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

October 15, 2026 ❙ Vol. 48, No. 25 ❙ 75¢ www.countryjournal.turley.com

BLANDFORD

Blandford gets new town sign

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent



Photo by Corrine Shartrand

The new town sign for the town of Blandford will be installed in the spring at the Blandford/Russell town line.

Police Chief Jen Dubiel's annual review was presented to the board.

Language included "We support Chief Dubiel's continued service and sincerely appreciate her dedication to the residents of both Chester and Blandford. We are grateful for her dependable leadership and for Chester's continued partnership in providing police services to our community."

The review also complimented the entire department crediting the "service they provide reflects well on Chief Dubiel's leadership."

The review cited the "excellent" cooperation with the State Police in the search for a missing person. The board had no further comments and accepted the review, which goes to Chester as host community.

New town sign

The town thanked Jennifer and Greg Girard for their contribution of a Welcome to Blandford sign, which will be placed at the Blandford/Russell town line.

Shartrand said it has been decided to install the sign in the spring, after winter weather. She and her husband will contribute the four-by-fours on which the sign will be placed.

A flower box will be under the sign on the posts and there will be a solar powered light to illuminate it.

Consolidating permitting representative

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera proposed to the board that the chair indefinitely hold this position of local government representative, "because that's the ultimate filter of these consolidated permits."

In a prepared motion statement, board member Ted Cousineau read, "I move to designate select board chair as the town of Blandford's local government representative under 225 CMR 29.00 as of Oct. 1, 2026. This responsibility shall attach to the office of Select Board chair and pass aromatically to each select board chair with no fixed expiration date unless amended or rescinded by vote of select board." The motion passed with Cousineau and member Corinne Shartrand approving and Chair Jackie Coury abstaining.

Coury explained that this is the Department of Energy Resources process for submitting siting applications. She added that she would track her time so the "state can understand how much time this takes for towns to support."

Summary of 225 CMR 29.00

A November 2024 law promoting a clean energy grid, advancing equity and protecting ratepayers ("2024 Climate Act"), streamlined the siting and permitting process for clean energy infrastructure.

The current siting and

SIGN, page 6

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CHESTER

Martenson wins selectmen bid

By Wendy Long
Correspondent



Christopher Martenson

The fourth time was the charm for Christopher Martenson in his bid to become a Chester selectman.

Martenson won in a special election held on Sept. 19, 2026 to replace Craig Gauthier, who was stepping down. A seven-year resident of the town, Martenson won the seat garnering 96 of 126 votes cast for that position, allowing him to complete the final year of Gauthier's term.

Martenson will then have to run again next May for a regular three-year term.

Long-time town leader Bob Daley called Martenson, "One of our

MARTENSON, page 11

HUNTINGTON

Huntington Select Board holds tax classification hearing

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Huntington Select Board's Oct. 7 meeting opened with a tax classification public hearing.

Attending were Chairman Roger Booth, members Rob Drabiuk and John McVeigh (attending remotely) and Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin.

Harald Scheid from the Regional Resource Group recommended keeping a single tax rate for both residential and business properties for Fiscal Year 2027.

In essence, there aren't enough business properties in the town to make a substantial difference for homeowners without raising business rates substantially. Assessors Christine Stochlinski chairman) and Roxanne Pin were also in attendance.

A motion to set a single tax rate for all property classifications passed unanimously. The FY 26 tax rate was $14.77. The estimated rate for FY27 is $15.21, but could change upon review by the Department of Revenue after the town's tax documentation is submitted, Peloquin later explained.

Nov. 3 election

The public hearing closed and regular business resumed. Town Clerk Michelle Fieldstad-Booth reported on the Tuesday, Nov. 3 state election warrant. Fieldstad-Booth recommended a slate of six election workers, who were approved unanimously. She is still recruiting counters, who will hand count the results including nine ballot questions that night after the polls close.

Fieldstad-Booth is looking into securing a tabulator for the town, but will not have one for the November election. The select board approved the election warrant.

Driveway flooding issue

Discussion that began at the Sept. 23 meeting continued on an appeal by Mary Arkoette, 21 Nagler Cross Road, to have the town adjust the road to keep her driveway from washing out.

Significant damage has occurred to her yard and home during heavy rain storms, including her deck washing away and her basement repeatedly flooding. On advice of Highway Superintendent Brad Curry, Arkoette has purchased culverts and gravel and was looking for assistance in installing it.

Booth explained that it would be her responsibility and cost to install that culvert.

Once that is in, Booth and Curry will look at whether or not the next road grading could help divert some of the water running onto her property. McVeigh pointed out that maintenance of driveway culverts is the responsibility of property owners.

To date, Arkoette said that she has spent about $1,350 in materials and preparation; Curry estimates

SELECT BOARD, page 10

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CHESTERFIELD

Town Clerk announces state election information

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Town Clerk announces early in person voting for the Nov. 3 state election.

Early in person voting hours at the Town Clerk's office are Saturdays, Oct. 17 and Oct. 24 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Tuesdays, Oct. 20 and Oct. 27 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thursdays, Oct. 22 and 29 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. On election day, Tuesday, Nov. 3 the polls are open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. in the Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road.

Eligible voters may also request a Vote-by-Mail ballot for the November State Election. Information about requesting a ballot is available through the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth.

For questions about early voting or Vote by Mail, they may call the Town Clerk's Office at 413-296-4741.

FLORENCE

Florence Community Band to perform free concert Oct. 18

FLORENCE – The Florence Community Band will perform a free concert on Sunday, Oct. 18 at 2 p.m. in Black Birch Vineyard, 108 Straits Road, North Hatfield.

Priscilla M. Rose is the director. The concert "Uncorked and Unplugged Musice for Sunday Afternoon."

People may visit facebook or www.florencecommunityband.com.

Cécilia performs Celtic and Québécois music on Oct. 24

FLORENCE – On Saturday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) three of Canada's finest musicians, Cécilia brings together the best of many musical worlds in their explorations of traditional, Celtic and Québécois music at BOMBYX Center of Arts and Equity, 130 Pine St.

The trio features Timi Turmel on accordion, Erin Leahy on piano and Courtney Drew on fiddle. Cécilia performed across Canada and the U.S. and at Celtic Connections in Scotland this past January. "We are looking forward to returning to BOMBYX as part of our October East Coast tour," says pianist Erin Leahy. "We love meeting people and sharing our traditional music with enthusiastic audiences."

Cécilia's recent debut album Accent is an impressive offering full of vibrant rhythms and melodies, all resonating with a unique warmth and richness of expression. Every one of their pieces is skillfully arranged and highlighted with influences from contemporary, classical, jazz, and swing styles.

Admission is $12.50 to $30 in advance and $12.50 to $35 at the door on Oct. 24.

People may visit https://bombyx.ludus.com/show_page.php?show_id=200534920 to get tickets. For more information, people may visit https://bombyx.live/events/cecilia-2/.

HILLTOWNS

MassDOT announces I-90 bridge work

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

In Becket bridge painting will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 20.0 nightly now through the morning of Friday, Oct. 16 from 7 p.m.-5 a.m.

In Montgomery and Russell bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 eastbound at mile marker 36.0 on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.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.

Good Neighbor Energy Fund offers home energy grants

Heating oil is now averaging $6.12 per gallon statewide, up from $3.53 a year ago.

That's a 74% increase and works out to roughly $700 more for 275 gallons at today's average price.

The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund reopens for its 2026-27 campaign on Oct. 19 and provides eligible households facing temporary financial hardship with grants of up to $400 toward a home energy expense.

The fund helps fill the gap for Massachusetts residents who do not qualify for traditional state or federal assistance, and income eligibility guidelines have been increased for the upcoming campaign.

More than 1,250 Massachusetts households received assistance during the 2025-26 campaign.

For Western Massachusetts coverage, people can coordinate an interview with Kristen Fellmann of Berkshire Gas, subject to availability, as well as GNEF Chair Justin Stearns and The Salvation Army to discuss local affordability pressures, eligibility and how residents can seek assistance.

DO YOU KNOW?



Turley Publications photo by Deborah Daniels

In making an apple pie the photographer's brother-in-law pulled this apple peeler out to use. We could not fathom what the little metal cage at the top of the peeler did. Does anyone know its use? If so please email countryjournal@turley.com.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

COLLEGE NEWS

University of Rhode Island announces graudates

KINGSTON, R.I. – The University of Rhode Island announces local graduates.

Larissa Riley of Chesterfield earned a Bachelor of Arts in criminology and criminal justice and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. Katharine Burzynski of Westfield earned a Bachelor of Arts in communication studies.

Melanie Burek of Montgomery earned a Bachelor Degree in landscape architecture.

Adele Lashway of Williamsburg earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and marketing and Allysen Burke of Westfield earned a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology.

Jack DeMarinis of Montgomery earned Master of Science in electrical engineering and Rebecca Monti of Westfield earned a Master of Science in speech-language pathology.

Russo makes Dean's list

EAST HARTFORD, CT – Brook Russo of Westfield made Goodwin University Dean's list for the summer 2026 session.

Goodwin University is an innovative learning community that empowers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, weekends and online. Degrees may be flexibly layered across certificate, Associate, Bachelor and Master degree programs in a variety of in-demand fields.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

WORTHINGTON

COA hosts First Aid for seniors

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Council on Aging host on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 1 p.m. a workshop on First Aid for seniors in the Worthington Town Hall.

Presented by Rick and Ginger Scott, retired EMTs, they will provide a refresher and share the latest safety procedures.

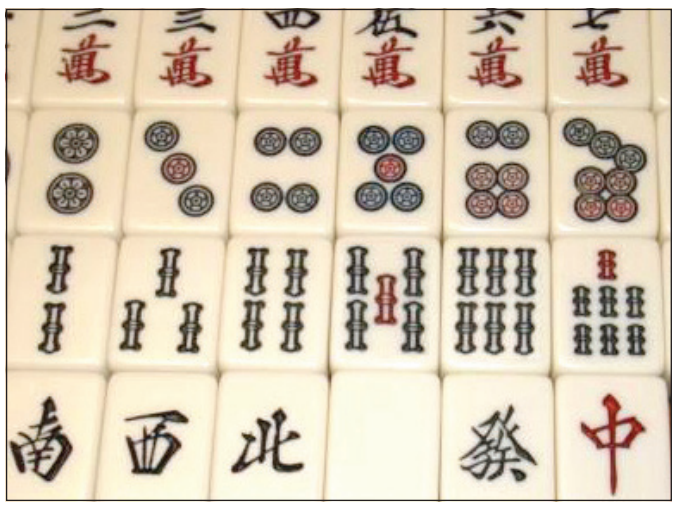
A question/answer period will follow. Light refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

DALTON

Library holds weekly Mahjong games

DALTON – The Dalton Library, 462 Main St., holds a weekly American Mahjong meet up on Fridays at 1-3 p.m.

