OBBB only provides temporary income tax relief, because the law expires after the 2028 income tax year.

All of which leads me to conclude that your daughter's decision to wait longer to claim her widow's benefit from her deceased ex-husband is a prudent choice. As long as she is working and earning more than the annual earnings limit before age 67, the AET will restrict how much Social Security she is able to receive. If she later stops working or goes to part-time employment, she can revisit her decision at that time. And, depending on her own personally earned Social Security benefit amount at age 67 (vs. her widow's benefit), she can assess whether to claim her personal SS retirement benefit or to, instead, claim her benefit as her ex-husband's widow if that amount is larger than her own SS retirement. And, unless Congress later extends the OBBB prior to 2029, she will, at that time, likely need to pay income tax on the Social Security benefits she receives.

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.

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 printedon page 4 or 5.



GUEST COLUMN

Garden scurrying

In the Garden by Roberta McQuaid



The forecast of a September nor'easter certainly had everyone scurrying about.

Instead of running to the grocery store for necessities, I headed straight to the garden to tidy up a few things. With visions of air-borne pots, soggy containers of compost and ruined produce dancing in my head I got right to work.

First to check off my list was digging up the potatoes. The stems had died down on two of my three rows over two weeks ago and I didn't want the spuds sitting in impending mud when they could be curing somewhere safe and sound.

Speaking of curing, it is important to be intentional with this step, so that your potatoes will be edible well into the winter months. Curing potatoes properly will help to prevent rot, premature sprouting, and toxic greening of the skin and flesh.

By waiting a week or more after the plant has died before digging up the tubers, the skins will thicken and be less prone to injury during harvest. Once they are dug, a week spent in a cool and totally dark space will further firm their skin and change sugars to starch, completing the ripening process.

Never wash potatoes prior to storage! Gently brush off dirt and store in a single layer in the darkness at 55-60 degrees.

Darkness will prevent greening, which renders potatoes inedible. Use any pitchforked or shovel- marked spuds first, as damage to the skin will invite rot.

Once the potatoes were out of the ground, I applied a two-three inch layer of composted manure and lime to the plot, then worked it in to the soil.

I won't be planting potatoes there next year other wise I would have stayed away from both amendments.

After that, I got to task number two, planting a cover crop in the empty ground. I figured with rain coming over the course of three days it would be off to a great start. In the big garden, where I can use my tiller, I sow winter rye.

It will start growing now, hold the soil in place over the winter, then, as spring ensues, it will grow tall and go to seed. Typically you mow it down or incorporate it into the soil before it gets too big.

Winter rye adds so much organic matter to the garden. Be sure to give the grass time to break down before planting into it; chopping it up/in about three weeks to a month before planting is a good plan.

Another thing that occurred to me while I was sowing the rye was seed saving. I purposely left what was left of my first sowing of green beans to go to seed.

I harvested all of the dried pods and will shuck them later, once I am sure that they are fully dry.

Finally, a bit of housekeeping to finish out my scurrying around. I collected my black plastic mulch, row covers and insects netting. I will hose off the black plastic, cinch up holes in the netting, and assess what I can salvage of my aging row covers .

I've smartened up and finally labeled what I use for what crop. For example, my number of cantaloupe/watermelon hills will likely remain the same, so reusing the same plastic mulch in that spot next year is a good plan.

With the storm behind us now, I can go back to a less frantic approach to garden clean up. Enjoy the fall foliage as you embark on your own work.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



Country Journal

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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

WEB
countryjournal.turley.com

PHONE
(413) 283-8393

ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

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

ISSN NO. 0747-2471

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

ELECTION LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to countryjournal@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Friday to be considered for the following Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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

OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

1900 steel truss bridge remains in use

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent



Turley Publications photos by Deborah Daniels
This photo is a view of Maple Street Bridge in Chester.



This photo shows the close up of the bridge railings.



This is a view of the Westfield River from the bridge.

Get me to the train on time was a recurring theme in Chester considering how many bridges Chester has crossing the Westfield River to reach the depot.

There was a real fear of bridges crashing given how many times the bridges were taken out by floods there in the past. There could never have too many bridges in Chester.

The concrete bridge built in 1911 that used 1300 barrels of cement and 31 tons of corrugated steel that is still the main bridge in use today.

The 1900 iron and steel truss bridge built in 1900 makes an elegant statement of crossing the west branch of the Westfield River. The iron railing artistry is visible on the right hand side of the walkway.

It gives first class cathedral treatment of the river view.

This bridge deserves a name other than the Maple Street Bridge. This is a Pratt Truss Bridge made by Hawkins Iron Works Company.

Pratt Truss bridges were patented in 1844. Truss bridges were described as bridges made of triangles, which can be seen in the design.

They were constructed on site. It replaced a wooden covered bridge known as the Johnny Sisk bridge.

That bridge kept the rain off you, and your horse never realized it was crossing over a flowing river.

My dog refuses to walk over an open lattice floored bridge for fear of falling in such as the one at Sanderson Brook Falls (assuming horses fear the same thing).

Truss bridges were considered very strong bridges. Many floods ripped through Chester and this bridge withstood many such assaults intact. Most other bridges were wiped out time and time again.

The land at the bridge entrance was originally owned by Lucy Wing who was happy to sell the land for the handsome price of $25. A Toll House was built.

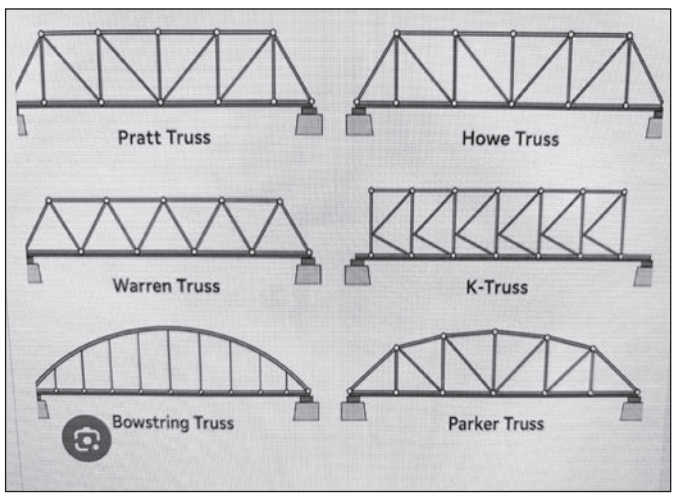
The current toll house has a sign stating 1780, which indicates there were probably many earlier versions of this bridge.

Toll houses were built to collect a fee from travelers, who used the bridge. The money collected was used to pay the toll gate keeper, who would have seen to the maintenance of the bridge as well as raise the gate controlling access to cross the bridge.

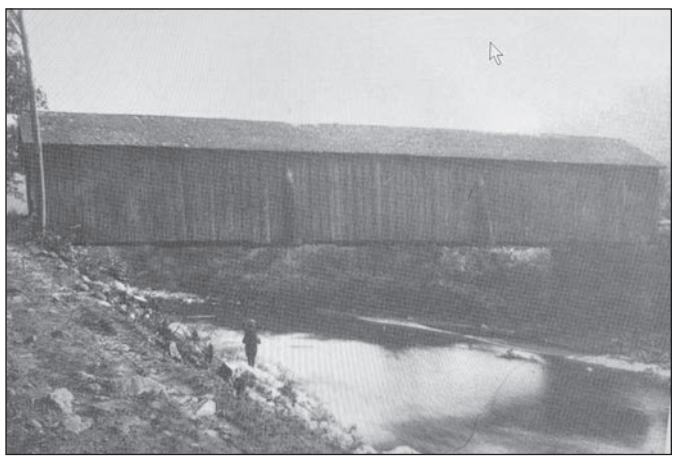
This person was known as the draw tender. Often people were allowed to cross for free on Sundays to go to church. Historically most toll houses were simple two room affairs where often the gate keeper would also have had a second job such as shoe making.

Crossing fees varied depending on what or who was crossing the bridge such as livestock, heavy carriages, horse riders, pedestrians and wagons.

No record was found stating what the Chester bridge charged to cross this bridge. Most local tolls around the country were abolished in 1868 and the public was allowed free access to cross most bridges after that.



The chart shows the types of truss bridges. *Submitted photo*



The original wooden Sisk Bridge. *Submitted photo*

Certainly this toll house is a grand affair now. The river bank below the house has been reinforced with granite blocks, most likely from the Chester Becket Quarry.

There are some rough cut granite slabs decorating the yard of the house across from Carm's Restaurant, honoring the quarry history of the area.

Viewing the river from the bridge it is hard to imagine this mostly dry stream bed flowing with angry turbulent flood water, but history tells us otherwise. Before the dams were built Chester suffered one flood after another from the Westfield Rivers.

Wrought iron bridges were considered very strong bridges, stronger than steel bridges. This was due to the malleability of wrought iron that absorbs shock well and bends under heavy stress.

It is pure iron plus silicate slag inclusions. It also resists rust and corrosion because of this slag content.

Whereas steel is strong because it resists warping under heavy loads, but can snap suddenly under extreme impact.

It is an alloy of iron and carbon, chromium and manganese. The Maple Street bridge is most likely a steel bridge because this is what was replacing wrought iron in the 1880s and 1890s.

Steel and iron bridges are a disappearing breed. Luckily the people of Chester recognized this and they have saved and preserved this bridge. How about a nameplate to honor the bridge? Who would have imagined a bridge built in an era of horses and buggies to withstand the weight of today's modern cars?

BECKET

Becket Athenaeum lists upcoming news, events

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St. will kick off the month with a screening of the "Manhattan Shortt Film Festival" on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m.

RSVP appreciated at bwlibrary.org/short Along with five other Berkshires libraries presenting screenings this year, they are excited to give their patrons the opportunity to join film lovers across the world in viewing and voting on the ten finalists' films.

On Friday, Oct. 16 at 5:30 p.m. the Athenaeum welcomes author, podcaster, Tarot, palm, and tea leaf reader Jezmina Von Thiele for a pop-up program at The Dream Away Lodge on the history of Tarot and Jezmina's book Secrets of Romani Fortune Telling. RSVP appreciated at bwlibrary.org/tarot.

