

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

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BLANDFORD

Ghosts from the past come alive

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

There were over 135 people in town for the Ghost Walk at the Old Burial Ground Saturday afternoon between 2-4 p.m. for the town's first event of this type.

The project began well over a year ago when the Historical Society Board of Directors met to discuss what new events and programs could be introduced. Board member Jane Rohman canvassed other towns and suggested the Ghost Walk. It was an ideal combination of the town and its local history, especially since there are local Revolutionary War figures.

She recognized that Blandford has an "amazing history" and that it needed to be communicated to the outside world. The board agreed and gave her the lead.

She contacted young friends of her son John, Randy Garfield, an English teacher and Connor Doyle who is involved in world-wide logistics and the rest is



The ghost walk cast were Jane and Nathaniel Taggart played by Melissa Hamm and Patrick Sterns; Samuel Sloper played by Randy Garfield; William Ker, on the stump, played by Connor Doyle; John Ferguson played by Alex Frost; Jedidiah Smith played by Scott O'Connor; Jethro Jones played by Jesse Tappin and Giles Tracy played by Tom Fielding. Photos courtesy of Blandford Historical Society

history. "We just let the story lead us. We looked for stories of Blandford people and not only what they did locally, but what they did

for America," Rohman said. At one point, early in the process, the Worthington Historical Society, aware of Rohman's project, contacted her and invited her to share

their "Ghost Closet." Rohman said that Worthington had been doing Ghost Walks for several years; She and Historical Society President Chips

Norcross had visited several Ghost Walks to see how they worked and Worthington was one. Pat Kennedy of

GHOSTS, page 6

HILLTOWNS

DESE lists MCAS results

By Ellenor Downer
Editor

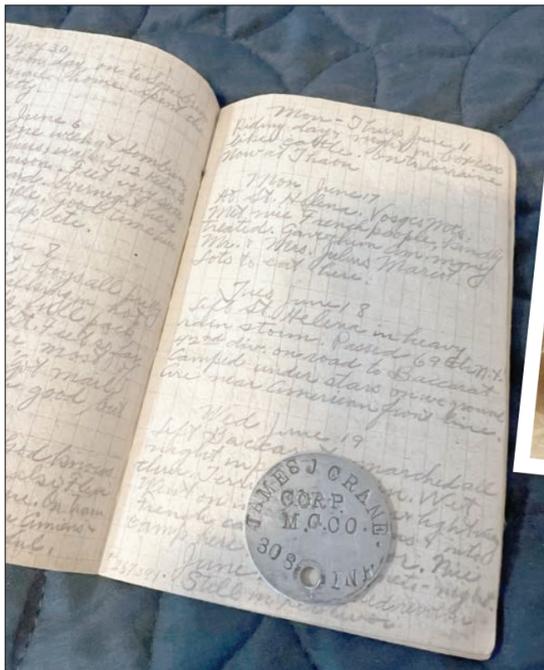
The Department of Elementary and Secondary Schools listed the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test results for 2025.

A chart on page 2 showed local school districts scores. Of those, only Lenox, Southampton, Westhampton and Williamsburg scored above the state average in all three categories, which was 494 for English Language Arts, 494 math and 494 science. Schools scoring above the state average in ELA were Berkshire Hills in Stockbridge with 497, Easthampton 651, Lenox 503, Northampton

MCAS, page 2

BLANDFORD

My thoughts turn often to home: James Crane's World War I diary



Above, Corporal James Crane, second from left in front row, with members of the 308th Infantry Regiment. Photo left, this photo shows pages from Corporal Thomas Crane's World War I diary and his dog tag.

Courtesy photos

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

John Crane, Blandford native, will share his grandfather's personal experiences in the Great War, World War I at the Porter Memorial Library on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 11 a.m.

Corporal James Crane served in the United States Army with the Machine Gun Company of the 308th Infantry Regiment, 77th Division. He was from Westfield and was 27-years-old when he entered the service. He returned to Westfield after the war.

John will share

excerpts from the diary his grandfather kept from his time at the front. The entries recount times of both tedium and terror in the trenches of France. It covers the time of his service from February 1918 until his return to the U.S. in May of 1919.

He later worked at the Springfield Armory. John's father, Thomas, also served in the United States Army in Europe during World War II and upon discharge was a Sergeant. He served in the National Guard and retired from that service as a Lieutenant. John's brother Jim, also served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era with the First Infantry Division.

John, while not

DIARY, page 6

MIDDLEFIELD

Celestial felines visit public library

MIDDLEFIELD – Celestial felines from a far off planet visited the Middlefield Public Library, 188 Skyline Trail, just in time for Halloween.

The felines from this obscure planet were excited to visit. The only info they know about our planet was what they had heard

on Wi-Fi. Each night they listened to audio literature broadcasted from Earth.

In the hope that they would be welcomed, they wore costumes that depicted the literary characters they had come to love. We were greeted by Gandalf, one of Anne McCaffery's green dragons, Sherlock Holmes,

Harry Potter and Scarlet O'Hara.

For more bookclub fun join, people are invited to come on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 5:30 p.m. November's theme is "Books to Feast Upon." People may stop in soon and pick one of the many books with a food theme and join the fun.



Cheryl Beeman is shown with a few Celestial felines recently at the Middlefield Public Library.