Beginners are welcome. Registration is required. People may call 413-684-6112 or email dalton@cwmars.org for more information or to register.



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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



Does a Veteran who uses VA Healthcare need Medicare at age 65?

Dear Rusty:

I'm not yet old enough, but must I enroll in Medicare at age 65?

I am a disabled military veteran with VA benefits, so must I still take Medicare when I turn 65?

Signed: Disabled Veteran

Dear Disabled Veteran:

First, please accept my gratitude for your military service to our country. And please also know that if you now rely 100% on the VA for all your healthcare needs and you expect that to continue for the rest of your life, then you have the option to decline enrolling in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. However, if you believe that using healthcare providers from outside the VA may someday be in your future, you should enroll in Medicare when you are first eligible.

Although you are required to enroll in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services) if you collect Social Security after age 65, enrolling in Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient medicals services) is always optional because there is a monthly premium for Part B ($202.90 for 2026 - changes yearly).

So, as a military veteran using VA healthcare, you have a choice to either enroll in Medicare Part B at age 65, or not if you get all your healthcare services from the Veterans Administration.

Just be aware that VA healthcare is not considered "creditable" for Medicare purposes, so if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period and later choose to enroll in Medicare Part B, there will be a permanent Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B outside your initial enrollment period (your Medicare IEP is three months on either side of the month you turn 65).

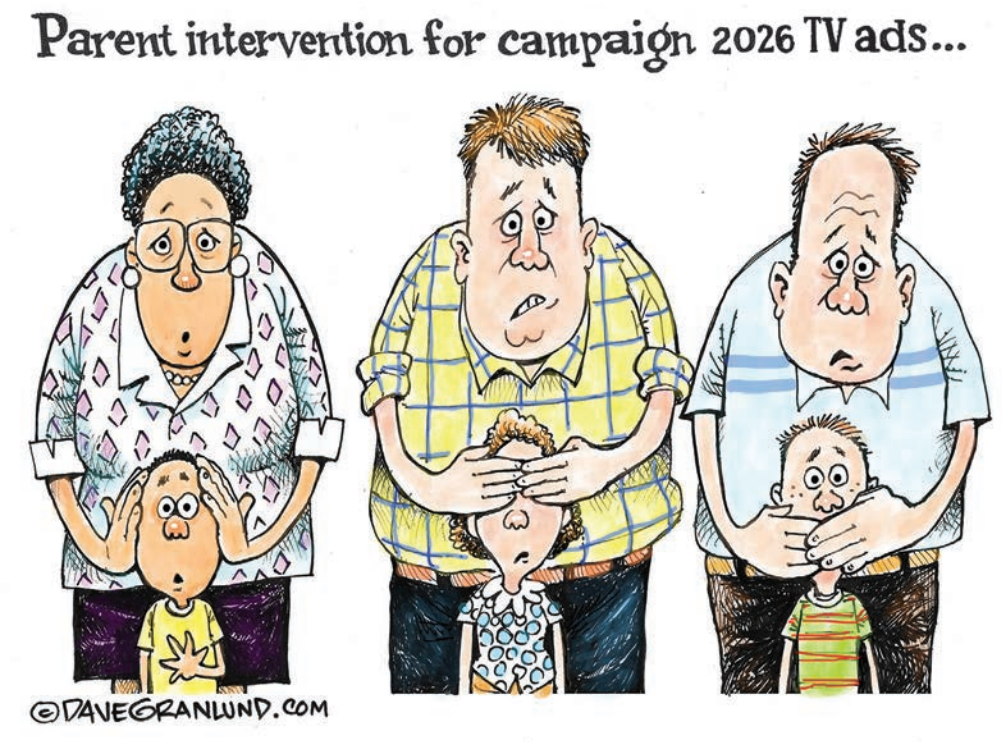
So, the decision you will need to make as you approach 65 years of age is this: will all of your healthcare needs always be provided through the VA? Or do you want the convenience (and flexibility) to know you can use any healthcare provider anywhere the U.S. or its territories, whenever and wherever you wish.

If the latter is true, then you should likely enroll in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. You can still use the VA for some services if you are enrolled in both, but there is no coordination of benefits (e.g., the VA will not make copayments if you use Medicare services, and vice versa).

Which means that you may also wish to also consider a Medicare Advantage plan or a Medicare Supplement plan to go with Medicare Part B if/when you enroll.

I hope this answers your question, but please don't hesitate to contact us again if needed. And, importantly, thank you for your service to our country.

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GUEST COLUMN

When to wash and when not to wash

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



This is one of my more funnier titles, isn't it? It occurred to me that not everyone knows which fruits or vegetables should be washed prior to storage.

Just yesterday I was pondering this topic myself, wondering if my fresh picked apples should be washed before I stored them away in the fridge.

Read on to learn the answer to that question as well as the same for other crops. While we're at it I will provide additional tips to help achieve lengthy storage.

Apples should not be washed prior to storage. There is a protective waxy covering over the fruit that helps to increase its shelf life.

Experiments prove that washing it off caused the apples to spoil much more quickly. Placing unwashed apples in a plastic bag that is either left open or has perforations in it then putting the bag in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator will give them the best chance at longevity. This method provides both air flow and humidity.

Want to store carrots or beets? Use the same method.

You will have to cut back the greens first, however. If you leave them on they will pull moisture from the roots rendering them limp. Cut back to a half inch or so.

If your carrots or beets are super muddy it's best to let them air dry briefly to get some of the extra dirt off, but just like apples, that protective waxy layer should not be washed off. If you are hoping for a long storage life, it makes sense to go through your bags of produce to remove any that begin to rot so that they won't infect their neighbors.

There is something to be gleaned from the old adage "one bad apple spoils the whole barrel."

Likewise, never wash potatoes before putting them in storage! Gently brush off dirt and store them in a single layer in the darkness around 55 degrees.

Darkness will prevent greening, which renders potatoes inedible. Potatoes should not be stored in the refrigerator. It changes their texture and makes them prone to rot.

I think it's safe to say that we would never consider washing onions or garlic prior to storage. We should, however, gently brush off the dirt near the roots and bottom portion of the bulb. After onions are properly cured, store them at temperatures close to 40 degrees.

Place apples, bananas, and tomatoes away from onions, these vegetables excrete ethylene gas as they ripen, causing onions to sprout prematurely. Ethylene will also encourage potatoes to sprout.

Use onion bulbs that have two centers first; they won't store well. Garlic stems should be cut back to a couple of inches before storing for the winter in a cool and dry location in mesh bags or on slatted trays etc.

Softneck types of garlic have pliable foliage that lends itself well to braiding. In any case, allowing for good air circulation will ensure a long storage life.

Keep your garlic fists intact; once broken apart, individual cloves do not keep as long.

Gently wash winter squash in a 10% bleach solution prior to storing at temperatures between 50 and 60 degrees; in this case it will help prevent rot.

The flavor of many of our favorite squashes only improves with age. The same advice for washing prevails for pumpkins and gourds.

As the harvest season continues, may these tips help to ensure that you get the longest possible storage life. A much deserved reward after all of your hard work!

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

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

Every fall I look for the return of the dark-eyed juncos, also known as "snow birds" in the middle latitudes.

Over most of the eastern United States, they appear as winter sets in and then retreat northward each spring to breed. Other juncos are year-round residents, retreating into woodlands during the breeding season or, like those of the Appalachian Mountains, moving to higher elevations during the warmer months.

I have not seen any yet, but I keep an eye out for them. Often my first sighting of the year is along the side of the road when I spot their white tail feathers as they fly.

Dark-eyed juncos are little sparrows with gray plumage and white outer tail feathers and white underneath. Females and juveniles are slightly browner and duller.

They breed in forests including coniferous and deciduous types and can be found at elevations from sea level to over 11,000 feet. Typically, the female lays between three to six eggs per clutch. She usually lays one egg per day until the clutch is complete.



Dark-eyed junco

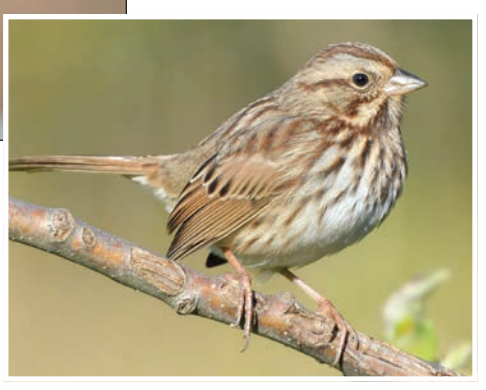
Their diet primarily consists of seeds and insects, adapting to available food sources throughout the year.

Juncos are social birds, often seen in flocks during winter and they exhibit a distinctive hopping behavior on the ground. They flit about forest floors of the western mountains and Canada, then flood the rest of North America for winter.

They are among the most abundant forest birds of North America. They come to feeders and like many sparrows feed on the ground to glean seeds dropped there by other birds.

They prefer open, partially wooded areas with understory for cover. They also have a twittering call or trilling song. If flushed from the ground, they appear gray or dark brown overall with visible white outer tail feathers.

The dark-eyed Junco is one of the most common birds in North America and can be found across the continent from Alaska to Mexico, from California to New York. A recent estimate set the junco's total population at approximately 630 million individuals.



Sparrow

The oldest recorded dark-eyed Junco, originally banded in 1991, was at least 11 years, 4 months old when it was recaptured and released during banding operations in the same state of West Virginia in 2001.

Large flock of sparrows

Recently, while driving to the bus stop to pick up my grandson, I flushed a large flock of sparrows along the side of the road. A large number of them flew across the road in front of the car. It happened quickly so I was not able to identify them. They were not juncos as they did not have white tail feathers

New bird feeder

A man, who attends meals at the Oakham Senior Center, built a feeder from tubing someone gave him.

He filled it with seed and put it outside. It took a few days for the birds to arrive, but he has a lot of birds coming to it now.

eBird sightings

Recent eBird sightings included a Cape May warbler on Oct. 6 in Belchertown and an American redstart and a black-bellied plover, both spotted in the northeast Quabbin area on Oct. 6.

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

Country Journal

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
countryjournal@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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

WEB
countryjournal.turley.com

PHONE
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ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley Publications, Inc
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ISSN NO. 0747-2471

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

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

ELECTION LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Campaign news

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

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

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader has concerns about herbicides in environment

I am writing to thank Huntington town residents Sondra Lewis and Renee Baillargeon for taking the time to come to the Huntington Select Board with their concerns about herbicide spraying at Littleville and Knightville Dams by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As someone who owns property along the Westfield River, my family, including my dogs, spend a lot of time in and along the river, whether it's swimming, kayaking or just enjoying it's beauty and wildlife.

