

"I may be compelled to face danger, but never fear it, and while our soldiers can stand and fight, I can stand and feed and nurse them." – Clara Barton

# Country Journal

*Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns*

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

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**HUNTINGTON**

## 'Trunk or Treat' and bonfire to be held at library on Oct. 21

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

A community-wide event will be held on the grounds of the Huntington Public Library on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 5-9 p.m.

Participants may park at Pettis Field and walk up for the celebration. "Trunk or Treat" a safe alternative to trick or treating all in one locale, will take place Saturday, Oct. 21 from 5-6 p.m. Children, who wish to take part, are encouraged to come in costume and bring a bag to collect their goodies.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a trunkful of candy should contact the recreation committee by emailing recreation@huntingtonma.us. Sponsors are advised to bring at least 300 pieces of candy or treats. The Huntington Public Library will be giving candy and lego kits to each child, who attends, while supplies last. The Hilltown Family Center story walk will be the book, "Pumpkin Jack."



This is one of the many people who set up last year for "Trunk or Treat" at Pettis Field in Huntington from 5-6 p.m. The event goes includes a bonfire and musical entertainment by the 413's from 6-9 p.m.

Submitted photo

TREAT, page 3

**HUNTINGTON**

## COA sponsors exciting events

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

The Huntington Council on Aging sponsors numerous ongoing weekly activities, including pickle ball instruction, yoga, educational events, monthly movies and the weekly "Hilltown Memory Cafe" with art, nutritional and educational activities.

A portable pickle ball court has been set up in the back of the Huntington Public Library parking lot. The net, broom, sandbags, first aid kit, paddles and pickle balls are located in a locked bench behind the library.

The combination is given out to all Huntington seniors, who compete and return an exercise release form, which may be picked up at the library, town hall or any COA event. Pickle ball refresher clinics are held every Tuesday at 10 a.m., while the weather holds, where someone will teach how to set up the portable nets and how to play the game.

Kat Peterson, COA Director, will be at Stanton Hall on Tuesdays from 1-2 p.m. for support services, coffee hour and table game events. The COA has purchased chess, checkers, scrabble, Yahtzee, cribbage and many decks

COA, page 3

## Huntington's Harvest Fair offered variety of vendors and booths for all



Rick LaPointe gets the 1800s era apple press ready to make cider for fair goers, Kelso Apple Orchard in Chester donated the apples.

Photos by Deborah Daniels



Many, many paintings done by local artist Robert Lavigne for sale. This was a self taught painter who picked up the brush for the first time in his advanced years. He passed away in 2022 leaving the collection to his wife.



Cookie Hurls sold more than knitted hats. She collects lost and missing jewelry such as earrings and repurposes them into necklaces and mismatched earrings.



Knitted hats by Cookie Hurls was one of the vendors at the Huntington Harvest Fair.

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## HILLTOWNS

# Working Weavers Organization hosts 2023 Studio Trail

FLORENCE – The Working Weavers organization will host its fifth Studio Trail tour on Saturday, Oct. 14 and Sunday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with eight weavers from Florence to Shelburne Falls and Conway in between opening their studios to the public for demonstrations and sales.

“We are weavers dedicated to bringing handwoven textiles into the future,” said Paula Veleta, one of two founding members of Working Weavers. “Our mission is to make cloth visible again by producing and selling high-quality textiles as well as by presenting the process and the people who make weaving their livelihood. We picked October for the Studio Trail because it’s fall foliage season, a nice time of year to drive from one end of the valley to the other.”

The organization’s website at [workingweavers.com](http://workingweavers.com) offers suggested routes for traveling to the various studios and interesting stops along the way, including restaurants, pubs, inns and local attractions. The information can be easily printed from a PDF on the site.

Trail stops span from Shelburne Falls south to Florence. The following is a list of participating weavers and their locations.

New this year, Tonya Grant, 8 South Cooper Lane, Shelburne Falls, specializes in drawloom weaving, creating complex patterns and images within a damask fabric.

Emily Gwynn and guest weaver Lisa Bertoldi, 124 North St., Shelburne



Lisa Hill of Conway winds a warp. She is one of the weavers on studio trail on Saturday, Oct. 14 and Sunday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Submitted photo

Falls of Hands to Work Textiles, focuses on heirloom-quality table linens and other household textiles and is influenced by both traditional and mid-century Scandinavian design. Bertoldi specializes in durable, absorbent kitchen towels in cotton and linen.

Lisa Hill, 156 Elmer Road, Conway, the master weaver behind the business Plain Weave, is a teacher, designer and writer who works out of her 1840s barn in Conway.

Scott Norris, 20 Wilder Place, Florence of Elam’s Widow, weaves exclusively hand-dyed fine linen for table and kitchen use.

Chris Hammel, 221 Pine St., Studio #315, Florence, is a scholar, teacher and master weaver who directs the Hill Institute and operates her studio, Ekphrasis Defined Designs, where she creates exquisite textiles for use in the home or to wear.

Veleta and her guest Megan Karlen, 221 Pine St., Studio #338, Florence of Studio 338 Handwoven, produces woven fabrics in her studio at the Arts and Industry Building in Florence, using her intricately designed textiles to create adornments for the home and body. Karlen’s work is in direct relation to her desire to see more beauty in the world.

Veleta, of Florence, said most of the professionals in the Working Weavers group are handweavers who use traditional wooden looms with no mechanization.

“Weavers open their studios, often inside their own homes, and welcome the public to see how cloth is made,” Veleta said. “They invite you to touch, explore and experience hand-woven cloth and are happy to speak with you at length about their tools, materials and processes.”

Visitors can purchase high-quality handwoven goods directly from the weavers, including newcomers to the trail, Grant and Karlen.

One optional tour feature is called the Trail Pass. Each pass is \$2 and is stamped by each weaver along the route and turned in at the last studio as entry into a drawing; the winner may choose from a selection of handwoven items or a \$100 gift certificate that can be redeemed with any of this year’s Working Weavers.

The Trail Pass helps fund scholarships and more ways to enter a drawing.

Veleta and a colleague, Marilyn Webster from Conway, founded Working Weavers in 2016, and in 2017, they hosted the first Studio Trail, modeled after pottery tours that are hosted in the Valley.

The tour typically generates about 1,000 visitors. For more information, people may email Veleta at [paulaerk@comcast.net](mailto:paulaerk@comcast.net), call 413-320-0808 or visit the website at [www.workingweavers.com/](http://www.workingweavers.com/).

## Massachusetts Department of Transportation list I-90 roadwork

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

The work will be conducted at various times and locations from Thursday, October 12 through Friday, Oct. 13. Lane closures will be in place during the construction operations and traffic will be able to travel through the work zones.

Guardrail repairs and pavement mark-

ing installation in Lee, Becket and Otis will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound and westbound between mile marker 7.4 and mile marker 21.8 from Thursday, Oct. 12 through Friday, Oct. 1, from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude on Friday, Oct. 13 at 5 a.m.

Paving operations in Lee will be conducted nightly on I-90 eastbound between mile marker 10.0 and mile marker 14.7, from Tuesday, October 10, through Friday, October 13, from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to conclude by 5:00 a.m. on

Friday, October 13.

Paving operations will take place at the Lee service plaza on I-90 westbound on Thursday, Oct. 12 from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. The front entrance and back loop will be temporarily closed on Friday, Oct. 13 until 2 a.m.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers who are traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change

without notice.

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

## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

### College of Our Lady of the Elms list graduates

CHICOPEE – College of Our Lady of the Elms announces students, who graduated after the conclusion of the summer 2023 semester.

Local students graduating are Quinn Burke of Westfield, Bachelor of Arts in computer information technology and security and Lori Gramolini of Westfield, Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in education. They were among 75 students who received their degrees this summer.

Elms College, founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world.

### WNE University names Resident Advisors

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University named Resident Advisors for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Local students, who are Resident Advisors, are Gabriel Sayre of Huntington and Jordan Tomczak of Westfield. Sayre is working toward a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. Tomczak is working toward a Bachelor of Arts in psychology.

Western New England University is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates.

### Margaret Barr competes on ECSU volleyball team

WILLIMANTIC, CT – Eastern Connecticut State University’s women’s volleyball team recently began its fall 2023 season.

Among the 16 student athletes is Margaret Barr of Easthampton, number 3, who plays middle blocker. Barr is a first-year student who majors in exploratory education. Megan Silver-Droesch enters her 10th season as Eastern’s head women’s volleyball coach and 13th season overall with the program.

The team began its season on Sept. 1 with a victory at the University of Saint Joseph. To learn more about the program, people may visit <https://gowarriorathletics.com/sports/womens-volleyball>.

*Submissions are always welcome.*

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

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## MIDDLEFIELD

### Council on Aging lists menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, on Wednesday, Oct. 18 will serve lunch at noon.