Later in October, things get more practical with an AI question and answer on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 5 p.m. facilitated by Russ Jarowski, a local tech specialist (who's still offering one-on-one tech support at the library on Wednesdays and select Saturdays. RSVP appreciated: bwlibrary.org/AI.

On Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 3 p.m., they welcome back Becket local and SHINE representative, Steve Rosenthal, for another info session on all things Medicare. He will present information useful to those newly eligible for Medicare or enrolling for the first time, as well as returning customers looking to maximize benefits this coming year. RSVP appreciated at bwlibrary.org/shine.



FIVE ISLANDS
Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped
• *Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach*
• *Close to Reid State Park*



$1200/week
207-607-9333

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Chester Baptist Church
Pastor Dan Herr
14 Middlefield Road
Chester, MA 01011
413-354-7743
Email: pastor@chesterbaptistchurch.org
Website: chesterbaptistchurch.org
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Afternoon at 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer at 6:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church of Blandford
Pastor Tom Crouse
91 Main St., Blandford, MA 01008
413-269-5055
Website: Fccblandford.com
Sunday service 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Chester
Pastor Susan Borsella
334 Skyline Trail, Chester, MA 01011
Service with Live Music: 10 a.m. - Sunday
Coffee and Sweets Social:
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

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

Hilltown Community Church
Dr. Robert Perreault, Senior Pastor
55 Main St., Russell, MA 01071
413-275-3232
Office: 413-862-3341
hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com
hilltowncommunitychurch.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/p/Hilltown-Community-Church-61580281487624/
Sunday Mornings 10 a.m.

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

Your **Community** *Church*

New Boston Congregational Church
Pastor Eric Kriebel
4 Sandisfield Rd., PO Box 81
Sandisfield, MA 01255
Services held twice monthly, check website:
www.newbostoncongregationalchurch.org

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

Pioneer Valley Mennonite Fellowship
Deacon Jerald Reinford
400 Huntington Rd., Russell, MA 01071
(413) 297-6037
Sunday worship at 10 a.m.
Visitors appreciated

Westhampton Congregational Church, UCC
Open and affirming. All are welcome.
Pastor Carol Smith
1 Tob Rd., Westhampton, MA 01027
(413) 527-4204
Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.
9 a.m. for July and August

CHESTER

Hilltown Hikers to trek Granite Line

CHESTER – Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers host Chester and Becket Railroad Tour – The Granite Line on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 1 p.m.

Parking is on Hampden Street at the Chester and Becket Trailhead. The hike is an easy two miles in and back, mostly flat terrain on dirt.

This is a guided tour complete with handouts. There will be an option to continue another three miles on the rail bed heading east to the Route 20 connection with the Boston and Albany Railroad immediately following.

This is a special Housatonic Heritage event on a section of the Chester and Becket Railroad. Liz Massa, president of the Hilltown Hikers will led the interpretive tour.

The railroad was built in 1896 as a 5.25-mile spur off the Boston & Albany Railroad to deliver granite from the Becket Quarries to the Chester finishing works.

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

The first locomotive to run on this line was a wood burner, eventually upgraded to a coal burning locomotive. Hikers will see the remains of a wooden trestle still standing on the trail and also learn how this route was used in Chester's Emery industry and how it connects to the Granite Saw Property.

There is an additional option to hike more of the old railroad immediately following the main event. Historical maps and relics will be on display for the event.

Participants may get exclusive "hike the lost railroad" t-shirt at the event. Donations for the newly conserved Chester Granite Company Finishing Works property are greatly appreciated.

Participants should register per vehicle on www.hilltownhikers.com. Maps and bottled water are provided.

Well behaved dogs are welcome. The event is volunteer lead. Suggested donation is $15.

People may email westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.comor call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions.

As always participants should be prepared for rocks, mud and roots, bring trekking poles and a snack.

For those, who want to hike every weekend year round may become a Hilltown Hiker member.

People may follow them on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube. Tees, hoodies, hats, patches, water bottles and safety vests will be for sale by donation at the event.

People may see all events, maps, blog and photos by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com.

Hikers host group hike Oct. 18

CHESTER – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers hosts a group tour on Sunday, Oct. 18 at 1 p.m. of the Hudson and Chester Granite Works.

Parking is on Emery Street at at the Granite Saw parking lot across from the ball field.

This hike is an easy one mile, mostly on flat terrain on dirt. Participants should wear sneakers and no open toe shoes.

The Chester Granite Company was one of two granite finishing works in Chester for cutting and polishing stone brought down to the Historic Factory Village on the Chester and Becket Railroad, which was built for this purpose in 1896.

Chester Blue Granite was brought down the steep mountain railroad from the Hudson and Chester quarry, known today as the Becket Quarry in Becket.

The finishing works burned down after many prosperous years in business making monuments and gravestones and has been private property since, until recently.

In September of 2023 the Hilltown Hikers purchased this lot, including a twelve-foot shot saw and all the remains of its buildings and equipment.

This was the second largest stone finishing plant in the state. The saw is still the largest historical stone cutting saw in existence.

Participants will tour the property on the newly created walking path with a guide and learn about the Granite Industry in Chester and Becket.

People are reminded to get their I Saw it In Chester tee shirt. Donations for the conserved Chester Granite and Polishing Works property are greatly appreciated.

People should register per vehicle by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com. Maps and bottled water are provided.

Well behaved dogs are welcome. The event is volunteer lead. Suggested donation is $15.

People may email westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions. As always, hikers should be prepared for rocks, mud and roots, bring trekking poles and a snack.

Those who want to hike every weekend year round should consider becoming a Hilltown Hiker member/

People may Follow them on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube. Tees, hoodies, hats, patches, water bottles and safety vests will be for sale by donation at the event.

People may see all the events, maps, blog and photos by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com.



Submitted photos

Above, diners enjoy their meal in the Chester Railway Station at last year's Hobo Harvest Dinner. Below, Chester Foundation president Dave Pierce dresses as a hobo.



Hobo harvest dinner takes place Oct. 17

CHESTER – The Chester Railway Station will hold their 15th Annual Hobo Harvest Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 17.

The home cooked meal includes "Track Side" beef stew, corn pudding from a railroad cookbook, rolls from Mel's Kitchen and apple or pumpkin pie. The cost is $15 per adult, $8 for children aged 6-12, and free under 6.

All meals are to go, but on-site dining is available in the Railroad Station or the Station's recently acquired dining car. A beverage cart will be available in the station serving cider, coffee, tea or water for $2 each (free refills for on-site dining).

In addition to the meal, several "hobos" will be on hand to share tales of the rails. Also, the Pitoniak Brothers will be performing music at the Hobo Harvest.

Reservations must be made by Monday, Oct. 14 by either calling 413-354-7878 or emailing dave@chesterrailwaystation.net.

The Chester Railway Station is owned and operated by the Chester Foundation 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are welcome and appreciated to The Chester Foundation, P.O. Box 743, Chester, MA 01011. The Chester Railway Station is designated as a National Historic Landmark, the highest such designation for historic sites in the United States.

Hamilton Memorial Library offers children's programs

CHESTER – Hamilton Memorial Library, 15 Middlefield Road, Suite 7, holds story and fun time every Thursday at 11 a.m.

This is a great opportunity for little ones to socialize, learn new skills and have some fun. On Saturday, Oct. 10 at 11 a.m. Animal Frolics Tai Chi experience for children takes place. Tai Chi Master, Doreen Black offers a playful introduction to Tai Chi, inspired by the movements of animals while exploring balance, movement mindfulness and fun. RSVPs are helpful.

GOSHEN

Goshen Council on Aging announces upcoming news and events

GOSHEN – The Council on Aging's monthly luncheon takes place on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 11:30 a.m. at the Williamsburg Snack Bar, 109 Main St. Haydenville.

This is a different time than usual. Seniors will order off their extensive menu with a limit of $20 per person.

They must call Kerry Normandin at 413-268-8237, extension 118 or email coa@goshen-ma.us by Tuesday, Oct. 6 so they can give the restaurant an accurate number of attendees. Suggested donation to the COA of $5 is greatly appreciated.

A Memory Cafe starts Thursday, Oct. 1 and continuing monthly. This October, the Goshen COA is launching a supportive social group for people with memory loss and their care partners. "Sharing and Caring" will be run by two local speech-language pathologists, who will provide education, strategies and support to participants.

The group will meet every first Thursday of the month at Goshen Town Hall from 1-2:30 p.m. to connect over afternoon activities and refreshments. Skilled facilitators will be available to help participants with Dementia and Mild Cognitive Impairment as they engage in the group.

People should ask if any of the following sound familiar: changes in my memory have made it hard to do the things I enjoy; my relationships have changed due to memory loss; I find it difficult to speak or write, but I want to tell my story; as a care partner, it is hard to find time for myself; I want to do more to support a loved one with memory loss; I want to meet others who understand memory loss. Kerry Normandin at the Goshen COA at 413-268-8237, extension 118 or coa@goshen-ma.us to learn more and register.

On Friday, Oct. 2 Community Connections takes place from 10-11 a.m. in the Goshen Town Hall upstairs dining room. This month they will learn more about how certain frequencies of sound can affect health and mood. Jennifer O'Connell has been using sound therapy to help people quiet their minds and heal their bodies. Sound healing has been proven to lower cortisol, heart rate, and blood pressure and to reduce stress, grief and anxiety. Jennifer will also talk about her use of Solfeggio Scale tuning forks to address emotional suffering and physical ailments. All are welcome.

On Tuesday, Oct. 6 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. there will be a Scams Presentation. The Goshen COA invited Anita Wilson, Director of the Consumer Protection Unit at the Northwestern District Attorney's office to do a presentation on current scams, how not to fall for them, and what to do if caught in one. A light lunch will be served after the presentation. People may call Kerry at 268-8237, extension118 or email coa@goshen-ma.us to sign up to ensure they have enough food for everyone.