Submitted photography



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HILLTOWNS

Senator Velis to deploy with National Guard to U.S. border

Senator John C. Velis, a major in the Massachusetts National Guard, shared with community members and state officials that he will be placed on an active-duty

deployment with his unit assignment to the Southwestern border of the United States in the imminent future.

During the activation, the Senator's office will

remain fully operational and continue to assist constituents with any and all inquiries. The Senator is unable to share further details regarding the deployment.

Mass DOT list I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces it will be performing daytime paving and bridge work on I-90 eastbound and westbound in the towns of Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Becket, Montgomery and Russell.

In Stockbridge and West Stockbridge paving work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 0.0 to mile marker 7.8 now through Friday, Oct. 24, from 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Bridge work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 0.0 to mile marker 10.0 now through Friday, Oct. 24 from 6 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

In Becket bridge work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 18.4 from now through Friday, Oct. 24 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Bridge painting work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 20.0 now through Friday, Oct. 24 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

In Montgomery and Russell bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 westbound at mile marker 36.0 on on Friday, Oct. 24 from 6 a.m.-noon.

Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. 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.

HUNTINGTON

Town seeks volunteers to join Board of Registrars

HUNTINGTON – The town of Huntington is seeking volunteers to be members of the Board of Registrars to assist with Petition and Nomination papers and other election duties.

The Board of Registrars

meet one to three times a year and need to be available at various times of the year based on required deadlines. Applications can be found online or at Town Hall. For any questions, people may email or call the Town Clerk at townclerk@huntingtonma.us or 413-512-5109.

Town clerk walk in hours are Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. By appointment only times available at Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m.

Council on Aging sponsors King and Kountry show

HUNTINGTON – Ray Guillemette, Jr. will perform his King and Kountry show on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 2-3 p.m. at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

The show is an Elvis and country music tribute. Guillemette Jr. is a ten time international award winning entertainer and has performed throughout the United States, Canada and Japan. This is a free event

and all ages from any community are welcome to attend.

This show is sponsored by the Huntington Council on Aging and made possible by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information, people may call Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283.



MCAS

from page 1

495, Southampton 496, Westhampton 496 and Williamsburg 508. Easthampton scored the highest of the local schools.

In the math category, schools listed below on the chart scoring above the state average were Chesterfield/Goshen 499, Easthampton 650, Lenox 503, Southampton 503, Worthington 498 and Williamsburg 515. In science Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public School in Adams scored 496, Chesterfield/Goshen 500, Gateway Regional in Huntington 497, Lenox 499, Southampton 514 and Westhampton 507. Berkshire Hills Stockbridge, Lee and Northampton scored at the state level – 494.

DESE listed the number and percentage of local students meeting or exceeding expectations. Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public in Adams had 79 students or 39% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 52 or 26% in math

and 25 to 37% in science. Berkshire Hills in Stockbridge had 194 students or 45% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 155 or 36% in math and 54 or 39% in science. Chesterfield/Goshen had 27 students or 40% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 34 or 57% in math and 8 or 50% in science.

Easthampton had 203 students or 31% meeting or exceeding in ELA, 228 or 35% in math and 79 or 36% in science. Gateway Regional had 105 students or 33% meeting or exceeding in ELA, 107 or 34% in math and 46 or 45% in science. Hampshire Regional had 104 students or 36% meeting or exceeding in ELA, 110 or 38% in math and 57 or 38% in science. Lee had 105 students or 35% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 97 or 32% in math and 36 or 37% in science. Lenox had 215 students or 62% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 197 or 57% in math and 58 or 49% in science.

Northampton had 485 students or 46% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 384 or 36% in math and 186 or 48% in science. Pittsfield had 568 students or 29% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 482 or 25% in math and 181 or 28% in science. Pittsfield had 568 students or 29% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 482 or 25% in math and 181 or 28% in science.

Southampton had 105 students or 44% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 136 or 56% in math and 48 or 77% in science. Westhampton had 21 students or 45% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 24 or 49% in math and 6 or 60% in science. Williamsburg had 41 students or 65% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 47 or 76% in math and 15 or 83% in science. Worthington had 11 students or 33% meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA, 7 or 21% in math and 2 or 15% in science.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS 2025 MCAS

School	Subject	# Students	% Participation	Avg. Scaled Score
Berkshire Arts & Technology Public Charter Adams	ELA	204	100%	491
	Math	200	98%	487
	Science	671	100%	496
Berkshire Hills Stockbridge	ELA	434	93%	497
	Math	436	93%	492
	Science	5	99%	494
Chesterfield/Goshen	ELA	67	99%	493
	Math	67	99%	499
	Science	16	94%	500
Easthampton	ELA	143	22%	651
	Math	118	18%	650
	Science	33	15%	257
Gateway Regional	ELA	315	98%	491
	Math	315	98%	493
	Science	163	97%	497
Hampshire Regional Westhampton	ELA	285	98%	492
	Math	288	99%	493
	Science	151	97%	492
Lee	ELA	303	98%	492
	Math	305	99%	492
	Science	97	99%	494
Lenox	ELA	347	99%	503
	Math	349	99%	503
	Science	118	98%	499
Northampton	ELA	1060	95%	495
	Math	1059	95%	490
	Science	391	95%	494
Pittsfield	ELA	1967	97%	486
	Math	105	97%	484
	Science	644	96%	486
Southampton	ELA	241	99%	496
	Math	242	99%	503
	Science	62	100%	514
Westhampton	ELA	47	96%	496
	Math	49	98%	498
	Science	16	100%	507
Williamsburg	ELA	63	100%	508
	Math	62	98%	516
	Science	19	95%	513
Worthington	ELA	33	100%	489
	Math	33	100%	486
	Science	13	100%	479
STATE TOTALS	ELA	396,309	99%	494
	Math	396,348	99%	494
	Science	132,011	98%	494

