"Well done is better than well said." – Ben Franklin

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Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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BLANDFORD



Cast of characters portraying Blandford ghosts, from left Mandy LaBrecque as Doris Hayden, Connor Doyle as James Cook, Rylan Shepard as Rev. John Keep, Peter Langmore as John Collister, Randy Garfield and Jennie Coletta as Elijah and Fanny Morton Gibbs, Aaron LaBrecque as Freegrace Norton, Jesse Tappin as Samuel Fraanklin, Bruce Benson as George Ashmun and Michele Crane as Mrs. Josephine Sheffield Porter.

Turley Publication photos by Mary Kronholm

Ghost walk brings early residents to life

Well over 200 visitors to the Hill Cemetery Saturday afternoon learned historical bites and featured factoids about the town's earliest residents interred there and some not buried there and some whose stories carried forward to subsequent generations.

Jeri Hamel was in the first group to participate. When it was over, she said, "A great presentation; portrayals and costuming brought former Blandford residents, some we never knew of, to life, especially their involvement in quirky twists of American history."

Doris Hayden, portrayed by Mandy LaBrecque, met everyone as they first entered the cemetery. She had been the town's librarian for 24 years, a douser – a process she used to locate unmarked

GHOST WALK, page 6

A message from the Turleys

Dear Reader,

Every week a team of reporters, editors and people who assemble the paper work hard to bring readers information they need to know about their community. It's hard work and we love it.

Our goal is to provide a clear reflection of the community, and share stories about issues and events in your town as well as those about your neighbors, family and friends; in essence, a clear reflection of the community. We provide news that is difficult to find anywhere else.

Turley Publications has been doing so for over 60 years now, and enjoys being an integral part of the community.

Every year we invite residents to join those who already subscribe to the *Country Journal*, so they too can be informed and join their neighbors in keeping up-to-date on so many aspects of the community. We do that by mailing an issue of *Country Journal* to everyone in the Hilltowns on us, so you can see for yourself what types of information we provide.

If you want to know when and why your taxes go up, who is running for election, what successes and challenges are in your school system, what others are doing to make your community a better place, and so much more, we hope you will consider subscribing.

We also value your opinions and ideas. Please let us know what's important to you by picking up the phone and calling us. Let us know if we're meeting your expectations.

You can also call us to let us know about an important event in your family's life. That's why we're here.

We love being a part of this community and maybe even, in a small way, a part of your family.

We hope to be arriving each week at your home holding up that mirror, *Country Journal*.

Patrick Turley, CEO
Turley Publications, Inc.

BLANDFORD

Conservation project protects 580 acres

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

The Department of Fish and Game, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of Conservation and Recreation and The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts commemorated the conservation of over 580 acres in Blandford for wildlife and outdoor recreation.

This project conserves a key piece of land across the Mass Pike (I-90), connecting over 39,000 acres of adjacent protected land for wildlife migration and climate resilience. Lands are open to the public as the new 360-acre MassWildlife Blandford Wildlife Management Area and the 218-acres added to the Chester-Blandford State Forest.

According to Governor Maura Healey, the state is protecting clean water and wildlife habitat.

Division of Fish and Game Commissioner Tom O'Shea praised the project as an example of partnership to conserve large areas for people and wildlife. "Projects like this don't happen overnight—they take tremendous partnership and collaboration," he said, and thanked all involved.

"This project is a testament to what we can accomplish when state, local and nonprofit partners work together towards

PROJECT, page 7

HUNTINGTON

Gateway boy's soccer has largest turnout

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Gateway Regional School saw the largest turnout for boys soccer sign-ups in years, with 51 boys in grades 7 through 12 ready to try out in August.

With a 2026 graduating class of 35 students, it came as a surprise to everyone to have so many students sign up.

"It was completely out of the blue," said Athletic Director Matt Bonenfant.

In the end, a total of 48 students completed tryouts with Coach Andrew McCaul (Class of 1997 and a member of Gateway's only team to ever win a state championship) and JV Coach Joshua Turner (Class of 2006) deciding to take every one of them.

"It's a nice problem to have," Turner said with McCaul noting that it's the



Turley Publications Photo by Wendy Long

Seventh graders Henry DeGregorio and Evan Pappas are playing on the JV team at Gateway Regional School in Huntington, two of 48 athletes competing for the small school this fall.

largest turnout since at least 2021. Some of the recent years have not had a JV team at all in the program, McCaul said.

Turner is quick to point out that he does not believe this is a new norm. He sees the high number of seventh and eighth graders as an unusual bubble.

McCaul sees it as a tribute to first year GSR coach Turner, who has been coaching some of the younger children for years in teams run by the Gateway Youth Athletic Association.

Another, albeit smaller factor, McCaul said is that Westfield Technical Academy now admits students on a lottery system and has to take more Westfield students leaving fewer slots for Gateway students.

SOCCER, page 8

WORTHINGTON

Hilltown Open Studio Tour offers fun weekend to explore art community



Turley Publication photos by Ryan Drago

The Hilltown Open Studio Tour took place over the weekend with Worthington Town Hall serving as the Tour Hub. Pleun Bouricius of AgathaO Photography alongside her photography portraits.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer

The annual Hilltown Open Studio Tour allowed people to explore the art community throughout the hilltowns.

Travelers went off on a self-guided tour during the weekend of Oct. 3 and Oct. 4 to explore the studios of artists throughout the communities of Chesterfield, Cummington, Plainfield and Worthington.

This was the eighth year of the Hilltown Open Studio Tour which featured 23 artists from across the four towns.

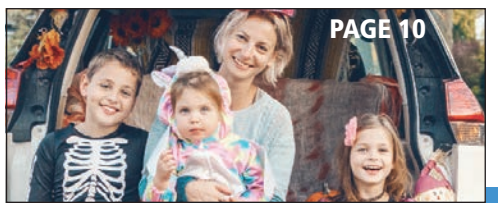
The tour is an extension of a previous organization that started over 20 years ago. Jan Roby of Worthington was one of this year's featured artists that said the tour was known as "Arts Alive" when it started.

The tour was created as a way for artists to meet each other and share their art throughout the community. According to Roby, the tour started in Worthington and then branched its way out to other neighboring towns.

"It's a creative hub," Roby said. The Worthington Town Hall served as a hub for the tour where artists can display their work and offer demonstrations.

Roby has been an artist for 70 years and works with welding, jewelry, fiber, photography, collage and acrylic paints.

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HILLTOWNS

MassDOT lists I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces daytime and overnight bridge painting, bridge repairs, guardrail repairs and road repairs on I-90 eastbound and westbound in the towns of Otis, Montgomery, Russell and Stockbridge

In Otis road repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 23.0 to mile marker 24.0 on Thursday, Oct. 8 from 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

In Montgomery and Russell bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound at mile marker 36.0 on the night of Thursday, Oct. 8 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

In Stockbridge bridge painting will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 6.4 nightly now through the morning of Friday, Oct. 9 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m.

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

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

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



BECKET

Becket Arts Center announces events

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, offers weekly all-levels yoga class with Rima Sala on Thursday, Oct 25, 22 and 29 from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Fee is $5 to $10 for members and $15 for non-members.

Tai Chi Chih class takes place on Wednesday, Oct. 21 and Oct. 28 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Instructor Sara Rotenberg guides participants though this gentle moving meditation that promotes balance, relaxation and the circular flow of vital Ki energy. This is accessible to all ages and fitness levels. Fee is $15; $10 for Arts Center members and $5 for Card to Culture members.

Beginner yoga class with Maggie Murphy takes place on Wednesday, Oct. 21 and Oct. 28 from 5:30- 6:30 p.m. A registered yoga teacher trained in vinyasa and restorative yoga, Maggie Murphy focuses on the foundations of yoga and emphasize its movements' influence on the body. Fee is $15; $10 for Arts Center members and $5 for Card to Culture members.

Basic watercolor painting, taught by local artist and instructor Suzanne Gammon, takes place on Friday, Oct. 9 from 1-3 p.m. This beginner-friendly class introduces students to the fundamentals of watercolor, including color mixing, brush techniques, washes, layering and composition.


Sara Rotenberg


Maggie Murphy


Lara Tupper


Dar Williams

Participants will learn in a relaxed, supportive environment while developing confidence and creativity with the medium. No previous watercolor experience is required. Class fees include all materials, though participants are free to bring their own: $40, $30 to $35 for members and $25 for Card to Culture members.

On Sunday, Oct.11 from 6-8 p.m., the Becket Arts Center presents a reading of "A Year of Magical Thinking," at Dream Away Lodge's Back Shed in Becket. Paula Langton, a professional actor and voice teacher, presents this spare, quietly gripping study of vulnerability, memory and grief, based on Joan Didion's award-winning memoir. Suggested admission: $10, and $20. Space is limited.

In advance of singer-songwriter Dar Williams' appearance at the Becket Arts Center, author Lara Tupper will lead a book group discussion of Williams' book, "What I Found in a Thousand Towns," on Thursday, Oct. 15 from 7:30-9 p.m. The event is free, though donations are welcome.

On Thursday, Oct. 22, from 4-6 p.m., the Becket Arts Center offers a workshop celebrating the Mexican "Day of the Dead" festival. Instructor Elizabeth Shrader, who lived in Mexico for many years, will demonstrate how to make sugar skulls using paste and molds, and help participants decorate them with colored icing, foil and jewels.

The resulting artwork may be used as part of a community ofrenda or altar, honoring departed friends and relatives. All materials are provided. Cost is $10 for adults and free for young people, ages 5 to 17. Preregistration is recommended, but walk-ins are welcome.

The Becket Arts Center will present an evening conversation with famed singer-songwriter Dar Williams, who will discuss her book, "What I Found in a Thousand Towns: A Traveling Musician's Guide to Rebuilding America's Communities – One Coffee Shop, Dog Run and Open Mike Night at a Time," on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 5-6:30 p.m. Her story-and-song presentation will describe how towns can build social capital one encounter at a time. Community leaders and the audience will then discuss their own experiences in fostering community spirit. For tickets ($45 to $50) and more information, people should visit becketartscenter.org.

For registration for classes and more information, people may visit becketartscenter.org.

Congregational Church holds turkey dinner

BECKET – The Congregational Church of Becket hosts a harvest turkey dinner on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 4:3–6:30 p.m. at the Guild Hall on YMCA Road.

They will be serving roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, butternut squash and apple crisp with real whipped cream for dessert.

Cost will be $18. Children under 12 are free. People may stay and eat in or do take out. They should call 413- 623-8300 for reservations or just walk in.