On Wednesday, Oct. 7 Games Group will meet in the library from 2 4 p.m. They have a variety of games to choose from or bring a game and teach it to the group.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14 Western Mass. Wheelers are coming to Goshen. Joan Griswold organized an afternoon event of adapted bike rides with a new program called Western Mass. Wheelers, a group of highly trained volunteer riders dedicated to sharing the joy of cycling with everyone. They will meet at the Goshen Town Parking Lot at 2:30 p.m. and show these adapted bikes and give free rides to those who wish to participate. If people have questions and want to sign up, they may email Joan at joan@bybhealth.com or call 413-537-8337. If it is raining, the event will bel rescheduled.

On Thursday, Oct. 15 Technology Help in the library will be available from noon-2 p.m. People can ask questions regarding their computer, phone, tablet or any other technology related question and they will do our best to help.

On Tuesdays, Oct. 20 and 27 Highland Valley Elder Services delivers grab and go lunches to Goshen COA. Participants pick up their hot lunch at the Goshen Town Hall from 12:30-1 p.m.

The lunch for Oct.. 20 is a choice of chicken a la king or butternut, kale, and Feta quiche and for Oct. 27 the choice is breadcrumb baked fish or tuna tetrazzini.

The meals also include milk, vegetables, and dessert. There is a suggested $4 donation given to Highland Valley to offset the cost of the meal. People may call Kerry at 413-268 9354 if they would like to sign up to get these nutritious and delicious meals.

On Wednesday, Oct. 21 crafts group has a plan to create something unique together. Of course, people are always welcome to work on their own individual craft project as it is fun to create with others.

For October, they will supply everything to create a cute Thanksgiving themed craft for the holiday table. All materials will be provided by the COA. If people would like to do this project, they may contact Kerry or any COA member to sign up by Tuesday, Oct 13 so they have enough supplies.

On Monday, Oct. 26 there will be a vaccine clinic from 1-3 p.m. at the Williamsburg Town Hall organized by Lily Stafford, RN, BSN who is the public health nurse for the Foothills Health District. Goshen adults are welcome to attend.

The vaccines offered will be adult COVID and flu and high dose flu for adults who require more protection. Vaccines are free but people should bring their insurance card. Walk ins are welcome but, if able, they may call and sign up so they can be sure to have enough vaccine by calling Kerry at the COA or Lily Stafford at 413-522-7112.

On Saturday, Oct. 31Trunk or Treat takes place on Halloween night. The Goshen COA plans to have a decorated car and hand out treats and warm cider again this year. They had so much fun at this great community event.


• 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
Classifieds
LIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

OTIS

Otis COA list October events

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

OTIS – If people have never been to the Country Club of Pittsfield for fun and frivolity, the chance is coming.

The Otis Council on Aging annual Holiday Luncheon reservation list is now open for the noontime Thursday, Dec. 10 event.

The menu features a buffet meal with soup, salad and rolls to accompany choices of lemon Rosemary chicken, roasted Canadian salmon and braised beef brisket. There will be seasonal vegetables, whipped potatoes, all followed with a dessert of warm apple crisp with vanilla ice cream and tea or coffee. The meal comes with one free soda, and a cash bar will be available.

The cost is $35 per person and it's not too soon to respond and include a payment – the deadline is Sunday, Nov. 1.

People should contact the Senior Center at 413-269-0100, extension 5 to save a place. Reservations may be sent to the Otis Senior Center at P. O. Box 237, Otis, MA 01253.

Regular Events

The center is regularly open Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. However, it will be closed for Monday, Oct. 12, Columbus Day, but will be open the next day, Tuesday, same time.

Exercise class is every Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the COA center at Town Hall but no class on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Haircuts will be available on Monday, Oct. 5. People must call 413-269-0100, extension 5. for an appointment.

Mat Yoga is every Saturday at 9:30 and Chair Yoga is every Thursday at 10 a.m.

The Out to Lunch group will go to State Line Pizza in Canaan, Connecticut on Thursday, Oct. 8.

The foot nurse will be available Wednesday, Oct. 14, call for a time.

Brown Bag is set for Friday, Oct. 16 from 11 a.m.-noon.

Cyber Seniors is ongoing Wednesday, Oct.14 and Friday, Oct. 16 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

A reminder that Saturday, Oct.15 is open enrollment for Medicare.

Monday, Oct. 19 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. is the flu clinic at the Town Hall.

Medicare Advisor Steve Rosenthal will be at the Center on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 10 a.m. there are a few spots open for private appointments. People may call to schedule an appointment. Also on Nov. 4, Tri Town Health will be on site from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays are Food Pantry days from 9-11 a.m. People should pick up their items on time.

People must call to reserve a spot for any event at 413-269-0100, extension 5 or for more information on events or programs.

MONTGOMERY

Grace Hall Memorial Library announces upcoming programs

MONTGOMERY – Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main St., is open Tuesday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Thursday from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

The cookbook book club meets Thursday, Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m. This is all about the Charcuterie board. This is a fun evening featuring delicious ideas and conversation. Beverages will be provided.

Yoga meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. People may email Chris Brown at chrisbro40@yahoo.com to sign up.

A Book and Bake Sale takes place Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Hundreds of new books will be available. This is a way to come support the local library.

Funds raised from the book and bake sales help sponsor library programs and events throughout the year. The library is accepting book



donations by appointment only.

People may call the library at 413-862-3894 to schedule a drop-off. People should not donate water- or mildew-damaged books, Reader's Digest Condensed Books, encyclopedias and textbooks.

Baked goods may be delivered on the morning of the sale at the Little Red Schoolhouse.

The Springfield Science Museum's traveling planetarium will present Galaxy on the Go, a special program just for seniors on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. They will sit back in a chair and explore the night sky and the stars beyond. Seats are limited, so people should sign up at the library by Thursday, Oct.15.

Rita Parisi presents Gothic Tales by Candlelight Saturday, Oct. 24 at 2 p.m. These are tales that chill as people enter the world of eerie suspense through stories by women writers, told by candlelight.

A community meeting to discuss the library's long-range planThursday, Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m. Public input is welcome.

Watercolor Greeting Cards with Sandie Mann takes place on Saturday, Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. Participants create beautiful watercolor greeting cards with Sandie Mann. People should sign up in the library to reserve a spot.

BLANDFORD

Trick or Treat takes place Oct. 31



BLANDFORD – Trick or Treat will be in the Town Hall gym on Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31 from 1-3:30 p.m.

Organizer Corinne Shartrand said there are already 11 tables to line the sides of the room so treats will be readily available. More treat tables are welcome and anyone interested in participating should contact her or the Select Board.

There will be games, music, contests and volunteers to tend to the games and contests are needed.

Shartrand said she is also looking for volunteers to act as judges.

October offers many community events

BLANDFORD – The second Annual Ghost Walk is this weekend, Oct. 3 from 2-4 p.m. at the Hill Burial Ground at Blandford Hill Cemetery, North Street across from the White Church and the fairgrounds.

Admission is free along with apple cider doughnuts from the Blandford Country Store and cider. Guided tours of the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and World War II veterans to statesmen, entrepreneurs, educators, and hometown legends who helped shape the town and country will leave every 15 minutes. The last cemetery tour will depart at 3:45 p.m.

In the event of inclement weather, the program will move indoors to The White Church, with performances at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 17 at 10 a.m. ground breaking ceremony for the Porter Memorial Library expansion in the library parking lot. There will be cider donuts available.

Monday, Oct. 19 from 5-6:30 p.m. Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi will conduct a listening session in the Town Hall gym on all things solar.

Monday, Oct. 19 from 4-6 p.m. early in-person voting in the Town Clerk's office and again on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. with voter registration from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m.

Town Halloween party on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 1-3:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

The Western New England Chapter of the Association for Gravestone Studies will hold its fall meeting at the Blandford Historical Society, Saturday, October 10, from 10 a.m. to noon. The public may sit in on the discussion, followed by a visit to the Old Burying Ground.

Looking ahead to Nov. 13, the Select Board will have an information session on the proposed construction of a Fire Station at the Town Hall.

Council on Aging lists October lunch menus

BLANDFORD – Council on Aging master chef Joann Martin announces the menus for the October noontime luncheons.

Friday, Oct. 9 lunch will include ranch dressing Cole slaw, Italian marinated chicken kabobs, twice-baked potatoes and dessert.

The menu for Friday, Oct. 23 incorporates field greens and goat cheese salad, creamy tomato bisque soup and her special crispy grilled cheese sandwiches and dessert. Beverages are included.

People may call the COA at 413-848-4279, extension 400 to leave a name and number of people attending. Please consider a $5 donation per person to help keep the program going.

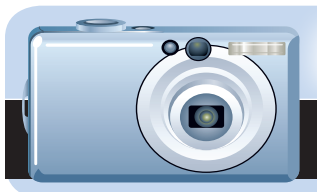
Friday's Lasagna Feast, either veggie or meat with salad and garlic bread was enjoyed by all. The September birthdays included Cosette and TJ Cousineau, Randy Gilman, Judith MacKinnon, Lloyd Martin and Margit Mikuski.



COA holds flu clinic

BLANDFORD – Council on Aging Director Margit Mikuski announces the annual flu clinic will be Friday, Oct. 9 following the regular COA luncheon.

Walgreen's will administer the inoculations. Forms are available at the Town Hall and people. who would like to get the shots should bring insurance information.



Send Us Your Photos!
countryjournal@turley.com

SELECT BOARD

from page 1

repairs to the newer 550 truck, which is still under warranty, so repairs will be made at no cost to the town. He said the tanks have passed inspection and line painting will continue. Roadwork on Nye Brook and Sperry Roads will be done in October, and cracks will be sealed on North Blandford Road.

Other business

Shartrand praised Becket's Dark Sky bylaw recently passed, limiting the use of lights at night; something for the town to consider, according to an audience member.

Expense reports for Cemetery accounts were sent to Cemetery Commissioner Peter Sparks.

Fire Chief Adam Dolby has a lead on a potentially useable used fire truck.

