

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

October 3, 2024 | Vol. 46, No. 24 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

BLANDFORD

Volunteers help complete restoration project on Sept. 28

By **Mary Kronholm**
Correspondent

Weather cooperated, volunteers arrived and plenty of tools, paint, shrubs, bulbs and mulch appeared.

“When a community comes together, anything can be accomplished,” said George Reichert, who organized the day’s activities with help from the Home Depot Foundation,

Westfield Gas and Electric and Hull Forestry Products and 48 volunteers including 11 who came from Home Depot’s stores in Westfield, Wilbraham and Chicopee. The rest of the volunteers were all from Blandford.

The restoration work on the Volunteer Fire Department Training Center and Post Office building is 85% complete. According to Reichert, only 15% of the building needs the

rest of the finish coat and trim needs to be touched up. Anyone who can volunteer to help complete the work should contact Reichert at 413-848-2074.

Bob Twyman and Co Cousineau helped sign people in. Home Depot volunteer employees painted the building, the railings at the Post Office ramp and the flag pole, both of

RESTORATION, page 6



Jan, Magdalene and Dominic Zajko enjoy snack time; George Reichert is at the table.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

WHOOOO'S IN MY GARDEN?



This barred owl visited a Middlefield garden recently. The owl stayed about one hour and watched as Carol Boudreau decorated her yard for Halloween.

Photo by Carol Boudreau

BLANDFORD

Superintendant updates Select Board on schools

By **Mary Kronholm**
Correspondent

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara brought the board up to date on the Social Media policy which is being scrutinized by town counsel, KP-Law and it will come back with some changes.

A letter has been sent to the Nye Brook Road resident who puts out items with cautions about illegal dumping per town bylaws.

Highway Superintendent Rene Senecal joined the meeting via Zoom. He said that the work on Nye Brook Road has been completed and is trying to find out where work stands as far as the bridge on Beech Hill Road is concerned; what’s been done and needs to be done.

Line painting will move forward shortly and there is a need for additional funding for winter maintenance; parts for the sanders, for example. He will have amounts coming.

The Highway Department has surplus equipment that Senecal is working on getting ready to sell and is looking for

“fair market prices.”

Gateway Regional School District Superintendent Kristen Smidy told the board about grants and how the funding is helping students connect learning to ‘real life,’ persevering through difficult problems, engaging with local communities, tying books to projects as

well; citing the summer read on nocturnals and relating it to current educational projects. Also the welding program has more students than ever and additional staff has been hired to accommodate the load.

The full-day Early

SUPERINTENDANT, page 6



Gateway Regional School District Superintendent Kristen Smidy addresses Select Board members. Shown from left are Superintendent Smidy, Theodore Cousineau, Jeff Allen and Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

HUNTINGTON

Supt. attends Select Board meeting

By **Wendy Long**
Correspondent

The Huntington Select Board met on Wednesday, Sept. 25 from 5-8:22 p.m. to cover check-ins from Gateway Regional School District Superintendent Kristen Smidy and Highway Superintendent Brad Curry.

Chair Roger Booth, William Hathaway, and John McVeigh all attended, along with Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin. Smidy reported that more students are opting for Gateway vocational

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HILLTOWNS

Great River ride marks 37th year in the Hilltowns

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

On Sunday Oct. 12, get ready for cyclists with popping thighs in bright spandex as they whizz down the Hilltowns and climb back up completing what for many is an over 100 mile ride.

Last year 185 cyclists participated and they expect even more this year in what Bicycling Magazine called “one of the best century rides in the US.”

There are actually four road rides of 101 miles, 85 miles, 62 miles, 40 miles, a 72 mile gravel ride and for the modestly athletic, a 28 mile vineyard ride completely on bike trails. All of the cyclists start from the Sons of Erin in Westfield, beginning at 7 a.m. and all riders converge there for a post ride party. The “great river” in the name of the ride is the Westfield. The longest

rides take in all three branches of the Wild and Scenic Westfield River. Thirty years ago the river got a special designation from Congress for its scenic beauty, history and the recreation it supports.

Hilltowns residents are likely to encounter the road riders, who come up from Westfield on Montgomery Road to County Road and then cycle north all the way up to Notchview on Rte 143. They then drop south through Worthington and over to Middlefield before making a stop in Chester for baked potatoes before heading back to Westfield.

“The century is a challenging but spectacular ride for those wanting to see the best parts of our corner of the Berkshires in the fall,” says co-organizer, Carmel Steger, chair of the Friends of the Columbia Greenway. “The colors

are changing. It’s a unique way to see this corner of the world. Riders come from all over New England and we get people from as far as New Jersey. It’s really a word of mouth ride.”

The ride was started by Don Podolski, who owns New Horizons Bikes in Westfield, who still organizes it. The ride is now a fundraiser for the Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail in Westfield.

The group added the shorter, 40 mile ride and the vineyard run a few years ago to broaden the appeal of the race. These riders go south to Granby and take in the many fields of Southwick and northern Connecticut with a stop at Brignole Vineyards in Granby.

This cyclist's shirt displays colorful foliage just like the surroundings. *Submitted photo*



Heather Wyman of Westfield and Richard Peck of West Springfield cleared the river embankment of trash. They noted the challenge of nip bottles tossed onsite or upstream in the Hilltowns that wash ashore.

Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel

Westfield River Watershed Association holds clean ups

Volunteers participated in a clean up of the Westfield River in Westfield on Saturday, Sept. 29 sponsored by the Westfield River Watershed Association.

Watershed President, and Westfield State Professor, Mark Damon is encouraged by what he is seeing on the lower watershed. “In general, the trash is getting better. We still get trash dumped on the riverbank, but less than in past years. I’d like to think that there’s a shift in people’s thinking and maybe they are taking responsibility for the river. We haven’t seen things like large kitchen appliances thrown over the riverbank in recent years. We still get some construction debris. I found

some bags of busted-up drywall this fall. We still get people dumping household garbage and beer cans and leaving their barbecue trash. But, overall, I’d say we are seeing improvement.”

The group is sponsoring their next cleanup in West Springfield on Sunday, Nov. 3 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. They provide trash bags and gloves and encourage teens and children to work alongside adults. People should email Watershed President Mark Damon at: mjdamon@gmail.com to register or for more information. The organization encouraged those interested in local ecology and the river to join and participate in events.

MassDOT announces I-90 nighttime paving roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces crews will be performing nighttime paving, guardrail and bridge repair operations along I-90 eastbound and westbound from now through Thursday night, Oct. 3.

All work will conclude on Friday, Oct. 4 by 6 a.m. Lane closures will be in effect, and traffic will be allowed through the work zones.

In Otis and Blandford, paving operations will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 24.0 to 27.0 now through Thursday night, Oct. 3 from 6 p.m.-6 a.m. each night with work concluding on Friday morning, Oct. 4 by 6 a.m. Bridge work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 22.5 now through Thursday night, Oct. 3 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. each night with work concluding on Friday morning, Oct. 4 by 5:30 a.m.

In Lee, bridge work will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 8.1 to 8.4 now through Thursday night, Oct. 3 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. each night, with work concluding on Friday morning, Oct. 4 by 5:30 a.m.

In Stockbridge and West Stockbridge, bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 1.0 to 3.0 now through Thursday night, Oct. 3 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. each night with work con-

cluding on Friday morning, Oct. 4 by 5:30 a.m. Guardrail work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 5.5 to 7.0 now through Thursday night, Oct. 3 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. each night with work concluding on Friday morning, Oct. 4 by 5:30 a.m.

In Stockbridge bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound at mile marker 6.4 through Thursday night, Oct. 3 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. with work concluding on Friday morning, Oct. 4 by 5:30 a.m.

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

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

FODfest hosts free concerts to be held Oct. 6 and Oct. 7

Friends of Danny Festival is their flagship concert and the event from which Music in Common was born and will take place Sunday, Oct. 6 at 5 p.m. at the Egremont Barn in Egremont and on Monday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. in Studio 9 in North Adams.

The two concerts are free, open to the public and take place in October in honor of Danny’s birthday. FODfest honors the life of slain Wall Street Journal reporter, Daniel Pearl and features local, regional and national musicians in a

unique format that is part concert, part song swap and part jam session. FODfest is a living demonstration of the power of music to connect people, generating a sense of community, hope, and healing.

While the 20th Annual is certainly something to commemorate, it is also an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate all of the meaningful and important work of Music in Common these past 19 years. People should visit <https://www.musicincommon.org/calendar> for their free ticket.

Clark Art holds herbalist workshop

The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., presents the final installment on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. in its “From Ground to Cup” series.

This free event takes place at the Clark Center entrance. In this workshop, herbalist and healing practitioner Rebecca Guanzon gets us ready for winter and seasonal illnesses with mullein,

elderberry and cherry bark. Discover the natural immune-boosting properties of these herbs to stay resilient during the colder months. At the end of the talk, participants can create a take-home tea blend with the herbs explored in the workshop.

For accessibility questions, people may call 413-458-0524.

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HUNTINGTON

Domestic Violence Task Force hosts Community Vigil

HUNTINGTON – A Community Vigil hosted by the Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

The vigil is in honor of domestic violence awareness month. There

will be speakers, music, refreshments and opportunities to write messages of hope. Survivors and others impacted by abuse will have a chance to speak.

“Attending the Vigil is a great way to show support for victims and survivors. We need to make sure everyone knows that we stand with victims and

survivors and have zero tolerance for domestic violence,” according to Task Force member Mary Krol.

The Task Force encourages community members to come to the Vigil and can be reached by emailing southernhillstvtaskforce@gmail.com or on Facebook. The Task Force also

encourages those worried about the safety of their relationship to reach out to Hilltown Safety at Home by calling 413-693-9977 and speak with an advocate. For those who cause harm but want to stop, the Task Force recommends A Call for Change Helpline.

SELECT BOARD

from page 1

programs this year with early childhood increasing from 12 - 28 students and welding at full capacity, 48 students. Having a full time wood shop teacher this year has allowed them to also offer woodworking in the middle school.