I am very concerned about the spraying of glyphosate along the dams and how much is leeching back into the water. I did not know this was being done until reading about this in the Sept 17, 2026 *Country Journal.*

I have invasive plants growing on my river property and I know I can't go down there and spray them so why is this ok to use along a dam that is connected with the Westfield River?

Huntington's stretch of the river has been designated "Wild and Scenic."

To get that designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act it must adhere to certain criteria. Wild: Primitive, unpolluted and accessible mostly by trails. Scenic: Largely primitive and undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Could that designation no longer hold true if glyphosate is detected in the river?

According to the article in the Sept 17, 2026 Country Journal, the recent application of herbicide was Lesco Prosecutor Pro Herbicide and the product's Safety Data Sheet recommends not applying the product directly to water or to areas where surface water is present.

I do agree with Lewis and Baillargeon, that town resident's should have adequate notice when this is happening so they can decide if they want to be near the dams and their waterways, avoid swimming or consuming fish.

Jill Rose
Huntington

Reader gives upcoming ballot questions review

As I read through the ballot questions, I found more questions than answers.

Question One is a no brainier, It is a shame that we need a law to make the governor and legislator answerable to the people.

Have the politics in our state gotten that low? Apparently it has, I'm a yes vote.

Question Two. Do we need collective bargaining for lawyers? I question that. I'm a no vote on that one.

Question Three. There is something up with this one. If there is one ballot for the primary R or P and a candidate is unopposed for an office, are they automatically elected?

Too many questions, I'm a no on this one.

Question Four. Election Day Registration? Where are the checks and balances? Voting is a right and a privilege.

There is no reason that a citizen can't take time during a year to go and register to vote. They need to take responsibility for them selves, to register to vote. A no vote for me.

Question Five State Revenue Limit and Rebate I thought we already had something on this with proposition two and half or is something new. Reasonable limits on growth? I'm confused on this one. I have to think more on this one.

Question Six This would add a tax on RVs all sporting goods, baseball, football, besides all other sporting goods, it can't help it not to.

Read this one carefully, too many areas to be spent on. Not enough information on this one. Just what is Nature for all consist of? Too much unsaid. A no vote for me.

Question Seven Single Family Homes Sounds good, but does the state retain the right to over rule bylaws set up by city's and towns? The state has in the past.

Again not enough answers to too many questions. I think no on this one also.

Question Eight Prohibit Retail Sale of Recreational Marijuana. I was against this in the first place. But now businesses have invested millions of dollars in this industry. If this bill goes through what happens? Law suits will come, from growing and retail businesses?

It is Pandora's, box being opened. So what is the out come? No for me until we know the consequences.

Ted Cousineau
Blandford

Question 9 firearms regulation violates rights to bear arms

This law needs to be reversed.

It is a direct violation of the bill of rights of our constitution. The second amendment ensures we have that choice, a choice not given to us by government, but a choice protected from government.

That which government gives can taken away, which is precisely why the founders never enshrined the authority over gun rights within the often weak, easily influenced dominion of man. That authority, the authority to choose to lawfully carry or not to carry is an individual choice. My holster, my choice.

We need to protect that choice. The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

Ted Cousineau
Blandford

Correction

The article about an early voting rally in Westfield on Oct. 17, which appeared in the Oct. 8 edition incorrectly listed the time. The time is from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393. Corrections will be printedon page 4 or 5.

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.

GUEST COLUMN

Memoir of structural restoration at Starfire Ranch

By Rick Deveny
Guest Columnist

In the autumn of 2001, history was sagging under its own weight on Clark Wright Road in Middlefield.

The historic bank barn at Starfire Ranch, a towering four-story, 40×90 foot monument built directly into the New England hillside, was on the verge of catastrophic collapse.

To the untrained eye, she was an old timber-frame structure whose time had come. But to a carpenter, she was a masterpiece. Her frame lineage traced back to Captain Nathaniel Wright, and her skeleton was composed of 90% old-growth wild cherry and hemlock timbers.

She had withstood centuries of harsh winters, but a massive four-foot sag in her center ridge line meant her spine was broken. She was bowed, broken and desperate for a savior.

On Sept. 13, 2001, my structural moving and shoring crew from 1-800-LIFTERS Inc. pulled onto the property. We set up camp in a trailer on-site, knowing this wasn't a job you could just drive away from at five o'clock.

For the next four months, that hillside became our world. We lived, breathed and slept in the shadow of that barn, fighting against time and the steady approach of a brutal New England winter.

Saving a building of this magnitude isn't about brute force; it is an intricate dance with gravity.

We began by constructing massive timber cribbing towers inside the belly of the barn to establish a secure foundation for our heavy structural jacks.

Taking it one agonizing inch at a time, we began the main lift, slowly forcing the massive ridge line back toward the sky. But when you push a building that has settled for centuries, it pushes back.

As the ridge line rose, the tremendous pressure caused the old joints to protest and the main ridge line split open, causing the towering sidewalls to bow outward.

Failure wasn't an option. We immediately adapted, deploying a system of permanent, adjustable cable harnesses and chain falls.

Operating like a team of surgeons, we threw lines across her upper structure and carefully pulled the bowed walls back into dead-true alignment. Once the skeleton was straight and the four- foot sag was entirely erased, we anchored her future.

We dropped in new, full-height centerline posts crafted out of solid white oak, ensuring she would remain standing for another century.

Inside her restored walls, we built custom, heavy-duty horse stalls for the property owner, Cameron "Cam" McNeill. Respecting the natural beauty of weathered and aged wood, we stud-framed the stalls using hemlock actual 2×4" studs.

We skinned the walls with green ash rather than seasoned wood, purposefully allowing the timber to dry naturally over time to create perfect gaps for air flow. Between the stalls, we left 3×4 foot openings protected by 3/4" galvanized pipe bars spaced four inches on center.

To complete the stables, we constructed horse stall grids using 1-inch ash and heavy pipes, fastening everything with construction screws to make future repairs or adjustments seamless.

By the time we packed up our tools on Christmas Eve 2001, the biting Massachusetts freeze had fully set in, but the "Grandest Lady" stood proud and plumb against the hillside.

We lived in the dirt and the cold to save her, driven by a simple professional philosophy: that future generations will look back at our building craftsmanship with the exact same awe and admiration we hold for the master craftsmen who came a century before us.

Cam's barn was the crowning achievement of my 40 year career—a testament to what can be achieved when you take an impossible task one step at a time, with gratitude for every small success.

Majestic Queen

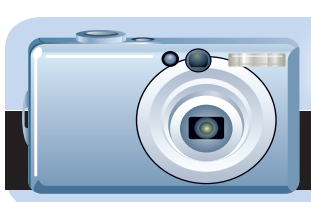
I got the call but did not know where it was that I would go

Until I came around a bend and saw you there an injured friend

You were once a majestic queen, the grandest lady on the scene

For centuries you sheltered the beasts that worked your field, and at harvest time you guarded the yield. Now your legs were broken and your back was weak, your skin was cracked and your stature meek. Others would look and walk away, Tear or burn her down they'd say.

Like a surgeon I deftly led my teams, we straightened your back and repaired your beams. For 300 more years the beasts you'll shroud, standing strong, and true, and proud.



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countryjournal@turley.com

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

The Huntington Evangelical Church
Pastor L. Charles Cinelli
17 Russell Road, PO Box 7
Huntington, MA 01050
413-667-5774
Sunday service 9:30 a.m.

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

Historical Society hosts program on early gravestones

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The Western New England Chapter of the Association for Gravestone Studies met Saturday, Oct. 10 at the Historical Society.

Public historian Elizabeth C. Dearden spoke about how in early revolutionary era some of thee symbolism reflected the political situation in gravestones in terms of loss of life.

Sacrificial deaths were involved early on for ten years prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The symbolism was reflected also in the media. There was also a presentation on small pox by Al McKee of Longmeadow.

The Associaiton of Gravetone Studies was founded in 1977 for the purpose of furthering the study and preservation of gravestones. AGS is an international organization with an interest in grave markers of all periods and styles.

Through its publications, conferences, workshops and exhibits, AGS promotes the study of gravestones from historical and artistic perspectives, expands public awareness of the significance of historic grave markers and encourages individuals and groups to record and preserve gravestones.

At every opportunity, AGS cooperates with groups that have similar interests.

Another Historical Society event was held Friday evening at the White Church. The Blues Brothers performed at a donation only event to a very appreciative audience according to Historical Society President Chips Norcross.



Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm
Betsy McKee photographs headstones; this one is for Matheuw Proven



Rylan Shepard and public historian Elizabeth Dearden discuss similar ancestries

Mother and young moose show up

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – South Street resident Jennifer Wands woke up one morning last week to discover a baby moose in her back yard. "I pulled up the shade and there he was," she said.

It wasn't too much later when momma moose joined the youngster in the yard. She stretched out I the grass, apparently for a nap. And, according to Wands, there she remained.

She contacted the state Department of Wildlife to find out about the animals and their habits. She learned that moose do sometimes take afternoon naps.

However, momma moose remained in her spot, hardly moving, but Wands said every once in a while, her foot moved.

The baby moose wandered off.

The next morning, Wands and her husband Lee discovered that momma had died overnight, and the youngster was nowhere to be found.

Moose, along with white tail deer, have been found to be infected with a meningeal worm, Parelaphostrongylus tenuis, which infests the deer but is more dangerous for the moose, which becomes the host. The worm invades the moose, settling in the brain, and eventually kills. It is predominant now in northern forests in central and eastern North America, according to Wikipedia.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Wands
A baby moose was seen in the Wands back yard



Mother moose also was in the Wands back yard.

SIGN

from page 1

permitting process for small energy infrastructure is a key barrier to the development of clean energy and the Commonwealth's ability to achieve mandated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The law calls for Department of Energy Resources to create an optional local permitting process for small clean energy facilities that caps the permitting timeline at 12 months, establishes a single appeals process, while enhancing community input and supporting equitable project review.

By setting forth new regulations and guidance for small clean energy infrastructure projects, DOER provides a more efficient and consistent permitting process to facilitate and expedite the development of necessary clean energy infrastructure, while respecting the historic autonomy of cities and towns.

This will cover all local boards, commissions etc. involved in the decision-making process inside the 12-month time.