The menu is eat in or take out. The choice is broccoli cheese casserole or

roasted turkey soup, roasted potato, French bread, cinnamon grahams, yogurt, birthday cake. People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal the previous Friday, Oct. 13. Bingo will be played after lunch.



# HUNTINGTON

## Huntington COA to host health fair reminder

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging will host their annual health fair Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

Worthy-Que Smoke N' BBQ food truck will be onsite from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and all ages are welcome to purchase food. Free \$10 food truck vouchers will

be available for the first 50 Huntington seniors (60 and over) who register by calling 413-512-5205. Vouchers are valid only on Oct. 14 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m..

A flu vaccination clinic will be provided by Stop & Shop. Vendors will include Baystate Hospice, Careforth Adult Foster Care, Commonwealth Care Alliance, Cooley Dickinson VNA &

Hospice, Highland Valley Elder Services, Hilltown Community Ambulance Association, Hilltown Community Health Centers, Huntington Food Pantry, Linda Manor Extended Care Facility and Assisted Living, Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol Program, Navicare/Fallon Health, TRIAD, WestMass Eldercare, Inc.

### COA

from page 1

of cards. Puzzles are also available to swap and share and can be picked up on Tuesdays. People should look for upcoming competitions this winter, with prizes.

Chair yoga class is offered every Wednesday from 9-10:15 a.m. at Stanton Hall. The cost is \$5 per person and instructions for both chair and mat poses are given. Equipment is available on site. Comfortable, loose fitting clothing is suggested.

Monthly educational events are held at Stanton Hall on Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. Coming up are a Defibrillator Familiarization and Hands Only CPR Presentation on Wednesday, Oct. 25. Cate Snape from Hilltown Community Ambulance will be the instructor.

On Wednesday, Nov. 8, Bill Cote (billcote.org) will give a presentation on Bike West 2023 - Biking Across the Country From Massachusetts to Seattle.

Also on Wednesdays, the Hilltown Memory Cafe is held weekly from 2-3 p.m. This program is open to residents from any community, with or without memory issues. The Huntington COA

received a Caregiver Respite grant, which provides support services for 16 families. Three times a month, a support group for caregivers is held that allows them to share their concerns and learn about support services that might help them.

Art instruction with therapeutic artist Lori Bocon is held for all who are interested. Some of the artwork created is currently on display in the Huntington Town Hall. Once a month, a musical event is held that is open to everyone. On Wednesday, Oct. 18, the Pioneer Valley Fiddlers will perform and Ed Bentley will take the stage on Wednesday, Nov. 29.

Thursdays will feature weekly indoor walking and line dancing, which starts up beginning Thursday, Nov. 2 from 10-11 a.m. Weeks will alternate between line dancing instructional videos and an indoor mile walking challenge. A movie is shown on the second Thursday of the month from 1-2:30 p.m. with free popcorn and snacks. The November movie will be "Flags of Our Fathers" on Thursday, Nov. 9 from

1-2:30 p.m.

The COA has announced that it spent over \$200 on a movie license and another \$600 on a surround sound system. Attendance at the monthly movies has been low and the license will not be renewed unless attendance picks up.

Transportation is available for these events. People may call Richard Homan, FRTA Van Driver, at 860-836-1844 to schedule an appointment by 6 p.m. the day before they need a ride. Schedule as far in advance as possible to ensure availability.

Riders must complete an application before taking the van; they should call 413-512-5205 to have one mailed or emailed to them. The fare for the van ride to the Memory Cafe or COA office is \$1.50 round trip.

Funding for many of these programs is made possible in part by a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services, through the Federal Older Americans Act, and by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

## Business association to hold monthly meeting

HUNTINGTON – The Jacob's Ladder Business Association will hold their October meeting on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 6 p.m. in Emily Lee-Smith's house located at 139 Kinney Brook Road, Littleville just past the Littleville Fairgrounds.

They will discuss any needed map distributions, the 2024 Slate of Officers, Snack N' Schmooze and hopefully an update regarding the Westfield Chamber of Commerce.

### TREAT

from page 1

Area favorites The 413's will perform from 6-9 p.m., with the Huntington Fire Association sponsoring its annual bonfire. Attendees are encouraged to "Fill the Boot" with cash donations to help the fire department sponsor events like this.

This event is for the entire community and is co-sponsored by the Huntington Recreation Committee, the Huntington Fire Association, Huntington Public Library and Hilltown Family Center.

PLEASE RECYCLE  
THIS NEWSPAPER

# RUSSELL

## Russell Pubic Library announces upcoming news and events

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library, 162 Main St., will hols a program on bee keeping with Bob Broga on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 2-4 pm. at the library.

Broga will talk about honey bee behavior, forming and maintaining a hive, processing honey and related items and preparing for pollinators in the spring. He brings lots of hands on materials and his

buzzing friends. People may register by emailing rpldirector@townofrussell.us, calling 413-862-6221 and leaving a message or by coming in and signing up at the library.

Kids, Happy Fallidays, a celebration for the Celebration of Fall Story Time on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 10:30 a.m.-noon. There will be leaf craft and pumpkin eats. This will be a full morning of fabulous fall

fun and a story too. It is open to everyone and no registration is required.

On Thursday, Nov. 2 from 6-8 p.m. there will be a pastel painting workshop for adults and teens as well as beginners to advanced artists. All materials are provided. Artist Gregory John Maichack will lead the group in a "Guided Pastel Painting of Georgia O'Keeffe's Famous Lily."

Maichack's workshops have been so

well-liked that he has been booked annually at the Russell Public Library for a number of years. People may register by emailing rpldirector@townofrussell.us, calling 413-862-6221 and leave a message or coming in and signing up at the library. This program is supported in part by funds from the Russell Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### How do disability programs affect Social Security's budget?

Dear Rusty

I read with interest an analysis of the history, reasons, and financial costs of the Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance programs. My question is, specifically, what portion of the Social Security budget goes toward SSI and SSDI vs. for regular SS retirement income for those who paid into the fund during their working lives? How are the costs of SSI and SSDI covered by the federal government? When did these two sections of the budget enter the law and what was the impetus behind them?

Signed: An Inquiring Mind

Dear Inquiring Mind

No part of Social Security's "budget" is used to pay Supplemental Security Income. SSI is a means-tested general assistance program for disadvantaged children and needy disabled adults and aged seniors who have very little income and very few assets. Federal SSI benefits are paid from the government's General Treasury, not from Social Security Trust Funds.

SSI is jointly administered by the person's state of residence and the Social Security Administration, and the state usually provides additional benefits to supplement the financial assistance provided by the federal government under the SSI program. The Social Security Administration only administers the SSI program, it does not fund it.

By contrast, Social Security Disability Insurance benefits are for employed Americans, who become disabled and unable to work full time. SSDI benefits are meant to provide limited income replacement for the disabled worker and those benefits are paid from a separate Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

The DI fund receives a portion (0.9%) of the FICA SS payroll taxes every American worker pays on their earnings and is used to pay disability benefits to eligible American workers, who are unable to perform "substantial gainful activity" for a year or more. The eligibility criteria to collect SSDI are very strict, but those approved receive their benefits from this separate DI trust fund, not from Social Security's Old Age and Survivors Trust Fund.

Payroll taxes collected for disability purposes are deposited in the DI Trust Fund as interest-bearing government bonds, and those DI assets are redeemed as needed to pay SSDI benefits. FYI, SSDI (disability) benefits stop when the person reaches full retirement age, at which point the beneficiary is automatically switched to regular SS retirement and after which their benefits are paid from the regular Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund.

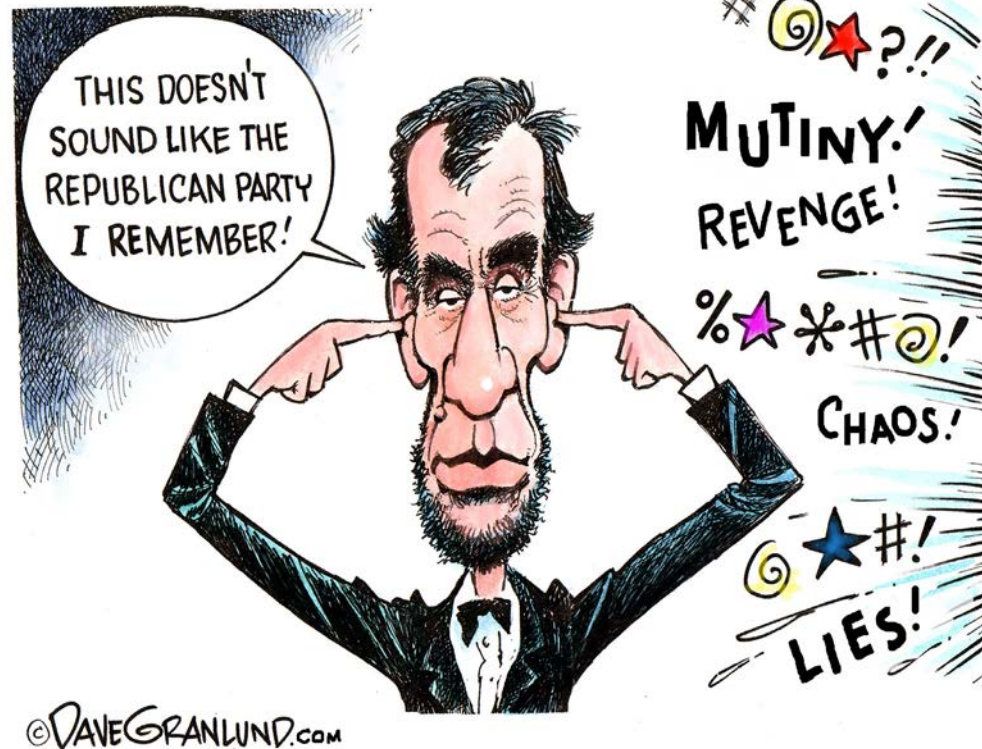
"Regular" Social Security retirement benefits, spousal benefits, dependent benefits and survivor benefits are paid from Social Security's OASI Trust Fund, which receives most 5.3% of the 6.2% FICA Social Security tax withheld from the paychecks of American