Note: ELA = English Language Arts



HOUSING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE TOWNS OF CHESTER, HUNTINGTON, MIDDLEFIELD AND RUSSELL

The towns of Chester, Huntington, Middlefield and Russell, with the assistance of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) have received funding to assist qualified homeowners in making necessary repairs to their homes. In order to be eligible for assistance, total household income shall not exceed current federal income guidelines based on the number of people residing in a household. (See table below).

If you need to make improvements to your roof, windows, siding, plumbing, electrical, lead paint/ asbestos removal, heating system, septic system repair/ replacement and/or other program eligible improvements, please fill out the following form and return to Joe Hagopian at the PVPC (address appears below). ALL information received is strictly confidential and will be maintained in the Springfield office of the PVPC. If you have questions, please contact PVPC Senior Planner Joe Hagopian, at (413) 781-6045 or jhagopian@pvpc.org

Name: _____
 Property Address: _____
 Mailing Address/Zip Code: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Email: _____
 Single/Multi Family (Please Circle One) _____
 Type of improvements needed: _____

For P.V.P.C. use only
 Date Received: _____
 Staff Initials: _____

My household income is not greater than (circle one according to your household size):

1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
\$67,000	\$76,550	\$86,100	\$95,650	\$103,350	\$111,000	\$118,650	\$126,300

Return to: Joe Hagopian, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street - 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104 or via email at jhagopian@pvpc.org

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 MA 01060



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PLAINFIELD

Firefighters and EMTs complete training

PLAINFIELD – This past weekend, 18 firefighters and EMTs completed a one day training.

Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, the town's insurance provider, sponsored the emergency vehicle driver training program at the Dennis Thatcher Public Safety Complex in Plainfield.

Fire personnel from the Ashfield, Cummington and Plainfield Fire Departments participated in this training

program. It was taught by Shawn Brecken of Emergency Vehicle Operational Systems.

The program consisted of a morning classroom session that included a lecture and powerpoint presentation that was highly interactive. Following lunch, provided by the Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters Association; personnel moved outdoors to a 'hands on the wheel' driver training program set up at Plainfield Park.

Each participant took their respective town department's apparatus through a vehicle obstacle course that included straight line driving and backing, lane changing, alley docking, serpentine, parallel parking and confined space turn around. Drivers were not allowed to knock over street cones placed throughout the course.

This course was particularly important for Plainfield firefighters, as it allowed driv-

ers to test their driving skills in the town's newest fire apparatus- 2024 E-One 1200 gpm/1250 tank pumper. With new fire pumpers larger and larger than previous department apparatus (now over 32' long, 11' high and weighing 70K lbs), driver training is more important than ever driving these emergency vehicles safely. Twelve Plainfield Firefighter volunteers gave up a weekend day to become safer drivers.



Plainfield volunteer firefighters and EMTs participated in a driver training course using the town's newest piece of equipment shown in this photo. Submitted photo

RUSSELL

Russell Public Library announces upcoming news and events

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library, 162 Main St., is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 3-7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The library will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day. The library will host a community scarecrow display from Thursday, Oct. 23 through Friday, Nov. 21.

The adult monthly Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 4 from 6-8 p.m. The book is "Dream Hotel" by Laila Lalami. Books are available at the library. People may regis-

ter by email rpdirector162@gmail.com, visit the website at <https://www.townofrussell.us/library>, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Thursday, Oct. 30.

The book for the Dec. 2 adult monthly Book Club is "The Lost Man" by Jane Harper and meets on Dec. 2 from 6-8 p.m. Books will be available by mid November.

A blood pressure check with Mary Ann, the public health nurse, will take place on Monday, Nov. 10 from 4:30-5 p.m.

Back by popular demand, adults may join Ms. Dawne

on Thursday, Nov. 13 from 6-8 p.m. for "All Things Sourdough." They will learn the history, taste the goodness and feed their own sourdough starter. Each participant will leave with a jar of starter and recipes for making bread etc. There is no fee; all materials will be provided. There is a 12 person limit so people should register by email rpdirector@townofrussell.us, visit the website listed above, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Thursday, Nov. 6.

Children may Join Ms. Dawne for "Animal Tracks." They will make tracks to cre-

ate their own "I was walking in the woods... story and play animal track bingo for prizes on Saturday, Nov 15 from 10:30 a.m.-noon. There is no fee. They should register by email rpdirector@townofrussell.us, visit the website listed above, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Thursday, Nov. 13.

Ronny LeBlanc, star of Expedition Bigfoot and Paranormal Caught on Camera, will give a captivating presentation exploring the real-life connection between Bigfoot sightings and UFO encounters on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 2-4

p.m. There is no fee. Adults may register by email to rpdirector@townofrussell.us, visit the website listed above, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Thursday, Nov. 13.