In other news, forty five students will be visiting from Germany in October through band director Beth Guertin and will hold a joint concert as a culminating event. Gateway High School received a \$400,000 grant over two years through the Barr Foundation, which will be used for experiential learning in the community and student visits to model career education programs.

A \$250,000 PreK Expansion grant has enabled Gateway to increase to five days of preschool a week for students. They are slated to receive twice as much next year, which would fund PreK transportation. Smidy reported that they lost a grant that funded staffing, bussing and programming for the middle school after school program. This grant required that schools have the same 40 students attend every day, which is 23% of the middle school population. Unlike larger districts in cities that have YMCAs and Boys & Girls Clubs, this was the only after school program that our towns had. And unlike larger districts, 40 students represents a much smaller percentage. Smidy is following up with Senators Mark and Veilas and the state’s Rural Affairs Office next week. Representative Boldyga did not respond to a request to attend. Discussion ended with the towns’ need for resuming the wastewater training program for students and a suggestion from Booth to look into a program for additive manufacturing, which combines chemistry, machining and computer science. Smidy also said that Massachusetts School Building Authority is not able to look at supporting the roof replacement until 2027; in the meantime, the roof is not doing well.

Curry and the board discussed progress on road grading, which has fallen behind and needs at least another week. They also reviewed catch basin cleaning, brush cutting, equipment repairs and the highway budget. Both Police Chief Robert Garriepy and the highway department were part of attending to a dump truck rollover last week, and their time should be charged to that company’s insurance. He proposed a work session together to plan projects out for 2025.

Staff from the Transfer Station joined to discuss the upcoming paving at the highway yard and transfer station, scheduled for Oct. 21 and 22. This will require closing the station to the public for at least one day. They discussed ways to inform the public ahead of time. Also, 50 five-gallon bags of dog manure had been deposited at the transfer station, which is a board of health issue.



Kristen Smidy

Booth will instruct the Board of Health to follow up with the kennels in town. Someone also dropped off about 40 gallons of peanut oil at the highway yard; cameras will be reviewed to try to identify the person responsible.

In other business, the board signed a contract with Williams Paving LLC for the highway yard/transfer station paving. Stephen Trombulak was appointed to the Conservation Commission; Booth said he had been an environmental science professor in Vermont. “I think he’ll be a great asset,” Booth said. Also accepted was the resignation of Susan McIntosh from the North Hall Advisory Committee, as there is a possible conflict coming up between North Hall and the Conservation Commission, on which McIntosh also serves.

The board agreed to a letter of support for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission’s application for a HUD PRO grant. If awarded, it would give PVPC five years of funding to work on housing planning, production and affordability.

Bids were awarded to the following contractors for a number of upcoming projects. Awards went to M&W Heating, Inc. (\$27,500 to furnish and install an air conditioning/heat pump ductless split system at the police garage); Collins Electric (\$35,974 to furnish and install card access control systems at five town-owned buildings, plus additional funding for a handicap opener button at Stanton Hall and additional packs of cards). O’Connell Oil Associates was awarded the contract for town gas and diesel for the police and fire departments, and Down to Earth Excavating won the bid for heavy equipment and operator services to the town this fiscal year. Dead River Company had the low bid for heating oil for the town.

Peloquin reported that the railings at Town/Stanton Hall are now painted. A final walk-through is scheduled later this week with the vendor, architect and town administrator.

American Rescue Plan Act funds were reviewed and a motion was approved to remove \$70,417.65 for cable build-out from ARPA and allocate that cost to stabilization, as approved at annual town meeting. The card access system will be cost-shared between ARPA funds and the Stanton Fund; \$1,078.13 was approved from ARPA for the town hall boiler fix. This leaves about \$46,000 remaining in ARPA funds.

Finally, an all boards meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. to walk through required paperwork and mandated training that staff and appointees will need to complete on their own. Topics will include timesheets, security access, procurement, ethics training, open meeting law and public records requests.

Council on Aging lists events

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging will be hosting the following events at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

The Fall Birthday Celebration featuring cake and Bingo will be on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 1 p.m. On Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 2 p.m., David Bond Engelhard and Paul Hubleby will perform at the Hilltown Memory Café.

Public Health Nurse Kelly will

provide information on foot care and check blood pressure on Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 1-2 p.m. On Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 1-2 p.m., Sue Maxwell will lead a jewelry beading class; sign up is by Monday, Oct. 7.

All events are free and open to residents of any community.

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

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Veteran asks about special credits for military service

Dear Rusty

I just learned that if I served in the military during an active-duty period, I could get extra earnings for Social Security and that these benefits would be automatically added to my record, but I was never asked by the SS employee, who calculated my benefits if I was in the military. I took benefits at age 62 (2013) due to health reasons. Should I ask for a recalculation or is it too late?

Signed: Proud Veteran

Dear Proud Veteran

Thank you for your service to our country, for which you have every right to be proud. You likely heard about "Special Extra Credits for military service," which applies to those who served in the military during certain periods earlier than the year 2001. This rule can add up to \$1,200 per year to your Social Security earnings record for the years you served and, since your SS benefit is based on your lifetime earnings record, your military earnings may have been included when calculating your Social Security benefit.

But the rules for getting that "extra earnings credit" are a bit complex, and how much extra earnings credit you receive depends entirely on which years you served. Here's a quick summary:

SS taxes have been withheld from military pay since 1957, so your actual military earnings are already included as part of your lifetime SS earnings record.

If you served between 1957 and 1977, an extra \$300 for each quarter of active-duty service would be added to your military pay, up to \$1,200 per year maximum.

If you served between 1978 and 2001, an extra \$100 would be added to your military pay for each \$300 of active duty pay received, up to a maximum of \$1,200 per year. FYI, no additional earnings are added to your military pay for service years after 2001.

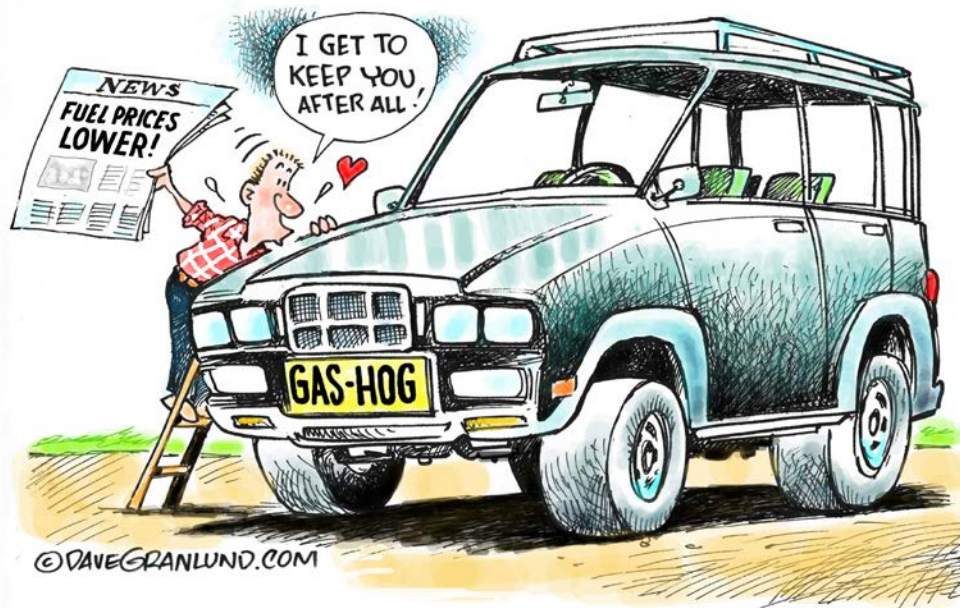
Those who served on active duty before 1967 should inform SS when applying for benefits about their military service (e.g., provide a copy of DD-214). For those who served after 1967, the "special extra credits" were automatically added to their military earnings record when they applied for SS benefits.

SECURITY, page 5

Corrections policy

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

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



GUEST COLUMN

Seeds among the weeds



If there is a consolation from having a garden gone wild, there was one today. You see, I went out for a walk to assess the garden and decided it was time to clean up my overgrown perennial beds. Lo and behold, there were seed pods galore, just waiting for taking!

I gathered up a bunch of envelopes and got busy. There were some really interesting native plants that had dry but intact seed heads, including Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Blue Cardinal's Flower (*Lobelia siphilitica*), and Native Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*).

I also had classic cottage garden specimens, including beautiful but poisonous Wild Foxglove (*Digitalis pupurea*), Rusty

Foxglove (*Digitalis ferruginea*) and then the oh so fragrant Clove Pink (*Digitalis caryophyllus*). A walk in the backyard yielded seed for the biennial Honesty, better known as Money Plant (*Lunaria* annual.)

Saving the seeds of this species is way more fun than just tapping a "pepper shaker" like I did with the others. *Lunaria* references the moon. Once you rub off the outer part of the seed head you are left with a silvery-white papery orb.

Some call it Money Plant because the orbs resemble silver coins. As I clipped branches and began rubbing off the sides between my fingers, they fell to the ground, each containing two-four seeds.

It was so much fun to gather all of these different seeds, and economical too, when you think about the cost of seed packs. You can extend seed saving beyond perennial or biennial flowers.

In fact, I got my start way back in the 1970s, learning the tricks of the trade from my mom, when we grew annual flowers together each summer.

Sure, I loved all the flowers that we

GARDEN, page 5



A Brimfield resident recently visited a pond on New Reed Street in Warren where he saw a northern harrier "cruising" over the marsh.

He said in an email, "The bird (northern harrier) dove after something on the ground then sat for a couple of minutes before taking off to cruise over the vegetation along the far side of the pond."

The northern harrier is 18 inches long. It feeds by coursing close to the ground and quickly swooping down on its prey.

This behavior is what the Brimfield resident observed. The male is grey above



Northern Harrier

and white below. The female is larger than the male, common in many hawks, brown above and streaked underneath. The immature harrier is brown above, reddish brown to creamy below and streaking only on the chest. Harriers eat mice, rats, birds, snakes, frogs and other small animals. They inhabit open fields, grasslands, prairies and marshes.