SECURITY, page 5

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

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



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Punish the polluters not the fisherpersons

When I started fishing for trout in the 1950s, the Westfield River was an open sewer.

The towns of Chester, Huntington and Russell along with the city of Westfield dumped thousands of gallons of raw sewerage into the river each day. The paper mills added to the pollution.

The river would change color weekly from the dyed wood pulp dumped into it. In August, the rotting sewerage and wood pulp sucked oxygen from the water and dead fish added to the rotting mess.

In the 1960s, Federal and State anti-pollution laws and grants made a big change. Wood pulp and hot water were recycled by the mills. The towns and city of Westfield upgraded their sewerage disposal plants and the river ran clear.

Canoeist, kayakers and even swimmers joined the fisherpersons in enjoying our river. The Mass. Division of Fisheries and

Wildlife started stocking brook, brown, rainbow and tiger trout. The Federal government tried for years to restore the Atlantic salmon.

This effort was appreciated by fisherpersons far and wide and local businesses thrived. Hundreds of "summer people" came to enjoy the river and left thousands of trash along its banks.

Out town of Russell solved the pollution problem by getting the State Highway Department to post the parking areas along the banks of the Westfield River. Local police started fining. All came to enjoy the river. It is just plain wrong to punish people, who fish and canoe our river.

The polluters are the ones, who should be fined under state anti-pollution laws. A \$25 fine for each violation would be appropriate. Trail cameras could be used to monitor their activity.

Bill Hardie  
Russell

## GUEST COLUMN

### Planning ahead for raised beds!



My friend Jacquie is very proud of the tomato plants she grows each year. She squeezes them into the little garden adjacent to the front door of her condo, and has even grown some in hanging containers. I received this question from her via text a few weeks back, and by the sound of it she wants to expand her gardening endeavors:

"For those of us that like to plan ahead, what are the pros and cons of raised bed gardens, and if you decide to go that route, what is the process?"

There are several advantages to gardening in raised beds. If the ground you would normally garden in is too sandy or too clayey, you can stop dealing with those troubles when you switch to raised beds!

You can carefully choose the soil that you fill the beds with. I personally love the Coast of Maine brand Raised Bed Mix, but I am sure there are resources online for mixing your own blends.

You can also plant more intensively, meaning fewer weeds! Concentrate fertilizers, lime and compost right where you need them, saving money along the way.

You can start working the ground earlier in the spring because it warms up quicker

in raised beds. You don't have to worry about soil compaction as much either, because rarely, if ever, will you have to step into the beds.

You no longer have to weed the rows like you would in a normal garden, or will you have to worry about mulch or other materials to cover the rows with.

One drawback might be the cost to get started. Between the edging materials and the mix, you end up filling the bed with, it could get darn expensive.

First, you have to decide on what type of material you'll use to edge the beds with. There are pros and cons there too, but more on that in a bit.

A minimum depth of one foot is needed for most crops barring corn; that crop would need a deeper bed. On the flip side, if the ground beneath the raised beds is usable (i.e., not contaminated or pavement etc.) then you could potentially make the beds not as quite as deep, figuring plant roots will penetrate out from the walls.

Wood, stone, brick, pavers and cinder blocks are all possible edge materials. Simple raised beds can even be made within hay bales!

Beds made from pine slabs may only last a few seasons; rock type edging will last indefinitely.

One drawback to beds made out of hardscape materials might be the fact that they dry out more readily. Although that would not have been an issue this year, it could be down the road.

I had a number of raised beds that I made in an old tennis court on my property.

GARDEN, page 5

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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# OPINION

## HILLTOWN HISTORY

### Granite Quarry Co. made monuments 1870s-1940s

By Deborah Daniel  
Correspondent

“Eternity Long Life Short” is a gravestone epitaph. The message is clear and no wasting energy carving words you don’t need. That was the prevailing thought the monument makers wanted you to believe. How else do you drum up business for gravestones?

Making monuments was the life-line for the Chester granite industry from the 1870s to late 1940s. Processing granite from the local quarries gave as many as 250 people jobs around Chester.

Today the huge granite cutting shot saw behind the Chester Depot still stands. This was after all the location of the Chester Granite Quarry Company. Here they cut and polished huge chunks of granite into gravestone monuments for shipment to the greater United States via the train.

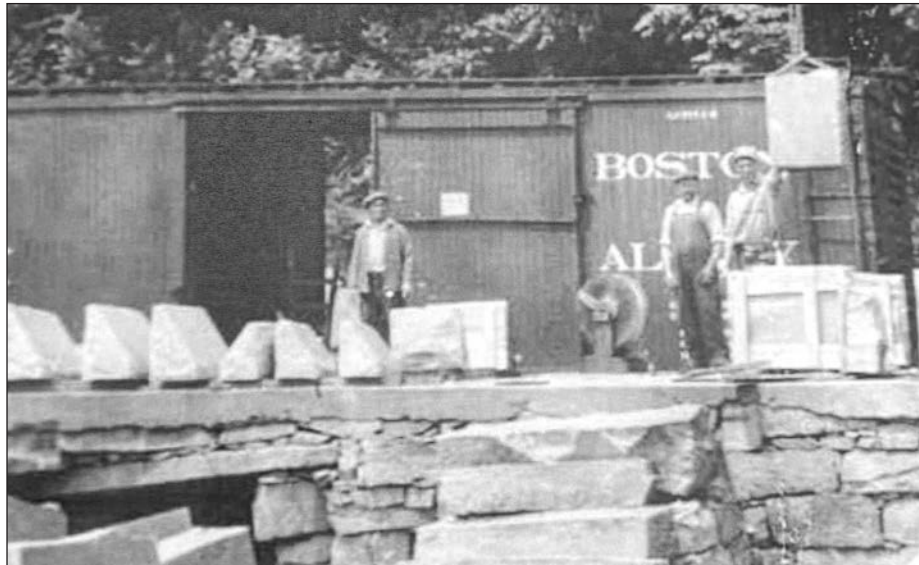
Blueprint drawings recently acquired confirmed there were two wooden buildings involved in stone cutting, two polishing buildings, two compressor buildings supplying the power to sandblast grave designs and inscriptions (drills that were worn out and require replacing in five hours), a machine shop, two hoist houses with derricks to lift the stone and at least four loading platforms where the finished work was loaded onto the train.

This was all located behind Emory St. in Chester where the Boston & Albany Railroad had a spur devoted to transporting the finished stone. There are only concrete remnants and slabs of stone lying in the woods of this enterprise. Amazingly the ghostly stone cutting saw can still be seen, bearing witness to the granite industry once located there. The Hilltown Hikers are hard at work restoring this landmark to its former glory.

Hiking around the area you can’t help but be struck by the several monuments with inscriptions that are lying in the rubble. What did the relatives forget to pick up the gravestone, horrors? Did they think the monument price included the burial? Are they buried right there? Okay a touch of ghoulish is in order, it is Halloween time.

“Remember me as you pass by,  
As you are now, so once was I,  
As I am now, so you will be,  
Prepare for death and follow me”,  
this was a popular quote carved into early gravestones.

Did you know in colonial times you were put down six feet right on your property? There was no such thing as a graveyard. Once land became



Workers for the Boston and Albany Railroad get ready to load monuments into a freight car at the Chester Granite Quarry Company.

Submitted photo

scarce for buildings in town, cemeteries came about. They were often built on undesirable land such as land too rocky to farm or located high on a distant hilltop.

The first gravestones were called tablet stones, made of slate that was easy to quarry, cut and carve. Chisel and mallet were the tools used to carve inscriptions. Boston slate became the big player in gravestones because they were easily shipped up and down the coast to as far away as the Carolinas.