Part-Time Selectboard Administrative Assistant

The Town of Cummington Selectboard is seeking a Part-Time Selectboard Administrative Assistant to provide administrative, clerical, file organization, records, scheduling, communications, and meeting support to the Selectboard. The position is 15–19 hours per week, including biweekly, in-person evening meetings, and works under the direction of the Selectboard. The position assists with the preparation and distribution of meeting materials, maintenance of Selectboard records, coordination of routine correspondence, public postings, and follow-up on Selectboard actions as directed. The role is administrative and support-oriented, assisting the Selectboard with efficient, lawful, organized, and transparent operations while referring policy, legal, financial, personnel, or management decisions to the Selectboard. Strong written and oral communication skills; organizational skills; attention to detail; accuracy; discretion; customer service skills; a self-starting approach; and the ability to work independently or collaboratively as part of a team with elected officials, staff, volunteers, residents, vendors, and outside agencies are required. Prior experience with grant funding and human resources record keeping is desirable.

Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to the Cummington Selectboard, Town of Cummington, P.O. Box 128, Cummington, MA 01026, or by email to selectboard@cummington-ma.gov. The position will remain open until filled unless a closing date is established by the Selectboard. The Town of Cummington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Job Connection
HELPING YOU FIND HELP

If you have job postings to fill, get them the exposure they need.

Join us in highlighting what positions you have available in our Job Connection!

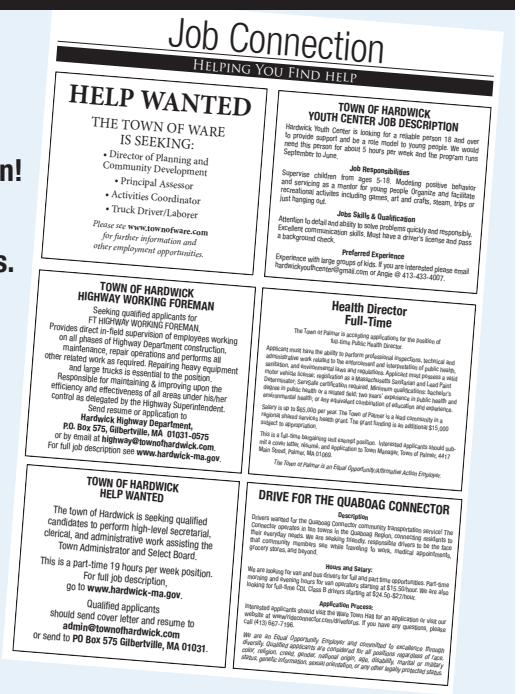
Each week this available jobs section will run in your community newspapers.

5.25" x 4"
$150 for three papers
$40 for each additional paper

5.25" x 8"
$300 for three papers
$80 for each additional paper

10.75" x 8"
$600 for three papers
$160 for each additional paper

10.75" x 15.75"
$1,200 for three papers
$320 for each additional paper


Job Connection
HELPING YOU FIND HELP
HELP WANTED
THE TOWN OF WARE IS SEEKING:
• Director of Planning and Community Development
• Principal Assessor
• Activities Coordinator
• Truck Driver/Laborer
Please see www.townofware.com for further information and other employment opportunities.
TOWN OF HARDWICK YOUTH CENTER JOB DESCRIPTION
TOWN OF HARDWICK HIGHWAY WORKING FOREMAN
Health Director Full-Time
TOWN OF HARDWICK HELP WANTED
DRIVE FOR THE QUABOAG CONNECTOR

Choice of any three papers
Buy two weeks, get the third week FREE

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities
Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal
The Journal Register • Quaboag Current • The Register • Sentinel
The Holyoke Sun • Town Reminder • Ware River News • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times
www.turley.com

Call Dan today 413.297.5886 or 413.283.8393

WORTHINGTON

WORTHINGTON HOLDS VACCINE CLINIC



Submitted photo

The Worthington Board of Health and the Worthington Council On Aging co-sponsored a flu and COVID vaccine clinic on Sept 24 at the town hall. It was well attended, with 59 participants of all ages. Staff of the Northampton Board of Health are shown along with participants.

Hilltown Open Studio Tour on Oct. 3, 4

WORTHINGTON – The Hilltown Arts Alliance welcome visitors to the fall Hilltown Open Studio Tour on Saturday, Oct. 3 and Sunday, Oct. 4 from 11a.m.-5 p.m. each day.

The tour is a unique opportunity to meet artists where they live and work in the rolling Hilltowns of Western Mass at the peak of fall color including the scenic routes through the heart of the Hilltowns: Chesterfield, Cummington, Plainfield and Worthington. This tour offers the dynamic experience to make a self-guided tour into an adventure with art demonstrations, performances and local food. Visitors will learn about artists' processes, and be able to bring home lovingly crafted artworks and artisan goods by Hilltown artists.

HOST includes 14 studio tour stops, featuring 23 participating artists. The Worthington Town Hall Tour Hub features four artists and is a great place to grab a brochure map. Incredible artisanship will be on display in this curated studio tour. It's an opportunity to support local and regional artists directly while growing a collection of functional and inspirational artworks across a range of media, including ceramics, painting, printing, textiles, photography, jewelry, sculpture and more. Meet the Artists:

Other locations are Valeriana Claff, watercolor painting and Cyndy Sperry, painting and sculpure, both in Chesterfield and Sergei Isupov, ceramic sculpture, Kadri Parnamets, ceramics, Mara Superior, ceramic sculpture, Kate Wills, Cocoon Handmade Shop – ceramics, Leni Fried, printmaking and Emmett Leader, ceramics, all in Cummington.

Emmett Leader – ceramics

In Plainfield there is Plainfield Pottery Guy Matsuda, ceramics; Adrian Almquist. ceramics, weaving, sculpture; Vivian Gay a darling deer pottery ceramics; Kathryn Jensen, watercolor painting and the Flores Studio "Art on View: A Celebration of Gene Flores," sculpture.

At the Worthington Town Hall are Angela Vincent, oil, watercolor painting and mixed media: Pleun Bouricius / AgathaO Photo, photography; Kevin O'Connor, collage, wood, paper and Jan Roby, jewelry, fiber, photography, collage and acrylic painting.

Other Worthington artists are Elizabeth Whyte Shultze, sculpture; Jen Parrish-Hill / Parrish Relics, amulet jewelry and Kathy Ford – fiber art 14. Stone Pool Pottery; Mark Shapiro, ceramics and David Marshall, painting.

Visitors are encouraged to take advantage of this singular opportunity to peer into the creative process, speak with artists directly about their work, and come to understand the context of their practice on-site.

It's a powerful and rare glimpse at how artworks are made, and how the places artists work inform the art they make. Many HOST artists are inspired by their local landscape, either represented in their work, or with locally-sourced materials and natural themes.

Highway Dept. gives updates

WORTHINGTON – Morais Construction Crew #1 continues backfilling shoulder and constructing driveway aprons from East Windsor Road to Lindsey Hill Road.

Crew # 2, Morais Construction's subcontractor, will begin constructing retaining wall # 2, 1 mile East of Peru Town Line the week of Monday, Oct. 5 through Friday, Oct. 9

Work hours are 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., one-way alternating traffic will be in place with traffic officers directing traffic for shoulder work and a temporary traffic signal is in use at retaining wall.

Worthington Highway Department announces the culvert replacement and associated roadway work on Lindsey Hill Road has been completed.

The project addressed the failed drainage structures and roadway conditions that required the road to be closed. The necessary work has now been completed and Lindsey Hill Road has been reopened to local traffic.

Speed limit on the road is 25 mph.

Rod and Gun Club hold chicken BBQ

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Rod and Gun Club holds its annual chicken barbecue on Saturday, Oct. 17 at the club, located at 458 Dingle Road.

There will be live music by Austin Honig. The meal includes salad, rolls, Coleslaw, baked potato, chicken and dessert. People are welcome to bring their own beverages.

Cost is $20. There will be a 50/50 and a Chinese raffle. People may call Deana for tickets at 413-433-0009; deadline for tickets is Saturday, Oct. 10.

RUSSELL

Walk and hike supports local domestic violence survivors

RUSSELL – The Southern Hills Domestic Violence Task Force and the Western Mass Hilltown Hikers are joining forces to bring the community together for the first ever Hilltown Community Strong Walk and Hike on Saturday, Oct. 17 beginning at 9 a.m. at the AMC Noble View Outdoor Center, 635 South Quarter Road, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness month.

This free, family-friendly event will combine outdoor recreation, community connection, and an opportunity to support local survivors of domestic violence. Donations raised during the event will benefit the Southern Hills Survivor Recovery Fund, which provides assistance to our community survivors as they work toward safety, stability, and recovery.

During the Hilltown Community Strong event, participants can choose between two guided hikes designed to include all ages and abilities.

Kicking off at 9:30 am with a walk following Noble View's All Persons Trail. An easy walk along a gravel path winding through the natural landscape for all people, regardless of ability, to participate and enjoy the outdoors together.

For those looking for a more advanced adventure, join us at 10:45 am for the Border Trail Hike. This hike covers approximately 4 miles of moderate terrain, and you will experience scenic views, wooden bridges, and a variety of natural trail conditions.

The Hilltown Community Strong event will offer more than just walking and hiking. Community organizations will be participating leading various activities and there will be Refreshments, Raffles, and a StoryWalk.

"Community support can make all the difference in a survivor's journey," said organizers of the event. "Hilltown Community Strong is an opportunity to come together, enjoy the outdoors, and show survivors that they are not alone."

All proceeds and donations will benefit the Southern Hills Survivor Recovery Fund. Participants should bring appropriate footwear and water. Trekking poles are recommended for those participating in the Border Trail hike. "Well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome," organizers said, adding to the event's welcoming, community-oriented atmosphere.

For more information about the event, people may email the Southern Hills Domestic Violence Task Force or Western Mass Hilltown Hikers by email: southernhillsdvtaskforce@gmail.com.

The Southern Hills Domestic Violence Task Force is the oldest rural domestic violence task force in Massachusetts. It was launched in 1998 after State Police in Russell complained to town officials that there was no local help for survivors and that responding to a domestic violence call could take up to an hour to just arrive on scene. In 2006, the Task Force founded Hilltown Safety at Home, a domestic violence program now run by Hilltown Community Health Centers. The Task Force works with community members, including schools, healthcare providers, police and others to support survivors and educate the community in preventing domestic violence.

The Task Force is open to community members and agencies that serve in the Southern Hills communities and meets the second Wednesday of the month. For more information, people may email the Task Force at southernhillsdvtaskforce@gmail.com or visit them on Facebook.