The female lays three to nine bluish,

BACKYARD, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

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

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

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

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ISSN NO. 0747-2471

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



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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Vigil in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By **Lindsey Maxwell, Sheela Haque, Monica Moran, Stephanie Conway and Donna Larocque**

*Southern Hilltown
Domestic Violence Task Force*

In honor of domestic violence awareness month this October, a community vigil will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 5:30-6:30 pm at Stanton Hall in Huntington, hosted by the Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force.

The Task Force has been working to reduce domestic violence in the hilltowns since 1998 when police, food pantry staff and local survivors asked towns in the region for help. Police were distraught because there were no local services to refer victims to, survivors did not have the resources to leave the community for help, and food pantry staff saw how many families could not

get a foothold because of the devastating impact of abuse in their lives. The towns agreed to create a Task Force.

In 2006, the Task Force launched Hilltown Safety at Home, which has helped hundreds of survivors find safety and is now a program of Hilltown Community Health Centers. In 2021, the Task Force helped launch A Call for Change Helpline, the first helpline in the nation for people, who abuse but want to stop. The Helpline started out serving Western Massachusetts, but is now statewide. Hundreds of people have gotten help in their efforts to learn how to be safe.

But services, whether for survivors or for people who abuse, are not enough. If we truly want to transform our communities, we need more. We need to be loud and clear that as a community, we stand with victims and survivors.

We need to be clear that we do not think anyone ever has the right to control or abuse another person – no matter what. If someone talks to a friend that we don't want them to talk to, they do not deserve abuse. If someone voices an opinion that is different from ours, they do not deserve abuse. If someone stands up for their right to make decisions about their own life, they do not deserve abuse. If someone decides they want to end their relationship, they do not deserve abuse.

We do not believe in a domination model of relationships. We believe in a partnership model. In this kind of relationship both people are equally valuable. Each person is treated with kindness and dignity. Partners respect each other, listen to each other, and share power and decision-making. There is a give and take. There is conflict, but it is always safe. Conflicts get resolved, and

sometimes the relationship gets stronger once the conflict has been worked through.

We are grateful to hilltown police, local survivors and food pantry staff for getting our work started in 1998. But our work is not done. As Marcie Biddleman from Futures Without Violence once said, "We have to build communities from the inside out in order to make change. And if we are going to ensure child well-being and reduce violence, we are going to need thousands of people working on it – not just service providers, but community residents as well."

We hope you can join us on Oct. 16. *The Task Force can be reached at southernhillsdvtaskforce@gmail.com or on Facebook. For Hilltown Safety at Home call 413-693-9977 and for A Call for Change Helpline call 877-898-3411.*

SECURITY

from page 4

It's important to note that the "extra credits" are additional earnings added to your military pay record – not an additional benefit amount added to your Social Security payment because of your military service. If, however, your military pay was included in the 35 years used to compute your Social Security benefit when you claimed, then your military pay affected your SS payment amount.

In any case, if you served in the military after 1967, the special extra earnings credits were automatically included in your military pay record and, thus, were automatically included when calculating your Social Security benefit when you applied. If your non-military working career consisted of over 35 years during which you earned more than you did while serving, your years in the military wouldn't be included when computing your Social Security benefit anyway (only your highest earning 35 years of earnings are included when calculating your SS benefit).

Although it's never "too late" to

request a recalculation, if you served after 1967 your military pay during your service years was automatically increased by SS to account for your military service. If you served before 1967, you could contact Social Security to ensure that the extra credits were included when calculating your SS benefit. FYI, here's a copy of the Social Security rules on this topic: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10017.pdf.

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.

BACKYARD

from page 4

white eggs in a nest of sticks and grasses lined with finer materials placed on the ground. Males are polygamous, mating with up to three females.

They often hunt at dusk and catch prey by sound as well as sight. Their owl like facial disk of feathers may function to help them locate sounds.

Other birds in Warren

Other birds at the pond on New Reed Street in Warren beside the northern harrier were an adult bald eagle, adult osprey, four great egrets, a great blue heron and a belted kingfisher.

On another trip to the ponds in Warren with his wife, the Brimfield residents saw two great egrets at one pond and one great egret at another pond. They also saw an adult osprey, a belted kingfisher, two great blue heron, three eastern phoebes and six mallards. The male mallards were in eclipse plumage.

Unsuccessful hawk watch

He also did a mini hawk watch – an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon. He said, "Unfortunately, the hawks chose not to participate." He did see a Carolina wren and two ruby-throated hummingbirds, one an immature male.

Feeding peanuts

The Brimfield resident likes to feed the birds whole peanuts. He fills a tray feeder every day and by the end of the days, they are gone. Blue jays and tufted

titmice are especially fond of them along with an occasional red-bellied woodpecker. This summer he has had up to eight blue jays at a time come for the peanuts. He said, "Lately the peanut tray has not been empty when I go out to take down the feeder and some days I only see one jay and most days and I did see three a few days ago."

I feed shelled peanuts in the winter in a tray feeder and they are very popular. I've had up to ten blue jays at a time and the smaller birds like titmice and downy woodpeckers come for them as well.

Wild turkeys

I see wild turkeys almost daily when I travel around town. It is either a group of hens with almost grown poults or a smaller group of Tom turkeys.

The Brimfield resident saw a hen with four half grown poults while driving away from his house

He believes this is the group that was seen in the yard some time ago when the poults were about half the size they were when I saw them on the road. He said in the email, "Just after seeing these turkeys another hen flew across the road in front of my car."

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

GARDEN

from page 4

exhibited in local fairs and cut for arrangements throughout the house, but what I'm thinking about right now are the seeds saved from all of the flowers that had gone by. Every May we would take the shoe box out of the "cellar way" and open up plastic film vials that she re-purposed as seed storage containers.

Cleome, marigold, zinnia, bachelor button, calendula, balsam were stored there – the names of the flowers in our garden keep coming back to me! She would write these names on a little piece of paper and use scotch tape to mark each vial.

How I wish I could go back there for a minute as we began our garden planning. Maybe next weekend I'll venture out to my patch of flowering annuals and see if any seed heads have browned and dried, and save a few of these seeds too, just for old time's sake.

Of course, you have to be certain that the plants you save the seeds from are open-pollinated and not F1 hybrids. Saving seeds of hybrids could give you something with the trait of each parent but not exactly what you originally grew.

You may also get a cross from an open pollinated and another open pollinated of the same type of flower. For example, one year I grew two different, large flowered zinnias side by side.

"Grandmother's Garden" and "Berry Basket" come to mind as the name of the varieties.

They were beautiful and I saved the seeds from them. Well, let's just say I call them "Large Flowered Zinnia" going forward, because who knows what they are anymore.

If you are interested in saving seeds of heirlooms for the purpose of continuing and preserving a specific variety, do your homework first and learn how you might isolate your plants from one another. I think it is a bit easier to manage growing flowers that result in seeds that are true to type by planting one named variety of each flower type each year.

Most seeds are viable for a couple years, so technically you could swap them out by growing one set one year and another set of favorites a year later. I encourage you to try seed saving; it's one positive outcome of an unmanicured garden, that's for certain.

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

News, photo publication policy

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

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

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



BLANDFORD

Cultural Council applications due Oct. 16 for programming

BLANDFORD – Applications for cultural programming that directly benefits the citizens of Blandford and neighboring Hilltown communities may be submitted now.

The deadline for all on-line submissions is Wednesday, Oct 16. Programming includes concerts, plays, art shows, library programs and classes in the community and in-school and

field trip cultural programming for the students at the Gateway Regional Schools.

Application forms and detailed information about completing them is available by visiting the Massachusetts Cultural Council website at massculturalcouncil.org/. The MCC awards \$7.5 million to 329 local councils, representing every city and town in the state.

COA plans luncheon, game and breakfast afternoon

BLANDFORD – Cooking up a storm with her food preparation skills and ideas, Joann Martin will have a fall luncheon on Friday, Oct.11 at noon in the Council on Aging room at Town Hall.

Shepard's pie, tossed salad and pumpkin cheese cake are on the lunch docket.

Breakfast, on Friday, Oct. 25 at 10

a.m. will be eggs Benedict, breakfast potatoes and sliced fruit.

There is no charge for either meal, but a \$5 donation is suggested to keep the program going.

People may call 848-4279, extension 400 and leave the names of people attending meals.

The monthly game afternoon is this Friday, Oct. 4 from 2-4 p.m.



Early voting takes place Oct. 21, 26

BLANDFORD – Early voting in Blandford is set for Monday, Oct. 21 from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall.

The last day to register to vote to be eligible for the Nov. 5 election is Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9-11 a.m. and again from 3-5 p.m. People may check their registration status by visiting the Secretary of State website at www.sec.state.ma.us.

Applications available for Master Gardener training class

BLANDFORD – The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association training classes will begin in February next year.

Applications are now available online at wmma.org. A nonprofit organization, WMMGA is dedicated to promoting good gardening practices and helping people expand those practices in Western Massachusetts.

Anyone who has an interest in gardening and furthering that interest can become a Master Gardener. An awareness of science and nature and

the commitment to a 14-week training is necessary to become a Master Gardener.

There is a \$375 tuition that covers materials. Classes are weekly online and a monthly in-person class in March and April and again in September and October as well as 60 hours of in-person service required by the spring of 2026.

More information is available by visiting the website at wmma.org.

The application deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 15.



SUPERINTENDANT

Childhood program has expanded to five days instead of four thanks to grant funding and next year the half-day Early Childhood program will follow suit. The band program will host students from Germany for two weeks culminating with a combined band concert with all musicians.

On the down side, two years ago the district was awarded a five-year grant requiring 40 students to be in programs totaling 400 hours for the year.

Unfortunately, the requirement is for the same 40 students to participate in the same programs for the 400 hours and this disenfranchised the district. Smidy is working with the Department of Education and state legislators to see if there is a remedy for the smaller less-populated school districts, who have received the same grant.

She told the board that there has been an uptick in the number of school threats nationally and Gateway is no exception. She praised the efforts of local police, who

were able to determine that a social media post for a threat to Huntington, was not meant for Gateway, but located in another state.

The meeting closed with George Reichert providing a report on the success of the restoration project for the Fire Department Training Center and Post Office.