An adults pumpkin bouquet workshop will take place at the Russell Public Library and led by Blooming Table Events on Tuesday, Nov. 18 from 6-8 p.m. to build a beautiful pumpkin bouquet to take home. They'll learn how to make a pumpkin into a vase and the basics of floral arrangements using seasonal fresh and dried flowers. This is free and

open to all, though most appropriate for adults and older teens. Space is limited to 15 people. Registration is required so people may register by emailing rpdirector@townofrussell.us, visiting the website, calling 413-862-6221 and leave a message, or coming in and sign up at the library by Nov. 10.

Mom's bimonthly, Feel-Good Fiction Book Club, meets Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 5-6 p.m. The book is "Tweens/Teens." Game Night is every Friday. All games and snacks will be provided, participants are welcome to join anytime during library hours on Friday from 3-7 p.m.

CHESTER

Hamilton Memorial Library lists events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., host the Great Inflatable Race and costume contest on Saturday, Oct. 25 beginning at 5 p.m. at Emery Field.

The race begins shortly after the costume winners are announced. People should sign up by calling 413-354-7808. All ages are welcome.

Story time and pumpkin decorating will take place

on Thursday, Oct. 30 at 11 a.m. Pumpkin decorating will happen after the regular scheduled story time. This event is for ages 2 plus, but all ages are welcome. People should call the library at 413-354-7808 so the library staff has enough pumpkins for everyone.

An open house will take place at the library on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. People may tour the library, browse a book

sale and have a free family portrait. They should call 413-354-7808 to schedule a portrait session.

The monthly Book Club meet on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 4:30 p.m. New readers are always welcome. The Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of every month.

People may call 413-354-7808 or visit chester.cwmars.org for more information.

WILLIAMSBURG

FCC fair to be held on Oct. 25

WILLIAMSBURG – The First Congregational Church of Williamsburg, 4 North Main St., will take place Saturday, Oct. 25 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The fair will include local vendors, attic finds and antiques, raffles, baked goods and homemade

candy. There will be a soup, sandwich and pies lunch. In addition, there will be a food drive to benefit the Williamsburg Food Pantry and a used clothing drop off shed. Donations of non-perishable food to the food pantry are welcome.

A chain weathervane

quilt raffle made by Louise Bacon and members of the Women's Fellowship will take place. Tickets are \$5 each. The drawing is at on Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. People may call Jennifer Burdick, church administrator, at 413-268-7557 with any questions.

Snowflake Holiday Craft Fair set for Nov. 1

CHESTER – The Snowflake Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Nov.1 from 9

a.m.-3 p.m. in the Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road.

The fair features

hand-crafted items including knitting, woodworking, soaps, jewelry, baked goods and more.

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT OPENING Highway Department

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest and resumes from qualified candidates to fill the position of Highway Superintendent.

Nature of work: The Highway Superintendent is responsible for administering and overseeing the daily activities of the Highway Department including the maintenance and repair of town roads, parks, bridges, equipment maintenance and snow/ice removal operations.

This is a benefited position which requires a thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of highway department maintenance, construction and procurement.

Salary rate range: \$69,513.60 – \$101,254.40 with annual COLA and STEP adjustments as well as possible winter overtime.

More information can be found on the Town of Worthington website: www.worthington-ma.us

Please send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: selectboard@worthington-ma.us. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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new construction, renovation,
historic preservation

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



How do I navigate the Social Security maze?

Dear Rusty:

I am a woman, turning 65 this October (2025). It seems that deciding when to claim Social Security is complicated. I would like more information to navigate through this maze. Thank you.

Signed: Ready to Claim

Dear Ready:

Deciding when to claim Social Security can be challenging, but we hope to make it a bit easier for you. You can, of course, call us at any time to speak to one of our certified Social Security Advisors, but I'll share some pertinent information here as well.

Be aware that at age 65, you have not yet reached your Social Security Full Retirement Age. Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67 and that is when you can get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

If you claim SS at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced by about 13.3% from your age 67 entitlement, a permanent reduction. If you wait a bit more and claim at age 66 the reduction would be about 6.7%. To get 100% of your "primary insurance amount" you should wait until age 67 to claim. Note you can also wait longer than your FRA and earn Delayed Retirement Credits up to age 70, when your monthly amount would be about 24% more than your FRA entitlement.

If you are still working, at age 65 you will also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn when collecting SS benefits before your full retirement age. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 (changes annually) and if you earn more than that, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

There is also a special rule for the first calendar year you are collecting early benefits, which will result in you not getting benefits for any month

your work earnings are more than \$1,950 after your early benefits start. So, if you claim SS at age 65 and continue to work, you won't get any SS benefits in any 2025 month thereafter that you earn more than the monthly limit unless your total annual; 2025 earnings are less than the annual limit. FYI, the earnings limit no longer applies once you attain your full retirement age.

In the end, deciding when you should claim Social Security should consider your need for Social Security money, your life expectancy, your plans for working and your marital status. If you are or were married, you might be eligible for a spousal or ex-spouse benefit. You may also want to peruse the Social Security Question and Answer section at our website www.SocialSecurityReport.org. So, as you have already discerned, deciding when to claim Social Security can be confusing, but we are always here to assist you as needed. You can either call us directly at 1-888-750-2622 or email your specific Social Security questions to us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org. In either case, we will be most happy to help you decide when to claim, based on your unique personal circumstances.