Signs of an unsafe relationship include one person controlling decisions – where you go, what you do, isolates you; Lacks trust and respect – jealousy, possessiveness, putting you down; you are blamed for everything and may fear your partner. If you or someone you know is being mistreated or abused by a partner, you can reach an advocate from Hilltown Safety as Home at 413-693-9977. For immediate help, call the 24/7 statewide hotline at 1-877-785-2020.

The Western Mass Hilltown Hikers connect people with the natural, cultural, and historic landscapes of Western Massachusetts through year-round outdoor recreation and education. For fifteen years, they have hosted monthly public hikes and tours that highlight the region's most remarkable places, including the National Historic Landmark Keystone Arch Bridges Trail and the annual First Day Hike at Sanderson Brook Falls in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The organization was founded by Karen McTaggart and Liz Massa, and has grown from two hikers exploring local history to a widely recognized leader in outdoor recreation, stewardship, and heritage education. Working closely with DCR, the National Park Service, and local historians to document and protect Western Mass history—serving as the "feet in the woods".

Library presents program on The Hessians

RUSSELL – Historical Interpreter Dennis Picard will be presenting "Dragoon, Musketeer, Prisoner: The Hessians of the Revolutionary War in Western Massachusetts" on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 1:30-3030 p.m. in the Russell Public Library, 162 Main St.

The public is welcome and should please register by Thursday, Oct. 15 by calling 413-862-6221 or emailing rpldirector162@gmail.com.

Folklore holds that the Hessians soldiers of the Revolutionary War period were blood thirsty mercenaries purchased by King George the Third to fight in the rebellious colonies.

They are often associated with the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow fame. But is that a truthful depiction of these citizens of the German States. Even though there were no battles during the American Revolution in Western Massachusetts, there were, in fact, Hessians here. Hear how these men got to our area, why they were here, who they really were, and in the end, why some stayed.

Dennis Picard has been a museum professional in the living history field for forty years.

He has the ability to bring history to life as he embodies characters as they worked and lived in the past. He began his career at Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge in 1978.

He has also served on the staff of Hancock Shaker Village as a historic trade craftsman and site interpreter. He held the position of Assistant Director and Director at \Fort Number Four in Charlestown, New Hampshire, and the Sheffield Historical Society in the Berkshires. Most recently, Dennis retired after 27 years at Storrowton Village Museum in West Springfield.



Submitted photo

Historical Interpreter, Dennis Picard, will present "Dragoon, Musketeer, Prisoner: The Hessians of the Revolutionary War in Western Massachusetts" on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Russell Public Library.

EASTHAMPTON

TruNorth Bank hosts three free shred days

EASTHAMPTON – TruNorth Bank invites customers and members of the community to three free shred days.

The first two will be on Saturday, Oct. 24, both from 9-11 a.m. at the bank's 241 Northampton St. location in Easthampton and the Holyoke Senior center located at 291 Pine St. in Holyoke.

The last event will be on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9-11a.m. at Westfield Middle School at 30 West Silver St. in Westfield.

Local residents can reduce their risk of identity theft by bringing old mail, receipts, statements or bills, cancelled checks, pay stubs, medical records, or any other unwanted paper documents containing personal or confidential information and shredding them safely and securely for free.

A professional document destruction company will be on site and can accept up to two boxes of documents per car. No appointment is necessary. People should remain in their car at these events.

Headquartered in Easthampton, Massachusetts, TruNorth Bank and its TruNorth Mortgage division have more than $6.9 billion in assets and offer consumer and business banking in 54 locations throughout Massachusetts, northeastern Connecticut and southern New Hampshire.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

COLLEGE NEWS

Jack Madsen enrolls at Eastern Conn. State University

WILLIMANTIC, CT – Eastern Connecticut State University welcomed 1,444 new students to campus this fall 2026 semester.

Jack Madsen of Westfield is a full-time first year student majoring in business administration. The new Warriors are among the largest incoming classes in the University's 137-year history, with 1,180 first-time students and 264 transfer students enrolled in full-time undergraduate and graduate-level programs.

The new students join an overall student body of 3,850 full-time matriculated students

GATEWAY CLASS OF 1976 HOLDS 50TH REUNION



Submitted photo

Members of Gateway Regional High School Class of 1976 attend their 50th class reunion on Sept. 12 at Blandford Country Club. GatewayRegional High School Class of 1976 held its 50th Reunion on Saturday, Sept, 12 at the Blandford Country Club. Thirty members of the class attended along with some spouses and significant others for a total of 55. Also included in the photo is Eugene King who was a teacher at Gateway for many years and one of the advisors to the Class of '76. Attendees came from as far away as Colorado, New Mexico and California. The group recognized the 20 former classmates, who have passed, listened to a variety of 70s tunes including their class song by Chicago "I've Been Searching So Long," played some 1970s trivia and reminisced about old times and caught up on new. Everyone agreed to try to make it a yearly gathering of some sort.

Student free stores are growing

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – It Takes a Village started a student "free store" at Gateway Regional School in the winter of 2020.

In 2022 it was dubbed the "Free Store in Room 234." Today, that model has grown into a larger space open during school hours that doubled its reach to students last year by distributing $40,420 in basic needs supplies to students.

Former Principal Dr. Will Sullivan supported the expansion after a visit through the Barr Foundation showed an in-school pantry that supported students and their families. "When I returned, I thought we had an opportunity to grow something like that at GRS in partnership with It Takes a Village and the work they were already doing at the school," Sullivan explained.

The current Gateway Free Student Store opened in the fall of 2024 after moving its location to a larger, more centralized and easily accessible space.

"It is well liked and appreciated," Sullivan said. "With a very unstable political and economic climate the GFSS has been able to provide that needed stability."

The store is open to students all of the time. One day a week, a representative from ITAC comes in to staff it all day. During this time, the door is open and students can come in and use the resources. Sullivan said that it was so popular on that day it was fully open they had to institute a pass system to manage crowding.

On other days, the room is accessible through student leaders and Gateway school staff by making a request at the school or counseling offices. ITAV's Communications and Development Director Kenzie Kinsella reported that student groups such as the National Honor Society and the Sunrise Academy work to keep the space organized, tidy and attractive. Sullivan added that student interns have also been working in the space over the past two years to help with organization, ordering and marketing.

ITAV's Adrianne Kunz runs the store on its fully open day. According to Kinsella, Kunz has built connections with students and encourages them to ask for items they are looking for. Goals include keeping seasonal items in stock, tied to weather, sports teams and special events such as prom.

"Staff and students are fueling the work that we are doing and helping us be responsive to what's happening at school. We are helping students go to everything from sports tryouts to prom," Kinsella said. "And Adrianne has her finger on the pulse of what those needs are."

Kunz said that personal hygiene items are especially challenging to keep in stock. In addition to clothing, shoes, accessories, sports gear, coats and prom dresses, non-perishable foods and snacks are maintained in an area of the room by the Huntington Food Pantry.

This year, ITAV opened a new student store at Hampshire Regional and Kinsella reports that the first few weeks have been wonderful. They are in a smaller space than the store at Gateway and do not offer food items, but the response of the school community has been very positive. It was open during Hampshire's recent Open House.

"I think it is always really important for families/caregivers to see the resources available to their children," Kinsella noted, adding that Gateway's store will also be open at their Tuesday, Oct. 6 Open House.

It Takes a Village also provides school supplies to stores at Westfield Tech Academy and Pioneer Valley Performing Arts High School.

"It's been so, so positive in both Gateway and Hampshire Regional to see the community respond," Kinsella said. "It really supports the work that we're doing and fuels the conversation around basic needs supplies."

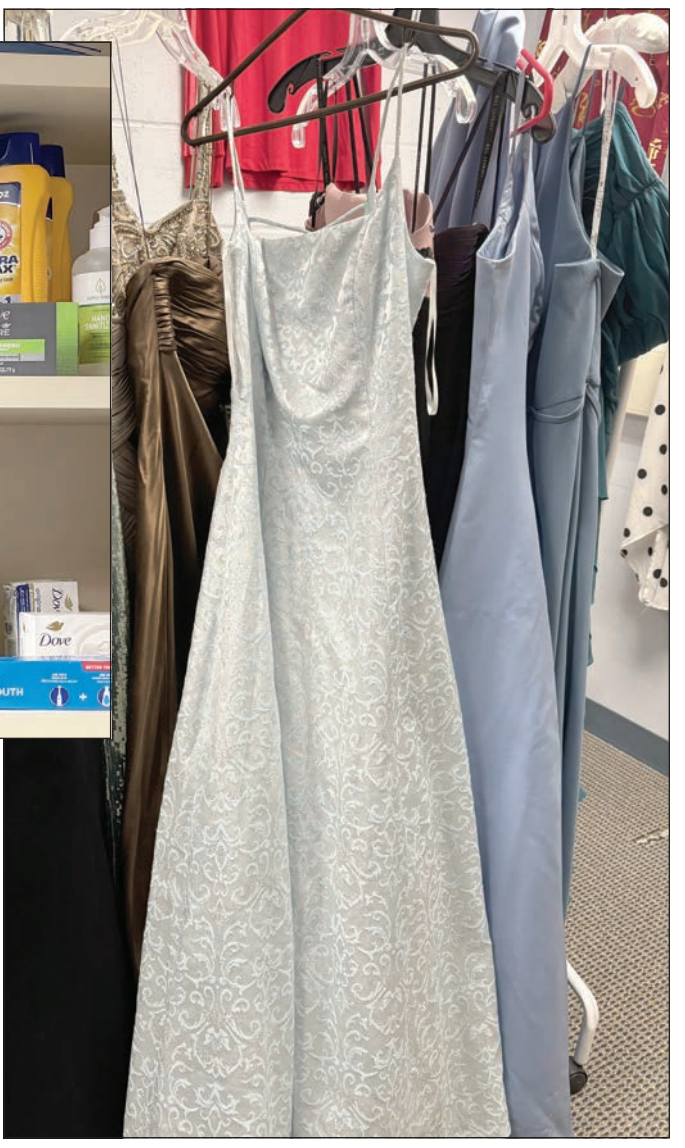
Donations to the Student Stores at Gateway and Hampshire Regional can be made at It Takes a Village on East Main Street in Huntington.