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Worthington – 47 Acre woodland sanctuary with home and guest house in Worthington MA. Home is at the end of a quarter mile driveway off a scenic road. 18th century style Cape, built in 1990, Extremely private compound offered at **$814,000**



Worthington – You will be impressed by this incredible three-bedroom home with a full in law apartment! Like new conditions. Everything you could ever ask for with a three-bedroom 2.5 bath dream home with a separate 2 Bedroom full bath, accessory unit for extended family Offered at **$799,000**



Huntington – A magnificent mix-use home in Huntington center. The 2nd and third floor have an expansive 3-bedroom apartment on two levels with bedrooms on the upper level. Beautiful natural woodwork and hardwood floors. The first floor has a commercial tenant but could be a residential use. Offered at **$335,000**



Worthington – A rare architectural gem, the Jonathan Woodbridge House, built in 1806, exhibits all the classic hallmarks of Federal Georgian design: elegant proportions, symmetry and magnificent carved Palladian details. The eleven gracious rooms retain original floors, paneling and moldings and six fireplaces Offered at **$875,000**



Middlefield – Historic Country Home + Hobby Farm with majestic views of the hills and local pastures. This beautiful historic country home has room for the animals and a two floor barn. Offered at **$337,000**



Worthington – A very special 18th century authentic reproduction post and beam on a tranquil country road. One of the finer homes in Worthington set on just under six acres of peaceful forest. The home was built in 1976 with high-quality craftsmanship. The home is built with vintage integrity. Offered at **$559,000**

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To Do List 2026

- Buy a truck body!
- Install airbags on truck
- Buy a trailer!
- Buy adjustable receiver hitch
- Get my trailer serviced
- Get 5th wheel hitch
- Install winch on trailer
- Buy parts for trailer

MORITZ

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Life Skill of Learning to Say 'No'

As October brings Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we as adults have an opportunity to teach our pre-teens and teens a key skill in developing healthy relationships throughout their lives: the ability to say "no" and to know they have safe places to have these conversations.

Research shows teens face pressure every day. Friends ask an intrusive question or push them for personal details they don't want to share.

A dating partner wants to be physical in a way in which they are uncomfortable or unsure. Someone pressures them to post an inappropriate photo or demands an immediate response to a text or call.

These may seem like small, isolated moments, but they are extremely important ones. Teaching our young people that healthy relationships are built on trust, communication, mutual respect and boundaries is paramount.

Teaching our pre-teens and teens to set boundaries, including saying "no" is an essential life skill.

Parents and other caring adults in a young person's life can assist them in finding the words they need: "No thanks." "I'm not comfortable with that." "I'm not ready." "Please don't share that."

Role-playing these situations can give them valuable tools and make it easier for them to respond when these situations arise.

We can take the time during these role playing situations or conversations with our young people to emphasize that healthy friends, partners and people in our lives respect boundaries. Repeated pressure, threats, manipulation, humiliation or controlling behavior are warning signs not signs of a healthy relationship.

It starts with us the adults in their lives. Young people learn by watching. We are role models in all we do, how we communicate, how we set limits and how we respect one another.

Our goal is not to control our adolescents' relationships or protect them from difficult situations. It is to provide them a safe place to have conversations and ask questions. We want to be sure to equip them with confidence, empathy and practical skills to navigate difficult situations throughout their lives.

"No" is a complete sentence. Every person, regardless of age, deserves to know and use it and to know that healthy relationships will respect it.

LoveIsRespect.org is an amazing resource; they offer advocates who are available to speak with you and the young people in your life.

They also compiled an annual webinar video: Main Character Energy: Real Love Respects. It features members of the Love is Respect National Youth Council as they keep it real about dating, boundaries and red flags.

https://www.LoveIsRespect.org and/or Hilltown Safety at Home at 413-667-2203, extension 341

As always, thank you for all you do,

Sheela Haque
Phil Barry
Stephanie Conway
Desmond Whalen
Lindsey Maxwell
Liz Massa
Mark Ames
Yvette Bigelow
Rachel Maiore
Donna Larocque
Members, Southern Hilltown DV Task Force

Voter supports Hendrickson for State Representative Third Hampden District

Rural communities in Western Massachusetts need to elect a State Representative who will show up for them.

We need someone who understands the challenges of living in a small town and who will fight for priorities like rural school funding.

Tom Hendrickson has demonstrated that he is engaged with the towns in the Third Hampden District. He is currently on the Agawam City Council, where he has worked to lower costs and represent residents.

To learn about the smaller towns, Tom Hendrickson has spent time going to Select Board meetings, attending fairs and community events, and hosting meet ups.

He has greeted residents at a pancake breakfast in Granville, hung out with locals at Carm's in Chester, and cheered the Wild Westfield River paddlers in Huntington and Russell.

He has attended the Littleville Fair and the Blandford Fair. Tom met with farmers in Southwick on Open Farm Day.

Tom met with Select Boards in Blandford and Chester, he hosted campaign events in Southwick and Middlefield, and has knocked doors throughout the district.

Our current State Representative is commonly known as "No-Show Nick" Boldyga, due to his absence from both the State House and our communities. Just ask your Select Board members or your School Committee members what he has done for them.

This is our chance to vote for someone who will show up and fight for our community. Please vote for Tom Hendrickson as our State Representative in the Third Hampden District.

Pam Dirschka
Blandford

Country Journal

We Want to Hear From You

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SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor



When will Congress repay Social Security money taken years ago?

Dear Rusty:
I seem to remember that Congress borrowed a total of 4 trillion dollars from SS back in the 1980s and 1990s. When will this be repaid with interest?
Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

I'm afraid your recollection is not correct – no politicians (Congress or Presidents) have ever taken money from the Social Security Trust Funds – not in the 1980s, nor 1990s, not ever.

Congress and Presidents are prevented by law from using Social Security money for any purpose other than paying SS benefits to beneficiaries and for paying the operating costs of administering the program.

Some significant changes to the Social Security program were, indeed, made in the years you mention, but those changes essentially saved Social Security from defaulting on monthly SS payment obligations.

In 1983, Congress and President Reagan enacted some income tax on received SS benefits for those with higher incomes and which added to Social Security's revenue, thus avoiding a benefit cut.

Then in 1993, Congress and President Clinton expanded that legislation to increase the taxation of received Social Security benefits to provide additional SS revenue.

What you may be remembering is the political rhetoric from those days, which opined that Congress had stolen, squandered or borrowed (and should repay) Social Security money used for other purposes.

And that rhetoric originated because of the way received SS revenue from payroll FICA tax is invested.

Social Security revenue, when received, is immediately invested in special-issue government bonds, which pay interest (just like normal government "T-bills").

The difference is that these SS bonds are redeemable, with interest, upon demand and as needed by SSA to pay monthly benefits. This means that SS gets additional interest income from these investments accounting for about $69 billion in extra SS income in 2025.

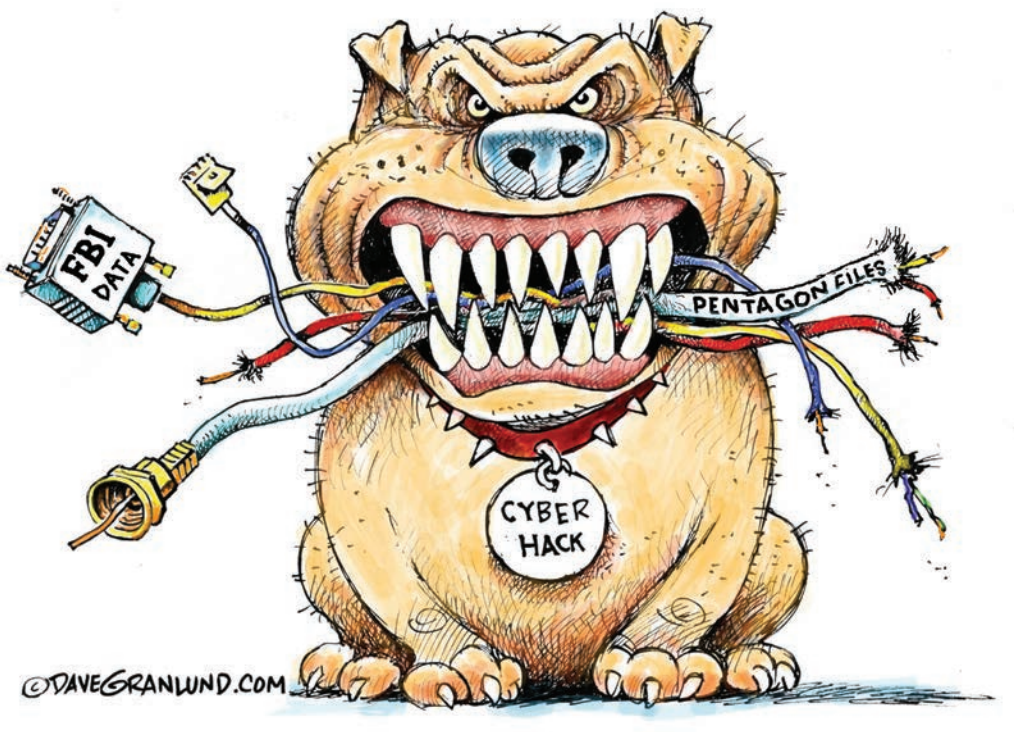
Some folks, however, feel that because the U.S. Treasury gets the actual cash received for those SS investments, that the money is used by the Treasury for other purposes. Which is, of course, true – just as the government uses all income received from all revenue sources to pay for government programs.

So, rather than viewing those SS bonds as investments, some view them as "money borrowed" and sometimes call the bonds "worthless IOUs." This, of course, is not at all the case, because every dollar invested in those special issue government bonds has been (and still is) used only for valid Social Security purposes and results in extra SS revenue from interest.

Nevertheless, those accusations were prevalent in the 1980s and 1990s when the changes to tax SS benefits were enacted. Indeed, we still regularly hear and refute similar rhetoric these days in our capacity as Social Security Advisors.

We've written many articles on this topic, all of which are available at the AMAC Foundation's two

SECURITY, page 7



GUEST COLUMN

Friends with more questions

in the Garden
by Roberta McQuaid



The threat of night time temperatures in the 30s sure have us gardeners on the move.

I had a few questions from friends this week that pertained to the change in seasons. Read on; maybe you can relate!

One of my friends asked if she should harvest all of her unripe peppers, and if they would continue to ripen indoors.

Peppers will only continue to fully ripen (i.e. change from green to their ripe color) if they are showing a hint of their ripe color. They definitely won't be as sweet as if they ripened on the vine, and they will lose a little of their mass as they sit, but they would still be a great addition to a stir fry or sauce.

I generally harvest all of my unripe peppers and keep them one layer deep in my cool mudroom, using or discarding as I go.

Another question came in about the use of Neem as an insecticide. My friend put her houseplants outdoors for the summer months and is concerned about bringing hitch-hikers inside where plants will be in close quarters.

We always spray tender plants such as Rosemary or Bay with Safer's Soap or a Sun oil before returning them to the greenhouse for the winter.

Neem works a bit differently but like the others is also a less toxic approach. Neem oil comes from the Neem tree (Azadirachta indica), which grows naturally in India and Southeast Asia.

It is an effective pesticide, miticide and fungicide for both indoor and outdoor plants. You can buy it ready to use or in oil form which needs to be mixed with water and a small amount of dish detergent right before use. This will help it blend nicely and disperse evenly.

Neem is effective against spider mite, white flies, scale, mealybug and aphids – all of which are typical houseplant pests. It kills them by disrupt-

GARDEN, page 5

in my BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer

eBird reported recent sightings of common nighthawks at the Rutland Prison Camps in Rutland and in Worcester.

The common nighthawk is a medium sized (8.7 to 9.8 inches long) nocturnal bird of the nightjar family found in both the Americas. It is typically dark colored: gray, black or brown with intricate patterns providing camouflage and making them difficult to spot during daytime.

They are mostly observed in flight. The slender body, long wings (wing span 20 to 24 inches) and

BIRDS, page 5

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

Election letters must be received by Oct. 16

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's state election by writing letters to the editor for publication.

Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to countryjournal@turley.com by noon on Friday, Oct. 16 to be published in the Wednesday, Oct. 22 edition. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

Letter writers need to provide their name and the town they reside in.

Please include a daytime telephone number (for verification purposes only) when submitting your letter. Your phone number will not be printed.

HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



The Hilltown Hikers stand on some rocky ledges above the old Chester campground.