Board member Theodore Cousineau conducted business in the absence of chair, Cara Letendre.

from page 1



Nancy Ackley organized the garden with Blandford's own Master Gardener Laurie Parent, who provided valuable knowledge and advice for Bicentennial Park gardens.



Home Depot employees volunteered and painted the Fire Department Training Center, railings and flagpole.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

RESTORATION

from page 1



Deb Brodie worked at digging out roots and weeds and removing layers of landscape fabric to clear the way for new plantings in Bicentennial Park.

which still need some work. John Piper formulated construction projects and Nancy Ackley organized garden work in Bicentennial Park. Blandford's own Master Gardener Laurie Parent was on hand to provide expert counsel.

And a whole crew of volunteers worked throughout the day to brush a special sand over the bricks in the park which will solidify and prevent any weed growth.

Volunteer firefighters worked the back of the building, painting. Fire Chief Adam Dolby helped.

The Blandford Bistro brought a selection of pastries and coffee for the morning break; hot dogs, condiments and chips for lunch and fresh, warm chocolate chip cookies for afternoon snack.

Bicentennial Park now has 250 tulip bulbs, 270 daffodil bulbs and 30 new azalea bushes, all tucked in with 175 bags of mulch.

"It won't take much to complete the work," said Reichert, who was drafted by the Select Board to chair the restoration project.

CHESTER

Hamilton Memorial Library announces upcoming events

CHESTER – Story and Fun Time for young patrons will continue to meet at 11 a.m. at the Chester Railway Station until further notice.

This is a great opportunity for socialization and developing new skills. The Writers Support Group will not be meeting this month.

Book Club meets Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council on Aging room at Town Hall. The club will discuss the murder mystery “The Guest List” by Lucy Foley, which takes place on an Irish island. Light refreshments will be served. Extra copies of the book are available.

Mushroom ID walk with a mushroom expert will take place Saturday, Oct. 19. People should meet at Sanderson Brook Falls, Route 20 in Chester in the parking lot at 9:45 a.m.



Story and Fun Time for young patrons will continue meeting at the Chester Railway Station until further notice. Recently, the children learned about trains. Submitted photo

On Wednesday, Oct. 30 a program UFOs of New England, will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. in the Chester Town Hall auditorium for a presentation by Travel Channel’s Ronny Le Blanc, seeker of evidence on UFO’s, Bigfoot, cryptids and the paranormal. He has been on the popular television shows, Expedition Bigfoot and Paranormal Caught on Camera. Ronny is a Massachusetts resident living in an area of unusual phenomenon and has written two popular books on his experiences called “Monsterland.”

RSVPs for all events are helpful by calling 413-354-7808 or emailing chesterlibrary@gmail.com. People should leave their name, how many attending and a phone number. People may also visit Hamilton-library.org for more information.

First vote on sale of CMELD

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

CHESTER – The Town of Chester has scheduled a Special Town Meeting for Monday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. to be held in the Chester Elementary School gymnasium, 325 Middlefield Road.

Article 1 of the meeting concerns the possible sale of the Chester Municipal Electric Light Department. Since Nov. 17, 2023, the town has been looking at whether or not to sell its own municipal utility company to Eversource. Eversource submitted a proposal to Energy Committee Chair Andy Myers that outlined the possible purchase of CMELD for \$203,985. This preliminary offer was dependent upon a full audit of CMELD, a records review and an infrastructure assessment of things like poles, vegetation, and equipment. Several public hearings have been held since.

Chester Select Board will hold their regular board meeting at 6 p.m. in the same location. According to Town Administrator Donald F. Humason, Jr., the moderator will call the STM to order at 7 p.m. and read the article, which states “To see if the Town will vote to authorize the sale of the Chester Municipal Electric Light Department. This vote constitutes the first of two required votes for the sale to proceed.” Humason said there will be time to discuss each article in turn and that anyone

wishing to speak will be recognized by the Moderator. Two thirds of voters present need to vote “yes,” meaning the town should sell CMELD to Eversource, for the vote to carry.

Humason said that voters need to check in against the town’s voting list when they arrive in order to receive a ballot to vote. “Nobody who is at the STM or in line to vote will be turned away,” Humason said. “Every voter at the STM will be allowed to vote.”

Humason explained that the count will take place right after the moderator closes the vote, but people do not need to stay if they don’t want to. “They are free to vote and leave. The town clerk will conduct the count and the moderator will announce the vote tally at the STM,” he said, adding that it will also be posted afterward at Town Hall and available by visiting the town website the TownofChester.net.

Humason confirmed that if the vote is to sell CMELD, the article has to go before the town and pass a second time to move forward. If voters vote the sale down, the issue cannot come up again for a minimum of two years.

Article 2 of the Oct. 7 meeting concerns a vote to transfer funds from Free Cash to cover expenses incurred in FY’24, ending June 30, 2024, to cover ten miscellaneous expenditures totaling \$16,512.67. A 9/10 vote approving is required to pass.

Mass DEP rescinds boil water order for customers

CHESTER – The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection rescinded the Boil Water Order for customers of the Chester public water system.

The Boil Water Order is lifted, effective Thursday, Sept. 26 Residents are encouraged to continue to monitor www.TownofChester.net for information. Free drinking water distribution at the Fire Station Headquarters will cease.

The Select Board and Water Commission wish to thank all the town employees and volunteers, who staffed the water tent during this event.

They wish to thank Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and DEP staff. They especially want to thank Big Y for providing so much of the bottled water, which was given to residents impacted by the boil water order.

The boil water order has been in effect since Wednesday, July 24 due to water discoloration and water treatment technique issues.

Since then, the town has replaced its filter bed sand and GAC filters, cleaned the clear wells, flushed the water system and fine-tuned its computer water-monitoring systems.

Hobo Harvest Dinner set for Oct. 19

CHESTER – Annual Hobo Harvest Dinner Fundraiser at Chester Railway Station will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19 at Chester Railway Station 10 Prospect St.

Musical guest is Mark Franklin. Menu is ‘Hobo’ beef stew, corn pudding from a railroad recipe, side salad, homemade rolls, choice of apple or pumpkin pie for dessert, lemonade, coffee, tea or water. Cost is \$14 for adults and \$10 for children under 12.

Reservations are a must by emailing Dave@chesterrailwaystation.net or calling 413-354-7878. People should leave a message with their name, phone number, number in their party and arrival time. People may choose to eat in or take out and should specify. All reservations will be confirmed. Cutoff date for reservations is Wednesday Oct. 16. The Chester Railway Station is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization.

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Sholom lists location and services available

GREAT BARRINGTON – High Holy Day worship with Congregation Ahavath Sholom, an affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism, is an inclusive experience.

Rabbi Barbara Kipnis Cohen creates an atmosphere of intimacy and spiritual connection with the congregation and with the liturgy and music of this awe-filled time. Services will be held unless otherwise listed at the Berkshire South Community Center on Crissey Road.

Registration will be required to attend any of the services listed below. For more information and to register, people may visit CAS website at www.

ahavathsholom.com and click the green High Holy Day Registration button. There is also an opportunity in the High Holy Day section on the website to list the names of loved ones that you wish to be remembered during the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur.

Services include: Thursday, Oct. 3 at 10 a.m. Rosh HaShanah Morning service; Saturday, Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. at Ahavath Sholom sanctuary, Shabbat Shuva; Friday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. Kol Nidrei Service; Saturday, Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. Yom Kippur Service including Yizkor and Afternoon Neilah Concluding service, location and time TBD.

WILLIAMSBURG

Final energy and climate education information series happens Oct. 6

WILLIAMSBURG – Indivisible Williamsburg and the Williamsburg Energy Committee are planning an energy and climate education series to take place this fall.

The final series information sessions will be held on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. in the Anne T. Dunphy School, 1 Petticoat Hill Road. The topic is “How to Save Money with Energy Upgrades.”

On Sunday, Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. the

topic is “How to Save Money with Energy Upgrades.” People will learn about Federal and state incentives and programs to help residents and businesses save money. It is presented by Lois Hayes, Green Energy Consumer Alliance and Saran Warren, Mass Save. Childcare and light refreshments will be provided.

ST. JUDE’S NOVENA

May The Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now, and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude, for granting my petition. C.D.

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WORTHINGTON

Hilltown artists show how they create this weekend

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

WORTHINGTON – This weekend, from South Worthington north to Plainfield, guests can learn how to do everything from throwing pot forms to oil painting from life, all taught by local artists of national renown in their home studios.

The demonstrations and talks are a part of the sixth annual Hilltown Open Studios Tour where 26 artists in 12 studios show how they live and create in the Hilltowns. The weekend of events (Oct. 5-6) is free and open to all.

“One of the things that is so special about this event is that our artists are very much dedicated to teaching and explaining their process. This is a unique opportunity to learn from masters and hone your own skills or just expand your understanding of the creation of art,” says tour organizer and watercolorist Kathryn Jensen. “A good example of this is ceramicist Mark Shapiro, who is a Smithsonian fellow and 19th century American pottery historian. He’s taking requests and will demonstrate what the audience is eager to learn how to create. Attendees will visit his studio and grounds including two wood-fired kilns all on the property of famous 19th century preacher, Russell Conwell.”

The schedule Saturday includes: Emmett Leader demonstrating how to work with local clay and press molds at 11:30 a.m. in Cummington; Valerianna Claff showing how to paint mist, fog and atmosphere at 1 p.m. in Chesterfield; Sergei Isupov talking about how he took a massive 150 year-old downed tree and turned it into a public sculpture at 2:30 p.m. in Cummington) and David Marshall showing how to paint from life with oils at 4 p.m. in South Worthington.

On Sunday Mark Shapiro will be taking requests on various pot forms at 11:30 a.m. in South Worthington; painter Lena Garcia will focus on yellow hues at 1 p.m. in Worthington while Sergei Isupov will reprise his talk from Saturday about turning a tree into public sculpture at 2:30 p.m. in Cummington.

This year the tour will be centered around Worthington, with the Tour Hub



Cummington artist Sergei Isupov will give a talk on both Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. about how he turned a 150 year old tree felled by a storm into public art.

Courtesy photo Project Art



Cummington ceramicist and mixed media artist Kate Wills is new to the tour.