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

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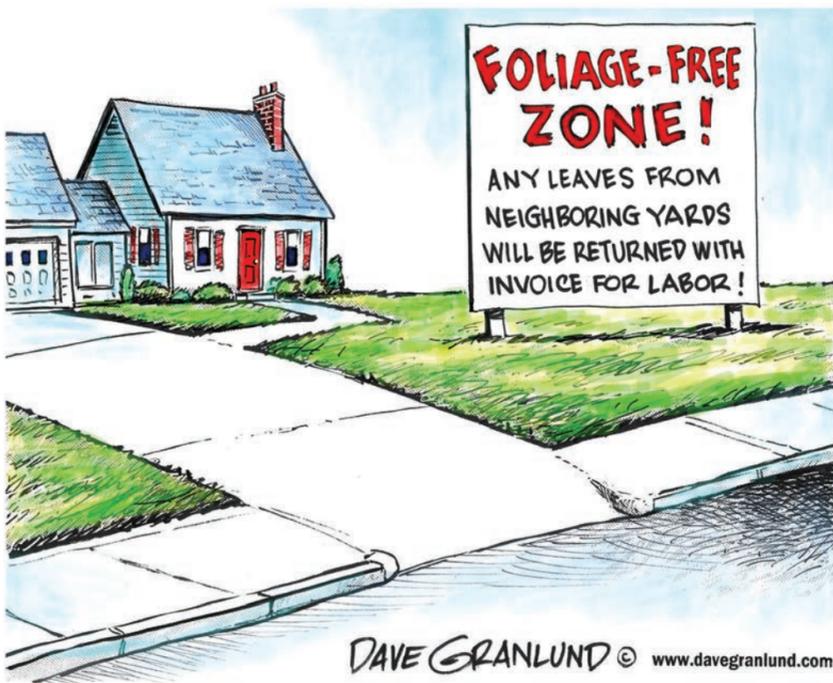
Turley Publications

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Corrections policy

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

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



GUEST COLUMN

More review; what worked what didn't

Last week I wrote about two new winter squash varieties I grew in this past summer's garden, as well as a Barbie doll sized melon.

According to Mom, it made for a good read. Let's keep the momentum going with more "new to me" varieties in this column.

As dedicated readers may remember, this past summer's garden was to accomplish the goal of growing more food, food that would cut down on the grocery bill and feed the family through the winter. I took

my chances growing a hybrid paste tomato by the name of Plum Regal. Its accolades were many: late blight resistance, moderate resistance to early blight, a the promise of a good yield and a tasty outcome.

I typically only grow

heirlooms, so this tomato really had to prove itself. My only dilemma was that I sometimes have issues with blossom end rot, and specifically on paste types.

I tried a new fertilizer formulated specifically for members of the Solanaceae family, aptly named "Tomato Sauce." You know what? It worked.

No blossom end rot and a freezer full of sauce, tomato chucks and roasted tomato blends. I will be ordering both the seeds and the fertil-

GARDEN, page 5



By Ellenor Downer

On Monday, Oct. 6, an Oakham resident watched a kettle of 28 black vultures circling above the Harrington Hospital in Southbridge.

He said, "As you may know, the species is expanding its range northward into Massachusetts." A kettle is a large group of vultures circling in a thermal, using the rising air to conserve energy during migration.

The black vulture has sooty, black plumage, a featherless black head and neat white stars under the wings.

Turkey vultures are lanky birds with a teetering flight. Their cousin the black vultures are compact birds with broad wings, short tails and powerful wingbeats. Turkey and black vultures often associate together. The black vultures have a poor sense of smell, but by following turkey vultures by following them to carcasses. They often soar high in the sky in search of lower soaring



Black vulture

ing turkey vultures. When the turkey vultures descend on a carcass, the black vultures follow them.

Black vultures are highly social and share food with relatives, feeding young for months after they've fledged. In the United States black vultures are more plentiful than turkey vultures. Black vultures lack a voice box and

their sounds are limited to hisses and grunts.

The oldest black vulture on record was a least 25 years, six months old when it was found in 1965 in Louisiana. It was banded there in 1940. They may live even longer in captivity.

Brimfield resident

On Sunday, Oct. 5, I received an email from a Brimfield resident commenting about my seeing a moose in Oakham. He said, "Seeing a moose in Massachusetts is exciting. My wife and I saw a moose in Canada, it ran across the road in front of the car and disappeared into the woods. My wife said "look a horse with no rider, similar to your reaction."

Eagle sighting

On Wednesday, Oct. 1, I received an email from a reader. He said, "I was in my car last evening around 6:30 when I saw a huge, black-winged bird come over Main Street in Barre Plains. When we were kids it was called Canal Road. It was flying low over the street and was trying to gain altitude. The bird appeared just before Rich's Pond and it had what looked like a recent kill in its talons. It accidentally dropped the dead animal, which appeared to be a rabbit, onto the road and what I thought was a vulture turned out to be an adult Bald Eagle."

BACKYARD, page 5

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

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Country Journal welcomes 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

GUEST COLUMN

When a loved one is recovering from a heart attack

Few things are as frightening as a heart attack, not just for the person experiencing it but for family members. With prompt and proper treatment between 90 percent and 95 percent of heart attack patients (let's not call them victims) survive and return home.

A heart attack, technically a myocardial infarction, occurs when a blockage keeps oxygen-rich blood from getting to the heart. (Cardiac arrest, when the heart stops beating entirely, is a completely different animal – and perhaps a topic for another day.)