The hikers stop to look at the view form the H. Newman Marsh Lookout. *Submitted photos*

Hikers trek old discontinued trails

Every state forest has old discontinued trails. Here at Chester Blandford State Forest in Chester there were trails from the old Chester Campground including the Lookout Ledge Trail up on ledge high above the campground.

There was also a trail that climbed steeply up the mountainside that connected to the Mica Mine Trail and H. Newman Marsh Trail getting you to the very top making a loop to the Sanderson Brook Falls trailhead.

Modern day mapping like lidar make these old routes followable if you are very good with gps. These trails are hardly blazed anymore (just a few here and there) and not maintained but do include the history of this big State Forest that encompasses both Chester and Blandford.

A big reason why these trails are no longer maintained are because of extreme slope, erosion problems and areas that do not connect to the main trail system and of course limited staffing to maintain these trails.

Before I was a member of the Jacobs Ladder Scenic Byway, the H. Newman Marsh Trail was created by volunteers in that group at the state forest climbing high up above the Sanderson Brook Falls parking lot.

This was done by members of the JLT to honor H. Newman Marsh, who was a staple of the Hilltowns back in the day, you are reading one of his accomplishments, The Country Journal.

Interestingly enough, these blue blazes, usually with acorns on them have been found near Boulder Park and also here at the Old Campground.

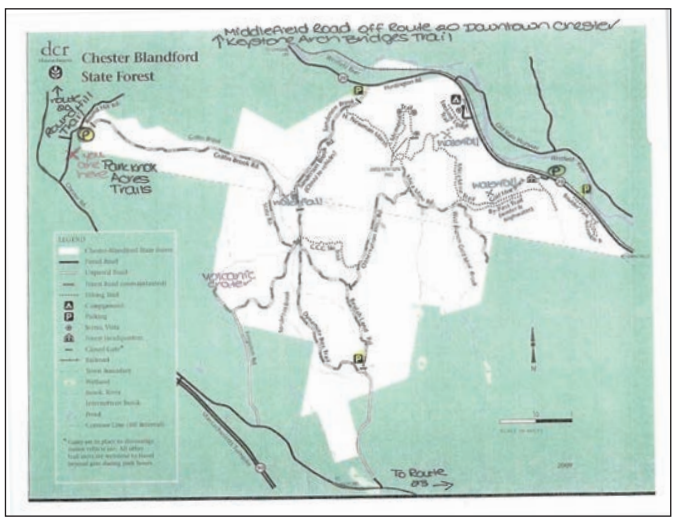
I could never find a map correlating to these blazes, and they are long forgotten except for of course the Hilltown Hikers, who usually look deeper into these old trails and routes because we like to find out the history of them.

Were they originally created by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the great depression or are they more modern...somewhere in the 1970s.

I asked around and never got a solid answer so it will stay a mystery and only the hunters and those who choose to follow the less traveled paths will run into them in the woods of the Hilltowns.

The moose poo was impressive here also the massive rock ledges.

There are always trails to follow, bringing you to the most amazing places in the Hilltowns where folks lived high atop mountains or in beautiful valleys.



A Department of Conservation and Recreation map shows the trails through the Chester Blandford State Forest.



Valerie points out an old trail blaze.



This is the old Chester campground pavilion built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

GARDEN

from page 4

ing their reproductive cycles and feeding patterns.

My advice would be to spray in the shade or when skies are overcast since sometimes neem can cause a phytotoxic effect and it can kill bees if sprayed directly. Always spray a small area of the plant first as a test, and if no damage is visible a day later, coat the surface and undersides of the leaves as well as the stem.

Using this approach, clean plants will delight my friend's window sills this fall and winter.

My coworker kept joking with me that a plant that she was gifted would never, ever bloom. Well, I kept watch over the neighbor's, checking in on its progress.

About two weeks ago I informed her that flowers were on the way. She finally sent me a picture of her plant and it was following suit.

First buds and then flowers! Yay!

The plant in question is The Nippon Daisy, better known as the Montauk Daisy (Nipponanthemum nipponicum). When most flowers are calling it quits, this late season perennial is just getting started.

The plant is shrub-like, so it blends in well in the landscape with bushes or other specimen perennials, growing 1.5-3 feet tall and 3-5 feet wide. It looks like a regular white daisy, only more robust.

Enjoy them now through the first heavy frost. Plant in full sun; cut back a bit in the spring to keep them growing upright. It is both deer and rabbit resistant.

I hope that you enjoy these timely, friendly questions.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

BIRDS

from page 4



Common Nighthawk

white wing patches on the wings make them easy to identify.

Although they have a small beak, there mouth is large. They have noticeable barring on their sides and abdomen and short legs.

Its life span is about four to five years. The males of this species may roost together, but the bird is primarily solitary.

The common nighthawk is the only nighthawk occurring over the majority of northern North America. During migration common nighthawks may travel 1,600 to 4,200 miles, one of North America's longer migrations.

They migrate by day or night in loose flocks, frequently numbering in the thousands. An aerial insectivore, the migrants will feed en route and congregate in marshes, rivers and lakeshores.

The best time to see them during migration is in late afternoon into the evening.

During flight, their vocalization is a nasal "peent" or "beernt." Peak vocalizations are reported 30 to 45 minutes after sunset. The male makes a croaking "auk auk auk" in the presence of a female during courtship.

Night time feeding is rare. The most common insects in their diets are butterflies and moths. They actively avoid eating flies.

Artificial light sources such as parking lots attracts them in an effort to forage for insects enticed by the light. They even fly extremely low over the surface of water to drink.

Nighthawks preferred breeding and nesting habitat is forested regions with rocky outcrops, clearings, burned areas or spots with small patches of sand gravel.

The female lays six to seven eggs on a bare rock, gravel or even in lichens. Both male and female feed the young are by regurgitation usually before sunrise and after sunset. The male also feeds the female during nesting.

Sandhill crane

After writing about sandhill cranes, in the most recent bird column, I saw a sandhill crane in a field in Hardwick near the New Braintree line by the Ware River.

On my return, I saw a crane in a different location of the same field. I was not sure it was the same one or a different one.

Flocking Canada geese

In my travels, I saw several flocks of Canada geese. There was a small flock in New Braintree and a larger flock in a harvested corn field in Spencer. The large flock were migrating south for the winter. I'm not sure if the smaller group summered here or not.

Wild turkeys

Wild turkeys are a familiar sight. This week I saw a hen turkey with her slightly smaller poults on a lawn in Barre. Last week I saw a small flock of Tom turkeys.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Community Church

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

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

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

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

BLANDFORD

GHOST WALK

from page 1

graves and self-proclaimed local historian. "History doesn't preserve itself," she said, "someone has to notice…ask questions… write things down…that was my part."

While not buried in Blandford, the Rev. John Keep, portrayed by Rylan Shepard, was an abolitionist, education reformer and founder of Oberlin College in Ohio.

He saw his job as helping to keep the community together while he was minister here for 16 years. "I guess some things never change," was his observation.

He began a school for Black youngsters in the parsonage, located somewhere on Main Street, which was "the first recorded class in New England established for Black children… but it was 30 years before Massachusetts mandated public education for all children..." And it was his deciding vote that made Oberlin the first integrated college in America.

Peter Langmore played John Collister, Sr. who was the father of a local legend. He lived from 1757 to 1855 and raised ten children.

He fought in the state militia with many like-minded and was "proud to have done my part for this new nation."

In 1882 the town's meeting house came down and Captain Isaac Damon created what is now The White Church. The framework was raised in June 1882 with the help of an old sailor who knew how ropes, blocks and tackles of what was a gin pole could lift the frame of the new building into place.

As the town watched, the ropes tangled and as disaster threatened, Collister's son, John Jr., climbed up and untangled the ropes saving it from collapse and saving the crowd from injury. John Jr. "became a local legend."

Fanny and Elijah Gibbs eloped, much to the dismay and displeasure of her father, Rev. James Morton. Elijah and his father Israel Gibbs, fought in the Revolution at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777.

The couple lived on a large farm in the northwest part of town. over 1000 acres, subsequently the Lincoln estate, eventually the home of some silent film production. A tale well told.

Freegrace Norton, played by Aaron LaBrecque, regaled the crowd with the story of cheese making, woolen manufacturing and a tannery in North Blandford, which at the time was a stronghold of mills, shops and taverns and more.

Population burgeoned at 1800, the most the town has ever seen. Jesse Tapin joined the cast again, this time as Samuel D. Franklin, a Black Civil War veteran.

His headstone was recently replaced anew and his family wanted to make sure he was buried next to William Grant, who served in the 1st United States Colored Troops when Franklin did.

Grant also married Franklin's niece. These Civil War veterans demonstrated that Black men could "fight with the best of them" and going back in William's family, "you'll find Jethro Jones, the Black Revolutionary War veteran and coming forward you'll find Frank Grant, one of the greatest African



Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm

Michele Crane, herself a current library staffer, as Josephine Sheffield Porter spoke about how her Blandford life evolved and remains today.

American baseball players of the 19th Century. He is now in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Lincoln confidant, politician, attorney and statesman George Ashmun, played by Bruce Benson, is best remembered for his association with one of America's most influential presidents and who was present whenever history was about to take a turn. "Imagine…a boy born in little Blandford…traveling to Springfield, Illinois, to tell Abraham Lincoln he was about to become president…" His closing statement: "Remember, not every history maker stands in the spotlight. Some quietly hold the lantern so others may find their way."

The final stop on the Ghost Walk had visitors listening to Josephine Sheffield Porter, played by Michele Crane. Porter's "heart and legacy" are bound to Blandford. The Porter Memorial Library bears her family's name, in memory of her son Edgar.

As a summer resident Porter brought with her a store of books, readily loaned to local residents. Porter realized the town "did not lack a love of learning. It lacked a library. A place where books belonged not to one house, but to the town itself." So, she built the library, a gift to the town in 1892. Her summer home is now the clubhouse at the golf course.

She said she came back because the library is expanding and she "wanted to see" what the town is up to as she bid visitors farewell.

"Over 200 people, wonderful performers across generations, amazing costumes, and stories worth telling; there was a lot to be proud of. But what stays with me is how much people enjoyed it.

That's what you hope for when you put something like this together," said Blandford Historical Society Board member and organizer of the event, Jane Rohman. She added that when asked if she were running out of stories, her response is, "No way. We're just getting started!" Once again reminding all that Blandford is a small town with a big history. Rohman is Board member and Vice President of the Blandford Historical Society

The Ghost Walk has created a new "tradition" for Karen Yvon, who attended with her daughter this year. "It was phenomenal. I loved it. We both did." She added that she hoped it would happen every year, "because this will be our yearly tradition."

Visitors enjoyed fresh cold apple cider and Poppa's warm apple cider donuts cooked up by Greg Girard of the Blandford Country Store.

The weather was perfect, a great Blandford Day with sunshine and a gentle breeze at the top of the hill.

STM takes place Oct. 13

BLANDFORD – Voters will consider increasing the dollar amount for borrowing $400,000 to $485,000 at a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The $400,000 was approved at the June 5, 2023 Annual Town Meeting to purchase a new pumper engine for the Fire Department. Fire Chief Adam Dolby has found a replacement for the pumper but at an additional cost.

According to the department, the current Engine 1 is 29 years old and the town has already spent $7,000 for transmission repairs and to replace the transmission would be another $15,000.

The newer replacement is nine years old. The Fire Department encourages residents to attend the STM.

Handouts detailing the issue are available at the Town Hall in the lobby.