Data Center Moratorium

Under new business, Shartrand's letter proposing a moratorium on data centers in town was presented. The four-page document is intended to allow the town a "reasonable period of time to study their potential land use, infrastructure, environmental, public health, public safety, emergency response fiscal, energy, water, noise, traffic and community impacts associated with the development and operation of Data Centers and to consider and adopt appropriate zoning and other lawful regulations and governing such facilities."

Coury asked Shartrand to take it back to the Community Development Coordination Group for review, feedback and any updates and said the same to Cousineau.

When the document is final the board will discuss when it can go to the town for a vote to submit, possibly at a November town meeting. No date was set.

Post service lease

Ferrera is working with the postal service on the lease of the former town hall, adjustments will be coming and the postal service will let the town know how close they can come to meet financial expense expectations.

Halloween party

Regarding the Halloween party time on Oct. 31 from 1-3:30 p.m. Shartrand said she had been asked why was the party in the middle of the afternoon and her response has been, "It's after lunch and before supper." This allows trick or treaters to go out later.

Other business

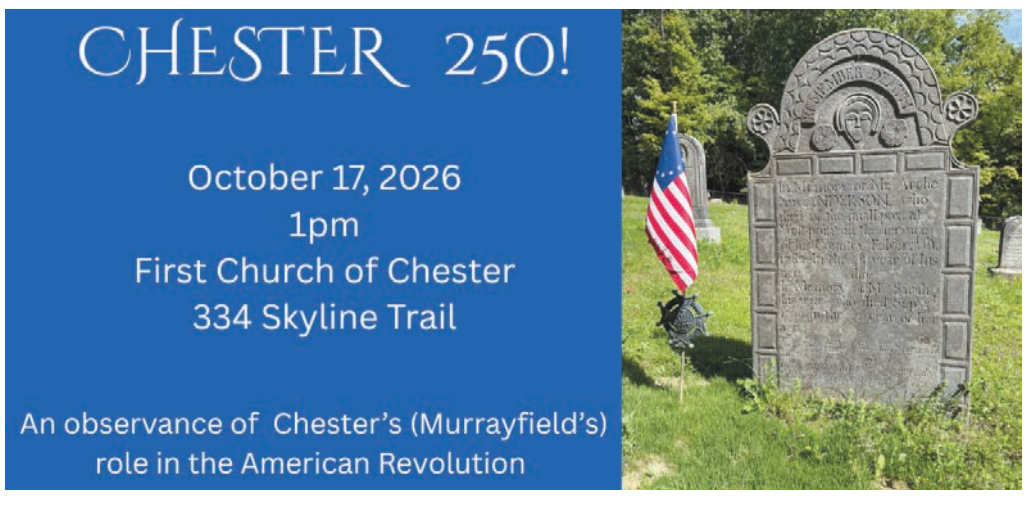
Coury reminded all of the library's groundbreaking on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 10 a.m. and the Listening Session on Monday, Oct. 19 from 5-6:30 p.m. on all things solar with Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi.

Questions may be submitted via the town's website. Shartrand encourages resident participation.

The board, taking the lead in fire station construction, has added Greg Girard to the group citing his construction experience.

Ferrera noted the remaining vacancy on the School Committee; Springfield Water and Sewer Commission needs a schedule for Beech Hill Road tree work and there is no swimming allowed in the Blair Pond because it is protected as a water supply; VADAR billing issues surrounding a third party will be resolved by VADAR.

George Reichert's report to the board on Bicentennial Park was postponed until Oct. 19.



NOTICE

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COUNTRY JOURNAL
Statement of Ownership Management and Circulation
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Date of Filing: Saturday, October 3, 2026
Title of Publication: Country Journal
Publication Number: 4835500
Frequency of Issue: Weekly
Annual Subscription Price: $31 1 year

Location of known office of publication:
Country Journal,
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

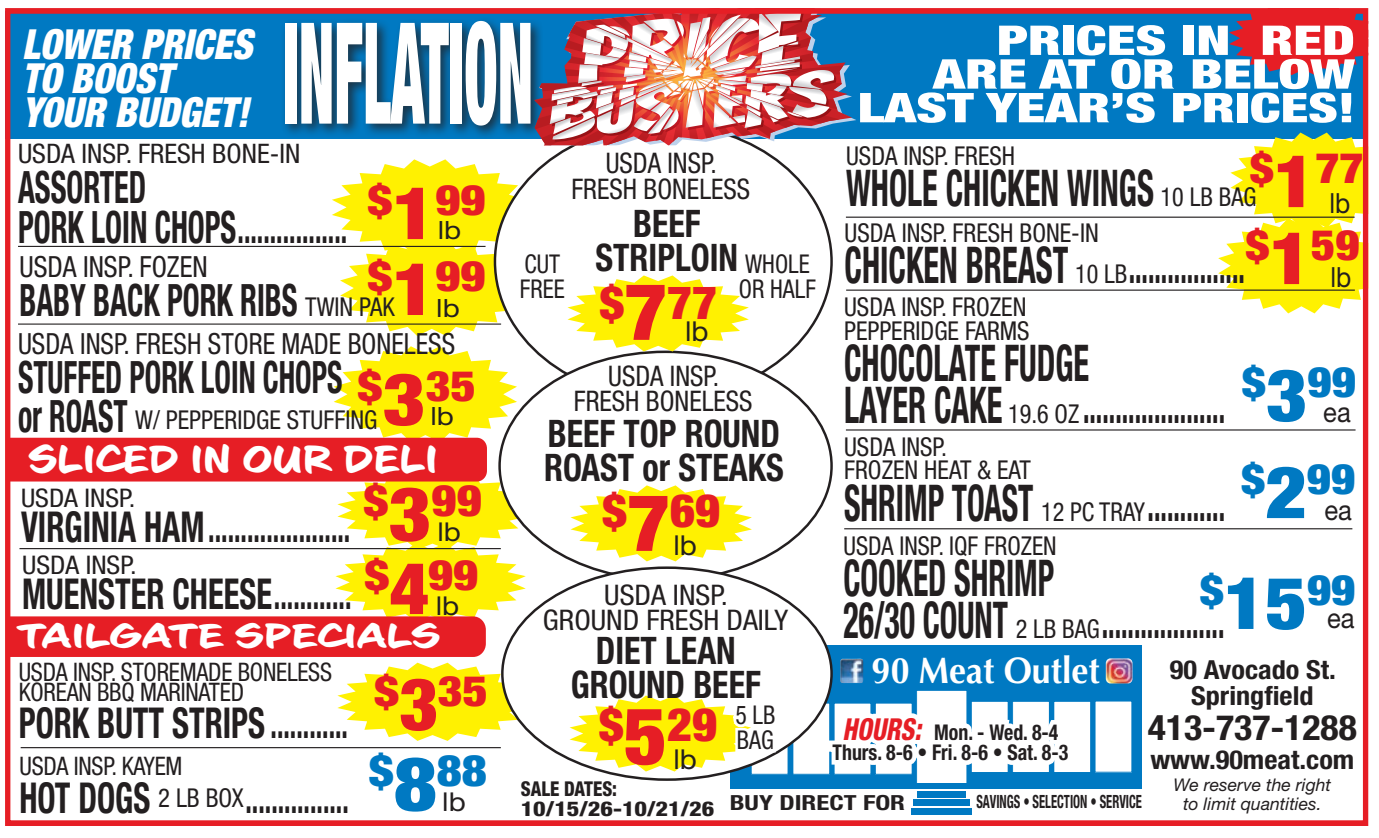
Location of headquarters of publisher:
Turley Publications,
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
Hampden County

Editor: Ellenor Downer
Country Journal
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069

Publisher and Owner:
Patrick H. Turley, Turley Publications
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

Issue date for circulation data 9/24/2026. Total number of copies of single issues published nearest to filing date (net press run): 2,500, mailed outside county paid subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 430, mailed in-county paid subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 345, paid distribution outside the mails including sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid distribution outside USPS: 1,000, paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 10, total paid distribution: 1,785, free or nominal rate outside county copies included on PS Form 3541: 14, free or nominal rate in-county copies included on PS Form 3541: 10, free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 12, free or nominal rate distribution outside the mail (carriers or other means): 25, total free or nominal rate distribution: 61, total distribution: 1,846, copies not distributed: 654, total: 2,500, percent paid: 96.7%.

Ellenor Downer
Editor
CJ 10/15/26



HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Submitted photos
Department Conservation and Reservoir has signage guiding the way.



This is the plane crash memorial monument.

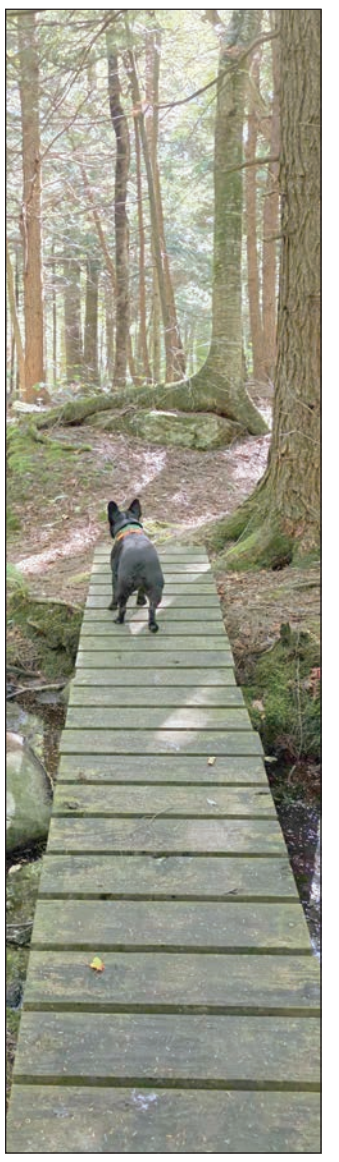


A Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hiker looks at a fire pond along the old road built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression.



Garnets are in the rock face on Garnet Hill.





Above, one of the canine members of the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers walks over the bridge on the trial to the plane crash memorial is sometimes muddy. Left, a closeup of the top of the plane crash memorial.

Hilltown Hikers trek to Garnet Peak

Garnet Peak in Peru once had long views of the Richmond Fire Tower and the Yokun Seat, now a bit overgrown but it still has plenty of garnets.

There is Department of Conservation and Recreation signage on Curtin Road in Peru directing people to the rocky old road so they actually don't get lost because there is no cell service in the wilds of Peru.

In 1935 Peru State Forest was a prime getaway destination. The newspaper headlines read "Lookout Tower Will Cap Garnet Peak, 2200- Foot Crown of State Reservation-1500-Acre Acquisition and Development of Game Preserve With Three Big Ponds Considered. Picnic grounds made by Civilian Conservation Corps workers including two ponds, for swimming and stocked with trout for fishing."