The “Charlestown Master” out of Boston was the earliest noteworthy grave carver, whose identity has never been identified. He had two well known apprentices, William Mumford and Joseph Lamson. They were the sought after grave carvers of the day. They became very successful.

Connecticut sandstone, which is brown colored, was also a popular stone for graves. George Griswold (1633-1704) of Windsor Connecticut was the master known for carving epitaphs on these. Newport, Rhode Island also had quarries of slate and sandstone with some highly regarded slate carvers like John Bull and John Stevens.

Congress enacted a bill that provided gravestones for veterans in 1873 helping to further establish the gravestone business. These gravestones are made of granite or marble and all were tablets 42 inches long by 13 inches wide and 4 inches thick weighing 230 pounds with name and years of service inscribed or merely their rank.

Marble was the next popular gravestone material in the early 19th century. Unfortunately it does not weather well, acid rain in particular erodes away many of the inscriptions. If you want to

be remembered for centuries, go with granite. It is the top choice for monuments.

So sandblasting became the way to carve inscriptions replacing the artisan’s mallet. It was first invented by Benjamin Tilghman in 1870, a Civil War veteran, who drew from his observations of how sand could be used to sharpen his file tools.

As far as symbolism on gravestones goes the earlier carvings were described as folk art – grim reaper and scythe, hourglass images and death heads. The message was clear, “life is short, don’t sin and God may take you at any time.” These were common during the 1600 – 1750s.

The soul effigy was a bit more optimistic, it portrayed one’s soul flying to Heaven from about 1750. These winged cherubs (soul) gave way to Victorian imagery of sadness and mourning with the symbols of weeping willow trees, funerary urns and Greek goddesses. Today’s gravestone images the sky’s the limit. There are photos of the deceased and personal mementos carved into the stone such as Nintendo game boys, favorite guitars, antique cars and more.

So you know the biggest gravestone we have is the Washington Monument in Washington D.C. commemorating George Washington’s death in 1799. It took 36 years to build this obelisk, it was completed in 1884 and it is lined with stones sent in from all over the country. It is made of granite, marble and bluestone gneiss.

Also of note is the fact that you could buy your headstone from the Sears catalog through 1949. A simple two piece marble marker cost \$5 and a large three piece pillar monument was



A gravestone with ornate carving located in the Huntington cemetery. It also typifies how difficult it can be to decipher the engraving on monuments. Turley photo by Deborah Daniels



Huntington cemetery gate is located just off Rte. 66. Turley photo by Deborah Daniels

\$27 plus more for the inscription.

If people want to impress their funeral director be sure to throw around the terms of “die,” “base” and “marker,” when discussing monuments. The die is the upright portion of the monument or the headstone and the base is the rectangular stone section the die rests on and the marker is the flat stone placed at the bottom of an individual grave.

There is a foundation made of concrete buried into the ground that the granite base rests on. Apparently every cemetery’s nightmare is falling headstones. Death may not be proud, but it will be elegant with the right gravestone.

## SECURITY

from page 4

workers. As of the end of 2022, the OASI Trust Fund held about \$2.7 trillion in interest bearing government bonds.

Neither SSI or SSDI affect this “regular” OASI Trust Fund - only true SS retirement benefits and benefits for dependents of the retiree are paid from the OASI Trust Fund. As an aside, Social Security reform is needed to prevent the OASI Trust Fund from being fully depleted in 2033.

To answer your last questions, the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund was established in 1956, after which SSDI benefit payments to eligible disabled American workers began. Federal “Supplemental Security Income” assistance was codified into law in 1974. And, as you likely know, Social Security retirement, spousal and dependent benefits were enacted in the 1930s, before the first monthly Social Security check

was mailed in January 1940. The impetus behind these programs? Avoiding poverty for the neediest among us. Without these programs, at least 22 million more Americans would be living below the poverty line.

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

## GARDEN

from page 4

They were edged in field stone because I had an endless supply on my property.

Free, yes! Beautiful, yes! But practical, not so much.

On a hot summer day, I was sometimes out there watering two or more times!

The new galvanized metal raised beds seem to be rising in popularity. I know very little about them or how readily they dry out in between waterings.

As far as bed width goes, usually no more than four feet wide is recommended. That way you can reach inside comfortably.

I have been very successful growing peppers, zucchini and onions in my raised beds. Flowers and herbs also seem to do very well.

Tomatoes perform okay, but for

me, green beans seem to be unhappy. There isn’t enough room for winter squash, and I’ve never attempted corn.

Refresh your soil each year with the addition of compost and fertilizer. Because the bed is like a big container, the soil can get exhausted after a season of use.

I would say gardening in raised beds is worth the investment. Start out small and expand if you feel you enjoy having more to take care of.

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



# BECKET

## Select Board seeks Zoning Board of Appeals member

BECKET – The Becket Select Board seeks a resident to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Residents serving on the ZBA balance the public good with private rights. Some duties of the ZBA include hearing and deciding on applications for Special Permits, Site Plan Reviews and variances. The ZBA meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. as needed; hearing input from applicants, organization and residents direct-

ly affected by land use decisions.

Involvement on the ZBA can help shape the community's future. If people have questions about the ZBA, they may contact [zba@townofbecket.org](mailto:zba@townofbecket.org).

To apply, they should submit a letter of interest and fill out an Appointment Application to the Select Board. The application may be obtained from the Town's Administrative Assistant by e-mailing [adminasst@townofbecket.org](mailto:adminasst@townofbecket.org).

## Anthropologists will speak at Becket Art Center Oct. 15

BECKET – Pittsfield anthropologists and Becket summer residents, Alan and Pamela Sandstrom, will present "Contemporary Aztec Sacred Journeys," part of the Becket Arts Center's Speaker Series, on Sunday, Oct. 15 beginning at 4 p.m.

Their talk, which will include photographs of the Indigenous people of northern Veracruz, Mexico, will explain the deeply held religious beliefs and ritual practices of the Nahuatl people, descendants

of the Aztecs, as they seek to reestablish equilibrium between the human community, the forces of nature and the sacred cosmos.

The lecture is based on the Sandstroms' long-term ethnographic research, which is the subject of their new book, "Pilgrimage to Broken Mountain: Nahuatl Sacred Journeys in Mexico's Huasteca Veracruzana." The event will also be available on Zoom. For more information, people may visit [becketartscenter.org](http://becketartscenter.org).

## Becket Athenaeum announces upcoming news and events

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St., serves the Becket and Washington community.

The outdoor plumbing work to tie the water system in with the well shared by the Becket Art Center and Mullen House is complete thanks to Mark A. Levernoch Plumbing & Heating and White Wolf Trucking and Excavation.

On the last Wednesday of the month, Oct. 25, the Athenaeum will be closing at 6 p.m. A free Latin Dance Party/Fiesta de Baile de Latina will be held Sunday, Oct 15, from 2-4 p.m. at Becket Athenaeum Western MA Library Crawl Oct 16 to Nov 18

Almost 70 members of the community suggested names for the library's alligator. We've narrowed it down to five names and they need people vote

by visiting [bit.ly/BA-alligator](http://bit.ly/BA-alligator). The winning name will be the main character in a book written and illustrated by the Catalog Specialist and resident artist Dawn Greene.

For families of Becket Washington School students, grant funding from the Arts Build Community project of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has allowed the scheduling two more programs.

Musician Tarcisio "Taz" Ramos Dos Santo is an accomplished Brazilian musician, who is passionate about showcasing his country's musical diversity and its unique instruments. In late October, students will not only learn about Brazilian culture, but they will also practice the Capoeira call and response songs and play several Brazilian rhythms including

that of the lively Samba.

In early December, local drumming favorite Otha Day will facilitate a fun and lively drum circle stemming from the deep belief that rhythm has the power to build community, promote well-being, and create joy. He supports awareness of the presence of rhythm in every act of living from his knowledge that "our heartbeat and breath is the rhythm of our soul and the connection to literally everyone."

Becket Athenaeum Library Storytime. Saturdays, 10:30am. RSVP appreciated: [bit.ly/BA-storytime](http://bit.ly/BA-storytime)

Cookbook Club: The Silver Palate Cookbook by Julee Rosso and Sheila Lukins. Monday, October 9, 6pm. More information: [BecketAthenaeum.org/events/cookbook-club-october9](http://BecketAthenaeum.org/events/cookbook-club-october9)

Creative Movement & Storytime. Saturday, October 14, 10:30am. RSVP appreciated: [bit.ly/BA-storytime](http://bit.ly/BA-storytime)

Movie Night for Adults will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 6:30-9:30pm at the library. More information is available by visiting [bit.ly/BA-Oct-movie](http://bit.ly/BA-Oct-movie). Game Night is Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 5-7 p.m. at the library. More information people may visit [bit.ly/BA-Oct-game](http://bit.ly/BA-Oct-game)

The Zoom link to attend "Meet the Artist: Barbara Patton" on Tuesday, Oct. 24 and click link no earlier than 1:55

p.m. Meeting ID: is 829 7921 6649 and passcode is 600024.