School Committee, Cultural Council seeking members

BLANDFORD – The town has rightfully two seats on the Gateway Regional School District School Committee and one seat is open.

Blandford's committee member Katherine McDonough said, "I firmly believe our town should take full advantage of our two School Committee seats. Blandford deserves to have its full voice represented in decisions about our schools and our students. I know education matters to this community and I'd love to see another Blandford resident step forward and help represent us."

She would be happy to speak with anyone interested and can be contacted at: kmcdonough@grsd.org .

The Local Cultural Council still has openings. The time commitment is minimal for about two to three months in late fall. The LCC considers applications for funding events and programs that directly impact or benefit community members.

Anyone interested should contact Susan Racine at: susanthe1591@outlook.com or at culturalcouncilsec@gmail.com.



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BLANDFORD

Blandford Historical Society... *Did You Know?*



Photo courtesy of the Blandford Historicl Society

The manufacturer's name plate, William M. Brockway, is on the buggy.

If you saw the horse-drawn buggy beside Mrs. Porter at Ghost Walk on Saturday, you might have wondered where it came from.

In her portrayal of Josephine Sheffield Porter, Michele Crane shared a childhood recollection from Percy Wyman: "I remember each summer I saw Mrs. Porter drive through in her buggy. She wore a black dress of silk all trimmed with lace."

Mrs. Porter's own buggy is long gone, but the Blandford Historical Society's carriage helped bring that memory to life. And it has a local story of its own.

The Society purchased it in January 2012, along with a wagon.

A Beech Hill Connection

Both came from the Knapp farm on Beech Hill Road, formerly owned by Julius Hall. The white colonial house still stands at the crest of Beech Hill. Hall, who lived from 1873 to 1967 and reached age 94, is buried at Hill Cemetery alongside several other family members; the place where the buggy made its Ghost Walk appearance.

The family connections continue. Arthur W. Knapp, president of Westfield Savings Bank, now Westfield Bank, married Helen Ripley in 1942. Helen was the daughter of H. Leon and Ethel (Hall) Ripley and had three siblings, Kenneth, Edna and Ruth. Her nephew, Leon K. Ripley, continued the family's farming tradition at nearby Maple Corner Farm.

From Carriages to Trucks

The carriage was built in Homer, New York, at Brockway Carriage Works, incorporated in 1875. Its maker's plate bears the name William M. Brockway. From horse-drawn carriages, the business moved into the motor age, producing custom heavy-duty trucks from 1912 to 1977. Mack Trucks bought the company in August 1956, operating it as a division until 1977. Brockway trucks are still prized today for their durability.

Coming Home to Blandford

After the Knapps moved on, Anthony Scapin of Otis purchased both vehicles. Someone asked him to keep the Historical Society in mind if he ever decided to sell them. In 2012, that opportunity arrived.

Chuck Benson was then the Society's president. The price for the pair: $1,600. Chuck recalls that one carriage wheel was refurbished and some paint touched up.

The two vehicles had different jobs. The buggy, sometimes known as a doctor's buggy, was for getting around. The wagon, called a Spring Wagon, did the hauling. Its seats could be moved or removed to make room for groceries from town or heavier loads, such as bags of feed, lumber and fencing for the farm.

At Ghost Walk, the buggy helped set the scene beside Mrs. Porter. But it was also a piece of local history, linking a Beech Hill farm, generations of families and the Society's work to preserve their stories.

Select Board holds all department meeting

BLANDFORD – Select Board hel all department meeting on Monday, Sept. 28 were several departments represented.

The board appointed Doris Jemiolo to the Council on Aging through June 30, 2029.

The board signed the warrant for the Special Town Meeting set for Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall to consider adding $85,000 to the cost of a replacement pumper fire truck.

Select Board reports

Board member Ted Cousineau presented a copy of a list of Veteran Benefits available from state and federal sources. He said it was important to know who the Veterans are. An announcement can be made at the annual Veterans Dinner in November.

Chair Jackie Coury brought up the need to develop/have bylaws regarding data centers. She wanted to know "if we can make a moratorium" that would delay them. She will notify other departments that would be involved in drafting bylaws such as Planning, Zoning Board of Appeals and Conservation.

Member Corinne Shartrand agreed and said, "I absolutely think we need to do a moratorium.

Cousineau said the town could make a moratorium, but he had little faith in it and asked "what's going to be left in our town?" He said he did not want to see the loss of small towns.

Responding to a question from David Hopson on the length of the moratorium before bylaws are in place, Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera said the town's prior moratorium was for a year, but more recently only six months.

Coury said the town will file for a moratorium within the next 30 days.

The Department of Energy Resources has been in the area for discussions on the consolidating permitting process. Coury said "we need support on this."

Regarding the firehouse/highway building, the board is taking the lead and will meet regularly on Thursdays at 6 p.m. and will start in November.

Library

Library Directo Nicole Daviau told the board it was necessary to rebid the contract for construction for the expansion as the low bidder could not meet all the objectives. They did not have any subcontractor businesses that were owned by Veterans. She said that historically a re-bidding process drives the costs down. The timeline is still on track to complete by November 2027 and contractors have called this a "simple build" and estimate 12 months. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony at 10 a.m. on October 17 at the library.

Coury will seek a meeting with the financial team to know when and if and how much the town needs to borrow, which is unknown now.

Water Department

Stephen Jemiolo reported for the Water Department. They have received 14 applications for workers and four for managers. The position has been split into two with different functions. They were to be discussed at the Water Department Meeting later in the week. Metering is in the works as well.

Assessors

Chair David Hopson told the board that the STM warrant that they just signed, and another STM coming for unpaid bills, will affect the tax rate setting process. Ferrera said that it is the "hope" that free cash will be certified by "the time we have the second" town meeting.

Hopson reminded all that this will all impact the tax rate and the rate setting process. The figures for Free Cash have been submitted, and Hopson noted this was early for the town.

Responding to Coury's query about two different tax classifications/rates, he said, "In a town this size it probably doesn't make any sense." Homeowners' taxes would not be offset by much if the town had two different tax classifications. And solar is taxed as personal property, not commercial. According to Hopson, "reality is that we don't have a huge commercial base in town."

Town Clerk

The town is mandated to have a backup location for voting and Fire Chief Adam Dolby will allow the use of the training center next to the post office for this in case there is a problem with the Town Hall polling place, such as flooding.

Election is Nov. 3. Early in-person voting is correctly happening Monday, Oct. 19 from 4-6 p.m. and Saturday October 24 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office and voter registration is Oct. 24 from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. same place.

Bylaws passed at the June Annual Town Meeting should be approved by the Attorney General by Dec. 20. The Clerk's Office is looking for people to help count (write-in) votes. Anyone interested should call the office.

Town Administrator

There will be a public listening session on Monday, Oct. 19 at Town Hall for all things solar. Ferrera has posted information about this on the website. The town was alerted to work on Beech Hill Road. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is making revisions to the Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

She has drafted Project Work Plans and will review them when all departments are present. There are currently 21 projects in the works.

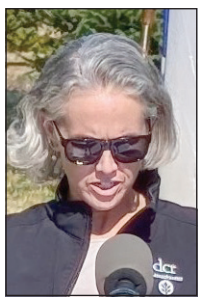
The board held a roll call vote to go into executive session and not return to public forum.

PROJECT

from page 1

a common goal," said DCR Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle. She added that the 580-acres will create new recreational opportunities while preserving cultural resources and protecting landscapes that will help increase climate resilience. She also thanked all the cooperating organizations for their efforts.

Senator Paul Mark said, "Access to the outdoors is one of the great benefits of living in Western Massachusetts and this project will give people another reason to visit and explore our Hilltowns. Preserving this land in Blandford also protects an important connection for wildlife across the Mass Pike. I thank the Healey-Driscoll Administration and all the partners whose work made this possible."



Nicole LaChapelle



Nicholas Boldyga



Tom O'Shea



Dr. Everose (Eve) Schlüter

"The Hilltowns have always been defined by their natural beauty, open spaces and strong connection to the outdoors, and we should work to preserve those qualities for future generations," said State Representative Nicholas Boldyga. "This project represents an important step toward protecting the forests, waterways, and wildlife habitat that are such an important part of Blandford and the surrounding region. I'm pleased to see this land permanently conserved while also expanding public access and recreational opportunities."

Select Board member Ted Cousineau and Conservation Commission Chair Richard Gates attended the event.

Gates said, "It is a huge win for Blandford and the surrounding area to have an area of this size and of such ecological importance preserved in perpetuity. Local residents will have this to use and enjoy for future generations. This is especially true in light of the development pressures the hill towns are facing related to commercial solar and other energy projects."

Cousineau wanted to be sure the Terry Family of Chesterfield was acknowledged for the part of the acreage that was their Christmas Tree Farm.

SECURITY

from page 4

main websites at www.amacfoundation.org, and www.SocialSecurityReport.org.

To answer your specific question "when will this (money) be repaid with interest?" The answer is - there is nothing to repay. All monies ever received for Social Security purposes have been invested in special interest-bearing government bonds, which are redeemed (with interest paid) weekly as needed to pay Social Security benefits to those who have earned and are entitled to them.

These bonds are secured by the "full faith and credit of the U.S. government," a financial designation which is globally considered to be "exceptionally low risk."

FYI, the SS Trust Fund reserves held about $2.5 trillion in investments as of the end of 2025, down from about $2.9 trillion in 2020. The Trust Fund total is now being regularly depleted because incoming SS revenue has not been sufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since 2021, so Trust Fund reserves are now being used to pay full benefits.

And therein lies the crux of the Social Security solvency issue, which is why the program so urgently needs Congressional reform before the SS reserves in the Trust Funds run dry in 2032, after which everyone would see a cut in their monthly SS benefits. Congress must enact SS reform now.

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.

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HUNTINGTON

Town secures much needed items through MIAA grant

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Selectman John McVeigh reports that the town of Huntington has received $9,897.25 in grant funding from its insurance company, the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency.

The MIAA risk management grant helps Massachusetts cities and towns mitigate property risks, enhance employee health and safety, and address cybersecurity or severe weather challenges, McVeigh said.

McVeigh and Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin met with MIAA representatives during their annual renewal meeting last summer and discussed how Huntington hadn't gone for the grant since 2016. The two officials began the process to see what town departments might need.

Per their request, the Water and Sewer Department received a confined space tripod setup with a 4 gas meter, as well as a telescopic ladder.

Highway Superintendent Brad Curry spoke with McVeigh over several weeks as they considered items that would help reduce the potential for injury among his employees.

The highway department received Pi-Lit sequential rechargeable flares for road safety, which had come highly recommended from the town's fire department.

Also received were arbor chainsaw chaps, a manhole/grate lifter, high visibility cooling hats, bluetooth communication headsets, four vehicle dash cameras for the primary trucks and three gps units for tractors and the grader.



Submitted photo

Some of the items received by the town of Huntington through a $9,897.25 grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency.



Additional items received by the town of Huntington. MIIA's Risk Management Grant helps towns mitigate property risks, enhance employee health and safety and address cybersecurity or severe weather challenges.

According to MIIA, the grant's purpose is to encourage proactive planning to enhance employee safety and reduce insurance claims. The grant requires that requests must be used to purchase equipment (or a service) related to a town's potential loss covered by its insurance.

The town meets annually with its assigned MIIA Risk Manager to study their loss history and plan for items to reduce those losses in the future.

"The Huntington Select Board would like to thank MIIA for the funding, as well as Peloquin and Assistant Accountant Anna Horkum for assisting with all of the behind the scenes work to complete and submit all of the required paperwork for this grant in a timely manner," McVeigh said.