"A gravel road has been constructed on the north of Middlefield Road, where all the states 2,000 acres of mountain and plateau land lies.

Several additional miles of road are planned, including three off the present route, all with scenic mountain views to Worthington and Huntington." There were picnic tables, pavilions, fire pits and more built here. Old photos show tourists dipping their toes in the small streams and manmade swimming holes, now completely overgrown but not far off the road on Skyline Trail, imagine that.

In this area are three dried-up pond beds, Goose Pond, Jasenti Pond and Factory Pond, which was billed a potential game preserve. The state even had planned to build a lookout tower on Garnet Peak.

Because the hilltownss were mostly deforested long ago they had planted about 100,000 young trees.

These trees became useful in the last several years when DCR logged a good sized area of Peru State forest, letting some sun light in. A wild and remote place to visit including the plane crash memorial site. The old road that cuts thru from Middlefield to Peru is a great shortcut but only during the warm months, it does make a great place to cross country ski in the winter and look for animal tracks.

The monument was erected on Garnet Peak, on the spot where 13 paratroopers died on Aug. 15, 1942. The Army Douglas C-53 transport plane was heading for Rhode Island when it strayed off course, lost in a summer fog.

It skimmed the tops of the trees of the 2,200 foot mountain and went down. Of the 16 paratroopers on board, only three survived.

Matty Bishop, a Peru air raid warden, saw the crash from her perch in a spotting tower, according to a report later issued by the states Committee on Public Safety. Her sons organized a search party of town residents.

As they headed into the woods, they heard a signal shot from the plane and responded with a shotgun blast into the air. Only one of the soldiers was still able to walk when the rescuers arrived and the three survivors were badly injured. The plane had sliced through 60 yards of woods, clearing a 60-foot-wide trail.

In the intervening decades, the woods have healed that scar, and the only remnant is a slight thinning of the trees and a touch more sunlight, just enough to keep the ferns away.

The spot was first marked with a wooden cross and the townspeople raised money for the more permanent memorial, which was installed in 1946.

Sara Adams remembers attending church dinners for the monument as a girl, when she heard stories from her father, Edward Shuttleworth, of his night among the search party. At the time, this crash was the third worst in America.

Sadly the State Park was eventually closed due to no toilets and no drinking water supply.

HILLTOWN REAL ESTATE
by Adams Realty

Presented by
James Adams Owner/Broker
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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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Celebrate Women in BUSINESS week

Women-owned businesses are thriving

Women entrepreneurs are not to be underestimated. Data affirms that women-owned businesses are growing and thriving.

According to North One banking, women-owned firms account for more than 12 million businesses in the United States. In addition, the 2024 Wells Fargo Impact of Women-Owned Business Report, in partnership with Ventureneer, Core Women and Women Impacting Public Policy, found the number of women-owned business increased at a rate of 4.5 times between 2019 to 2023. Women-owned businesses are driving economic growth, and a deeper look at some of the numbers supports that notion.

• The Women's Business Enterprise Council says there are 12.3 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., which comprises about 40 percent of the total number of businesses.

• Women-owned businesses bring in nearly $2 trillion every year, says the National Women's Business Council.

• During the pandemic, women-owned businesses added 1.4 million jobs and $579.6 billion in revenue to the economy, says Wells Fargo.

• World Bank indicates that roughly one-third of principal owners of all businesses are female.

• WBENC advises that 64 percent of new women-owned businesses are started by women of color.

• Women's Business Enterprises Canada says more than 85 percent of buying decisions are influenced by women. The Canadian Minister of Small Business notes that women business ownership is growing. In 2023, approximately 18.4 percent of all businesses in Canada were majority owned by women, compared to 15.6 percent in 2017.

• According to Forbes, women-led tech companies achieve a 35 percent higher ROI. A Forbes study with First Round Capital, a venture capital firm, found female-founded businesses in their portfolio outperformed male-founded companies by more than 60 percent.

Women-owned businesses are making a large impact on North America and around the world. Such firms continue to employ millions of people and foster strong economies.



Women-owned businesses are driving economic growth, and a deeper look at some of the numbers supports that notion.

BE BELLA BOUTIQUE

From a 20-foot fashion truck to a downtown Westfield Boutique

In September 2020, Bethany Liquori began her fashion journey with a 20 foot- mobile boutique, traveling throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut and bringing the latest women's fashion trends directly to customers. For a year and a half, the boutique on wheels became a familiar sight as Bethany built relationships with women throughout the area and discovered just how much she loved helping people feel confident in what they were wearing. But life as a mom of six made the mobile boutique challenging. Many of the events were held on nights and weekends, making it increasingly difficult to balance family life and sports with the demands of a growing business.

Bethany knew it was time to make a change.Taking another leap of faith, she opened the doors to Be Bella Boutique in downtown Westfield, taking a chance on the local retail community and turning her dream into a permanent home.More than six years later, Be Bella has become much more than a place to shop for clothes. For Bethany, it has been about the people who walk through the door. "Be Bella is not just about selling clothes," says Bethany. "It's about making women feel good about themselves and creating an experience where everyone feels welcomed." That experience is something Bethany and her employee Colleen Saloomey work hard to create every day, Colleen has been a very important part of the Be Bella family and, as Bethany describes her, is truly the heart and soul of the store. Together they strive to provide personalized service that makes every customer feel seen,

heard, and valued. Whether someone is looking for the perfect outfit, needs help finding something that makes them feel confident, or wants to enjoy a fun shopping experience, the goal is always the same: for every woman to walk out of Be Bella feeling beautiful from head to toe.

From its humble beginnings in a 20-foot mobile boutique to its home in downtown Westfield, Be Bella Boutique has grown through hard work, family support, loyal customers, and a genuine love for fashion and people.

Bethany is incredibly grateful for the community that has supported her journey and helped make her dream a reality.

As Be Bella looks toward the future, Bethany's vision is simple: continue bringing unique and fashionable styles to the women of Westfield and surrounding communities while creating the kind of shopping experience that keeps customers coming back-not just for clothes, but for connection.

After more than six years in business, Bethany is excited for what's ahead and looks forward to continuing to make Be Bella Boutique a special part of downtown Westfield.

What started as a little dream – and a little bit of a leap of faith – has grown into a local thriving business in the heart of downtown Westfield.



Meet Madison

From classrooms to nurseries, to grand foyers and yes, even funeral homes...

BEE & ME PAINT has got you covered!

IN COLOR THAT IS!

BEE & ME PAINT

A warm and vibrant young woman who started painting professionally at age 14 when her grandfather tasked her with making over a very rundown apartment inside his rental building. 17 years later and Madison now has her very own painting business, inspired by her best friend Crisabeth, who empowered her to become an independent Business Woman and to truly make her mark on the world!

For Madison, painting is personal. It's about the person or people she is helping with her creative gifts. She loves to collaborate with clients to create environments that are uplifting and harmonious and which include a personal feel for the client because they were part of the process.

She enJOYs the relationships that develop during the time she is working on a project and is always there to offer a helping hand, even putting her brush down to help carry in the groceries. For Madison, this work is not a commercial gig, it's a journey back to being truly human.

Madison travels to paint anywhere in Western Massachusetts. She is very familiar with the Hilltowns, Westfield, Agawam, Southwick, Springfield, etc. So if your area code is 413, call Bee & Me to see what the BUZZZ is about!

413-575-1413





For nearly 75 years, Wolcott Realty has been a trusted name in real estate in Russell, MA, and the surrounding communities. Today, that tradition of personal service and local expertise continues through a dedicated team that includes three accomplished Realtors: Eva Best, Dorinne Rodriguez, and Mary O'Connell.

Each brings her own experience, strengths, and commitment to helping clients successfully navigate the buying and selling process.



Dorinne Rodriguez is known for her customer-focused approach and willingness to go the extra mile. She provides personalized attention and care throughout the buying or selling process, helping clients feel informed, supported, and confident every step of the way.

Eva Best is dedicated to helping clients find the perfect fit, whether they are buying or selling a home. She combines strong local knowledge with attentive, personalized service and works tirelessly to help her clients achieve their real estate goals.

Mary O'Connell has a successful track record of selling properties throughout the region and across the state, including Eastern Massachusetts. She also assists clients relocating outside the area by connecting them with trusted real estate professionals in other markets.

Adding another dimension of expertise to the Wolcott Team is Martin O'Connell, Owner/Broker of Wolcott Realty and an area attorney. Martin specializes in real estate law as well as Wills and Estates, providing clients with valuable legal knowledge and guidance. His law office is conveniently located within Wolcott Realty in Russell, with an additional office in Springfield.

Together, the Wolcott Team combines nearly 75 years of local roots with real estate experience, personalized service, and the added advantage of in-house legal expertise. Whether buying, selling, relocating, or planning for the future, clients can count on knowledgeable guidance and a team committed to helping them every step of the way.

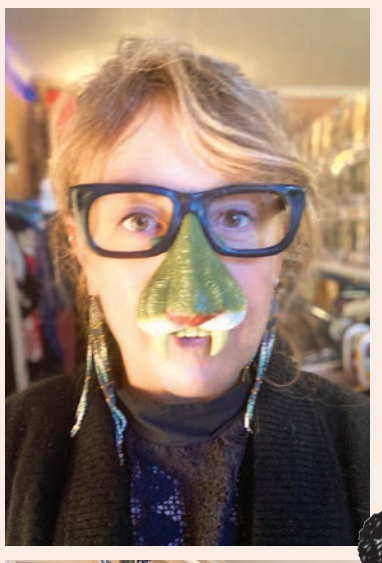
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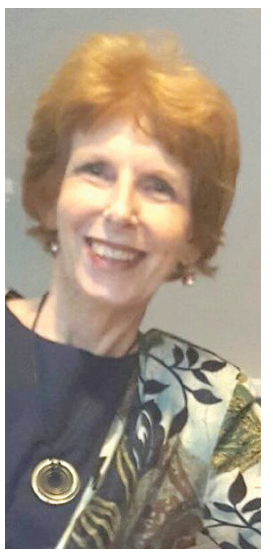
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Westfield Yoga Center



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This love for yoga began when Sally took a yoga class one semester while attending Boston University. At that time, she had no idea how yoga would transform her life and influence the trajectory of her work.

While teaching yoga began as a hobby for Sally, it soon escalated into the Westfield Yoga Center. It's now been three decades! More than thirty years of leading yoga classes to optimize individual health. More than thirty years of reaching out to surrounding communities to maximize well being.

Looking forward, the Westfield Yoga Center anticipates more yoga, more personal health, and more community wellness. Sally Barber invites you to join her for yoga. Hear her words for yourself and experience the comfort and ease that come when you breathe, relax and let go.