Courtesy photo Kate Wills



Chesterfield painter Lena Garcia will be demonstrating the various hues of yellow in painting Sunday at 1 p.m.

Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel

and Artsfest being held in the Historical Society at 6 Williamsburg Road. Every hour on the hour during the event artists will be giving presentations. Guests are welcome to take in the fall scenery on the lawn and enjoy the Farmer’s Daughters Food Truck.

The studio spaces are open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. each day and the tour hub will be open from 10:30 a.m. -5 p.m. to offer printed maps and suggestions about studios to visit.

New to the tour this year are: Marcia Hayden Hendrick (painter); Emmett Leader (ceramicist); Lawrence Preston (painter); Angela Sciotti Vincent (painter) and Kate Wills (ceramicist).

Returning artists include: Adrian Almquist (potter and fabric artist); Pleun Bouricius (photographer); Alexandra Cherau (printmaker); Valerianna Claff (watercolor); Olwen Dowling (printmaker and painter); Michael Falcone (painter); Kathy Ford (fiber artist); Leni Fried (printmaker); Lena Garcia (painter); Laurie Israel (painter); Sergei Isupov (ceramicist); Kathryn Jensen (watercolor); David Marshall (painter); Guy Matsuda (potter); Jen Parrish-Hill (artisan jeweler); Kadri Parnamets (ceramicist); Greta Gnatek Redzko (painter); Mark Shapiro (ceramicist); Molly Smith (painter and sculptor); Cyndy Sperry (painter and ceramicist) and Susanna White (painter).

For the most updated information on artists and an interactive map people may visit hilltownartsalliance.org/open-studio-tour.

Wilbraham & Monson Academy
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m.



For families interested in grades 6-12, PG.

Meet faculty, students, parents and coaches.
Learn more about our programs and community. Tour our campus.

rsvp: www.wma.us/openhouse

HOW 'BOUT THEM APPLES?



The trees were loaded with apples at Jameson’s Apple Orchard where Huntington Community Apple Festival was held on Saturday, Sept. 28



The apples were falling off the overburdened apple tree branches. The apples are abundant like the acorns this year.

Turley photos by Deborah Daniels

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Chester Elementary School receives DESE certificate

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

CHESTER – The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education named Chester Elementary School a 2024 School of Recognition.

The certificate reads, “This significant achievement and honor is awarded to a small subset of schools. Schools of Recognition demonstrate high achievement and high growth, and meet or exceed targets.”

“This is the first time a school from Gateway School District has received this designation and I am filled with an immense amount of pride and joy,” said Principal Vanna Maffuccio. “My students and staff have committed to not only climbing mountains, but also moving them. I 100% believe that there ‘ain’t no mountain high enough’ to keep us from setting and reaching new, even mightier goals or to stop us from relentlessly upholding a culture of growth, excellence, perseverance, high expectations, achievement and innovation.”

Chester Elementary School was one of 50 schools to be recognized, out of over 1,700 public schools in Massachusetts. Selection is based upon high achievement and high growth on the part of all students, as measured on the state’s annual assessment system MCAS, but also sub-groups results by student groupings on the basis of gender, race, income, or special education needs.

“I just want to give credit to my students and staff. This is their award,” Maffuccio said. “I am so proud to be the



Fifth grade students at Chester Elementary School hold their “School of Recognition” certificate from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Submitted photo

principal here. It is a true privilege.”

Maffuccio reports that her students’ MCAS results have climbed in the last four years in several areas: progress toward improvement targets from 41% to 97%; accountability percentiles, a three-year average, which moved from 29% to 76% and progress on improvement targets for high needs students from 30% to 100%.

In 2024, Chester Elementary School students performed better than 76% of

K-5 schools in the state. “It is very challenging to meet this criteria,” Maffuccio said. “It is a hefty feat.”

The school had targeted English Language Arts as an area for improvement, having only received 1 of 4 possible points for performance in that subject area previously. Their data also showed problems with chronic absenteeism. Maffuccio reports that they focused on equitable and high quality instruction to all students. All students are learning

content at grade level, which she says speaks to incredible work done by teachers, paraprofessionals, interventionists and special education staff.

They also implemented a tiered attendance plan, which is managed by the principal, school nurse and counselor. It started with a letter to all families at the beginning of the school year stressing the importance of attendance. If a student is out, the school calls to find out why and offer “just right” support. In the school year ending June 2023, 24.7% of students were deemed chronically absent by the state. Last year, that stat dropped to 5%.

The school has also seen great improvement in science, which she credits to their strong Science, Technology, Engineering, Art Mathematics program. This year, the school has a dozen community members, who are helping students study everything from geology to the Westfield River during walking field trips. It is also known for its hydroponic planting studies, which grow food that goes home with students and is served in the cafeteria.

Maffuccio said that school also fully took part in free, high quality tutoring for ELA and mathematics offered through DESE. Student services are not offered during core instruction: all students remain with their classroom teachers at that time. But the daily schedule includes a “WIN” (What I Need) block for things like tutoring, speech or other support.

“We don’t do what’s easiest for us. We do what’s best for kids,” Maffuccio said.

Holyoke Community College offers free computer classes

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is offering a free six-week beginner computer training course starting Oct. 9.

The real-time, instructor-led online classes will run Mondays and Wednesdays Oct. 9 to Nov. 25 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Laptops and WiFi hotspots for internet access will be provided for students, who need them. The program was originally scheduled to start Sept. 30.

The program, run in partnership with the nonprofit CanCode

Communities, is aimed at helping individuals build essential computer skills for both personal and professional development. Participants will explore the Microsoft Office program, learn how to create resumes, manage calendars and send email and be introduced to the world of artificial intelligence.

Funding for the program comes from the Western Mass Alliance for Digital Equity. To sign up for classes, people may email to admissions@albanycode.org or call 518-238-6808, extension 702.

Colleges, universities list graduates

Bard College at Simon’s Rock
Great Barrington

Lucy Swindlehurst of Becket, graduated May 18

BACHELORS DEGREES
University of Massachusetts
Amherst

Audrey Armstrong of Easthampton, Aidan Gillett Chappuis of Easthampton, Claudia Cunningham of Easthampton, Erik Thomas Geertsma of Easthampton, Dylan Tyler Girouard of Easthampton, Miranda Lee Kortess of Easthampton, Sydney Lewandowski of Easthampton, Heather A Lohr of Easthampton, Emily Jane Marcelynas of Easthampton, Erin Rachel Caoilinn McElrath-Templin of Easthampton, Aurora Anne Mary Meehan of Easthampton, Aurelio Pagan of Easthampton, Iain Thomas Passa of Easthampton, Forrest Tyler Pritchard of Easthampton, Kala Cielo Garrido

of Haydenville, Georgia Trowbridge Horton of Huntington, Mary Jasmine MacNeil of Huntington, Caden Richard O’Rourke of Sandisfield, Colby Austin Lennon of Washington, Omar Abdelkebir of Westfield, Grace Emma Cannady of Westfield, Megan Julianna Clemons of Westfield, Mackenzie Rose Conroy of Westfield, Carlos Javier Flores-Skrubiski of Westfield, Ah Gue of Westfield, Samantha Lynne Kaubris of Westfield, Aaron James Kielbasa of Westfield, Anna Carolyne Kosinski of Westfield, Claire Elizabeth Lamarche of Westfield, Patrick Philip Martell of Westfield, Benjamin McCann of Alexander Richard Zimmerman of Williamsburg and Lydia Eva Pollard of Washington

St. Olaf College

Northfield, Minnesota

Hakeem Morgan of Easthampton, Bachelor of Arts in economics



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USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC \$1.29 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK SHORT RIBS \$8.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG \$2.54 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN ST. LOUIS PORK RIBS \$2.67 lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS ITALIAN MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST \$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOINS 10 LB BAG \$2.59 lb
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GOSHEN

Council on Aging announces events

GOSHEN – The October COA luncheon will be held downstairs in the Goshen Town Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at noon.

This month they have a special musical presentation after lunch from 12:45-1:30 p.m. by Martha and the Strummers, a 13 piece ukulele band. Three members are from Goshen. Lunch will be a medley of dishes from Panda Garden in Williamsburg including vegetarian options. They will have a delicious dessert too. It will be a Hawaiian theme, so feel free to wear the brightest colored shirts. People call Kerry at 413-268-9354 by Oct 2 to let her know they are coming.

Community Connections Group will be held in the Goshen Town Hall upstairs dining room on Friday, Oct. 4 from 10-11 a.m. This month they welcome Michelle Ryan, Ayurvedic Health Counselor and Yoga Educator. She will learn simple Ayurvedic self-care practices that can help alleviate stress, improve digestion and help balance body, mind and spirit. Ayurveda is the world's oldest holistic system of wellness. People can learn more at www.michelleryanyoga.com.

The COA will have an information table at the Goshen Library on

Saturday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. as part of a community event with many other fabulous Goshen Groups. The library is hosting a book, bake and tag sale at this event also.

On Tuesdays, Oct 15 and 22 Highland Valley Elder Services offers grab and go lunches. They deliver meals to Goshen COA on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Participants pick up their hot lunch at the Goshen Town Hall from 12:30-1 p.m. The lunch for Tuesday, Oct 15 is choice of Mediterranean baked haddock or broccoli and mushroom quiche and on Tuesday, Oct 22 the choice is turkey soup or eggplant Parmesan. The meals also include milk, vegetables and dessert. There is a suggested \$4 donation given to Highland Valley Elder Services to offset the cost of the meal. People should call Kerry at 413-268-9354 if they would like to sign up to get these nutritious and delicious meals.

On Wednesday, Oct 16 from 2-4 p.m. Games Group will meet in the library. This is a fun way to spend an afternoon. They have games available, but if people have a favorite they would like to play, bring it along. The group always open to learning new

games, as well as playing old favorites.

On Thursday, Oct 17 from noon-2 p.m. technology help is held in the library with Goshen resident Stephen Morley, who volunteers through the Tech Connect Program. People may bring any and all questions regarding their computer, phone or tablet. He will help problem solve.