McVeigh said the town is already looking at safety upgrades and equipment for the transfer station for next year's grant.

COA lists upcoming events

HUNTINGTON – The fall birthday celebration and BINGO takes place Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. the movie "Nanny McPhee."

On Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. musician David Herrera will perform. This singer song writer play country music mixed with a rock and urban pop vibe.

Free blood pressure check takes place on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 2 p.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 1-2 p.m. there will be a program on respiratory illness updates and a blood pressure check.

On Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. the movie is "Top Gun."

The Do Re Mi Chorus will perform on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 2 p.m.

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

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

Town Clerk early in person voting information

HUNTINGTON – The State Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3 at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

The following schedule is for Early In-Person Voting and Voter Registration for the State Election. The last day for Voter Registration for the State Election is Saturday, Oct. 24 and the office will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Town Clerk Office at 24 Russell Road will be open for Early In-Person Voting on the following dates and times: Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 19 from 6-8 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 20 from 10 a.m.-noon; Wednesday, Oct. 21 from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 26, from 6-8 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 27 from 10 a.m.-noon.

Finally, the last day for Early In-Person voting is Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 6-8 p.m. at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

Any questions, people may call Town Clerk, Michelle Fieldstad-Booth at 413-512-5209 or email townclerk@huntingtonma.us.

Friends of Library hosts book sale

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

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

The library will be closed for regular operations that day. This event offers a wide variety of books for sale across all genres.

Shoppers can purchase books for $1 each or fill their own reusable bag for just $5. In addition to books, the sale will feature about 10 themed gift baskets, based on the most popular baskets of the past few years. The Friends will also have a bake sale at this event.

All proceeds from the fundraiser benefit the Friends of the Huntington Public Library, which supports the library's programming. They pay for museum passes that can be taken out by patrons and help cover the costs for programs that the library can't afford in their budget, including pizza for game nights, summer reading program prizes and supplies for public events such as cups and plates for the Cookbook Club gatherings.

The Friends even purchased furniture for the library, most recently the front-facing picture book shelves in the children's section.

Book donations for the sale are appreciated and may be brought in between now and the sale during regular library hours. The library is open on Monday, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 - 6 p.m.

Community members are encouraged to contribute gently used books to help make the event a success.

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

SOCCER

from page 1

This marks McCaul's 19th year coaching and he said that in all of that time he only had to make cuts twice due to a lack of uniforms or space on a bus or van for away games.

In the old days, they had to get waivers to allow seventh and eighth graders to play and they had to first accept all of the high school athletes. "This year they had enough uniforms for 48 athletes plus access to Gateway's 11 passenger vans," he said.

Budgets are a big driver for sports, especially since Gateway has foregone its athletic and admission fees that once helped defray costs.

This levels the playing field for people to try out without meeting an affordability factor: some families qualified for free or reduced fees on the basis of income but others were caught having to make a hard decision on whether or not to play.

McCaul said Turner drives his team to away games in one of the district vans, which saves the cost of chartering a bus.

Even adding another staff person from the school who gets a stipend to attend, this model is a money saver and allows them to schedule independent JV teams.

McCaul explains that many of the rural, small schools in Western Massachusetts have shrinking populations and can no longer field JV teams and non-league games are a must.

Bonenfant explains that moving from bus to van transport can actually add two non-league road contests per sport per league to prevent last spring's issue of Gateway's undefeated baseball team being kept out of the WMASS tournament for not having any non-league games.

Away games are less expensive for the school because the home team pays for two officials plus scoreboard and shot clock operators. On the road in district-owned vans with the coaches driving, the only cost is gas.

Nonetheless, it's still a challenge to run a soccer program for 48 students. The varsity team has 21 students and JV has 20. Another seven players are appointed to the "taxi squad," they practice with McCaul but may play with the JV or varsity team, depending upon the size and abilities of that day's competition.

This is the first year of coaching for Turner, who has led GYAA players and teams for many years. "This is the only problem I know," Turner said. "I love being back on Booster Field."

Seventh graders Henry DeGregorio and Evan Pappas have played on Turner's GYAA teams since first grade. DeGregorio said that he felt going out for the Gateway Regional School team was a first step for improving his soccer skills. "We have more competition on this team and have to level up our play to be with older kids who have more experience," he said.

Pappas said he found the daily practices a little overwhelming at first. He plays goalie for half of every game before taking a spot on the field. But DeGregorio said that "Coach Josh" has been with them since their first year of soccer.

"He is our favorite coach. He knows more about us and he knows how we play. He knows the seventh graders well," he said. Pappas agreed, adding that he is so glad they did this.

Turner said that GYAA is also running a U-14 travel team for the first time in a long time. About 16 are playing on that team, including three girls.

Because the school team practices every day, GYAA coaches Kayla and Adam DaSilva don't run their own practices, they simply coach the games. This ensures that the younger children have more playing time than the limited JV schedule allows.

McCaul said this system is working but that the coaches are keeping an eye out and prepared to work days off into the JV team's schedule if needed. Bonenfant affirmed that some of the seventh graders, who do travel soccer don"t go to some of the away games for rest purposes.

"It is very coordinated," Bonenfant said, with a nod to his coaches.

Bonenfant added that the school and GYAA have been working closely to coordinate their programs. He says it is a relationship that has grown in recent years; at one time, the two used to tear away from each other's programs.

But McCaul emphasizes that their goal from the start was to keep everybody who tried out. He has six varsity players graduating next spring and some of the eighth graders may choose to attend a vocational school or school choice to another high school in 2027.

If they had opted to make cuts this year, the program could hypothetically be down to 20 students next year.

Both coaches said the athletes all get along. Turner acknowledged that the younger players tend to segregate themselves by grade so he focuses on integrating seventh and eighth graders.

McCaul said that he feels pretty lucky that their seniors lead by example. "We make it pretty clear that you don't have to be friends in school, but when you're here you need to respect each other and be good teammates," he said.

"I feel like there's been a lot of comraderie amongst the boys," Bonenfant said.

"It was Andy and Josh's call to do this. I would have supported them if they'd wanted to trim the roster for safety, I would have supported that too. But they found a way to do it."

While Bonenfant hopes that more of Gateway's teams get to experience some growth, both he and McCaul are aware that, in a small school, one team's feast is another team's famine.

"It's unfortunate that you might be inadvertently hurting another program," McCaul said, adding that this year's boys cross-country team only has three or four runners.

They can't officially compete as a team, Bonenfant said, although they can continue to train for individual races later in the season. And hopefully build from there.

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NOTE DEADLINE:
➤ October 15 issue deadline is **Friday, October 9**

GOSHEN

Community update on Williams-Boltwood house takes place Oct. 8

GOSHEN – On Thursday, Oct. 8, Williams-Boltwood Project directors will hold a community update at 7 p.m. at Goshen Town Hall.

The evening will focus on how Community Preservation Act funds have been used to dramatically propel the restoration of this historical landmark. Directors will share plans for how future funding will be used and what the preservation of the property can offer Goshen in the years ahead.

Community members are strongly encouraged to attend and provide feedback on how they wish to see the site developed.

Preserving a building as old and complex as the Williams-Boltwood house requires so much more than repairing what can be seen from the exterior. Before major restoration can proceed responsibly, the building must be carefully studied and documented.

Past CPA support moved the project through this essential process of professional investigation, preservation planning, and initial stabilization. At the Oct. 8 meeting, the Williams-Boltwood team will explain specifically how the 2022 CPA award was used and what that work has revealed about the house.

Research over the past three years has shown that the property is highly historically significant and more structurally complex than was understood when the preservation efforts first began. While many were aware that the site's history reaches back to 1779, the details of this property's history, use, and significance has offered many surprises.

The structure includes an early store and post office interior, tavern rooms, spaces associated with a four-room inn, and Goshen's initial stage coach stop (stop #717). Historians working with the project feel it is highly probable this site is the last multi-purpose structure of its kind still in existence in the US that remains as unchanged as the Williams-Boltwood house still remains. In addition, painstaking examination of multiple thousands of documents, letters, and log books have revealed a wealth of "new" knowledge about the Williams family's contributions to Goshen and the surrounding region.

The property housed much of Goshen's earliest civic history. The first town meetings were held here after the town's incorporation in 1781. The site also provided space for the town's earliest school and worship services. As a Publick House it welcomed travelers on the Albany-Boston post road. Later, the formal mercantile and post office provided vital community services. The property remained in the same family until 2001, preserving not only the building but also an unusually rich collection of family papers, photographs, books, diaries, furnishings, and personal objects. These items are currently stored off site for security reasons. Once the structure is fully restored, these thousands of historical artifacts belonging to the property will return to their rightful home.

The importance of the Williams-Boltwood House is not limited to Goshen. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has determined that the property is eligible for listing as part of a historic district, and a National Register nomination is currently in progress. Its combination of domestic, civic, commercial, postal, tavern, and transportation history makes it an unusual historical survival in Massachusetts and beyond. Goshen has a true historical gem in its midst. The Massachusetts Cultural Commission, Preservation Massachusetts, and the National Daughters of the American Revolution are all significant financial backers of the Williams-Boltwood project and have voiced their excitement of the thoughtful and creative future planned. Continued research and collaboration with larger historical resources will undoubtedly demonstrate further importance within the broader history of early American communities. There is so much more to learn.

The current CPA grant is helping carry the project from research and emergency stabilization into the next phases of preservation. This work will include addressing structural weaknesses, moisture and drainage problems, enclosing the building envelope, and other needs that have been identified through professional assessments and an in-depth structural engineering evaluation. Completing the work in the proper sequence is critical: the structure must first be made secure and weather-tight before fragile interiors and historic features can be safely restored. The work to be accomplished is monumental. In 2024 Preservation Massachusetts identified the Williams-Boltwood property as one of the 10 most endangered historic resources in Massachusetts. This designation came with a strong endorsement of that agency's belief that our current restoration plans are achievable.

The Williams-Boltwood directors want to hear what Goshen residents and businesses want

The Oct. 8 program will give residents an opportunity to see what their investment has already made possible, understand the work that remains, ask questions about the future of the property, and share their opinions about best future use. Everyone is invited to attend the community update at 7 p.m. at Goshen Town Hall and learn how CPA support is helping preserve an important piece of Goshen's history and create a valuable community resource.

CHESTERFIELD

Ellen Campbell shares stories in 'Vanishing Point'

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer

CHESTERFIELD – The Friends of the Library welcomed Ellen Prentiss Campbell to talk about her book, "Vanishing Point."

The program was at the Chesterfield Community Center on Saturday, Oct. 3 where Campbell shared stories about her journey into writing and the art that inspired her book.

Her inspiration began by encountering an idyllic landscape by George Hetzel in a museum near her summer home in rural southwestern Pennsylvania.

Campbell researched through historic archives and learned that Hetzel was a renowned 19th century Pittsburgh landscape painter, teacher and founder of the regional Scalp Level School of Artists.

Being an admirer of history, Campbell managed to detect an intriguing family story. Soon she created a historical fiction that tells the story of three generations in the family.

"Vanishing Point" revealed the personal struggles of the entire family, particularly George's youngest child, Lila and her daughter, Dorothy. Long after George's death, the daughter and granddaughter struggled to protect the beauty of the Pennsylvania woodlands George Hetzel loved.

The book started off as a collection of short stories written by Campbell. Campbell read several passages from "Vanishing Point."

One focused on the ambition and creativity of Lila, who was eager to attend art school. Throughout her life, Lila, was a painter.