Kinsella said that the United Way recently shared concerns about anticipated cuts in funding to programs like diaper banks. "We''ll just continue to respond to the community's needs and make sure we are providing some assistance, however we can," she said, adding that the rising cost of heat alone is adding to massive deficits for families.



Turley Publications photo by Wendy Long

The Gateway Free Student Store offers everything from personal care items to formal wear, with inventory supplied by It Takes a Village.



A new free student store opened this year at Hampshire Regional High School.

REGION

Allen Bird Club hosts program on hawks

SPRINGFIELD On Monday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. the Allen Bird Club of Springfield invites the public to attend, Hawks at Mount Tom at the Tolman Auditorium of the Springfield Science Museum, 31 Edwards St., Springfield.

This free program will be presented by Holyoke Animal Hospital Veterinarian Dr. Linda Henderson, who has been educating the public about raptors for many years with her annual celebration of Mt. Tom's fall hawk migration.

The Allen Bird Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing Greater Springfield area birders together since 1912. For more information, people may visit www.AllenBirdClub.org.

Stockbridge Festival Chorus begins rehearsals

STOCKBRIDGE – Rehearsals for Stockbridge Festival Chorus began Sunday, Sept. 20 and take place every Sunday from 1-3 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Congregational Church of Stockbridge, 4 Main St. for its Saturday, Dec. 12 concert.

SFC is a community chorus and open to anyone, who enjoys singing sacred choral music. Some experience is recommended, but not required and there is no audition.

Dress rehearsal is Friday, Dec. 11 from 4:30-6:30 p.m., which is mandatory. Concert is Saturday, Dec. 12 at 3 pm with the call being 1:30 p.m.

Dues are $50 per person (some scholarships are available; inquire when registering) which are payable upon the first rehearsal attended. They should make a check out in advance to Stockbridge Festival Chorus.

The last day to join is Sunday, Oct. 11. Singers may miss no more than three rehearsals. Any additional rehearsals scheduled are not mandatory, but highly recommended.

For more information or questions, people may email Tracy Wilson at tracywilson290.tw@gmail.org or text 413-822-8688.

FLORENCE

Florence Bank hires new team members

FLORENCE – The Florence Bank announces it has hired a director of credit and commercial operations and a commercial loan officer.

Liz Beaudry of Holyoke, joins the bank as vice president / director of credit and commercial operations, while Wayne Webster of Hartford, Connecticut, has been named vice president / commercial loan officer.

Beaudry has 26 years of banking experience, and prior to joining Florence Bank, she held the positions of senior vice president chief credit officer, vice president senior credit officer, and portfolio manager. She is skilled in leadership, team collaboration, adaptability, and problem-solving.

In her new role, Beaudry will manage the Commercial Credit Department and oversee the Commercial Loan Administration Department. She will assist senior management in the formulation of loan policy, strategic planning, budgeting, department structure, documentation, and maintaining the integrity of the loan portfolio.

Beaudry holds a Bachelor's Degree in business from Bay Path University, Longmeadow. She is a youth soccer coach and has also been named a 40 Under 40 by BusinessWest.



Liz Beaudry



Wayne Webster

Wayne Webster has 30 years of banking experience, including 23 years specializing in commercial lending, commercial real estate finance, and credit risk management. He is skilled in building and managing high-performing loan portfolios, structuring complex financing solutions, and driving sustained revenue growth across diverse market cycles.

In his role, Webster will develop, manage and deepen client relationships while supporting the bank's strategic growth goals.

Webster holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from University of Hartford, Connecticut. He serves on the Board for Bay Path University, Faith Tabernacle and Horace Smith Fund.

President and CEO Matt Garrity welcomes the bank's newest team members. "Liz and Wayne come to us with a wealth of experience in banking. Their prior experience and exceptional skillsets will be valuable additions to our commercial lending team, helping us strengthen commercial relationships and effectively managing loans for our customers," said Garrity.

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 13 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield, Springfield and Holyoke.

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS ❙ SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A **TURLEY** PUBLICATION ❙ www.turley.com COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE **Call us at 413.283.8393**

FOR SALE

REMOTE CONTROL RECLINER FOR SALE — BROWN — Leg lift, back goes back straight, lumbar with heat, cup holders. purchased March 2025 - Ramour & Flanagan - asking $500.00. Excellent condition, no delivery available; text/call **413-246-8301.**

ESTATE SALE

MOVING/ESTATE SALE
Everything Must go.
9 North Blandford Road, Blandford
0CT 2-4TH. 9AM-5PM

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split $240.00
Seasoned cut & split $375.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

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

SEASONED FIREWOOD, (1.5- 2 YRS) Stored inside off the ground. Cut, split, free delivery within 10 miles. $350 per cord. Call **413-218-3918.**

WANTED

WANTED!
CASH for:
- Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
- Electronics & Audio Equipment.
- Sports Cards.
- 70s/80s/90s Toys.
- Antiques & Collectibiles. Much, much more!

Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

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

Donald Roy
(860) 874-8396

WANTED

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688

JUNK REMOVAL

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.
Fully insured.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

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

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

ELECTRICIAN

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

SERVICES

DANNY'S ELECTRICAL SERVICES LLC
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small, free estimates, service upgrades, pools, budget friendly, committed to satisfaction, dependable & insured. Master Lic. #20773-A, Business Lic. #9310-A1. Text or call Daniel at **413-218-3301** or visit my website at **dannyselectricllc.com** to fill an online work request

GAGNON ELECTRIC
All types of electrical work. Fully insured. All work fully guaranteed. Free estimates. Lic. #14960A. **413-533-8867**

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST
Haley Remodeling offering financing. Windows, siding, granite counters, heat & ac mini splits, composite & pressure treated decks. **413-563-2229, Tim.**

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

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

LANDSCAPING

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Handyman Services
Licensed & Insured
Walker
Home Improvement
Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!
(413) 687-5552

SERVICES

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

LAND CLEARING

HENRY'S TREE SERVICE LLC
Clearing and forestry mulching for lot clearing, perimeter clearing,
1-5+ acres & stumping.
Certified & Fully Insured. Free Estimates.
Over 30 Years Experience.
Offering Senior Citizen & Military Discounts
Call 413-279-1050

LAWN & GARDEN

HEADS UP LAWN SPRINKLERS LLC.
Need sprinkler repairs or complete system check? We fix leaks, replace heads, troubleshoot problems, and add zones/ upgrade existing systems. Fast reliable service without big company prices.

Call 413-279-4122 to set up an appointment.

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**

SERVICES

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/ operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees, Free estimates/fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374/cell 413-237-9881.**

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

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

HENRY'S TREE SERVICE LLC
Tree Removal-Tree Trimming
Storm Damage-Structure Pruning
Forestry Mowing
Certified & Fully Insured.
Free Estimates
Over 30 Years Experience
Offering Senior Citizen & Military Discounts
Call **413-279-1050**

STUMP GRINDING

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

Henry's Tree Service LLC
We do what others don't.
We grind stumps of any size, provide cleanup and add loam and seed.
Certified & Fully Insured.
Free Estimates
Over 30 Years Experience
Offering Senior Citizen & Military Discounts
Call 413-279-1050

AUTO

CAMPERS

2011 KEYSTONE MONTANA MOUNTAINEER MODEL RKD LENGTH 33', 2 SLIDE-OUTS, REAR KITCHEN, SLEEPS 4, LOTS OF STORAGE. $7000. BRIMFIELD **(413)374-1880**

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

PETS

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS. Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines, 2M, 1F. 30 years experience. Available 9/25/2026. $1,200. Taking deposits now. **413-218-2321**

HELP WANTED

We seek an energetic, enthusiastic, and well-organized person for the position of
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR/ CLERICAL PART-TIME.
This is a part-time position of 20 to 25 hours per week at $680, depending on Workload. Need to be detail-oriented, possess good customer service skills, some cash & items handling skills. *Apply Email:*
wowwhunn@outlook.com

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE
Duplex for sale at 812/814 East Street Ludlow.

Built in 1974, each unit has 2 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, private basements, gas heat and central air on 0.23 acres of land.
Great rental potential, good location with nearby schools and close access to the highway.
The house needs cosmetic updates. Property is being sold strictly in AS–IS condition. Priced accordingly $425,000.
Call **617- 877- 3455** if interested.

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.

ROOM FOR RENT

Short Term Room Rental. Enjoy a peaceful, comfortable stay at Paradise Lake sanctuary in Monson. Fully furnished room available for short term rental. Available Oct. 1st.
- All utilities included
- Full kitchen access
- Laundry access
- Pets welcome
- Quiet, welcoming setting
- Ideal for traveling professionals or temporary stays.

For rates, availability and more information call Teri, 413-381-7950

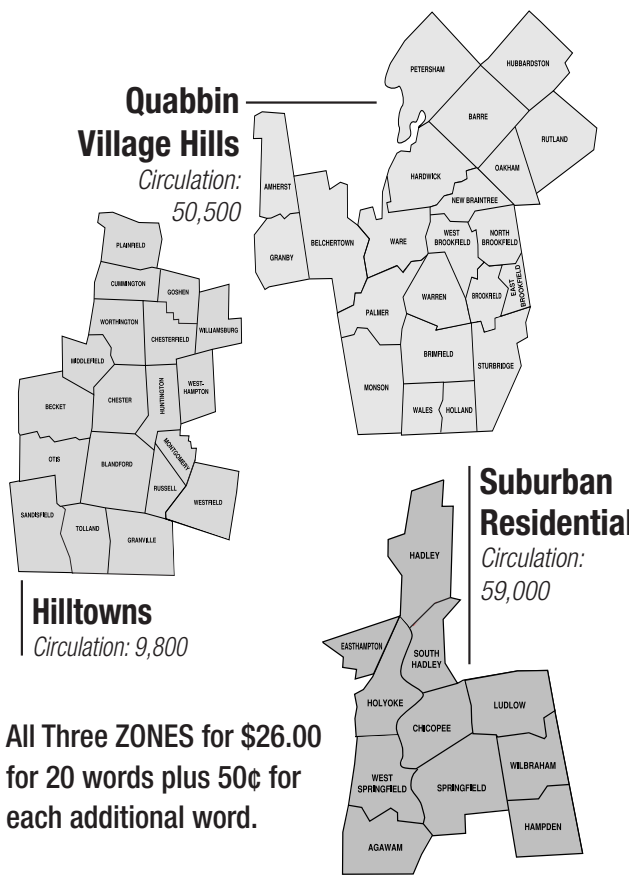
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

DEADLINES: *FRIDAY AT NOON*

CATEGORY:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price $26.00
21 Base Price $26.50	22 Base Price $27.00	23 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



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

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: _____

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to **Turley Publications**

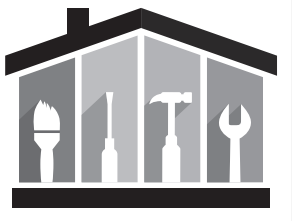
OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

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 advertising 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.