On Tuesdays, Oct 8, 22, and 29 from 9-10 a.m. there are a variety of movement activities at the Town Hall for a variety of fun movement activities to keep us active and engaged. People should wear sneakers and bring their water bottle. All are welcome.

Goshen residents are able to sign up for foot clinics with Piper Sagan service of medically based foot care through the COA in Cummington 413-634-2262 or Williamsburg 413-268-8407). Appointments include assessment of foot structure, health of the skin, toenails and circulation. Nails are clipped and filed, dystrophic nails are thinned and painful calluses are reduced. Recognizing the importance of this service, the Goshen COA will pay \$10 towards the \$50 fee. Sagan also does home visits for \$80. People should call her at 413-522-8432 for in-home service.

Pizza and Dance Party happens Oct. 5

GOSHEN – The Goshen Open Space Commitee along with The Williams-Boltwood House will host a Pizza and Dance Party fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. in the Goshen Town Hall, 42 Main St.

Proceeds will benefit the Re-imagine Goshen Center project and the renovation of the historic Williams-Boltwood House.

The committee will supply pizza, salad and drinks, music, dance and a raffle. Raffle drawing will be at 7:30 p.m.; people must be present to win.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Cost is a suggested donation of \$20, sliding scale for children.

To RSVP and for any questions, people may call Lorraine at 413-268-3660 or email reimaginesoshen01032@gmail.com.

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CJ21TMC

BECKET

Church to hold tag sale Oct. 5

BECKET – The Congregational Church of Becket continues to pay for the powder post beetle damage to the church building.

They will be having a tag sale on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. to

help fund this restoration project.

It will take place on the grounds of the historic church Guild Hall on YMCA Road. There will be plants, gardening equipment, donated tag items and more.



Jim Petosa will facilitate a Writers Group starting Monday, Oct. 7 at the Becket Arts Center, *Submitted photo*

Becket Arts center hold first writers group Oct. 7

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will hold its first Writers Group meeting on Monday, Oct. 7 from 7-9 p.m.

Jim Petosa, Professor Emeritus at Boston University's College of Fine Arts, will be the facilitator, introducing prompts and other techniques to promote non-judgmental spontaneity and

creativity. The group will meet on the first Monday of each month excluding January.

Participants can come to all sessions or just once to try it out. The program is free to BAC members; \$5 per session for non-members. For more information, people may visit beckartscenter.org.



Robert Oakes

Arts center presents spooky evening with Robert Oakes

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will present a spooky evening with Robert Oakes, author of "Ghosts of the Berkshires," and "The Ghostly Tales of the Berkshires" on Friday, Oct. 4 at 7:30 a.m.

Oakes, who is ghost tour guide at The Mount and Ventfort Hall, will lead

a spirited talk on the phantom lore of Berkshire County, sharing excerpts from his books and reports of strange activity at many local landmarks including the Becket Quarry. Cost is \$10 for BAC members; \$15 for non-members. For more information, people may visit beckartscenter.org.

Arts Center to show documentary 'I Remember Better When I Paint'

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will present the documentary "I Remember Better When I Paint," which shows how the creative arts can change the quality of life for people with Alzheimer's, on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 5 p.m.

The film will be followed by a dis-

cussion led by Dr. Carolyn Newberger, a clinical psychologist as well as an artist. Part of the Becket Arts Center's Speaker Series, the program will be offered live at the arts center as well as on its Facebook page. Suggested donation is \$5 for non-members. For more information, people may visit beckartscenter.org.

BUCKLAND



Nancy Parland cooks at the hearth on colonial Day at the Wilder Homestead, 129, Route 112, Buckland. Colonial Day will be held Sunday, Oct. 13 from 2-5 p.m. *Submitted photo*

Wilder Homestead to hold Colonial Day on Oct. 13

BUCKLAND – Wilder Homestead Colonial Day will be held on Sunday, Oct. 13 from 2-5 p.m. at 129, Route 112.

People will step into the past at the Wilder Homestead and observe activities from the Colonial Era.

There will be open hearth cooking, farm animals, spinning, cross

stitching, music of the 1700s, cider pressing and Morris dancers

They will tour through the Saltbox Home Museum, the Shoemaker Shop and view the progress of the 1780 English barn restoration

Refreshments will be for sale. Admission is free.

HAYDENVILLE

Sen. Mark lists October staff hours

BOSTON – State Senator Paul W. Mark announces his staff will host office hours in Williamsburg for two days in October.

Staff hours are Tuesday, Oct. 8 and Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 1-3 p.m. in the Town Offices, 141 Main St., Haydenville.

Residents of any of



Paul W. Mark

the 57 municipalities in the Senator's Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Hampshire District are encouraged to share ideas on current or potential state legislation, or to ask for assistance with issues involving any state agency. Appointments are not required.

Congregational church holds lasagna and baked goods sale

HAYDENVILLE – Homemade lasagna and a wide variety of baked goods will be on sale Sunday, Oct. 13 and Monday, Oct. 14 from noon-3 p.m. on both days at Haydenville Congregational Church, 143 Main St.

The lasagna and baked goods will be available both Sunday and Monday of the October holiday weekend. Baked goods will include cookies, brownies, quick breads and assorted cake and pastries.

The lasagna will be fully based and ready to heat or freeze. It will be avail-

able in either meat or spinach, half-lasagna, four servings or quarter-lasagna, two servings. All pre-orders will be filled first and remaining lasagna will be sold to walk-ins while supplies last. To pre-order, people may visit the church website at haydenvillechurch.org.

Sale hours are Sunday, Oct 13 or Monday, Oct 14 from noon-3 p.m. at the church.

In honor of Indigenous Peoples Day, a portion of the proceeds will go to support the Ohketeau Cultural Center in Ashfield.

OTIS

LOCAL TOWN CLERKS ATTEND ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE



New Marlborough Town Clerk Katherine Chretien and Otis Town Clerk Lyn O'Brien attended last week's Mass Town Clerk Association conference in Southbridge. Other Western Massachusetts clerks who attended were Sandisfield Town Clerk Douglas Miner and his assistant Amanda Leavenworth, Blandford Town Clerk Doris Jeniolo and Cummington Town Clerk Brenda Emerson-Camp. The conference centered on election procedures. *Turley Photo by Mary Kronholm*

MONTGOMERY

Grace Hall Memorial Library announces upcoming events

MONTGOMERY – Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main Road, got a little something for everyone whether it's yoga, books, cooking or just enjoying go6 p.m. Cost is \$10 per session. This is or beginners through seasoned yogi; everyone is welcome. People may email Chris Brown at chrisbro40@yahoo.com to reserve a spot

Music in Montgomery is held Thursdays at 3 p.m. This live music is a perfect way to unwind and enjoy the local music scene.

The Cookbook Book Club will meet Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m. This month it's all about apples and pumpkins. The library has cookbooks available at the library to find new rec-

ipes. Participants should try out something new and then bring their dish to share with the group.

October reading challenge is "Dark and Mysterious." Participants will dive into a thrilling, spine-tingling read.

A book and bake sale is happening on Saturday, October 19 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Little Red School House. People can stock up on books for the winter months and grab some tasty treats as well. All proceeds will help fund the library's winter events. People may donate books for the sale and they will be accepted by appointment until Thursday, Oct. 10. The library has new puzzles available too to check out.

MIDDLEFIELD

MCC to hold service Oct. 5

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Congregational Church will be holding their monthly church service this coming Saturday, Oct. 5 at 5 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. The service will be led by Pastor Susan Borsella. A homemade chili

and cornbread dinner will be served following the church service. People can eat in or take out. The dinner is a free will offering. The church will also be holding their Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 at 4 p.m.

NORTHAMPTON

Chorus seeks new members

NORTHAMPTON – Heart of the Valley Chorus, a women's voices barbershop a cappella group, is inviting members of the community to sing along with them at several open rehearsals this holiday season.

Anyone aged 8 to 108 who enjoys singing in the "treble" range - soprano, alto, mezzo and high men's parts are encouraged to come learn a few holiday songs, with an option to perform along with the chorus at the Bombyx Center for Arts and Equity in Northampton on Saturday, Dec. 14. Singers under 16 are welcome with an adult.

"We wanted an opportunity to invite the community in to see what barbershop is all about," says Stephanie Flinker, a 30-year veteran barbershop singer and director of the chorus. "It can be intimidating at first, so this is an easy way for folks to try it out and have fun with us."

Heart of the Valley Chorus has been

bringing its unique blend of barbershop harmonies to the Pioneer Valley for 40 years. Members come from Longmeadow, Holyoke, Easthampton, Hadley, South Hadley, Leeds, Florence and Goshen and range in age from their 20s to their 7's! Singing a variety of music - jazz, Broadway, contemporary and inspirational - all in four-part barbershop style, the group is dedicated to sharing their music with underserved populations and creating a safe and welcoming space for all singers.

The group's open holiday rehearsals are scheduled for Wednesdays, Nov. 13, Nov. 20, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Christ United Methodist Church on Rocky Hill Road. Anyone interested in joining this special holiday program should email Stephanie at heartofthevalleychorus@gmail.com or visit www.heartofthevalleychorus.org for a registration form.

FFL will match every gift up to \$10K

NORTHAMPTON – This is an exciting time at the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Museum, the only presidential museum located in a public library in the nation.

Not only does 2024 mark the 100th anniversary of the 30th president winning his own term, but the Coolidge Standing Committee, which governs the museum and the Trustees of Forbes Library, have voted to initiate a plan to upgrade the exhibits and modernize the museum space.

The Coolidge Museum, which receives no federal or state funding and has never charged an admission fee, has remained basically unchanged since its opening in 1956 and is now outdated. Its budget has come from a small endowment, minimal city funds and voluntary contributions, which are totally insufficient to accomplish the renewal project.

The Coolidge Standing Committee currently seeks funds to hire an exhibit's designer to re-imagine the Coolidge

Museum with new exhibits, improved archival storage and program space. This first phase is anticipated to cost \$35,000. The revitalization effort will greatly strengthen the museum's mission to give its visitors a well-balanced historical account of Coolidge's political and family life. They received generous gifts and pledges of just over \$20,000 to date.