Heart attack patients typically spend between two and five days in the hospital. For those who receive angioplasty or stents to keep the arteries open, the stay is usually shorter. If coronary bypass surgery is required, expect your loved one to be in the hospital for five to seven days. Hopefully, there are no complications (like blood clots) that keep them there longer.

When your loved one is ready to continue their recovery at home, you may wonder what will change, how to best support their recovery, and how you should behave around them. Based on my years of experience as a critical care nurse and patient advocate, here are five things to do – and not do.

Just listen

Heart attack patients often experience something known as the “cardiac blues,” which can encompass a range of emotions, including sadness, anger, anxiety, confusion and loneliness. While distressing, these feelings usually abate with time.

It's important for you to hear what your loved one is saying and feeling without passing judgment or giving advice, such as, “You'd feel better if you'd just take a walk.”

But don't walk on eggshells

On the other hand, you shouldn't make your loved one feel fragile, which can only make them feel more anxious than they already do. Do some of the things you've always done, such as watching a favorite TV show or movie. While you don't want them going up and down stairs to help with the laundry as they've always done, you can sit together and fold clothes while you chat.

Get their OK to come with you to follow-up visits

As a spouse, partner or family member, you have a role to play on your loved one's care team. Part of this role is accompanying them to doctor visits so you can listen, take notes and ask questions.



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

your
health



Ensure that their doctors know that they have permission to discuss medical information with you so you can be fully informed about what's going on or what needs to happen next.

Spouses are generally assumed to be the patient's representative in hospital settings, but if you are not married, it's wise to ask your loved one to complete a HIPAA authorization so your status as the patient representative is crystal clear. This also comes in handy if a situation arises where you have to advocate for them.

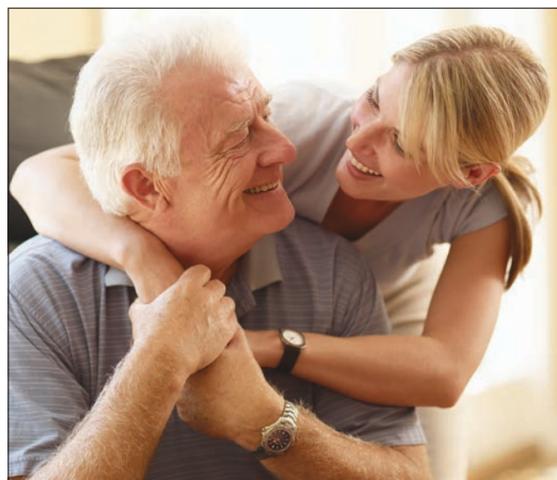
Know the right questions to ask

The cardiologist will likely answer all of these

questions, but it's important to understand and jot down the responses, particularly if the doctor seems rushed.

In addition to instructions about dietary changes and cardiac rehabilitation, ask the following:

- What exercise is OK to do and what should not be done during recovery from a heart attack?
- How will their heart condition be monitored on an ongoing basis (echocardiograms, stress tests, etc.)?
- What are the chances of another heart attack after having one?
- What symptoms should we watch for to indicate another heart attack?
- How long before your loved one can return to their job?

**Help them follow doctor's orders**

Your loved one will likely come home with some new medications, dietary modifications and an appointment for cardiac rehabilitation. Cardiac rehab is a critical component of their recovery. Typically, a heart attack patient can't drive for a few weeks following their hospital stay, so make yourself available as a chauffeur.

A heart attack is sometimes a bucket of cold water telling the patient that they have to make some lifestyle changes to ensure their heart gets healthy and stays healthy. Encourage your loved one to follow the doctor's recommendations, and maybe try some new recipes.

But don't nag them. Instead, tell them you need

for them to comply with the doctor's recommendations because you love them and you want them to stick around as long as possible. Otherwise, your heart may break.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

GARDEN

from page 4

izer from Fedco (fedcoseeds.com) in anticipation of next year's garden.

With every success comes not quite a success. I'll call Muskmelon “Melonade” one of those adventures. I was intrigued by the description in the Fedco catalog, “firm orange flesh is tart, punchy and refreshing,” and had hoped it would keep our family in melons for a month or so. Not exactly.

I couldn't get over the fact that what looked like a cantaloupe tasted like a lemon! No one in the house liked it. I'm not going to call it a failure, because if anything, I learned that I could grow a muskmelon successfully.

I worried I would harvest them too early, or too late, but I harvested them just right, and they grew exceeding well on black plastic down the middle of my heat retaining rock wall raised beds. Next year I will search for a variety with a more typical flavor and it could just be a win-win.

I have always wanted to grow Indian corn as a fall

decoration, but was leery of the space needed for such an endeavor. The experts talk about growing corn four rows deep for proper pollination and kernel formation.

I threw caution to the wind and decided I'd grow a popcorn. I enjoyed the commentary in the Fedco catalog in the description of a variety named “Calico:” “you can hang it on your door in fall and pop the very same batch come Thanksgiving.” Sold.

I grew only eight plants, set out in a four by two pattern. Shucking the corn felt a lot like Christmas morning with the surprise factor involved. Will the kernels be gold, blue, mottled or bronze?

I ended up with enough to decorate with and come Thanksgiving I will indeed try and pop some. I've had some experience popping eared corn before.