Her daughter, Dorothy, was an ambitious young woman, who became a journalist.

During her research, Campbell shared a story on how she went to a library in Somerset, Pennsylvania and had access to boxes of documents, which included journals by the granddaughter.



Ellen Prentiss Campbell

The stories in "Vanishing Point" were all inspired by real people that Campbell learned about. "I owe this book to these real people," she said.

During her talk, Campbell shared examples of Hetzel's art featured in a book as well as the work of local artist, Kevin Kutz.

Campbell's journey in writing began when she was a child and wrote her own stories outside of her studies. She attended Smith College where she majored in English. She also studied journalism at the University of Massachusetts.

Despite life having some detours, Campbell found her way back into creative writing and began writing fiction full time.

Her desire to write again came shortly after the events of Sept. 11, 2001 and her parents passing away shortly after that time.

Since her return to writing, Campbell's work gained awards, recognition and readers. The patrons at the Chesterfield Community Center thanked Campbell for her presentation.

People may visit www.ellencampbellbooks.com for more information about "Vanishing Point" and her other books.

WESTHAMPTON

FALLING DOWN?



Turley Publications photo by Deborah Daniels

Still standing or would that be falling!? Barn is located in Westhampton.

MIDDLEFIELD

Library offers 'soup and stories' Oct. 21

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Public Library, 188 Skyline Drive, is hosting "Soup and Stories" on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Nothing says fall like a steaming bowl of soup and a good story shared with friends and neighbors.

People are invited to come enjoy homemade soup and bring a favorite reading to share if they'd like a poem, a short passage from a beloved book, a family story or something they wrote.

People can share or they can just come to listen.

This is a free community event, all ages are welcome and no registration is required. Soup will be provided while supplies last, so come early and get cozy.

It's the perfect mid-week pause as the leaves turn – warm food, warm company and the reminder that the best stories are better when shared.

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CHESTER

Hamilton Memorial Library announces upcoming events

CHESTER – On Saturday, Oct. 10 at 11am. Children can join Tai Chi Master, Doreen Black in a playful introduction to Tai Chi, inspired by the movements of animals while exploring balance, movement, mindfulness and fun at the Hamilton Memorial Library, 15 Middlefield Road, Suite 7. RSVPs are helpful by calling the library at 413-354-7808.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 4:30-6 p.m. the library hosts amakeyour own spell book craft using scrap book materials. For those who prefer something different, they may create a Halloween inspired recipe book, journal or another Halloween themed book. Space is limited to ten participants. People may call the library to register.

On Saturday, Oct. 24 at 11 a.m. there will be a watercolor paint and snack. It will be a fall-themed guided watercolor painting event led by local artist Kay Judge. It is limited to ten participants. Pre-registration is required so call.

The Book Club meets the third Wednesday of every month, Oct. 21 at 4:30 p.m. In October, they will be discussing the novel, Eleanor Oliphant is "Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman.

The story centers around Eleanor, a social misfit with a traumatic past who through an unexpected event, is drawn out of her shell and isolation into a world of self-discovery and friendship. There will be snacks and lively discussion. Extra copies are available at the library.

On Saturday, Oct. 31 at noon Halloween LEGO skeleton event. Children will build a fun LEGO pumpkin-headed figurine. This is recommended for ages 6+. Only ten spots are available so they must pre-register by calling 413-354-7808 with age, name and telephone number.

Town holds Trunk or Treat Oct. 24



CHESTER – The Chester Parks and Recreation Committee, Chester Volunteer Fire Association, Chester Hill Association, Mel's Kitchen and volunteers will sponsor Trunk or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 5-8 p.m. at Emery Field.

Activities begins at 3 p.m. with face painting and pumpkin painting. From 3:30-4 p.m. there will be a costume contest and prizes.

From 4:30-5 p.m. an inflatable race tales place. Prizes will be awarded.

The Sinister Saw Haunted Trail sponsors by the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers begins at 5 p.m.

Food will be for sale by the Fire Department including chili, hot dogs, burgers, water, chips, ice cream. There will be free popcorn.cocoa and hot cider.



Submitted photo

This is the grave of Archelaus Anderson, one of Revolutionary War veterans buried in Chester.

Chester holds 250th observance

CHESTER – Observance of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence will be held Saturday, Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Chester, 334 Skyline Trail.

The program will include a presentation highlighting the actions the town and its residents took during the war. After the presentation a pamphlet titled "A Self-Guided Tour of Revolutionary War Veteran Graves in Chester Massachusetts" will be available for anyone who wishes to delve further into Chester's patriots. Twenty-seven of the forty-seven Revolutionary War veterans buried in Chester are in the Chester Center Cemetery across the street from the church.

Refreshments will follow the presentation. Both the presentation and pamphlet are free. The observance is sponsored by the Chester Historical Society and the Chester Hill Association.

STOCKBRIDGE

Parade and pumpkin walk takes place Oct. 30

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Halloween Parade and Pumpkin Walk will take place on Friday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. for area children.

Marchers will meet at the corner of Main and Pine Street at 6 p.m. and march up Main Street to the front lawn of the Stockbridge Library for cider and donuts and pumpkin walk-about with lighted pumpkins carved by local businesses and area children.

The fire truck will be stationed for discovery. A Halloween story time will take place at 6:30 p.m. and drop-in Halloween crafts inside the library from 6-7:30 p.m.

Children and businesses interested in showcasing a Jack-O-Lantern of their own, should drop them off at the library any time before 5:30 p.m. The library staff will light them and provide candles.

They can take them home at the end of the evening. In case of rain the parade is canceled and activities will take place in the library.

These events are sponsored by the Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce, Stockbridge Library, Stockbridge Police and Fire Departments and Stockbridge Coffee & Tea.

For more information, people may call the Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce at 413-298-5200.

Stockbridge Cultural Council seeing applications

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Cultural Council seeks applications for grants

The Cultural Council invites artists, cultural institutions and arts organizations to apply for Fiscal Year 2027 annual grants that support local individuals and groups.

The annual grant cycle is open now through Thursday, Oct. 15. For information, application forms and guidelines, visit the Stockbridge Cultural Council page on the Massachusetts Cultural Council website at https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/Stockbridge/

Applications must be submitted through the MCC website, not by mail or email.

The Cultural Council's mission is to promote a rich cultural life for residents, support a vital local economy and promote excellence in the arts and humanities.

Stockbridge Grange to host community dinner

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Grange hosts a community dinner on Sunday, Oct. 11 with pickup up noon-1:30 p.m.

The menu features stuffed chicken breast, mashed potato, and vegetable and for dessert, a choice of apple or chocolate cream pie.

Dinner is $17 per person and is take-out only with 12-1:30 p.m. pickup at the Stockbridge Grange Hall, 51 Church St.

Orders may be made by calling 413-243-1298. The Grange dinners are held to raise money for non-profit projects and building maintenance.

HAYDENVILLE

Congregational Church to hold lasagna, bake sale

HAYDENVILLE – There will be homemade lasagna and bake sale, Saturday, Oct. 10 and Sunday, Oct. 11 from noon-2 p.m. at Haydenville Congregational Church, 143 Main St.

Church cooks will be selling homemade spinach and meat lasagna in half pans (4+ servings, $25) and quarter pans (2+ servings, $15) sizes.

The lasagnas are fully baked and ready to be heated up or kept frozen for later.

People may pre-order lasagnas by visiting to haydenvillechurch.org.

The church will also be selling a big range of baked goods, T-shirts, handmade aprons and more.

Lasagna pre-orders will be filled first and remaining lasagna will be sold to walk-ins while supplies last.

A portion of the proceeds of the sale will go to support the Immigrant Solidarity Collective, a grassroots initiative supporting local families impacted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

GREAT BARRINGTON

Du Bois Freedom Center launches children's reading group

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Du Bois Freedom Center, 309 Main St., announces the launch of the Mite Society Children's Reading Group on Suday, Oct. 25 at 1 p.m.

This is free and open to all, but registration is requested.

Inspired by a 140-year legacy, the new Mite Society is a welcoming, intergenerational space where children and families can come together to explore African American history, culture and storytelling.

Founded in February 1884, the Children's Mite Society of Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church provided educational opportunities for Black children in Great Barrington while organizing children's performances to raise funds for the church building.

Together, the Mite Society and the church's Sunday school served as important centers of learning for the local Black community, introducing children to music, rhetoric, public speaking, and new ideas.

Today, the Du Bois Freedom Center reignites this tradition of family and community gathering. These free gatherings offer children and adults the chance to read together, talk together, and enjoy hands-on activities as we explore our community's rich African American history, culture, and stories.

The inaugural Mite Society gathering will celebrate the life and legacy of Elizabeth Freeman, the first enslaved woman to win her freedom in a court of law under the new Massachusetts Constitution in 1781.

Award-winning local author Jana Laiz will read from her youth biography "A Free Woman on God's Earth: The True Story of Elizabeth 'Mumbet' Freeman." Co-written with Ann-Elizabeth Barnes and illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers, the book brings Elizabeth Freeman's extraordinary courage to life for young readers.

The afternoon will also include creative activities and conversation with Jana Laiz and Marcus Smith, DFC Deputy Director and 2026 Mars History Tellers Award winner.

Participants will also be able to view the DFC's exhibit Elizabeth Freeman - Reimagined, featuring student-led works from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design and its Center for Art and Community Partnerships.

The exhibit inspired the DFC's interpretive storytelling kiosk, which now stands at the corner of Elizabeth Freeman Way and Main Street in front of Great Barrington Town Hall. There, residents and visitors can learn how Elizabeth Freeman won her freedom in 1781, a case that helped pave the way for the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts. Fittingly, Town Hall stands on the very site of the courthouse where her case was heard.

The Du Bois Freedom Center honors the legacy of civil rights pioneer Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois and celebrates the Berkshires' rich Black heritage. Located at the historic Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church in Great Barrington, where Du Bois was born and raised, the Center is the first museum and living memorial in North America dedicated to his life and ideas.

More than a museum, the DFC is a living space for reflection, learning, and cultural exchange. Through exhibitions, programs, and partnerships, it connects local history to global conversations on democracy, equity, and freedom, advancing Dr. Du Bois's vision of a just and educated society.

People may visit dubois-freedomcenter.org to learn more.

OBITUARY

Peter Charles McLean, 90





Peter Charles McLean, 90, of Worthington, died peacefully on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026, in Northampton, surrounded by family and friends.

Born July 12, 1936, in Holyoke, son of the late Peter G. and Isabelle (Kettell) McLean, Pete grew up in South Hadley and graduated from South Hadley High School in 1954. He served in the U.S. Army as a cartographer in Heidelberg, Germany, where he first fell in love with gliding, then went on to earn his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Massachusetts College of Art and his Master of Fine Arts from Syracuse University.

Pete had a rich and imaginative life. For more than three decades he taught at the Hartford Art School of the University of Hartford, where he co-founded the Experimental Studio Program and retired as Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts.

A prolific artist best known for his large charcoal drawings, he showed his work in more than 100 exhibitions in the United States and Europe. He made his radio debut on Hawaiian guitar at age 10 and later played dobro with the Western Massachusetts band Old Country Road.

He designed and built a number of houses with his friends, the "Wack-em-up" crew, starting with his home in Worthington. He was also a longtime glider pilot, soaring over Mount Greylock in Bluebird, his beloved vintage Schweizer sailplane.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Helen "Lene" (Beaudin) McLean; his children, Kristen McLean (Russell), Peter McLean Jr. (Pam) and Rebecca Joyner (Wyn); his grandchildren, Briana Haskell (Joe) and Caleb Mofsky-McLean and his great-grandson, Kaiden Haskell. His circle of friends and extended family is vast.