Checks made payable to Forbes Library with "Coolidge" in the memo line can be mailed to Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum, 20 West St., Northampton, MA 01060

On Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m. there will be in person and livestream for the Coolidge Museum annual meeting with a talk by Julie Bartlett Nelson "Coolidge and the Road to the White House." Nelson is the head of the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum.

For a personal tour of the Coolidge Museum, people may email Coolidge@forbeslibrary.org or call 413-587-1014.

HOUSATONIC

Berkshire Pulse welcomes three new members to board of directors

HOUSATONIC – Berkshire Pulse, South County's dynamic dance and performing arts education center located in the heart of Housatonic, announce the recent appointment of three new members to its board of directors

Kelly Baxter-Spitz has over 30 years of experience in development and fundraising and has held leadership positions at Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires, Berkshire Country Day School, Indian Mountain School, Kripalu, and Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation since moving to the Berkshires in 2001. She currently serves as the Director of Development at Community Health & Wellness Center, a federally qualified health center with sites in North Canaan, Winsted and Torrington, Connecticut. Baxter-Spitz was first introduced to Berkshire Pulse when her daughter, Emma, began dancing at age 5. She then went on to serve on the Board of Directors for several years. She then took a 10-year break before returning in 2024.

Melissa Canavan was born and raised in southern California and pursued dance as an undergraduate at California State University, Long Beach. She first came to the Berkshires in 2015 to intern at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket. After her internship, she decided to stay in the region, working first at the Pillow, then at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington. Currently, Melissa serves as the Executive Director of the Berkshire Immigrant Center in Pittsfield. She holds a Master of Science in Arts Administration from Boston University. In addition to her professional work, Canavan volunteers with Latinas413, a group dedicated to empowering Latina women in Berkshire County, and continues to nurture her passion for dance by performing in local choreographers' works and as the founder and artistic director of her own dance company, the Melissa Martinez Project.

Sylvana Proano is the founder of

Casa Multicultural, a nonprofit organization that supports immigrant families and communities through art, dance, music and education. With over 10 years of experience in social work, Proano has a proven track record of working in the community for other nonprofit organizations. She began her career at Berkshire Medical Center, where she worked as a certified medical interpreter. When she became a part of the Social Berkshire Children and Families, now known as 18 Degrees, Proano's passion for helping families and keeping them together grew tremendously. She holds a bachelor's degree in social studies from a university in her home country of Ecuador. Her passion is to empower families, especially immigrant families, as this was the main reason she founded Casa Multicultural.

"Our new board members have dedicated their careers to improving the lives of the people in our community," says Gail Belmuth, Berkshire Pulse Board

President. "Their demonstrated, heartfelt commitment to diversity and accessibility, combined with their abundant nonprofit management skills, make them ideal additions to Pulse as we continue to grow and fulfill our mission."

Founded in 1995, Berkshire Pulse is a dynamic nonprofit center for creative arts whose mission is to build and strengthen community life through diverse and accessible programming including dance, movement, theater, music and performance. In its 6,500 square foot, multiple studio and office facility in Housatonic, Berkshire Pulse offers community classes for teens and adults, summer programs, and dance intensives serving almost 800 youth and adults from ages 3 to 90. Pulse's in-school and outreach programs serve another 1,400 students annually throughout the region. Workshops and performances reach hundreds more. For more information, people may visit www.berkshirerpulse.org.

WESTHAMPTON

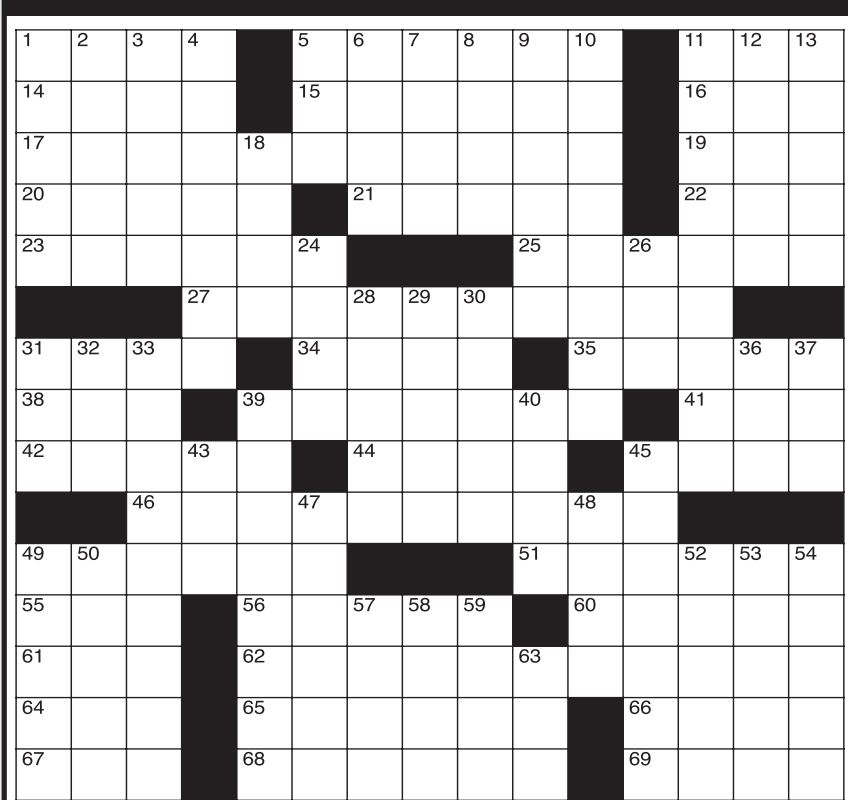
Council on Aging seeks bakers for this year's Fall Festival pies

WESTHAMPTON – The Friends of the Council on Aging announce that we have been given permission by the Board of Health to once again sell their delicious homemade pies at this year's Fall

Festival being held on Sunday, Oct. 20. They are appealing to local bakers in hopes that they will once again be willing to bake for this event. Home cooked or store-bought pies will be accepted on

Saturday, Oct. 19 between 11 a.m.-noon in the kitchen at the church or may be dropped off on the day of the fair beginning at 10 a.m. at the booth. The only restriction imposed on the sale is that

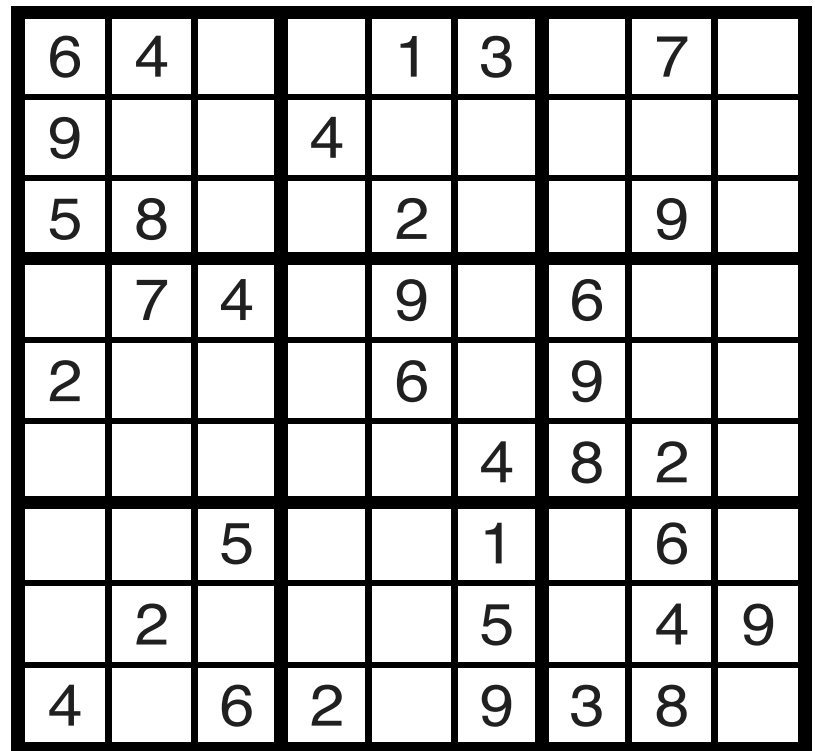
none of the pies can require refrigeration. The COA thanks people in advance for their help in making this year's pie sale the huge success it's been in the past.



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|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 42. Mother of Perseus | CLUES DOWN | 31. Wet dirt |
| 1. Separate with an instrument | 44. Ornamental waist box | 1. Brushed | 32. Russian city |
| 5. State clearly | 45. Officials | 2. Water sprite | 33. Observed |
| 11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon | 46. Uncertain | 3. Ones to look up to | 36. Irrate |
| 14. Broad in scope | 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish | 4. Monetary units | 37. Travelers need them |
| 15. Lacking social polish | 51. Extensive, treeless plains | 5. We all have one | 39. Musical composition |
| 16. Amount of time | 55. Your consciousness of your own identity | 6. Marine invertebrate | 40. Auction |
| 17. Frame | 56. Consumer advocate Ralph | 7. One who institutes a legal proceeding | 43. Form of "to be" |
| 19. Automobile | 60. Notable Spanish sports club | 8. Outer | 45. Women |
| 20. Caps | 61. Body part | 9. Parallelograms | 47. Inspire with love |
| 21. High school dances | 62. One's responsiveness | 10. Uncomfortable feelings | 48. Think Japanese ankle sock |
| 22. Utilize | 64. Woman (French) | 11. Cross to form an X | 49. Appears |
| 23. Checked | 65. Ready and willing to be taught | 12. Remove | 50. Old World lizard |
| 25. One-sided | 66. Muslim ruler title | 13. Some pages are dog-__ | 52. The lead dancer: __ ballerina |
| 27. Having an extreme greed for wealth | 67. Unhappy object | 18. Capital of Ukraine | 53. Protein involved in motion |
| 31. Potted plants | 68. Gradually disappeared | 24. A citizen of Denmark | 54. Rosalind Franklin biographer |
| 34. We all have one | 69. Able to think clearly | 26. Eighth month (abbr.) | 57. Popular 1920s style art __ |
| 35. Lake north of the Kalahari | | 28. Hindu queens | 58. __ Blyton, children's author |
| 38. Unidentified flying object | | 29. Acids structurally related to amino acids | 59. Abnormal breathing |
| 39. Aging persons | | 30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien | 63. A place to rest |
| 41. Small amount | | | |