At our family vacation my sister in law tried it out. She put the dried ear she had purchased in a paper bag and folded it shut, placed it in a microwave on high for about 3-4 minutes and yum!

What else worked out

well in my garden this year? The succession planting of green beans seeded immediately after my garlic was harvested worked out superbly. No additional fertilizer required.

I was able to freeze a lot of beans from that second sowing. I guess I always wish there are more to freeze, so maybe next year the row will be longer.

I didn't utilize the wide row method this year. Two parallel rows with a walking row down the middle made the harvest easy.

I hope you had your share of successes this past summer, and if you are anything like me, you are already scheming next year's veggie garden.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.

BACKYARD

from page 4

He said, “Its stark white head and white fanned tail, along with its bright yellow feet and beak were clearly seen and it was startling to be only 25 or 30 feet away from it. The eagle's wing span was enormous. It made an attempt to recapture its prey by diving quickly back to the road and it had to widely fan out its tail feathers to slow its descent and gain flight control.”

He said, “The Bald Eagle then flew high up into a tree along the road near the pond and was waiting for me and all cars to pass before descending on its prey. It was breath taking. We never saw such things as kids.”

Cedar waxwings

The Barre resident said on recent warm September days he also has been seeing a small flock of cedar waxwings in Gilbertville, along the Ware River, taking bugs in midair over the river and also working trees and bushes that still have some fruit on them.

Helping birds

People may also help birds by keeping their cats indoors. Many birds are killed by cats. It is safer for people's pet cats to be kept indoors as they also succumb to predation. If a cat is an outdoor cat, people may put a bell collar on their cat with a quick release mechanism if their

pet's collar should get hung up on something.

Dark-eyed Juncos

An Oakham resident reported seeing a dark-eyed junco in his yard last week. I saw a small flock of juncos along the road where I live on Oct. 13. Their white tall feathers identified them as they flew up from the side of the road. It was my first sighting this fall.

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

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.

**Pioneer Valley Assembly of God**

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

Hilltown Community Church

Rev. Dr. Robert Perreault
55 Main St., Russell, MA 01071
413-275-3232
Office: 413-862-3341
hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com
Sunday Mornings 10 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: Tuesdays through Friday 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Days and Hours of Services: Sundays at 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.

First Congregational Church of Blandford

Pastor Ciprian Droma
91 Main Street, Blandford, MA 01008
413-848-2052
Sunday service 10 a.m.

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BLANDFORD

PROTESTERS PARTICIPATE IN NO KINGS RALLY



Protesters as part of a nationwide No Kings rally are seen on the I-90 overpass Saturday morning, Oct. 18 facing east.



Protesters participated in the No Kings rally. They lined up with signs on both the east and west sides of the I-90 overpass in Blandford.



This woman holds up her sign for the No Kings rally on Oct. 19.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm

Harvest Moon peaked on Oct. 6

BLANDFORD – If people were able to stay up Monday night, Oct. 6, until nearly midnight, they would have seen the Harvest Moon in all its glory as it peaked with its full phase at 11:47 p.m.

This Harvest Moon was also a Super Moon, one of three Super Moons this year. It is also referred to as the Hunter's Moon.

A Super Moon means that the moon is closer to the earth than usual in its orbit and it will appear larger and brighter because of this proximity. The three Super Moons are consecutive. The next is Wednesday, Nov. 5, called the Beaver Moon, and after that, on Thursday, Dec. 4, comes the Cold Moon. That's easy to figure out why.

The Beaver Moon is the closest to the earth of any of the others. It will reach its peak illumination on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 8:19 a.m. our time.

However, according to the Farmers' Almanac, it will be below the horizon at that time, so viewing will be good on the evening of Nov. 4 and again on Nov. 5.



Monday, Oct. 6 was the Harvest Moon, one of three super moons this year.

Turley Publications photo by Mary Kronholm

It is called the Beaver Moon because during the fur trade era, this was the time of year to trap beaver for their pelts.

The Cold Moon will appear at its peak of brightness and fullest on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 6:14 p.m. our time. Farmer's Almanac cites the reference to the name, Cold Moon, as a Mohawk name, because this is the time of year when winter weather sets in.

The full moon phase will occur at 11:48 p.m. EDT on Oct. 6 (0348 GMT Oct. 7), when the lunar disk will appear fully-lit opposite the sun in Earth's sky, shining next to the stars of the constellation Pisces with Saturn gleaming to its upper right.

This October's full moon is known as the Harvest Moon, owing to its proximity to the autumn equinox when farmers would labor under the light of the moon to gather their crops long before artificial light was invented. It also coincides with the moon's closest approach to Earth in its 27-day orbit, giving rise to a spectacular super moon, which will appear subtly larger and brighter than usual as it rises above the eastern horizon.

The Harvest Moon is the first of three consecutive super moons. Here are the next super moons to mark on your calendar, per the Farmer's Almanac: Nov. 5 (Beaver Moon) and Dec. 4 (Cold Moon).

DIARY

from page 1

serving in the Armed Forces, retired from the Massachusetts State Police in 2019 with the rank of Lieutenant. He still con-

sults for the MSP.