Book Club will discuss "The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 1:30 p.m. inside the library or on Zoom. People may visit [BecketAthenaeum.org/events/book-club-november7](http://BecketAthenaeum.org/events/book-club-november7) for more information.

Other events includes Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. story time and craft, Cookbook Club on Monday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. "Barefoot Contessa Foolproof" by Ina Garten, Creative Movement and story time on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 10:30 a.m. and Book Club "Behold the Dreamers" by Imbolo Mbue on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 1:30 p.m.

Funding for our programs is provided by grants from the Becket Cultural Council, Washington Cultural Council, Berkshire Bank, Fairfield County's Community Foundation, The Feigenbaum Foundation, and Mass Humanities, a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, which receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Funding is also provided by the following grants from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation: ARTS Build Community; Innovation Initiative, ARTS Incubation Grant, and the Central Berkshire Fund.



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## NORTHAMPTON

# Forbes Library announces upcoming news and events

NORTHAMPTON – The Forbes Library, 20 West St., a Community Forum on the Ukraine War will be held Monday, Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

There will be four panelists John Feffer, Howard Friel, Pat Hynes, and Alina Parker. Sara Weinberger from Easthampton will moderate. The program will include a panel discussion, followed by a question and answer with the audience. This will also be live streamed on the library's YouTube channel.

An author take with Ruth Ware will be held virtually on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 2 p.m.

People should register to attend this virtual author talk by calling 413-587-

1011. People will be able to tune in to a chat with New York Times bestselling author of "The Woman in Cabin 10" and "The It Girl" as she talks about her newest book, "Zero Days."

On Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m., people will meet in the Community room to talk about the 1943 film "Day of Wrath" by Danish filmmaker Carl Theodor Dreyer. The library will have copies of the film available in the Arts and Music department a week before the meeting.

On Thursday, Oct. 19 from 6-7:30 p.m. DNA and the Orphan Train mystery is the topic. A baby boy is left at the New York Foundling Asylum in 1896. At age 5, he is placed on an orphan train and

rides to Missouri. Through DNA testing, genealogy, and historical documents and newspapers, the boy's grandson, Greg Markway, finds the answers and reunites a family. In 2017, Greg began researching his grandfather's origins through DNA testing and traditional genealogy. He was able to identify his grandfather's parents, and ultimately meet his biological relatives. Greg was a guest speaker at the 150th anniversary celebration of the New York Foundling Home, and recipient of the National Orphan Train Complex's President's Award. He is a frequent presenter on topics related to orphan train history.

A series entitled "The Stolen Beam"

will take place Tuesdays, Nov. 7 through Dec. 5 from 7-8:20 p.m.

Registration is open now through Friday, Oct. 13 by calling 413-587-1011. This free five-session class will be held online this fall, developed and facilitated by members of the Reparations Committee of the Jewish Community of Amherst. The class meets on Zoom for five consecutive Tuesdays: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 and Dec. 5 from 7-8:20 p.m. with the last class going from 7-8:50 p.m.

In the Hosmer Gallery, photography by Paul Griffin, Ken Kipen and Virginia Sandman is on exhibit through Monday, Oct. 30. An artist reception will be held Friday, Oct. 13 from 4-5:30 p.m.

## EC programs offered

NORTHAMPTON – The Collaborative for Education Services, 97 Hawley St., offers early childhood programs and ongoing parenting workshops.

Baby and toddler sign language is offered online Fridays, Oct. 13, Oct. 20, Oct. 27, Nov. 3 and 17 from 9-9:45 a.m.

Helping Children Manage Stress is offered online Thursdays, Oct. 19 and 26 from 1-2 p.m.

First Steps to Reading will be held in person at the Pelham Public Library on Fridays Oct. 20, Oct. 27, Nov. 3, Nov. 10 and Nov. 17 from 10:15-11:45 a.m. Call 413-588-5568 for more information.

# Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces paving operations of Damon Road

NORTHAMPTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces paving operations on Damon Road in Northampton.

Paving will be conducted now through Friday, Oct. 13, from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. each day. Crews will be conducting final grading and intermediate paving on the currently excavated portion of Damon Road from east of River

Run Access Road to west of Industrial Drive. Alternating one-way traffic will be maintained at all times.

Drivers who are traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or

visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X, (formerly known as Twitter), to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

# Habitat for Humanity to show 'Briars in the Cottonpatch' Oct. 22

NORTHAMPTON – Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity will show the film "Briars in the Cottonpatch" on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 3 p.m. in the Parlor Room, 32 Masonic St.

Following the showing of the film there will be a moderated discussion by Human in Common facilitators, Nialena Ali and Deborah Cohen. This is free and open to the public. The film contains footage of the civil rights era, some of it disturbing, and is intended

for mature audiences.

Aired originally on PBS stations across the country in 2005-2010, Briars in the Cottonpatch is a provocative film documenting the earliest days of Koinonia Farm, the forerunner to Habitat for Humanity. In the racially divided south in the 1940s, the intentionally integrated farming community of Koinonea was the target of acts of hatred and bigotry, but the community persisted and thrived. Their story and their relentless

pursuit of a better, equitable way of life for all and the meaning of home in that equation still resonates today.

Since 1989, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity has built decent, affordable homes with 51 families with low incomes in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. They build homes with volunteer labor and donations of material, supplies, land and services.

At the onset of homebuilding, a family is selected and enters into a long

term partnership with Pioneer Valley Habitat. Future homeowners contribute 250 hours of labor during the construction of their home alongside volunteers from the community. Upon completion, the home is sold to the family with an affordable mortgage. Habitat is a hand-up, not a hand-out: the organization has a perpetual legacy in that all mortgage funds received are reinvested to build more homes. To learn more, people may visit [www.pvhabitat.org](http://www.pvhabitat.org).

# Cooley Dickinson Hospital awards grants to youth wellbeing programs

NORTHAMPTON – Cooley Dickinson Hospital's healthy communities committee has awarded \$30,000 to support wellbeing programs at three organizations that serve Black, Indigenous, People of Color youth.

The recipients are Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County, the Amherst Regional School System, and Community Leaders United by

Overcoming Hardships. Each will receive a \$10,000 grant.

The hospital's three-year community health improvement plan, which runs through 2025, identified supporting youth well-being as a priority, with a particular focus on BIPOC youth in Amherst.

BBBS of Hampshire County will use the funds to expand mentor-

ing opportunities for BIPOC youth in Amherst. Specifically, their project will address the need to offer trauma-informed support services for low-income children, with a focus on BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth. Officials say the project will help address the need for quality youth programs for those children living in low-income housing, with mentorships supporting children's confidence, compassion, and a reduction in social isolation.

Amherst High School will use the funds for its speaker series "Breaking Barriers: Conversations on Race and Class," which is designed to create a safe and inclusive space for students and educators to engage in discussions about race and class. Officials say the goal is to engage a significant portion of the

community, creating a ripple effect of positive change by equipping individuals with the knowledge and tools to address issues of race and class in their everyday lives.

CLUBOH will use the funds to expand its college tours of historically black colleges, adding additional selection slots for Amherst high schoolers. The organization also plans on hosting holistic career development nights for local youth and families. Lesson plans are designed to help youth explore their personal interests and passions, while providing memorable experiences that encourage participants to become leaders within their community.

Cooley Dickinson Hospital ([cooley-dickinson.org](http://cooley-dickinson.org)) is a not-for-profit, acute care hospital.

## CHESTERFIELD

IT'S RIDING SEASON



This Halloween display of witches may be seen in a field on East Road in Chesterfield. Photo by Deborah Daniels

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## WESTHAMPTON

### Household hazardous waste collection scheduled for Oct. 21

WESTHAMPTON – Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative will hold a household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Westhampton Department of Public Works, 58 Hathaway Road.

People should follow these instructions. They should place all item in trunk, back of truck or back seat of car. Clean Harbor Environmental Services staff will offload all the items after check in point.

Pre-registration is required. People should pre- registration by emailing hrmc@hrmc-ma.org or calling 413-685-5498 with name, town they reside and phone number. They will get confirmation and a pre-registration form.

There is a 25 gallon limit. Items to bring to the household hazardous waste collection include: pesticides, fungicides,

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

People should not bring empty containers, latex paint, pharmaceuticals, medical waste, fireworks, flares, propane tanks, lightbulbs and batteries

## CUMMINGTON

### Friday Night Cafe presents singer/songwriter Larz Young

CUMMINGTON – Larz Young always puts on a great show: cool finger style guitar work, and rich baritone vocals.