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www.westfieldyogacenter.com

R. BARRETT Studios / Gallery

Rosemary comes from a long line of artists, artisans and craftsman from her mother's lineage. Shem Drown, a well known tinsmith made the grasshopper weathervane on top of Fanuiel Hall and the Rooster on the top of the Old North church in Boston when the country was founded. This history and love of the arts has propelled many in the family towards a satisfying way of life and creativity.

Rosemary finds this satisfaction through sharing her education with others. She has gathered the know how of many disciplines of art, accomplishing oil and acrylic painting, pastels, colored pencil, drawing, murals, sculpture and color to give a few examples within her long career. Starting with The School of the Worcester Art Museum with a Ford Foundation and museum scholarships. After her training, she launched her career painting murals in Europe and throughout the coasts of the U.S. Within the world of murals, Rosemary specialized in the French technique Tromp L' Oiel (to fool the eye).

Later, she began to teach students from young to elderly while painting and selling her own work. Watching people blossom and shine is a joy and acknowledgment of the value of the arts. Art is medicine on many levels. It is a pleasure to offer and share the skills that enhance one's abilities . Rosemary has an impressive array of awards and list of publications from the Berkshires "Artful Mind" to the New York Times. Rosemary's resume can be shared on request. Currently, she is launching a series of classes focused on exploration of color. So if you are feeling inspired to play with color and open to your creative side, reach out to Rosemary at (860) 671-1023 to join the fun!



R. BARRETT Studios / Gallery
8 Main Street, Huntington
rbarrettstudios.com



Gift certificates are available for Rosemary's upcoming classes working with oil & acrylic on board.

Lucimara Galo

Luci's Loving Care owner



Originally from Curitiba, Brazil, I moved to the United States three decades ago with hope, determination, and a dream of creating a better life. Like many immigrants, I learned to adapt, work hard, and embrace every opportunity that came my way. My experiences working in different roles, especially caring for others, eventually led me to discover my true passion: helping people feel safe, valued, and cared for.

Today, I am the proud owner of Luci's Loving Care, a non-medical home care agency dedicated to providing compassionate care in the comfort of people's homes. Building my business from the ground up has been one of the greatest accomplishments of my life. I am especially proud that Luci's Loving Care has been named **Best Home Care Services in the Gazette's Readers' Choice Awards for two consecutive years, 2025 and 2026**. This recognition is a reflection of the dedication of our entire team and the trust of the families we serve.

When not at work, I love traveling, attending comedy shows and music concerts, and making memories with my family. I am especially grateful for the incredible support of my family, who continue to encourage me and celebrate every step of my journey. Their love reminds me that success is even more meaningful when you have people to share it with.

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HUNTINGTON

Fly fishing clinic takes place Oct. 17

HUNTINGTON – The Westfield River Watershed Association and the Western Mass. Fly Fishermen will honor their late president with the free Bill Rose Memorial Fly Fishing clinic on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m.-noon on the Westfield River in the turnout on Route 20 in Huntington.

The turnout on the Westfield River is across from the Huntington Health Center. Children and teens are welcome with the supervision of an adult at this family-friendly event.

"Come out and learn about fly fishing from the experts. Join us as we enjoy a beautiful fall day on the Westfield River," encourages Mark Damon, current WRWA president. "Bill Rose was president of both the WMWA and the WMFF at the time of his death. He loved fly fishing. In his memory, we invite folks to try fly-fishing for the first time or get expert tips and coaching for the experienced fisherfolk out there."

People can drop in throughout the morning and watch a fly-tying demonstration and practice casting. A life-long fly-fisherman, Bill Rose was always sharing his passion. "Beginners are welcome. It's not as complicated as it looks on TV," he would declare. "Kids as young as 6 can successfully tie simple flies and cast their lines. You only need to cast out a few feet to successfully catch fish in our local streams and rivers."

According to Joseph Boulia, another WRWA board member and a fisheries expert, "The Westfield River and its watershed has some of the best cold water fishing in the state. There are native brown trout in our waters. The rainbow trout that are prized by anglers are also stocked in our streams and tributaries by the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife."

"It makes for good fishing," states Harold Norman, a long-time member of the WMFF. "I love flying ties and sharing my skills with others. I don't go out often these days, being a little older. But one of my buddies picks me up every now and then and we do a little fishing. It doesn't matter much if we catch anything because mostly we catch-and-release now, to help protect our local resources." Norman adds, "I'll be there in Huntington on the 18th ready to teach the folks who show up."

In addition to fly fishing activities, Damon, who is a biologist, will be on hand to net insects from the river and help participants learn to identify them under microscopes. "Knowing what the fish eat and how those bugs behave in the water helps make folks better fishers," says Damon. "The flies you tie need to mimic the real bugs to entice the fish." The WMFF will guide participants through tying simple flies that they can use when they go out on their own.

WRWA encourages people, who own a fly rod and want to learn more about using it, to bring it to the clinic. For those who have never tried fly fishing before, some equipment will be available to use at the clinic. "A decent beginning fly-fishing combo is available for about $75 complete," according to the fishermen's group. "Take up the challenge of outwitting the fish. It's great family fun. If you have an interest in fishing and want to try fly-fishing, then come out and join us."



Photo courtesy of Westfield River Watershed Association

Bill Rose is shown fly-fishing.

Damon adds that as a tribute to Bill Rose a beginning fly-fishing set will be given to a young participant, who otherwise would not be able to access the sport. "Our organizations are committed to making the river and its environment accessible, safe and fun for all those who live in our watershed. We strongly encourage people from all walks of life and ages to come and learn some of the basics of this sport."

There will be a portable toilet on site. The clinic will be held rain or shine, barring extremely stormy weather.

The Westfield River Watershed Association was established in 1953 to protect and improve the natural resources of the watershed, as well as to expand recreational and other land use opportunities for people's enjoyment and for sound ecology. To learn more, visit www.westfieldriver.org.

The Western Mass. Fly Fishermen offer a free Fly-Tying Class on Monday nights in January and February at the Ludlow Elks Club. For more information, people may visit https://wmffclub.org/.

Rosemary Barrett to speak at library

By Wendy Long
Correspondent



Rosemary Barrett

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Public Library, 7 East Main St. "Day in the Life" series resumes on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. with a visit from artist, gallerist and educator Rosemary Barrett.

Library Director Amanda Loiselle modeled this speaker's series after an international program called "The Human Library," which started in Coppenhagen, Denmark in 2000. It is now active in over 80 countries and allows the public to hear about life experiences that are different from their own.

Loiselle also envisions it as a vehicle to meet and get to know an area resident while learning about their experiences and abilities.

Barrett has a gallery located at 8 Main St., that showcases artwork, has space for art instruction and serves as her own studio. She is an award-winning artist, who has received awards from art shows, arts organizations and even had an ornament selected for the White House Christmas tree in 2001.

As an instructor, she has offered classes in oil and acrylic painting, pastels, drawing, and composition. She has also offered one day seminars in guided projects for beginners where students can create things like mini-paintings or ornaments.

She began her formal art education at Clark University's School of the Worcester Art Museum. She also apprenticed with Greg Wyatt and was an Artist in Residence at St. John the Divine in New York City.

Her background includes Trompe L'Oeil and mural painting, which she has done for numerous decorators and clients throughout the world including private and civic commissions in Brussels, Belgium. This program is open free of charge to the public.



Town receives three grants

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin announced the town of Huntington won three grants totaling $1,468,500, which will improve a section of road on Littleville Road, prepare engineering and permitting documents for future work to be done on County Road and funding to prepare a comprehensive Master Plan for the town's future.

All three grants were fully funded.

Tighe & Bond wrote a $1 million grant from the state's Executive Office of Economic Development for the Littleville Road Safety Project. It will fund the final design, permitting and reconstruction of about 4,000 feet of Littleville Road between Route 112 and Goss Hill Road.

Areas addressed include drainage problems, embankment instability, degraded pavement and roadside safety hazards. It will improve safe access to the Gateway Regional School campus, which also serves as an emergency shelter facility.

It will also improve access to Littleville Dam and surrounding neighborhoods as well as boost the road's ability to endure severe weather events.

The road provides access to Littleville Dam, which serves as a major recreational area. A 48-inch water transmission line is located underneath the road in an area that has embankment instability, resulting in concerns over the integrity of the road and the utility infrastructure.

Poor drainage and erosion have led to significant deterioration of the road impacting the pavement, shoulder, guardrails and pedestrian access.

Preliminary engineering evaluations identified the improvements that need to be made. The design and permitting are expected to take about six months with construction starting the following spring; the entire project should be complete within approximately 18 months.

Tighe & Bond also wrote a $318,500 grant for similar work along a three-mile section of County Road, connecting Route 112 to Route 66. Also funded by the Executive Office of Economic Development, the project will fund the preliminary work needed to improve drainage, safety and overall infrastructure and position the town to pursue future construction funding.

County Road is a critical rural transportation corridor that serves residents, farms, small businesses, emergency responders, school transportation and travelers. According to the grant, the road is classified as a Rural Major Collector that carries a lot of daily traffic.

It contains a 780 foot elevation change with a 10% grade. Failing culverts, erosion and other factors create drainage, maintenance and safety challenges. In the summer of 2024, the road was closed for three days due to a culvert failure; three other culverts already show similar deficiencies.

The road has a recent history of documented public safety concerns due to steep grades, horizontal curves and other factors causing hazardous driving conditions.

In the past four years, over twenty crashes have occurred along this section of road. In October 2024, a tri-axle truck overturned resulting in a full road closure, utility damage and a significant emergency response. It is part of two daily school bus runs making reliability and safety particularly important.

Engineering and design services will address these deficiencies and form the basis of a plan that outlines an implementation sequence, funding opportunities, climate resilience and a reduction in necessary emergency repairs.

It will also establish a path toward the permitting, final design and construction that is needed. The design process should be completed within one year of the grant award.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission secured a One Stop for Growth grant to build upon grassroots public outreach and community visioning already underway and help the town of Huntington create its first comprehensive Master Plan, which will align other plans, land use regulations and proposed investments.

Funded through the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, the $150,000 grant expects the proposed master plan to be ready for final adoption by mid-2028. The Master Plan will pull from a number of documents already in place but not interconnected, including the 2024 Age-Friendly Huntington report, the 2025 Open Space and Recreation Plan and the 2027 Economic Development Strategic Plan.

It will also outline a community profile, vision and goals, zoning recommendations and recommendations on housing, economic development, infrastructure and transportation. The timeline includes several opportunities for public input and engagement during this work.