Advertise your
HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES
in our classifieds.
WE GET RESULTS!
Call **413-283-8393**





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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No.
HS26P0611EA
Estate of:
Lorena E. Belhumeur
Also Known As:
Lori Belhumeur
Date of Death:
August 06, 2026
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Roy S. Belhumeur of Ledyard, CT**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Roy S. Belhumeur of Ledyard, CT 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.
10/01/2026

Middlefield
Conservation Commission
Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131 Section 40. The Middlefield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday October 14th, 2026 at 6:30 PM** at the Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield Massachusetts 01243. The Town Of Middlefield Massachusetts is submitting a **Notice Of Intent** regarding the Cone Road Stream Crossing Improvement Project. Any interested persons wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.
10/01/2026

Town of Russell
Notice of Public Hearing
Removal of Shade Trees

Pursuant to Chapter 87 of the Massachusetts General Laws, there will be a public hearing at Russell Town Hall, Selectboard Office, **Tuesday October 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM**, to consider the removal of certain public shade trees located at 140 Highland Avenue. Specific trees have been posted in accordance with the law. Any person objecting to the removal of one or more of the trees must make their objection in writing at or before this public hearing.

Louis E. Garlo, Tree Warden
10/01, 10/08/2026

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as thelaw demands. Thank you.

PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

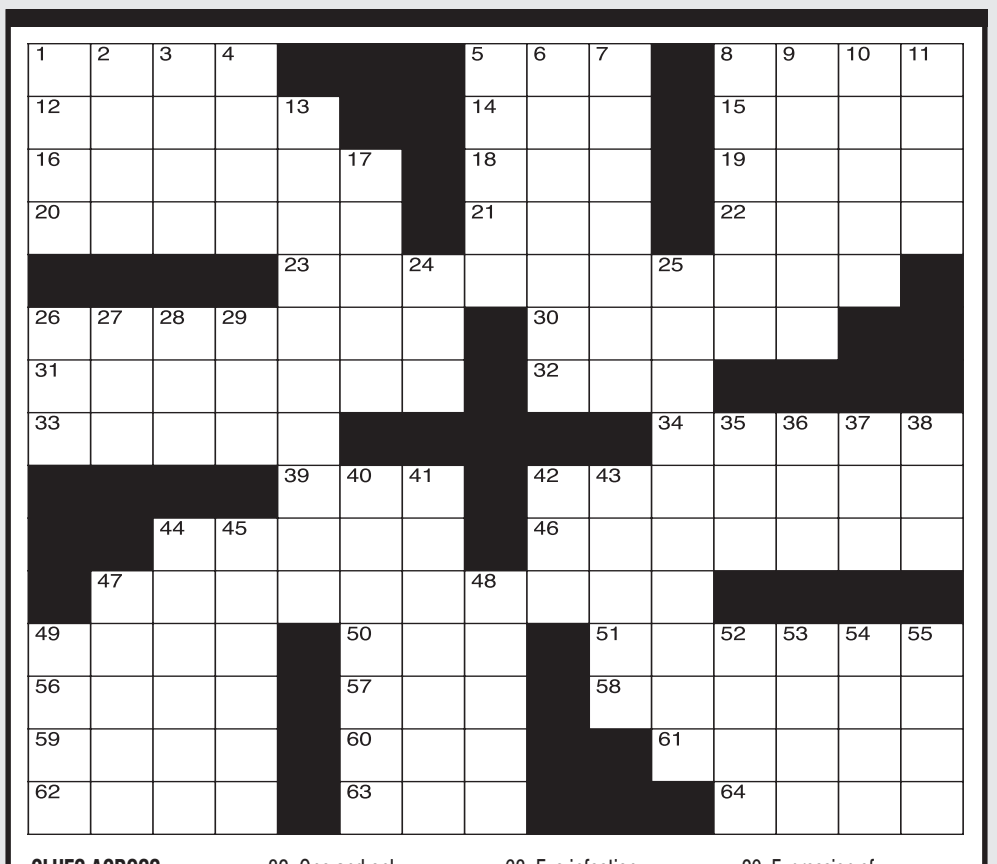
visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Country Journal
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary,** costing $275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.



CLUES ACROSS
1. "Wicker Man" actor Nic
5. Protection
8. Cloth worn over a shoulder
12. Ceramic jars
14. Midway between northeast and east
15. South American hummingbird
16. Platforms
18. Taxi
19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
20. A citizen of Yemen
21. Military mailbox
22. Nuclear near reach weapon
23. Clears
26. Broken
30. Actress Lathan
31. Avid fan
32. One and only
33. Proceeding
34. River in Portugal and Spain
39. Doctor of Education
42. Defeat handily
44. Less complicated
46. Handyman tools
47. Written works
49. Castle dweller's safety net
50. Honorable title (Turkish)
51. Greatest
56. Can do
57. A place to sleep on the road
58. Member of U.S. Navy
59. 24-hour units of time
60. Actor Horsley
61. In a way, sounds off
62. Formerly (archaic)
63. Eye infection
64. Plundered

CLUES DOWN
1. William __, Buffalo Bill
2. Wings
3. Candle or lantern
4. Freedom from difficulty
5. A type of pie
6. Metrical foot
7. __ Kerr, actress
8. Nap
9. Popular singer Bocelli
10. Immune responses
11. "Mad Men" leading man
13. A citizen of Senegal
17. Philly basketball player
24. Not even
25. Measures wind speed
26. Insecticide
27. Jordan glided through it
28. Bird-like dinosaur genus
29. Expression of satisfaction
35. Big Blue
36. One point east (clockwise) of due north
37. Of she
38. Oral rehydration solution
40. Knocks off course
41. Popular cop show of yesteryear
42. Zhou dynasty state
43. Genus of gulls
44. Onion flatbreads
45. Declare as true
47. Of a lobe
48. Missouri county
49. Produced
52. Volcanic crater
53. Off-Broadway theater award
54. KU hoops coach Bill
55. Check for

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you will soon learn that any obstacle can be overcome if you set your mind to it. While a certain task may seem daunting right now, don't allow it to intimidate you.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Others are paying attention to you even if they seem distracted, Taurus. Embrace the scrutiny and do your best to reciprocate any special attention coming your way.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
Make an effort to be there for a loved one this week. You have a unique ability to listen and support others, and your loved one will not take your efforts for granted.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, if your energy and attention span is a bit scattered this week, take steps to ensure all of your responsibilities are taken care of. A respite is on the horizon.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, by observing others you can learn how they operate and make the most of your chances to work with them. Apply a similar approach to your personal relationships.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Try to tackle a financial project this week, Virgo. Select something relatively easy to begin with, and then go from there if you find yourself in a financial groove.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
It's time to get the creative juices flowing, Libra. Tackle a project around the house, like painting or rearranging a room. Look for a new creative hobby as well.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
You have a lot of energy and a need to strive toward perfection in all that you do. Those traits will prove valuable around the office this week.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
Keep trying to convince someone that your ideas are credible, Sagittarius. With a little more persuasion, you may win this person over and he or she will become a big supporter.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, even if you don't want to go along with what the group is doing this week, you may have to concede that what is best for the group trumps your personal preference.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, financial issues may be keeping you on your toes, but it's nothing you can't handle if you stick to your plan. You may want to do some tinkering, however.

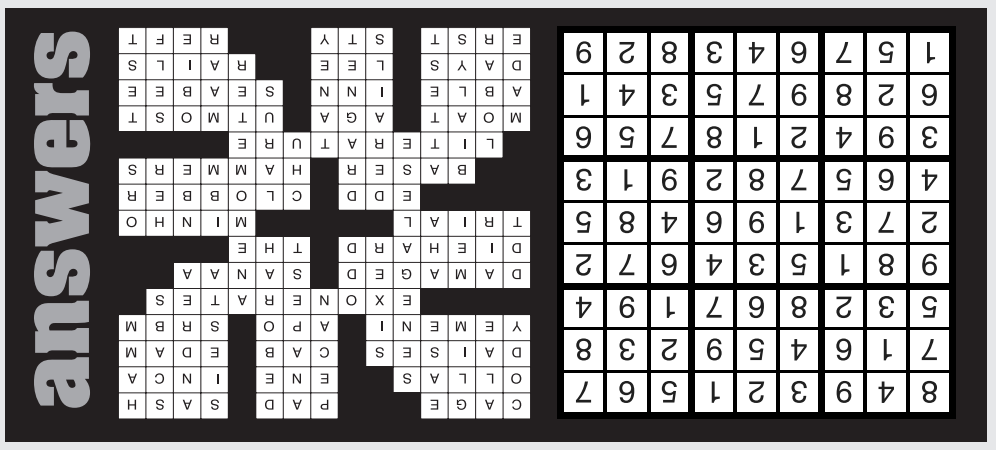
PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, continue to bring the right people into your inner circle. One person in particular has your eye and might be just what you need.

8		9	3					
	1				9	2		
								4
9			5		4		7	
2								
	6			8			1	3
3			2			7		
6		8		7	5			
	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!