In his words,“Singer/songwriter and acoustic guitarist performs blues, folk, jazz, and R & B ‘acoustic fusion’. Originals and select covers with influences from Tom Waits to Hot Tuna, Doc Watson,

Leo Kottke, Ray Charles, Gordon Bok and even Ravi Shankar>”

The show is on Friday, Oct. 13 from 7-9 p.m. at the Village Church in the heart of the Cultural District in beautiful, downtown Cummington. The

show is free; donations are appreciated. Snacks are provided, Bring Your Own drinks. Masks are welcome and encouraged.

Once again, the cafe is sponsored by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe music can be a powerful force for building community.

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

Read the Country Journal online at [www.countryjournal.turley.com](http://www.countryjournal.turley.com)

## OTIS

### Dennis Picard to talk about Hessians of the Revolutionary War

OTIS – The Otis Historical Commission and Otis Preservation Trust are hosting the first Notice Otis Series cultural event of the 2023-24 season featuring historian Dennis Picard presenting, “Dragoon, Musketeer, Prisoner: The Hessians of the Revolutionary War in Western Massachusetts” on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. via zoom.

To register or for more information, people may visit [www.otispreservation-trust.com](http://www.otispreservation-trust.com) or [www.townofotisma.com](http://www.townofotisma.com). There is no charge to attend this event. Donations are welcome.

Folklore holds that the Hessians soldiers of the Revolutionary War period were blood thirsty mercenaries pur-

chased by King George the Third to fight in the rebellious colonies. They are often associated in our mind’s eye with the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow fame.

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

Dennis D. Picard has been a museum professional in the living history field for over forty years. He began his

career in 1978 at Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge and served on the staff of Hancock Shaker Village. Picard is the recipient of various grants for research and implementation of programs and events at several historic sites and museums.

He has authored many articles on the lifestyles and folkways of New England. Picard has taught at Westfield State University as well as served as a member and president of the Board of Directors of the Pioneer Valley History Network. He serves as a member of the editorial board of the Country School Journal and grants committee of the Country School Association of America. He recent-

ly retired after 27 years at Storowton Village Museum, West Springfield.

The Otis Preservation Trust works with the Historical Commission to organize and preserve the history and heritage of Otis for future generations by supporting efforts to preserve, restore, repurpose and educate about buildings, monuments, lands and memorabilia of Otis. OPT is a not-for-profit (501c3) organization operated for fundraising and educational purposes. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Send Us Your Holiday Event Information**

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

**Deadline for submissions is October 16th**

### Community Holiday Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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



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# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**  
Mar 21/Apr 20  
Aries, unless you are ready to take charge and spearhead an initiative for change, you may have to simply go with the flow this week. Think on it.

**CANCER**  
Jun 22/Jul 22  
Are you ready to take the plunge and make a big move in your career? The stars are pointing you in that direction. It could be just the change you are looking for.

**LIBRA**  
Sept 23/Oct 23  
Before you fire off an email or ask questions, gather as much information as you can. You want to be sure you have all of the facts before you start to dig a little deeper.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec 22/Jan 20  
Capricorn, the way you are going about things is entirely in your best interest without much consideration for others. This can be dangerous, especially when you need a hand.

**TAURUS**  
Apr 21/May 21  
Ideas for creative projects keep popping up in your mind, Taurus. It's just a matter of figuring out which avenue you want to explore and then finding the time to make it happen.

**LEO**  
Jul 23/Aug 23  
In your mind you did something that was well within your rights, Leo. Others who were affected by your actions may not view it in entirely the same way. Revisit the situation.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct 24/Nov 22  
Your focus on finances has been intense of late. While you have been doing your best to balance the budget, expenses seem to keep growing. Try other options.

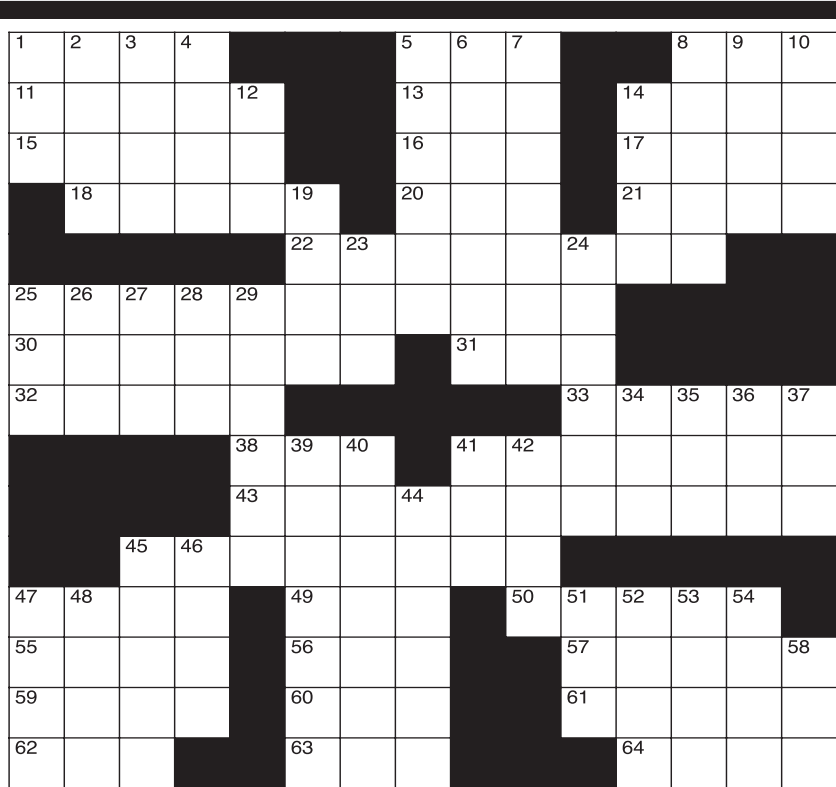
**AQUARIUS**  
Jan 21/Feb 18  
While you have been diligent with trying to get ahead at work, right now things are not falling into place. Consider whether this may be the time to find someplace new.

**GEMINI**  
May 22/Jun 21  
Gemini, some shake-ups at work may leave you wondering how secure things will be for you moving forward. Start asking a few pointed questions.

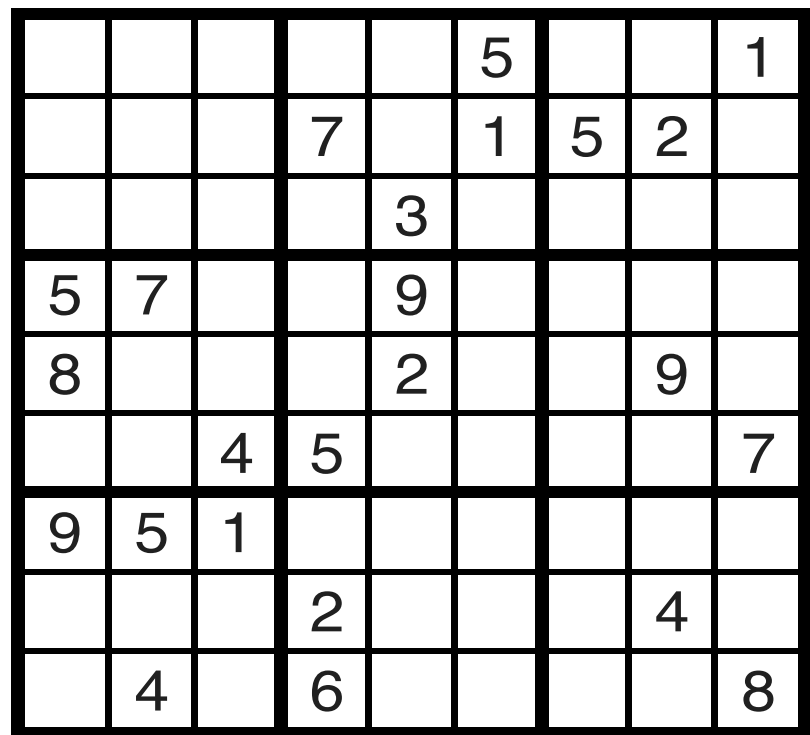
**VIRGO**  
Aug 24/Sept 22  
Virgo, it is time to start making a solid plan for the future and not just day-by-day actions to squeak by. You are one cog in a wheel that needs to move along smoothly.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov 23/Dec 21  
Sagittarius, even though you have been instrumental in your involvement with a particular situation, there is nothing much more you can do this week. Let it rest for now.

**PISCES**  
Feb 19/Mar 20  
Keep all of your options open Even if you do not have plans right now, something may pop up unexpectedly that is right what you need at the moment.