According to PVPC, a 31% population decline is forecast by 2050 meaning that strategic planning is of critical importance to the town's future. This, coupled with the possibility of the East-West Railway and emerging issues such as solar and battery storage infrastructure or data centers require an effective comprehensive plan to manage future needs and trends to preserve rural character and maintain a high quality of life for the town's residents.

COA lists upcoming events

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging celebrates fall birthday on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m.

BINGO will also be played

On Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. the movie "Nancy McPhee" will be shown.

On Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. musician and songwriter, David Herrera, will perform country music with a rock and urban pop vibe.

Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. there will be a free blood pressure check.

November events include on Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 1-2 p.m. respiratory illness updates and blood pressure check; on Wednesday, Nov. 11 the movie "Top Gun" and on Wednesday, Nov. 18 the Do Re Mi Chorus.

The Council on Aging welcomes residents and community members to participate in these programs and activities. Whether people 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.

SELECT BOARD

from page 1

up to $2,000 could be needed to install the culverts. Her first estimate to replace the deck came in at an additional $11,700.

Police Department

In other business, Chief of Police Robert Garriepy presented an updated Police Use of Force policy that he and Drabiuk had worked through to bring into state compliance. The issue had also been brought to the select board's attention at their Sept. 23 meeting. The new policy was unanimously approved with an effective date of Sept. 24, 2026.



Turley Publications photo by Wendy Long

Mary Arkoette's home on 21 Nagler Cross Rd. is experiencing significant damage from water running onto her property from the road. This photo shows where her deck used to be, before it was degraded by the runoff and had to be removed. Arkoette's costs to install a driveway culvert and replace the deck are mounting and she fears the water will not abate enough after the culvert is installed.

Chester railroad stop

Finally, the board met with Chester Selectman Brian Forgue to hear a request to submit a letter in support of Chester being named a railroad stop on the planned West-East Rail Corridor. The proposed corridor would connect Boston and Albany via passenger trains.

Chester is advocating on this issue as something that would benefit all of the local towns. It is a halfway point between Springfield and Pittsfield and the town has the infrastructure to create the rail stop.

The Huntington board decided to submit a revised letter that includes a request for an additional quick-stop in Huntington to promote tourism such as during the canoe races or foliage season, but agreed that Chester was the best choice for a main stop. Forgue said he would notify them when meetings take place to determine this.

Other business

The board also discussed the three state grants totaling $1.47 million recently announced to complete road work on Littleville and County Roads and to create a Master Plan for the community.

CHESTER

Library hosts Tai Chi for kids

CHESTER – Hamilton Memorial Library, 15 Middlefield Road, Suite 7, hosted a program entitled "Animal Frolics: Playful Tai Chi Experience for Kids" on Thursday, Sept. 24.

The children explored balance, mindfulness and fun as they experienced Tai Chi movements inspired by animals.



Submitted photos

These youngsters enjoy creating Tai Chi animals with Doreen at an event at Hamilton Memorial Library.



Children participated in a program Animal Frolics: Playful Tai Chi at the Hamilton Memorial Library in Chester.

MARTENSON

from page 1

area's forward thinkers. In my opinion, Chris is a one of a kind, generational talent, who is a resource our communities need to become aware of."

Daley further cautioned, "Towns that don't plan for the future tend to not do well there."

Martenson and his wife Evie, who serves on Chester's Board of Health, bought and are restoring the property at the foot of Johnson Hill Road, formerly a summer residence for Caroline (Kennedy) and Edwin Schlossberg.

Chris is also leading a group of investors working to restore the Brookside Springs Lodge on the property and convert it into a place where people can stay and events can be held. Previously a YWCA camp in the late 1800s, it was made into a retreat by Ted Shawn in the 1920s while he was establishing Jacob's Pillow.

It originally served as a summer haven for dancers from all over the world.

Martenson's background gives him unique skills and knowledge that can be applied to his role as selectman.

Through his website "Peak Prosperity" Martenson describes himself as an information scout who tries to synthesize what's happening in the world. "I think my value now is that I come up with insight into where the world is going, unlike Artificial Intelligence."

He says that AI can only report events but cannot extract the meaning behind them or their impact. His online work is currently focused on the Iran war and power solutions for possible energy and fuel shortages such as storage batteries and solar arrays.

Energy dependence is more relevant than ever he said. With the wars in Iran and Russia having taken out both oil production and oil refining, energy costs are set to become a true challenge for everyone dependent on oil for heat, along with secondary impacts on food inflation.

And when you are energy dependent it is very hard to be prosperous, he explains. Towns like Chester are facing rising costs in heating oil, gasoline and electricity. "I think there's a lot of energy here," he said. "It was all water-powered for a long time. Littleville Dam was built with all of the concrete pourings to support a hydro plant."

Another issue of concern to Martenson is the growth of data centers and the demand they are putting on energy grids.

"Data centers are absolute energy pigs," Martenson said. "I call them toasters that don't make toast. Electricity goes in and waste heat comes out. Also videos of cats performing show tunes."

He said that while states can try and limit their demands, the truth is electricity easily moves across state lines.

He said that Massachusetts has the third highest electricity costs in America and has a lot of work to do to make the utility more affordable. At the local level this might mean working to allow gas pipelines to cross their territories if such an option comes up.

"Having been in the seat for just less than a month, I have a lot to learn," the new selectman admitted. "But it's already clear to me that there are many efficiencies that can and should be explored, especially in the use of technology to streamline the overly (in my view) complicated regulations and paperwork burdens that the state imposes."

This effort includes diving into the town's bylaws. "I propose that we review the rules to make sure they still make sense and remove or amend those that do not provide a positive return to Chester," he wrote in a campaign flyer distributed last year shared with town residents.

Martenson said that this might help the town be more welcoming. As an example, he and Evie were married on their farm and worked to rent a tent for the festivities.

When he told a local company where he lived, he was told they'd bring a tent anywhere except Chester due to all of the permits and red tape requirements.

"Maybe we could be more welcoming. When your town is too hard for a tent company to work for, maybe that begins to account for a lack of business," he said. "Every business we lose takes something more out of the community." He would strive to have just enough rules to keep it all working but not become counter-productive.

He'd also like to see the town bring in grants and capital campaigns for growth as he believes they're missing out on money that could help Chester thrive. "I'd like to explore hiring grant and capital campaign writers who only get paid when they win funding-no upfront cost, just results," he said.

Finally, he'd like to continue the progress that has been made on business improvements in town hall. Instead of producing, filing and storing paper forms, for example, he'd like to look at digitizing some of those functions. "AI is extraordinarily good at structuring things. I feel reasonably up on the curve on what technology can and can't do," he said.

His vision for the community includes having something to do in town every night of the week. At one time, he said, Chester had things like a bowling alley and saunas.

Bringing back restaurants and building off of the success of the Chester Train Station and Chester Theater Company could make the town a haven for both residents and visitors.

But he warns that things currently happening on a national level will have implications at home. He finds the national media coverage of the wars with Iran and (by proxy) Russia is woefully lacking in detail and analysis.

And while local residents cannot change the trajectories of those wars, we all need to be aware of the local impacts that are likely to result. "We're all familiar with the higher gasoline and diesel prices that have resulted, but there are going to be many more downstream impacts in 2027 and possibly beyond," Martenson said.

"There has been practically no diplomatic progress in the past six months and the energy attacks grind on. Just this week 14 tankers have been struck in the Strait of Hormuz (the most since the war started, by the way) and the Houthis have hit Saudi Arabian refining and export capacity hard over the past 72 hours."

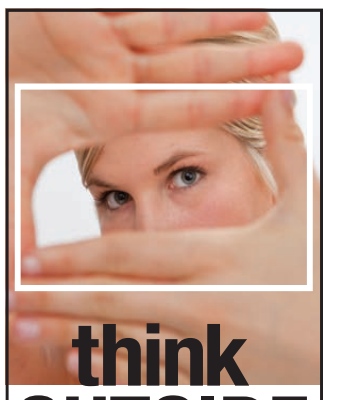
"The world faces the prospect of true energy shortages which are far more disruptive than rationing due to higher prices. Further, the loss of both ammonia and phosphate fertilizers has already driven up farm input costs, but there are real concerns about those shortages for 2027 which would certainly impact global food supplies," Martensen said.

He concludes that the outcomes of these events are uncertain but both towns and households should be ready for local budgetary stressors. "We'll see, perhaps everything magically resolves tomorrow, but I think we'd do well to begin asking some questions and exploring some options before they become mandatory," Martenson said..

In the meantime, he continues to bring his farm back to life.

He currently has a herd of black and white cows and keeps chickens.

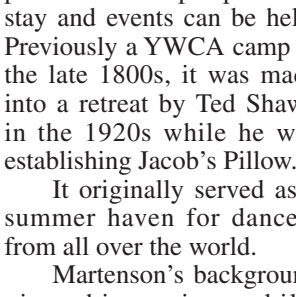
They are planting beechnut and hickory trees and have a garden for their personal use. Soil improvements are being made. And he works to restore the Brookside Springs Lodge into a destination for people to come, relax and learn.


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(860) 874-8396

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

HOME IMPROVEMENT



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Clearing and forestry mulching for lot clearing, perimeter clearing,
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Over 30 Years Experience
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& Military Discounts
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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE by babbling brook, l-shaped 2bdrm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch, beach rights. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. $3000/ monthly rental fee.
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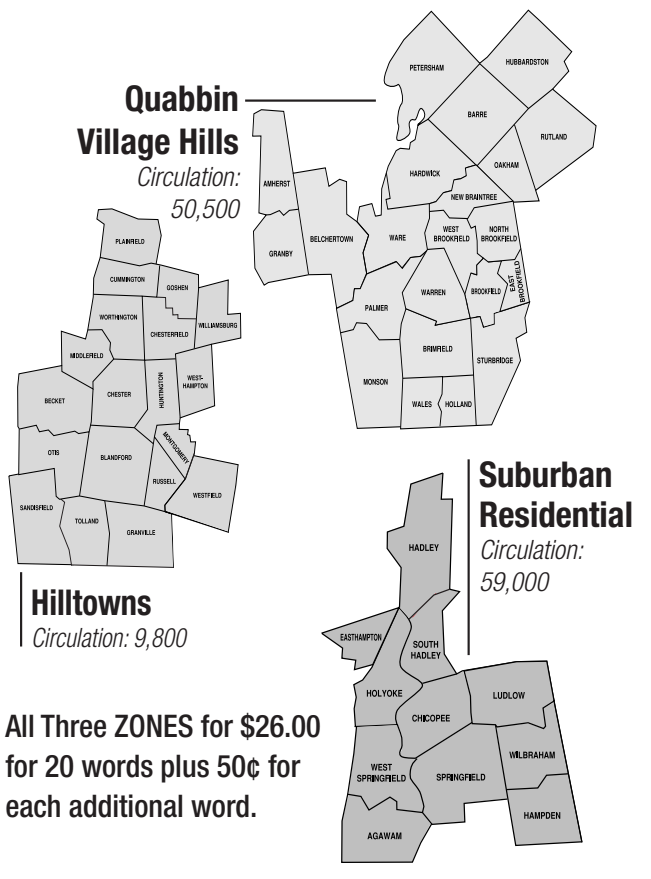
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DEADLINES: ***FRIDAY AT NOON***