A celebration of life will be held on the family property in summer 2027, with details to follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association, the Highland Ambulance EMS Service, the Worthington Fire Department and the Peter McLean Fund at the University of Hartford.

Please go to Czelusniakfuneralhome.com for online condolences and tribute book.

DEATH NOTICE

MCLEAN, PETER CHARLES

Died Sept. 26, 2026

Celebration of Life to be held in summer of 2027



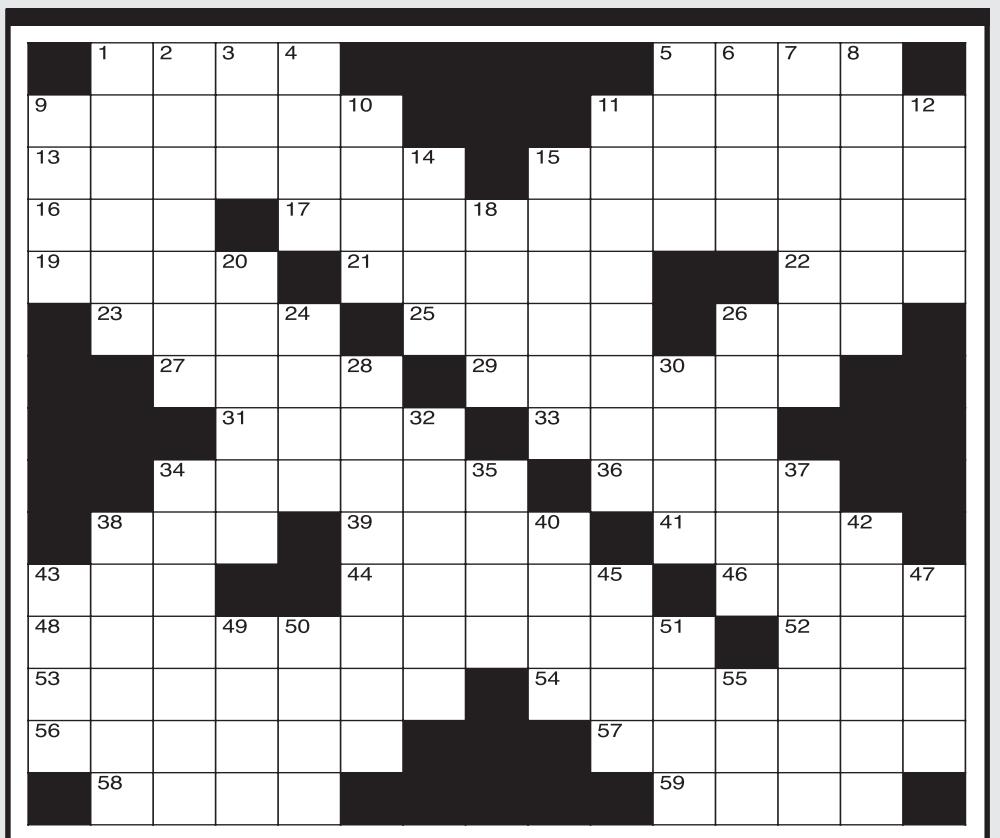
Country Journal

OBITUARY POLICY

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

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Difficult
5. Coarsely ground corn
9. A group of similar things ordered one after another
11. Loved Romeo
13. Something to solve
15. Pelvic areas
16. Informal debt instrument
17. Ineffective
19. A device attached to a workbench
21. Related on the mother's side
22. "Fresh Prince of __ Air"
23. Astronomer Sagan
25. C. Utah city
26. Turkey
27. Informal terms for money
29. Awakens
31. Those who favored Prohibition
33. Blabbed
34. Looked through
36. Rhode Island rebellion
38. A type of "cast"
39. One's duty
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Removed someone's head
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most unnatural
56. "Dennis" is a notable one
57. Ointments
58. Examination
59. Leaked fluid

CLUES DOWN

1. Brave
2. A state of excitement
3. Jest at
4. Sandwich store
5. Chapter of the Koran
6. Dismounted from a horse
7. Small vehicle
8. Irked
9. A disreputable man
10. Monetary unit of Samoa
11. A list of woes
12. Weight unit
14. Alone, single
15. Broadway legend Bernadette
18. Monetary unit of Serbia
20. Worn by exposure to the weather
24. A body of traditions
26. Students seek one
28. Hydrophilic amino acid
30. Nasal mucus
32. Branch of U.S. Congress
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Grant an exemption to
38. Set up in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. One of an ancient people inhabiting Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unhealthy

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Some free time opens up this week. Focus on social outings and keeping things light. Use the time to relax and recharge.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Tact may be required in the days ahead, Taurus. You have strong opinions about how to approach a situation, but present your views with kindness and express a willingness to be flexible.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, save up your energy for something fun instead of getting swept up in someone else's drama. Patience is your best friend this week, even if it doesn't always come easy.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
You tend to be very careful with money, Cancer. Financial discipline is a great asset that will pay dividends for you in the days ahead.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
You may find yourself in a highly visible position this week, Leo. That means you will need to be on your best behavior at all times . People will notice your every move.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, steer clear of any controversial subjects this week because they may escalate into something that can be off-putting for all involved. Try to keep your opinions to yourself.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
Embrace a challenge for all it has to offer. A unique situation arises and you can learn something about yourself and feel a strong sense of accomplishment.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Harsh words can be hard to forget, Scorpio. Be careful about how you communicate with others. Your intentions are good, so take a thoughtful approach to how to express them.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
You are juggling many things, including work, appointments and family obligations. Optimism and patience will be key for the time being.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Concerns about money may be on your mind, Capricorn. If you can get a handle on your finances, you will feel more secure about spending money.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
There is no winning if you enter a fray between family members right now, Aquarius. It is best if you keep your distance and do your own thing this week.

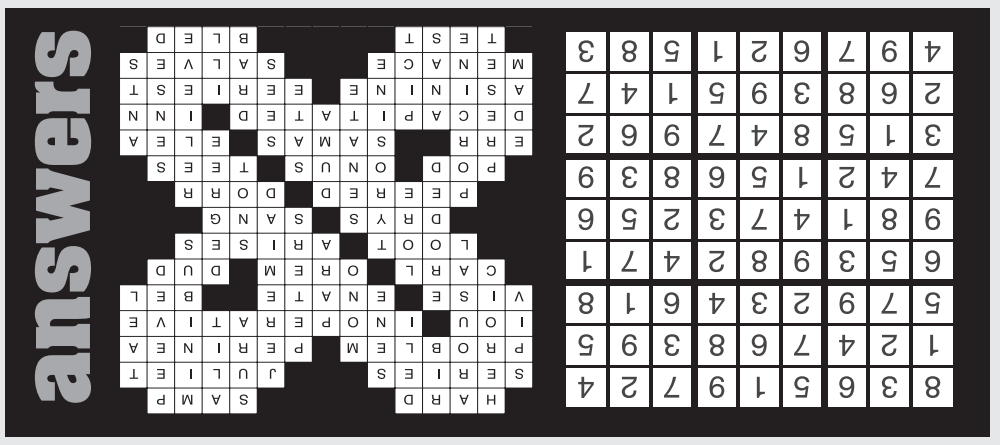
PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Your input will be sought this week, Pisces. Carefully consider an emerging situation, and then use your critical thinking skills to come up with the right advice.

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

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!



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

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NORTHAMPTON

Hosmer Gallery features local artists McQuillian, Benns, Andrews

NORTHAMPTON – Forbes Library, 20 West. St. Hosmer Gallery features artwork by Brian McQuillan, Maryanne Benns, and David Andrews.

There will be an artist reception on Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 5-7 p.m. It's a masquerade. People may come in costume or a mask and celebrate with the artists.

Brian McQuillan's welded metal art explores the reincarnation of Mundane, everyday metal objects, into fascinating creatures with re-invented souls. Can an antique typewriter evoke passion? Can rusty farm tools, and abandoned factory parts create delight?

Maryanne Benns says Halloween and Masks have a long history together, evolving culturally from ancient rituals to modern day masquerades. She says, "Some of my masks are your typical Gothic era ghouls and some I have created as mythological 'super heroes' with the intent on giving the wearer an added boost to get them through life. These incorporate found objects to act as a talisman."

David Andrews' hornets nests art pieces are a fusion of nature's beauty and artistic vision. The intricate patterns and textures of the nests add a unique dimension to each artwork, inviting viewers to appreciate the harmony between nature and art.

Andrews' text art pieces are a blend of literary inspiration and artistic expression. Each piece tells a unique story through carefully selected words, creating a visual narrative that resonates with viewers.

The exhibit runs through Saturday, Oct. 31. In this installation, the Arts and Music reading room is transformed into an interactive, homey space, full of furniture, decor, everyday items, and books. Everything in the room is second-hand, salvaged, thrifted or recycled-and altered by being covered in cozy stuffed animals.

This ongoing, ever-growing project brings new life to discarded items, and keeps everyday "stuff" out of the waste stream a little while longer. Gallery goers and library patrons are invited to spend time in the installation, find a cozy chair, read the books, pick up, touch, and interact with the whole exhibit.

Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.- 8p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The gallery is closed Sundays and holidays.

The Hosmer Gallery is located on the second floor of the Forbes Library.

WESTFIELD

St. Joseph's to host Polish dinner Oct. 18

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph's National Catholic Church at 73 Main St., hosts a community dinner featuring authentic Polish fare on Sunday, Oct. 18 at noon.

This hearty community feast will feature delicious cheese Pierogi, Kielbasa, Golumpki, lazy cabbage Pierogi and pickled beets. A homemade dessert is also included.

Beverages served include coffee, ice tea and bottled water.

Tickets are $18 for adults and $10 for children under 12. For tickets, people may call or text Cliff at 413-977-2007 and include their name and telephone number.

Deadline for purchasing all tickets is Wednesday, Oct. 14. A limited number of meals-to-go will be available at 12:30 p.m.

When purchasing tickets, people should indicate if they are dining with them or planning take-out. Everyone is welcome.

Alzheimer's Support Group to meet Oct. 28

WESTFIELD – Alzheimer's Association Support Group meets on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m. at Armbrook Village Senior Living and Memory Support Community, 551 North Road.

Caregivers and family members are invited to enjoy light refreshments and to share their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with their loved ones. Public is welcome.

To join this group, people may call 413-568-0000 or email reception@armbrookvillage.com. Groups are held on the last Wednesday of the month.

Vote early event takes place Oct. 17

WESTFIELD – On Saturday, Oct. 17 from 11 a.m.-noon, all are invited to Park Square for a No Kings: Vote Early event, part of a nationwide grassroots movement to protect voting rights and strengthen democracy.

The No Kings movement is mobilizing millions of Americans to participate in democracy and protect elections. The Oct.17 day of action represents a critical moment for communities to take direct action

The nonpartisan community gathering will encourage eligible voters to cast ballots early while recruiting local volunteers to defend election integrity. Attendees will connect with neighbors and learn how to join ongoing election protection efforts.

All events are nonpartisan and welcome all eligible voters. For more information, people may visit nokings.org, nokingswestfield.com or email contact@nokingswestfield.com

Westfield Bank makes Forbes 'Best-In-State Banks' list

WESTFIELD – Forbes in partnership with Statista named the Westfield Bank to the Forbes list of America's Best-In-State Banks 2026 for Massachusetts, earning national recognition for the customer experience it delivers in-person across its 25 branch offices and digitally through the WB Mobile App and online at westfieldbank.com.