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Information
  5. Seaport (abbr.)
  8. Agricultural disease (abbr.)
  11. Riding horses
  13. Boxing's GOAT
  14. Hurt or discomfort
  15. A small sharp knife to trim vegetables
  16. A beaver builds one
  17. Horizontal passage into a mine
  18. Self-immolation by fire rituals
  20. Chain bar with lots of games (abbr.)
  21. Goo Goo Dolls' hit
  22. Agreeable
  25. In an early way
  30. In a way, struck
  31. It's there in the morning
  32. County in the S. Pacific
  33. Central Florida city
  38. Numbers cruncher
  41. Mexican beers
  43. Lawyers say you can indict one
  45. Capital of South Australia
  47. Wings
  49. Drug used to treat HIV/AIDS
  50. Fencing sword
  55. Capital of Qatar
  56. Portable bed
  57. Afflicted
  59. Lying down
  60. Midway between northeast and east
  61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
  62. Inflamed
  63. Soviet Socialist Republic
  64. Impudence
- CLUES DOWN**
1. A way to fish
  2. Greek mythological figure
  3. Scarlett's home
  4. Assist
  5. More doleful
  6. Premeditated
  7. Dish featuring minced food
  8. San Diego ball-player
  9. Eight
  10. Unwelcome picnic guests
  12. Human gene
  14. Bucket
  19. Make full
  23. Dirt
  24. Person cited as ideal example
  25. A part of (abbr.)
  26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
  27. Very long period of time
  28. Gas usage measurement
  29. North American native people
  34. It says "moo"
  35. Folk singer Di Franco
  36. Resinlike substance of certain insects
  37. Residue
  39. Grand homes
  40. Popinjays
  41. Man who behaves dishonorably
  42. Figures
  44. One who watches over children
  45. Expressed pleasure
  46. No longer living
  47. Hebrew calendar month
  48. Part of the ear
  51. Swiss river
  52. Prejudice
  53. Italian Island
  54. Resist authority (slang)
  58. Criticize



## 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!

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answers

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## WORTHINGTON

### Worthington Rod and Gun Club to host chicken barbecue

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Rod & Gun Club is hosting a chicken Barbecue on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. on their grounds located at 458 Dingle Road.

Tickets are \$20 per person and may be reserved by calling Deanna at 413-433-0009.

People should bring their own beverages. A ticket will entitle the holder to barbecued chicken and all of the fixings

The archery and trap range will be open from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Live music will be provided by acoustic guitarist and singer, Matt Gibbs. Numerous things such as gift certificates, children's items and handcrafts will be raffled during this event, which is a fundraiser for the club.

The Worthington Rod & Gun Club provides a traditional four-day hunter's education safety training and youth hunter workshops.

## SOUTHAMPTON

### FCC to hold Fall Festival Oct. 21

SOUTHAMPTON – The First Congregational Church of Southampton, United Church of Christ, 212 College Highway, has their Fall Festival coming up on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

There will be tables filled with

homemade goodies, handcrafted items and a raffle with lots of great prizes. The festival is being held rain or shine in Parish Hall. Funds raised are to help offset the cost of hosting multiple Scout troops and community groups, who utilize the building for hundreds of hours during the year.

## GOSHEN

### Town Clerk announces Special Town Meeting voter information

GOSHEN – There will be a Special Town Meeting on Monday, Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the John James Memorial Hall, 42 Main St.

When entering the town hall, people must check in at the front table with the assistant town clerk to receive their voter card. The warrant for the meeting can be found on the town website by visiting [www.goshen-ma.us](http://www.goshen-ma.us). Twenty-five voters are needed to make a quorum.

People should reach out to the town administrator and select board with any questions about the three articles either by emailing [selectboard@goshen-ma.us](mailto:selectboard@goshen-ma.us)

or calling 413-268-8236, extension 301.

For those who are not already a registered voter, the last day to register to vote for this Special Town Meeting is Friday, Oct. 13 from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. The Town Clerk's office will be open for registration during those hours and people can also register or check their voter status online by visiting [www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/).

If people have any questions about voter registration, they may email Town Clerk Kristen Estelle ([clerk@goshen-ma.us](mailto:clerk@goshen-ma.us)) or call 413-268-8236, extension 107.

## GREAT BARRINGTON

### Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center to show movies

GREAT BARRINGTON — The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., added five screenings to its ongoing schedule.

They include a free film in Spanish, "El gran León" (2018) on Saturday, Oct. 21, featuring a live post-show appearance from cast and crew; "Beetlejuice" (1988) over Halloween weekend on Saturday, Oct. 28; the timeless family favorite Mary Poppins (1964) on Saturday, Nov. 25; an HD broadcast, "Titanic: The Musical" on Friday, Dec. 1 and an evening with "Mickey's Christmas Carol" (1983) on loop from 4:30-7 pm. On the hour and half-hour for free, during the Great Barrington Holiday Shop, Sip, and Stroll, on Saturday, Dec. 9.

The Mahaiwe is requesting that attendees reserve seats at [mahaiwe.org](http://mahaiwe.org) or by calling or visiting the Box Office, 413-528-0100, on Wednesday through Saturday from noon-4 p.m. This presen-

tation is coordinated by the Mahaiwe's Spanish-language Community Advisory Network (SCAN), with funding from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's Arts Build Community Initiative, Lee Bank Foundation, the Charles H. Hall Foundation, Literacy Network of the Berkshires, and Leslie and Stephen Jerome.

Ticket prices other than the two free concerts on Saturday, Oct. 21 and Dec. 9 are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under age 12.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting online at [mahaiwe.org](http://mahaiwe.org) or by calling the Box Office at 413-528-0100, on Wednesday through Saturday from noon-4 p.m.

The Mahaiwe accepts ConnectorCare/WIC/EBT cards four free tickets to HD broadcasts per individual. People may learn more by visiting [mahaiwe.org/visit/ticketing-offers](http://mahaiwe.org/visit/ticketing-offers).

## PITTSFIELD

### Berkshire Pride announces Pride-O-Ween event Oct. 13

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire Pride announces the spooktacular event of the season: Pride-O-Ween on Friday, Oct. 13 from 8-11 p.m. with the doors creaking open at 7:30 p.m. at Stationary Factory, 63 Flansburg Avenue, Dalton.

It will be evening filled with eerie entertainment, bewitching beats and otherworldly experiences that promise to thrill and enchant. Music will be DJ Pup Daddy. There will be a special appearance by The Sanderson Sisters featuring Berkshire Drag Queens - Poppy DaBubbly, Bella Santarella, and Vuronika Baked.

Divination Readings: Shawn Hollenbach and A Taste of Pomegranate Tarot will give readings and there will be a

costume contest with prizes. There will be a costume contest with prizes.

Admission is \$20 per ticket in advance and \$25 at the door. Attendees must be 18 plus to enter and IDS will be checked. Tickets are available by visiting at [www.berkshirepride.org](http://www.berkshirepride.org). For more information, people may contact Berkshire Pride at [info@berkshirepride.org](mailto:info@berkshirepride.org).

Berkshire Pride is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization with a mission to provide opportunities and safe spaces where LGBTQIA+ community members can live and thrive as their authentic selves, not only during June Pride Month, but throughout the year.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Town of Chesterfield Board of Health PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Massachusetts Public Health law (MGL Chapter 111, Section 31) that a public hearing for review of Proposed Regulations, for the Board of Health will be held on **Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM** at the **Community Center at 400 Main Rd.**, to accept public comments on the 2023 Board of Health Proposed updates to Regulations, Policies and Procedures. A copy of the draft Regulations is available at Town Clerk's Office or is available on the town website <https://www.townofchesterfieldma.com/board-health>.

Public Access via virtual link at Zoom.com: Zoom Id 707 573 5960, Pass. 3YC09e Per Order John Chandler, Chair 10/12/2023

### Notice of Public Hearing Goshen Conservation Commission

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Ch 91 S 40) on **October 16, 2023 at 6 PM** at the Goshen Town Offices to review a

Notice of Intent filed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for work on two trails in the DAR State Forest (off Moore Hill Road). The work is the proposed replacement of two boardwalks (Long Trail and Darling Trail) near the DAR Campground. The NOI was filed on September 15 2023. 10/12/2023

### (SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 23 SM 003699 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:

**Cassandra D. Grabowski and David J. Prats,**

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 et seq.:

**AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC**

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Huntington**, numbered **15 East Main Street**, given by Cassandra D. Grabowski and David J. Prats to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for E Mortgage

Management, LLC its successors and assigns, dated February 10, 2017, and recorded or filed in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 12550, Page 308, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **11/13/2023** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on 10/2/2023

Attest:

**Deborah J. Patterson** Recorder 10/12/2023

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

### MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**Project File No. 607675**

A Public Information Meeting will be hosted by MassDOT to discuss the design for the proposed Bridge Replacements Project, W-36-011 & W-36-017, Bridge Street over the Mill River and South Main Street over the Mill River in Williamsburg, MA.