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

WESTFIELD AUTO PARTS INC
CARQUEST
AUTO PARTS & SUPPLIES

NATIONALLY ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS

WHOLESALE RETAIL

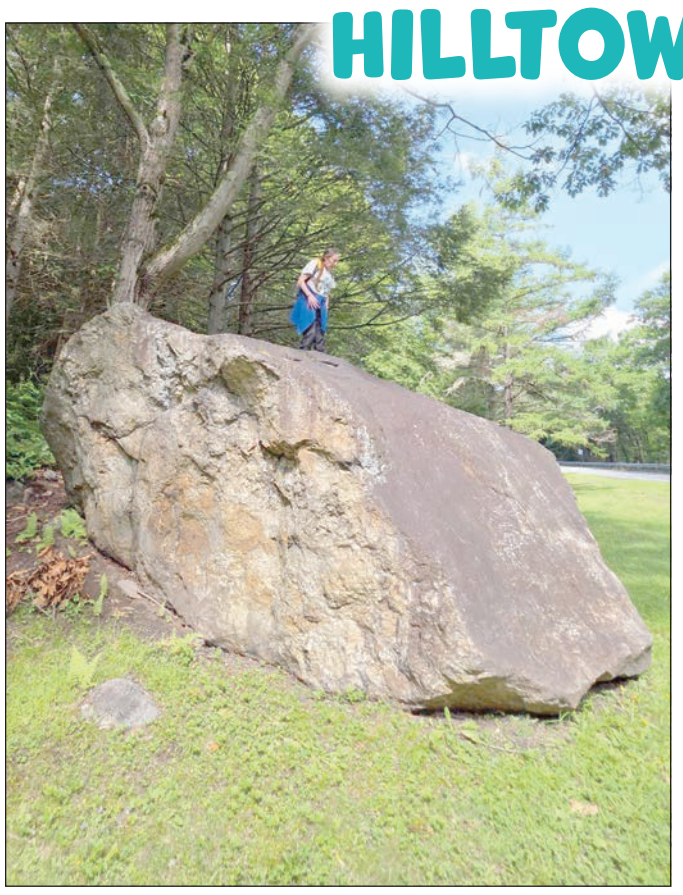
★ Complete Auto Machine Shop Service ★ Engine Rebuilding Of All Kinds
★ Authorized Caterpillar Hydraulic Hose Dealer ★ Hydraulic Hoses

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

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

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

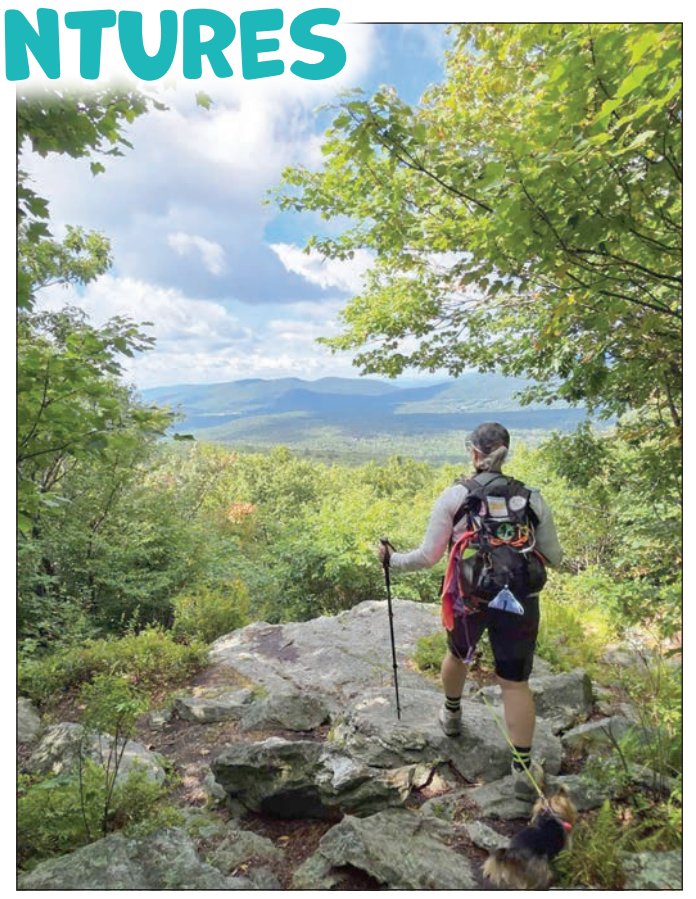
HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Yvette stands on top of a boulder at Boulder Park in Chester during one of the Hilltown Hikers summer hikes.



Hilltown hikers explore the Woroncco Potholes one of the most amazing Hilltown rock formations.



Submitted photos

Stephanie looks out over Round Rocks in New Ashford.

Looking back at an eventful summer

This summer was jam packed full of adventure nature and history for the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers.

The Hilltown Hikers took on new adventures including Westfield River Paddling, Deerfield River tubing and some great rock hounding and historical journeys.

At the end of the day, it's just the local Hilltown Hikers discovering new amazing places. Over the years we have pretty much tried everything out there and I can tell you it has kept us young.

Bottom line the best place to live and play is right here in Western Mass on the west side of the Connecticut River. So what does the group do?

The Western Mass Hilltown Hikers connect people wi recreation and education. For fifteen years, we have hosted monthly public hikes and tours that highlight the regions most remarkable places including the National Historic Landmark Keystone Arch Bridges Trail and the annual First Day Hike at Sanderson Brook Falls in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit since 2019, they conserve land, preserve historic sites and share the stories that define the Hilltowns. Founded by Karen McTaggart and Liz Massa, the organization has grown from two hikers exploring local history to a widely recognized leader in outdoor recreation, stewardship and heritage education.





Above, Littleville Lake and Dam in Huntington and Chester was great for a kayaking adventure. Left, they enjoyed tubing on the Deerfield River and survived it.



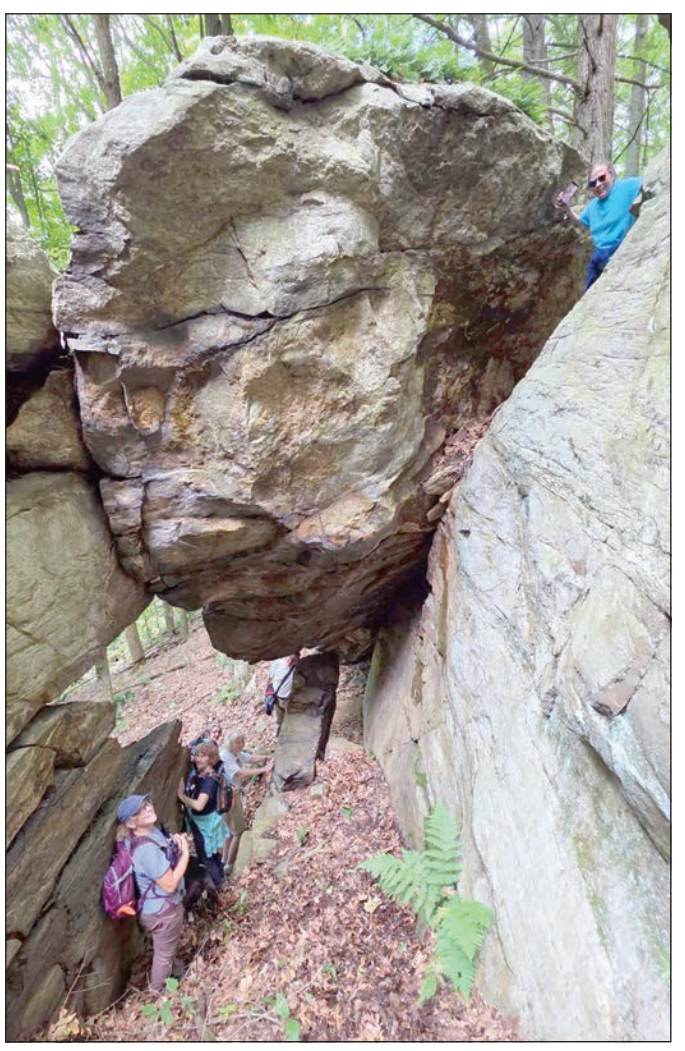
South Worthington Falls was another summer destination for the Western Mass. Hilltown Hikers

They work closely with DCR, the National Park Service and local historians to document and protect Western Mass history serving as the feet in the woods using GPS, LIDAR and field research to identify and safeguard important natural and cultural resources.

In 2023, they advanced their preservation mission with the purchase of the Historic Chester Granite Saw and Polishing Works, the largest shot saw granite finishing site in Massachusetts. Their work now includes restoring this nationally significant industrial landmark, creating an all persons accessible walking path, installing interpretive signage and constructing a historically informed protective structure for the original machinery.

Through guided hikes, historical tours and conserved properties, the Western Mass. Hilltown Hikers play a vital role in strengthening local communities and supporting regional economic development. They continue to expand their educational programming so that more people can explore, learn and

experience the extraordinary natural and historic heritage of Western Massachusetts.



The Hilltown Hikers never can resist climbing boulder at Flag Rock in Housatonic.



The Hilltown Hikers can never resist an old growth tree at Stone Hill in Williamstown

Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Country Journal

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS

PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN ASSORTED CHOPS $1.88 lb

USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS $2.29 lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN BABY BACK PORK RIBS 2 PAK $1.99 lb

SLICED IN OUR DELI

USDA INSP. VIRGINIA HAM $3.99 lb

USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE $4.44 lb

TAILGATE SPECIALS

USDA INSP. STOREMADE KOREAN BBQ MARINATED BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS $3.35 lb

USDA INSP. STOREMADE ITALIAN MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN BREASTS $3.99 lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF T'BONE or PORTERHOUSE STEAKS CUT FREE $9.98 lb WHOLE or HALF

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF WHOLE EYE ROUND $4.99 lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF $5.29 lb 5 LB BAG

SALE DATES: 10/1/26-10/7/26

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG $1.77 lb

USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG $1.77 lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN COCONUT CREAM PIE 27 OZ $5.99 ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN READY TO COOK FLOUNDER FISH BREADED $4.99 lb

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP SHELL ON 13/15 COUNT 2 LB BAG $19.98 ea

90 Meat Outlet

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

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

We reserve the right to limit quantities.