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

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|--|---|---|---|
| ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Even though you told yourself you'll just suck it up and get through the week, you're having a change of heart, Aries. Some modifications are necessary to navigate the waters. | CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, your friends always have your back, but this week there is a disruption in your crew. Someone isn't playing nice, but a few words from you will smooth things over quickly. | LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
Normally you're satisfied to let someone else take the lead and make all of the decisions, Libra. This week you might need to be the one taking a leadership role. | CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Take inventory of your romantic relationship, Capricorn. You might need to put in a little extra effort if things haven't been as smooth as you would like. Don't give up on this. |
| TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, all bets are off this week, especially if you've been smoothing over your emotions to get along with someone close by. All true feelings are bound to come to the surface. | LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
You are anxious to get started on an exciting project, Leo. Others on your team may need a dose of inspiration. It could be up to you to motivate the troops. | SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
A surprising bit of information may be brought to your attention. You might be up for a promotion or an exciting change could be coming in your personal life. | AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, you are working at keeping everyone on the same page. Continue to emphasize the importance of teamwork. Others notice and appreciate your efforts. |
| GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
This week you may not be feeling like yourself, Gemini. Low energy have you feeling out of sorts. Spend some time with a close friend to get things back on track. | VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you made a commitment to keep things toned down. Enjoy the slower pace and take note of how the lack of hustle and bustle suits you. | SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
Don't stop now when you are so close to the finish line, Sagittarius. It may be a busy week ahead, but you will reap the rewards of your labors. Remain patient. | PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
It is not possible to make it all the way through your to-do list this week, so plan on some carryover to the next, Pisces. Space out your work so you don't get too overwhelmed. |



SUDOKU

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

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

answers

1. Separate	2. Russian city	3. Observed	4. Ornamental waist box	5. We all have one	6. Marine invertebrate	7. One who institutes a legal proceeding	8. Outer	9. Parallelograms	10. Uncomfortable feelings	11. Cross to form an X	12. Remove	13. Some pages are dog-__	18. Capital of Ukraine	24. A citizen of Denmark	26. Eighth month (abbr.)	28. Hindu queens	29. Acids structurally related to amino acids	30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien	31. Wet dirt	32. Russian city	33. Observed	36. Irrate	37. Travelers need them	39. Musical composition	40. Auction	43. Form of "to be"	45. Women	47. Inspire with love	48. Think Japanese ankle sock	49. Appears	50. Old World lizard	52. The lead dancer: __ ballerina	53. Protein involved in motion	54. Rosalind Franklin biographer	57. Popular 1920s style art __	58. __ Blyton, children's author	59. Abnormal breathing	63. A place to rest
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<p>WESTFIELD AUTO PARTS INC</p> <p>CARQUEST</p> <p>AUTO PARTS & SUPPLIES</p>	<p>NATIONALLY ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS</p> <p>WHOLESALE RETAIL</p>		<p>Now stocking Car Quest Filters made by WIX, Amalie Oil, Bailing Twine & Tractor Parts</p>
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	<p>Dial 568-8944 or 568-1611 FAX # 568-1554</p>		
	<p>WESTFIELD AUTO PARTS INC</p>		

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 The Trial Court
 Probate and Family Court
 Hampden Probate and Family Court
 50 State Street
 Springfield, MA 01103
 (413)748-7758
 Docket No. HD24P2070EA
 Estate of:
 Gerald Patrick Everman
 Date of Death: 11/07/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
 To all interested persons:
 A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Angela J McGowan of Rohnert Park, CA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
 The Petitioner requests

that: Angela J McGowan of Rohnert Park, CA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/28/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of

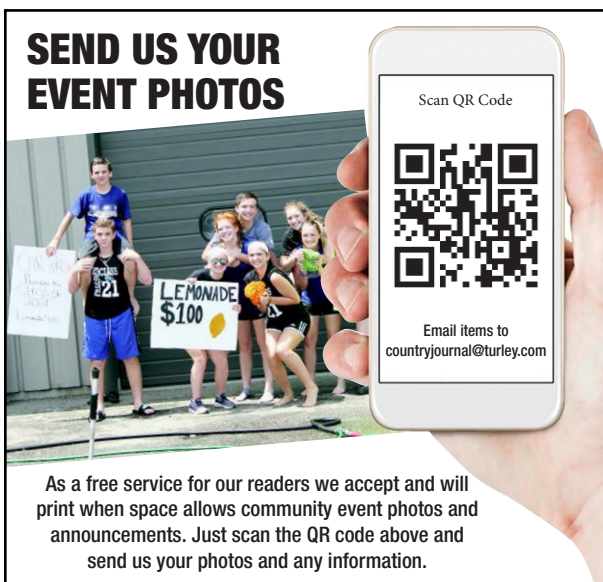
the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
 A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration
 WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 30, 2024
 Rosemary A Saccomani,
 Register of Probate
 10/03/2024
 Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 The Trial Court
 Probate and Family Court
 Hampden Probate and Family Court
 50 State Street
 Springfield, MA 01103
 (413)748-7758
 Docket No. HD03P1190VA1
 Estate of:
 Alice Koski
 Date of Death: 04/26/2003
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
 To all interested persons:
 A Petition for S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy has been filed by Tina Beaulieu of Chester, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other

relief as requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/22/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
 A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration
 WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: September 24, 2024
 Rosemary A Saccomani,
 Register of Probate
 10/03/2024

SEND US YOUR EVENT PHOTOS



Scan QR Code

Email items to countryjournal@turley.com

As a free service for our readers we accept and will print when space allows community event photos and announcements. Just scan the QR code above and send us your photos and any information.

Country Journal
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES 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 Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 20th.

Deadline for submissions is October 14th

Community Holiday Events
 Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

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

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 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
 *Be sure to indicate "Holiday" in the subject line of your email.

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HELP WANTED

PART-TIME SNOW PLOW DRIVERS NEEDED for the Town of New Braintree for the 2024-2025 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL license. If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at **(508) 867-2451** or email hwyssecretary@newbraintree.org.

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

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM P/T PROGRAM ASST. SENIOR CENTER

The Town of Wilbraham is looking for a part-time Program Assistant to work in our brand new Senior Center. Application Deadline 10/11/24 For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. EOE

REAL ESTATE

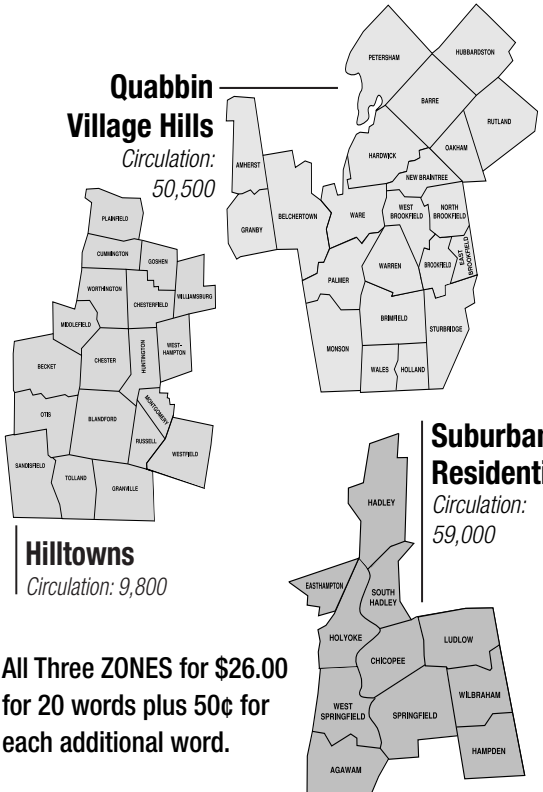
ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation,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

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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Hilltown Hikers paddle Lake Garfield shoreline

The latest adventure of the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers was a beautiful Lake Garfield paddle in Monterey. The lake has 275 acres of water and a public boat launch. The group paddled a total of 5 miles hugging the shoreline and seeing the famous Bull Head Rock. People may learn more about this great lake right off of Route 23 by visiting <https://www.friendsoflakegarfield.org/visiting-lake-garfield>.

The Hilltown Hikers have been doing a lot of paddling lately all over Western Mass from Plainfield Pond to the Westfield River. The new perspective of the beautiful hills and valleys from the water is refreshing and so is the escape from the late summer heat. The group has learned the paddle they use makes a big difference in their water experience. The materials a paddle is made from can make a huge difference to the overall paddling performance and

comfort on the water.

Some kayaks already come equipped with an included kayak paddle, but more often than not, these paddles are made from inexpensive materials, which can stunt your paddling abilities. Carbon fiber paddles are the best of the bunch and can be used by paddlers of all abilities to improve their technique and most importantly their comfort. In short, a carbon fiber paddle is worth the investment and one's wrists and arms will be thankful.

People don't have to lug a heavy 50 lb. kayak on their car, they can just inflate it. Inflatable paddle boards can be purchased with comfortable seats and used just like a kayak. People should get a portable air compressor and inflate and deflate in just a few minutes. Also, they fit in the back seat. People in Western Massachusetts are so lucky to have an endless list of places for water recreation so get out there and enjoy it.



The Hilltown Hikers followed the shoreline of Lake Garfield.



Lake Garfield was named for President James A. Garfield after his assassination in 1881.



Bull Head Rock in Parker's Cove was the flood marker for Lake Garfield. Two holes were drilled into the rock to gauge the flooding.



A Hilltown Hikers paddles an inflatable craft at Lake Garfield. They are so easy to transport. Submitted photos

Don't Miss Out!



The October 10 & 17 issues of the *Country Journal* will be **DIRECT MAILED** to all residents! This is a great opportunity to reach many potential customers.

CALL WENDY AT 413-283-8393
EMAIL: WDEL CAMP@TURLEY.COM

NOTE EARLY DEADLINES:

October 10 issue deadline is **Monday, October 7.**
October 17 issue deadline is **Monday, October 14.**