**WHERE:** Haydenville Town Offices, 141 Main Street, 2nd Floor Auditorium Haydenville, MA 01039

**WHEN:** 6:00PM, Thursday, October 19, 2023

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bridge Replacements Project, W-36-011 & W-36-017, Bridge Street over the Mill River and South Main Street over the Mill River. All views and comments submitted in response to the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The proposed project consists of replacing the Bridge Street

and South Main Street bridges over the Mill River and rebuilding the portion of South Main Street between the two bridges. The traffic pattern in the area will be modified such that in the final condition both bridges and the section of South Main Street between the two bridges will create a single travel lane, one-way loop to the South Main Street intersection with Route 9 (Main Street). Shared use path accommodations will be added to the South Main Street bridge and extend through the reconstructed portion of South Main Street in accordance with the applicable design guides.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Williamsburg is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in

American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368- 8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.

CHIEF ENGINEER 10/05, 10/12/2023



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For more information, please visit [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us), email [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us), or call **413-512-5200**. Positions are open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Town of Wilbraham is now hiring for the following vacancies:

- Heavy Equipment Operator 1
- P/T Assistant Adult Services Librarian
- P/T Basketball Scorekeepers
- P/T Basketball Officials
- P/T Gym Supervisor
- Public Works Skilled Worker

For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). EOE

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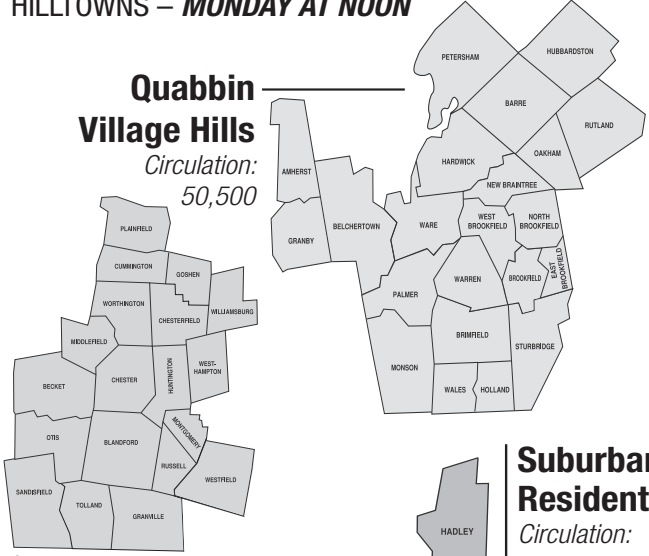


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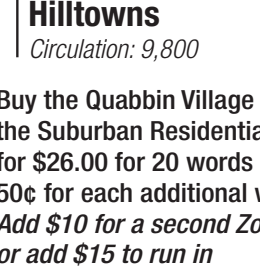
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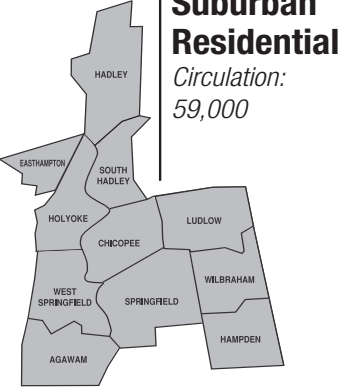
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# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

## Hikers take trek to Mount Tom and Nonotuck

Summit house popularity soared in New England during the mid to late 1800s.

Many visitors travelled to mountaintops during warmer months to relax and escape the heat. Mount Nonotuck's spectacular view attracted visitors from all over.

Holyoke entrepreneur, William Street and a partner, capitalized on this scenic site. They built a three-story 12-room hotel with five guest rooms. It opened on July 4. Called The Eyrie House it looked like its namesake "eyrie," an eagle nest perched high on a remote, commanding place.

The Eyrie House already had nearby competition, The Prospect House, across the Connecticut River on Mount Holyoke. The rivalry for customers became fierce. Street had to innovate and bought more land to expand the resort.

He attracted more customers with popular pastimes. The hotel grounds featured a picnic grove, croquet court, pavilion for large festive parties, concerts and roller skating. Visitors along the main path saw a curious collection of live and taxidermy animals. Around the outside of the hotel, "promenades," long elevated wooden walkways, enhanced views of the valley below.

The hotel grew and grew. By 1882 the hotel had 30 guest rooms, dining rooms and separate men's and women's parlors.

Ten years later Street started two new ambitious projects to attract more customers; a larger stone hotel to replace the aging Eyrie House and then an inclined railway to improve visitor access from below. Competition from Mount Holyoke's Prospect House, Mountain Park amusement park and the grand Mount Tom summit pavilion with its new inclined railroad drew customers away. An economic depression ate into his income and his ability to make any more improvements.

For almost 40 years, Eyrie House enjoyed success. It all came to a sudden end on an early spring day in 1901. Street discovered several of his horses had died. Unable to dig on the rocky summit, he cremated them. The fire died down and he retired for the eve-



A great view of the Oxbow on the Connecticut River from Mt. Tom.



A hint of color is seen in the trees on a recent trek to Mount Tom and on to Mount Nonotuck by the Hilltown Hikers.

ning. He was later awakened by a roar. Wind had re-ignited the fire. The flames had already consumed the pavilion and now spread to the hotel. The great Eyrie House burned to the ground, a total loss.

Unfortunately, he was underinsured. Of the \$10,000 in losses, he collected only \$2,000, not enough to rebuild Eyrie House or complete the new hotel and inclined railway. He still owned this mountain site, but abandoned any new hotel construction.

In 1903, Mount Tom State Reservation was created. The Reservation Commissioners wanted to include Street's land. He asked for \$25,000 for his property, but was only offered \$5,000. After years of debate the Commissioners deposited the \$5,000 into a bank account for Street and took the land by eminent domain. Bitter until his death in 1918, Street never accepted the state's money. (Courtesy DCR Eyrie Tour)

Sunday's flash hike took us to Mount Tom State Reservation in Holyoke starting on the New England Trail from parking at the upper pavilion, walking down Reservoir Road, you will see the white blaze on your left. We hiked to Goat Peak to Dry Knoll and to Eyrie House following the ridge line on the New England Trail.

A few ups and downs on this section, a very moderate hike which is great for families. We returned on a loop following the John McCool Trail to Dynamite back to Reservoir Road. The trail climbs north to the ridge line where the Goat Peak observation tower



The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers stop at Dry Knoll to take in the sites of the Oxbow of the Connecticut River and more.



A hiker looks out from the observation tower on Goat Peak.

is located with spectacular views of the Connecticut River Valley. Dry Knoll has a great view of the Oxbow and then to Mount Nonotuck, dropping down onto

an old carriage road that was once used for visitors to the Eyrie House, a 19th century mountain top hotel. It was 3.9 mile loop.

## CHESTER

### Join the Hilltown Hikers planned group hike to Keystone Arch Bridgerts

CHESTER – Western Mass Hilltown Hikers will hold a group hike to the Keystone Arch Bridges on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

This is a narrated group hike with a trailhead hike rating: moderate 5 miles total in and back. Parking is at Chester Elementary School, 325 Middlefield Road, one mile from the trailhead. There is limited parking at the trailhead and hikers will shuttle hikers from the school.

Carpooling will start at 9:30 a.m. so hikers should be at the parking lot by then. The hike will start at the trailhead at 10 a.m.

The hike will be narrated by Dave Pierce of the Friends of the Keystone Arches. Participants will enjoy his

incredible narration as he tells of the history of the Arch's creation, the first cluster of stone arch railroad bridges built in America, located on the West Branch of the Westfield River. Construction of the 150-mile railroad was completed by 3,000 laborers in an incredible two and a half years, opening in 1841.

The group will take an up close to all the stone bridges on the trail. The 65- and 70-foot arches have footpaths with viewing areas. Two keystone arch bridges located on Mass Wildlife's Walnut Hill Wildlife Management Area in Middlefield and Becket have been named National Historic Landmarks.

The Chester Railway Station Museum will be open after the hike

located at 10 Prospect St., Chester. For more information, people may visit [www.chesterrailwaystation.net](http://www.chesterrailwaystation.net), [www.keystonearches.com](http://www.keystonearches.com) or [www.townofchester.net](http://www.townofchester.net).

Participants should register per car load by visiting <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water provided. Hikers should be prepared for rocks, roots and mud. They will hike rain or shine.

Friendly dogs are welcome. Suggestion donation is \$10; hike is volunteer lead. More details are available by visiting [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com). People my email [westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com](mailto:westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com) or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions.

### Hobo Harvest Dinner to be held Oct. 14

CHESTER – The Chester Railway Station, a 501 c 3, located at 10 Prospect St., will hold its 14th Annual Hobo Harvest Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 14 serving from 4:15-6 p.m.

The buffet menu includes home cooked "Hobo" beef stew, corn pudding from a railroad recipe book, rolls and butter, side salad, apple or pumpkin pies and beverages of water, cider or lemonade. Cost is \$14 per adult and \$10 per child under 12 for buffet with drinks for sit down meal and \$12 per adult and \$8 per child under 12 without drinks to go. Cost is \$8 per child under 12.

Reservations must be made by calling 413-354-7878 and leaving a message with name, phone number, number in party and arrival time. Reservations will be confirmed.



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