CATEGORY:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price $26.00
21 Base Price $26.50	22 Base Price $27.00	23 Base Price $27.50	24 Base Price $28.00
25 Base Price $28.50	26 Base Price $29.00	27 Base Price $29.50	28 Base Price $30.00
29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 Base Price $32.00
33 Base Price $32.50	34 Base Price $33.00	35 Base Price $33.50	36 Base Price $34.00
37 Base Price $34.50	38 Base Price $35.00	39 Base Price $35.50	40 Base Price $36.00



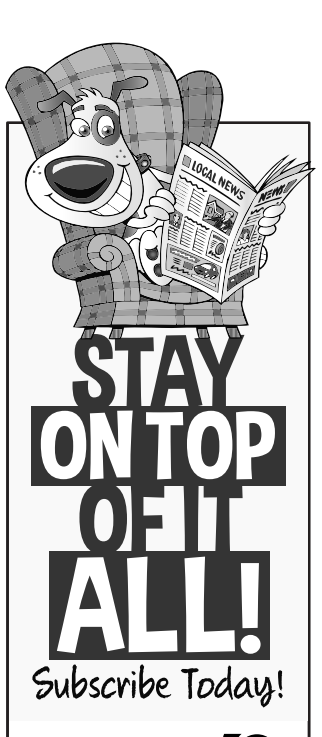
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Blandford
REBID
Porter Memorial Library
Addition and Renovation

The Town of Blandford is accepting bids for the Porter Memorial Library Addition and Renovation REBID Project. Project documents will be available 10/7/2026 through www.biddocs.com. All bidders must use BidDocs.com for all bidding processes. Businesses certified by the Supplier Diversity Office are encouraged to participate.
10/15, 10/22/2026

Visit us at www.turley.com

Worthington
Public Hearing Notice

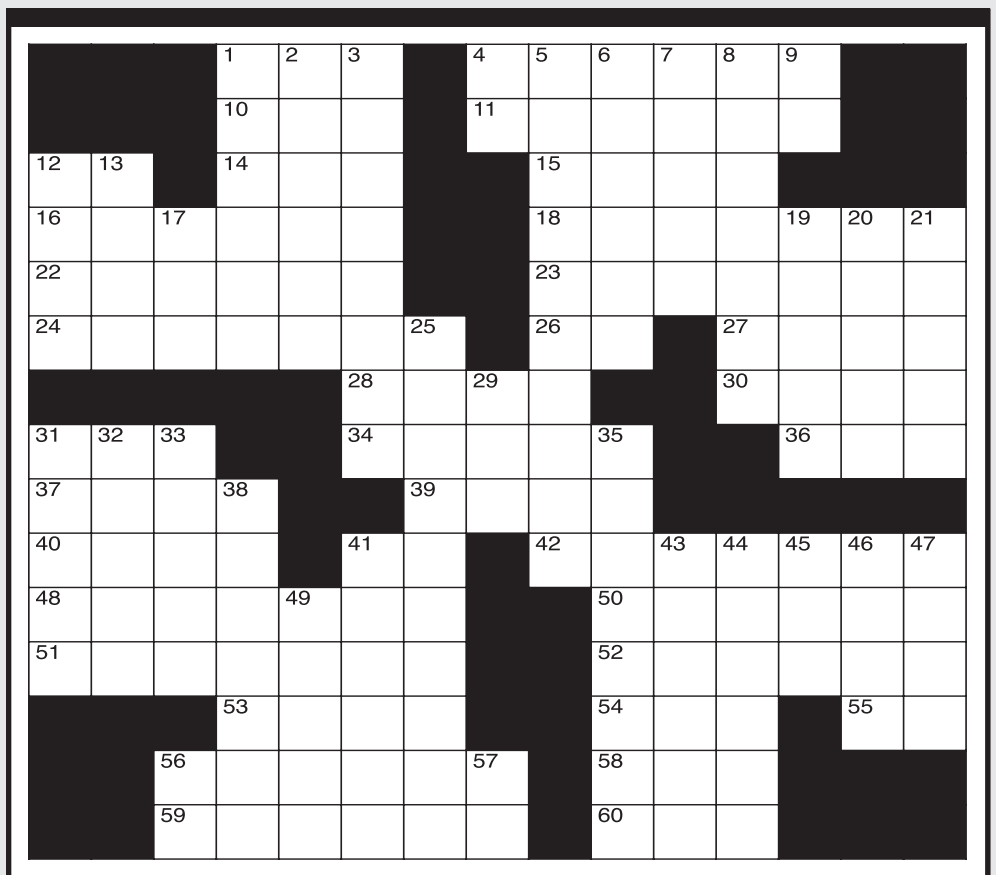
The Town of Worthington will hold a public hearing at Town Hall **Monday, November 2, 2026, at 6:30 PM**, to discuss the discontinuance of winter maintenance on the following roads from **November 15, 2026, to May 1, 2027**:

Almon Johnson Road	Feakes' Driveway (#98) to West Street
Dingle Road	Prucnal's Driveway (#8 at Old North Road) to Hall's Driveway (#142)
Goss Hill Road	Lombard's Driveway (#264) to Chester Line
Kinne Brook Road	Red Bucket's Driveway (#584) to Chester Line
Patterson Road	Justamere's Driveway (#248) to Chester Line
Prentice Road	Dasser's Driveway (#130) to Fairman Road
Starkweather Road	River Road End will not be plowed
Thayer Hill Road	Sweeney's Driveway (#150) to Ryan's Driveway (#215)
West Street	Barbehenne's Driveway (#829) to Chester Line

Virtual access:
https://www.gotomeet.me/CharleyRose/selectboard-meeting
10/15/2026

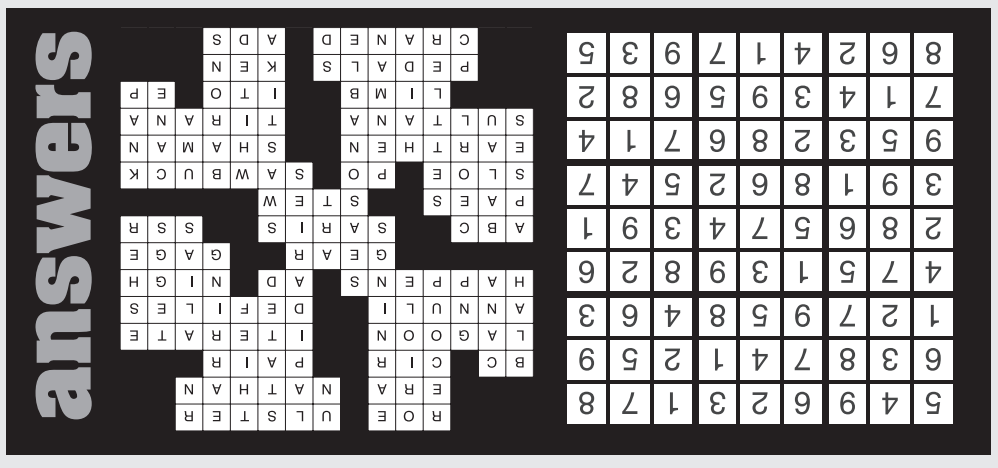
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CLUES ACROSS
1. Small Eurasian deer
4. Province in Northern Ireland
10. A major division of geological time
11. Broadway actor Lane
12. Canadian province (abbr.)
14. Human gene
15. Two
16. A notable one was "blue"
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Ring-shaped objects
23. Sullies
24. Occurs
26. Commercial
27. Near
28. Tools you may need
30. A pledge
31. They start the alphabet
34. Silk garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Longtime mayor of Rio
39. Hot meal
40. A type of gin
41. Atomic #84
42. $10 bill
48. About ground
50. Medicine man
51. Seedless raisin
52. National capital of Albania
53. Appendage
54. OJ trial judge
55. European government entity (abbr.)
56. Bike parts
58. Friend to "Barbie"
59. Stretched to see or hear
60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN
1. Make up for
2. Baltimore ballplayer
3. Wages
4. International organization of countries
5. Engravers of gems
6. Declared as fact
7. One who steals
8. Jewelry
9. Hospital worker
12. Nonsense (slang)
13. Town in Galilee
17. Value
19. Alternative identity
20. Sheep in their second year
21. Town in Surrey, England
25. Appropriate to a time of year
29. Creative work
31. Recesses
32. Largely forested municipality in Germany
33. Rider of Rohan
35. Ancient symbol co-opted by Nazis
38. Pioneer
41. Scribe
43. Painted a bright color
44. Member of British nobility
45. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
46. Helps people walk
47. Crest of a hill
49. People of southeastern Alaska
56. One's own device
57. The Mount Rushmore State



THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Focus your energy on family and home this week, Aries. Although you might feel more comfortable working alone, you may find yourself doing group work soon enough.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
You have lots of mental energy this week, Taurus. You might be pushed into a leadership role that will help you feel independent.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
Sports and competitive physical activities might appeal to you this week, Gemini. Teams, friends and group activities will be priorities, as will sharing ideas.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
You will be noticed this week and you will be encouraged to speak up and share your point of view. Be humble, but keep the courage of your convictions.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
Explore new ideas, meet new people and learn new things. Politics and controversial subjects might appeal to you, but probably should be avoided right now.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Don't agree to anything significant this week. Instead, do your homework and gather all of your information before you commit to a major project or expense.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you might attract someone to you this week who is interesting but a bit feisty. See what they have to say because it might be enlightening in some way.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
You are ready to roll up your sleeves and work, Scorpio. Keep in mind that you might have to delegate some things to others because you tend to take on too much.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
Be patient with spouses, partners and close friends, Sagittarius. Your patience will pay off and others will appreciate your calm demeanor.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
You might be tempted to make some improvements around home this week, Capricorn. Start with the spaces you use the most and then build from there.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
You feel energized and ready to take charge, Aquarius. This week you will defend your ideas and explain what you want. Some people will agree with your line of thinking.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Restrict your spending to the essentials this week, Pisces; otherwise, you might be tempted to spend money quickly and rashly.

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

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!

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