The annual Best-In-State rankings recognize financial institutions that receive high marks from an independent survey of tens of thousands of U.S. consumers, as well as publicly available reviews.

Institutions are evaluated based on key criteria including customer satisfaction, trust, financial advice, digital services, terms and conditions and customer service.

Rankings are determined by analyzing overall performance and consumer sentiment, with top-performing banks and credit unions in each state recognized. The number of awarded institutions varies by state, based on population size and the number of eligible institutions meeting the evaluation threshold.

"On behalf of Westfield Bank, we're honored to be recognized on the Forbes Best-In-State Banks listing for 2026," said James C. Hagan, Westfield Bank President and CEO. "We strive to be the regional community bank that's focused on our customers and the communities we serve, and these results tell us we're achieving that goal. We're grateful to everyone who shared their experience and places their trust in Westfield Bank."

Currently, the bank has twenty-five branch offices, forty-nine ATMs, and an additional thirty seasonal ATMs and serves Hampden and Hampshire counties in Western Massachusetts and the Capitol Region in Connecticut.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission
Public Notice

At its regularly scheduled public meeting on **Tuesday, October 27th, 2026 at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability** (RDA) received from Jeremy Reinford as the Applicants. The RDA is related to a proposed clear cut. The project location is 184 Otis Stage Road in the Town of Blanford. The Conservation Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended).

Project plans and additional information are on record in the Office of the Conservation Commission.

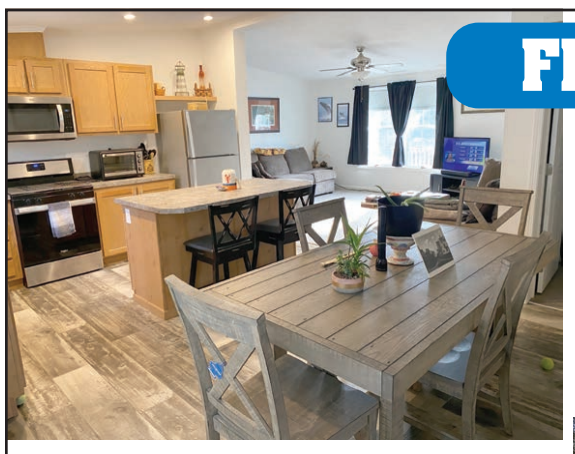
Richard Gates, Chair
Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission
10/08/2026

Town of Russell
Notice of Public Hearing
Removal of Shade Trees

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

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

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

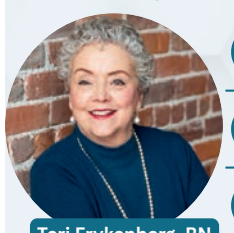


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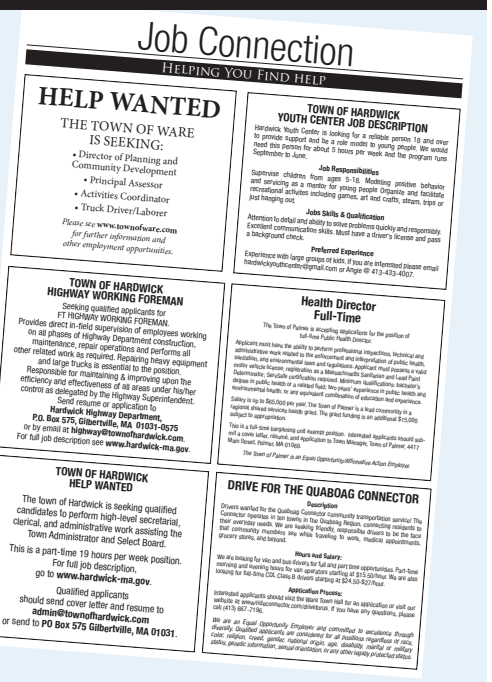
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CUMMINGTON

Friday Night Cafe welcomes Luoise Coombe

CUMMINGTON – On Friday, Oct. 9 from 7-9 pm. Louise Coombe, formerly Mosrie, will perform at the Friday Night Cafe, located in the vestry of the Village Church, located in downtown Cummington.

A Louise Coombe show is warm, intimate, funny and thought-provoking…she weaves together narratives between songs peppered with humorous personal stories and historical anecdotes with her unique Southern POV.

The first thing most people remark on is her voice. Louise is a classically trained singer with a big pop voice and a touch of twang and an award-winning songwriter. Audiences also love her stories behind the songs and honest polished delivery.

She has won top honors at songwriting contests around the country including Kerrville (Texas) New Folk (2x winner - the only one!), Telluride Bluegrass Festival (Colorado), Rocky Mountain Folks Fest (Colorado), Falcon Ridge Folk Festival (New York), Connecticut Folk Fest and SolarFest (Vermont).

Louise's historical songs have been used in two documentaries broadcast on PBS.

The event is free, donations are appreciated. Snacks will be provided, bring your own beverages.

Once again the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe music can be a powerful force for building community, bring this event.

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



WORTHINGTON

COA offers grad and go meal

WORTHINGTON – On Thursday, Oct. 15 from noon-1 p.m. at Worthington Town Hall the menu will be a choice of chicken broccoli casserole or teriyaki chicken with steamed rice, stir fry blend, carrots and yogurt (80) Cal: 697 Sodium: 773 Carb: 99).

To reserve a meal sponsored by the Worthington Council on Aging and Highland Valley Elder Service, seniors may call or text 413-238-1999 by Saturday, Oct. 10 at noon and tell them their name, number of meals and the name of the person also receiving the meal and their meal choice.

New enrollee forms can be downloaded here and are also available at the Town Hall bulletin Board and the COA bulletin board at Corners Grocery.

They can also fill one out an application when them come to pick up. They should bring a bag with them to carry their meals to the car.

If people have any questions, they may call Phyllis Dassatti of the COA at 413-238-5962.

TOUR

from page 1

Kevin O'Connor of Worthington was also displaying his art at the tour hub inside the town hall. He is one of the founders of the Hilltown Open Studio Tour.

An associated group known as the Hilltown Community Development Corps worked with the towns to help organize the studio tour.

O'Connor's focus is on wood collages which he has done for nearly 60 years. He picked up the craft back in high school and uses all types of wood he collects.

The wood for his art is collected from the roadside and from old projects.

Applying his experience in architecture, O'Connor has crafted numerous amounts of wood collages such as picture frames and portraits.

Angela Vincent of Goshen attended her first Hilltown Open Studio Tour. Her work mainly focused on oil and watercolor paintings.

Her paintings involved landscapes, especially ones you can spot throughout the Pioneer Valley.

"Beautiful places in the valley," Vincent said.

One of the landscapes she shared was a painting of the Mill River at Look Park. Tourists explored Vincent's art and some recognized some familiar places that may have crossed their paths.

Vincent gave a demonstration on how to get started on a landscape by drawing first and then plein-air, which means the act of painting outside. This act of painting dates back to the Impressionist time period back in the 19th century.

There were samples of the initial drawings of nature and landscapes and also tools to use when drawing landscapes such as an outdoor easel.

More about Vincent and her artwork can be found at www.dovehollow.gallery.

Pleun Bouricius of AgathaO Photography has been a photographer since the early 1980s. Her work in photography began by using a friends Canon camera.

This was her fifth year participating in the Hilltown Open Studio Tour. Bouricius picked up photography again back in 2015 and focused on nature photography.

She zoomed in on her photographs and captured unique effects that bring out beauty in nature that you don't regularly see.

Bouricius loves water effects in her photography as it expresses different emotions when it is zoomed in.

When studying photography, Bouricius remembered wise words from her photography teacher. "If you're making a good print, your viewer is going to have to lick it."

More about AgathaO Photography can be found at agathao.com.

More about the Hilltown Open Studio Tour can be found at hilltownartsalliance.org. This beloved fall event is held during the first weekend of October.



Kevin O'Connor of Worthington with his wood collages displayed inside Worthington Town Hall.



The art studio of Elizabeth Schulz featuring her sculptures made by coiling out of long leaf pine needles and raffia.





A wooden collage picture frame by O'Connor with a small portrait of Picasso in the center.





Paintings by Jan Roby of Worthington.



Turley Publication photos by Ryan Drago

Angela Vincent gave a demonstration on how to draw landscapes.



A close up of the oil painting "Mill River at Look Park" by Angela Vincent.

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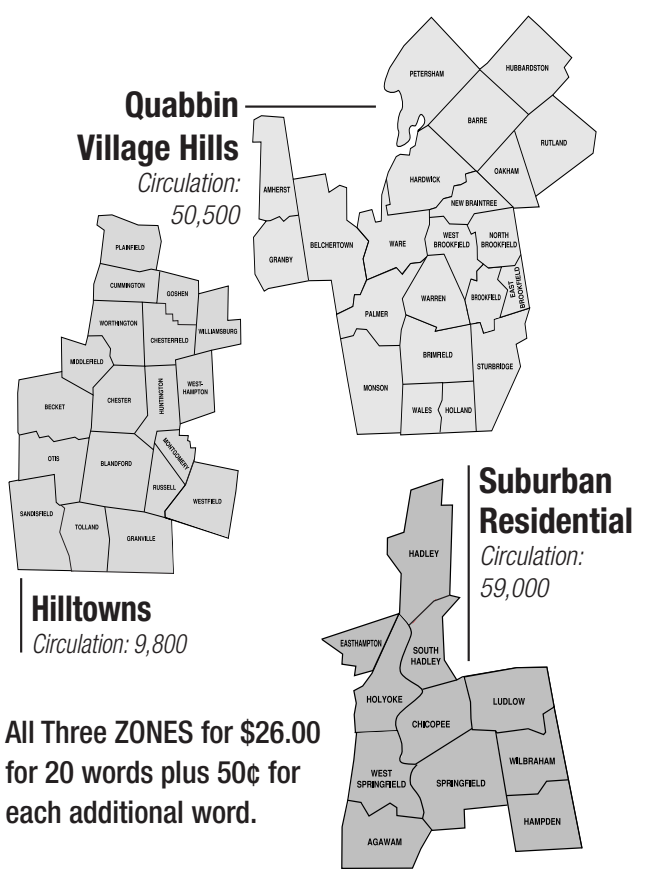
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
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21 Base Price $26.50	22 Base Price $27.00	23 Base Price $27.50	24 Base Price $28.00
25 Base Price $28.50	26 Base Price $29.00	27 Base Price $29.50	28 Base Price $30.00
29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 Base Price $32.00
33 Base Price $32.50	34 Base Price $33.00	35 Base Price $33.50	36 Base Price $34.00
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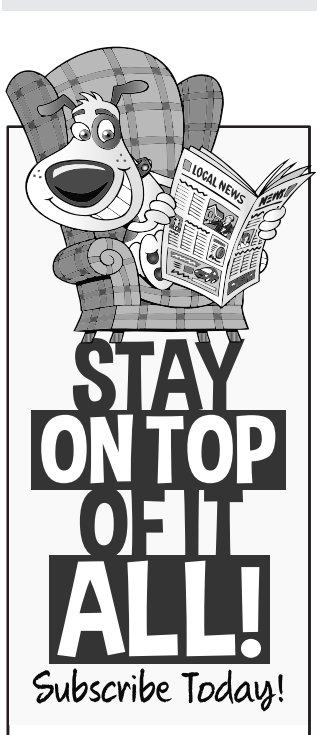
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