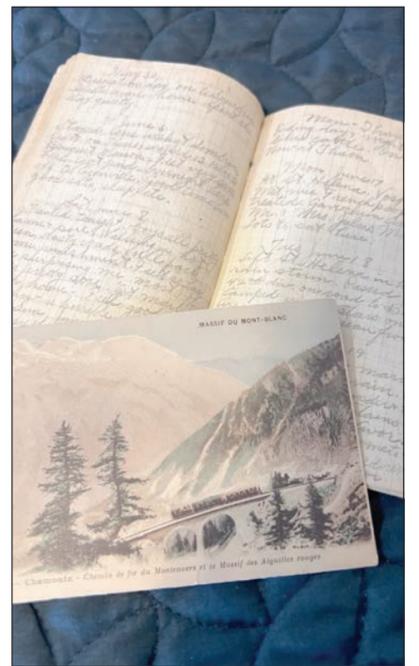
James' diary can be read in PDF form before the presentation. If interested in doing this, email the

request to blandfordporter-library@gmail.com. This is a story of courage and longing as the nation looks ahead to Veterans Day.



Items used by Corporal James Crane in World War I, helmet, mess kit and trench knife.

Courtesy photos



Pages from Corporal Thomas Crane's World War I diary with a post card of the train on Mount Blanc massif, an Alpine range between Italy and France.

GHOSTS

from page 1

Worthington told Rohman that she would "open the closet" to share costumes.

Terri Garfield provided the design and stitching to complete the local costumes having gone through the Worthington Ghost Closet. She also rounded up all the props.

Samuel Sloper, who was portrayed by Randy Garfield, is best known as a rabble-rouser who threw tea into the Boston Harbor in Dec. 16, 1773 when he was 26 years old. This was a well-kept secret for centuries as Sloper was only recently recognized by the Boston Tea Party organization. Sloper went on to become a Captain in the 3rd Massachusetts Regiment and to fight in the Revolution yet found time between battles to travel home to moderate Town Meetings and serve as a selectman.

Creative Director at Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum Evan O'Brien and Executive Director of Revolution 250 Jonathan Lane spoke about Col. Sloper, the Boston Tea Party and the American Revolution as events that changed the course of history at the Old Burial Ground in 2022.

Sumner G. Woods mentions Col. Sloper frequently



William Ker stands at his daughter's grave relating how his death led towards the Revolution.

in his Blandford history book, "Taverns and Turnpikes," citing Sloper's work and town positions.

Susan Gerow, Regent of the Boston Tea Party chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution and her chapter Treasurer, Darlene Brown came west for the 2022 event.

Saturday's attendees learned about his possible connection with Levi Pease in conspiring against the Crown.

The death of William Ker, played by Connor Doyle,



Blandford's historical figures arrive at the Old Burial Ground.

Photos courtesy of Blandford Historical Society

at the hands of Indians during a siege is also connected to more discontent with the Crown. He helped move towards the Revolution.

Alex Frost, as John Ferguson portrayed a captain of the local militia. He trained and led men from town and Chester; greeted Col. Henry Knox en route and served in the 12th Massachusetts Regiment.

Bruce Benson, as Levi Pease spoke as the secret dispatcher for the Northern Army and later the force behind the birth of the nation's transportation system.

Patrick Stearns and Melissa Hamm played Nathaniel and Jane Taggart and discussed his days as the head of the Committee on Inspection, Correspondence and Safety, a shadow government throughout the colonies. Jane told about what led her to establish the Taggart School in her will.

Scott O'Connor portrayed Jedidiah Smith who was a true revolutionary. Tom Fielding played Giles Tracy, a marine captured by the British during a naval battle in 1779 off Sandy Hook, New Jersey. After the war, he bought, farmed,



Samuel Sloper tells his story about the Boston Tea Party.

leased and sold land on what's today known as Jethro Jones Road where he lived alongside Jethro Jones and other black families.

Jesse Tappin from the Westfield State History Department portrayed Jethro Jones, a free man known for his skilled woodworking tools making and significant tours of battle during the Revolutionary War at Saratoga and Valley Forge. He fought in every major battle of the American Revolution. Just last week Jethro was honored with the dedication of an historic roadside marker honoring him as a Black veteran. The marker is at the foot of Jethro

Jones Road on Blair Road.

Jennifer and Greg Girard of the Blandford Country Store served fresh warm cider donuts accompanied by Outlook Farms' Sweet Apple Cider.

Select Board member T.J. Cousineau participated in Saturday's Ghost Walk which he said was "very well done. There were a lot of people there, and it was a lot of fun. The actors all had a great sense of humor." Cousineau added that it was a very well-run program and appreciated that groups of 20 or 30 at a time were guided through the cemetery. Blandford saw its history live.

WESTHAMPTON

Library announces upcoming November news and events

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Public Library, 1 North Road, is open Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The library will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day, will close at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 26 and will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving.

To place a request for curbside pickup, people should email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386. Recurring Programs (holidays may impact schedule) include computer help with Bob Miller second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon, knitting group Mondays at 6 p.m., yoga Mondays at 6 p.m., Scrabble Group Tuesdays

at 2 p.m., Book Group on fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m., Walk-in Wellness Clinics with Westhampton Public Health Nurse first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m., energy advocate office hours third Wednesday from 1-2 p.m. (Nov. 19), coffee and chat Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon and Tech Connect drop-in help Thursday, Nov. 20 from 2-4 p.m.

Yoga is drop-in, first-come/first-served and registration is not required. People should check Facebook and the town calendar for updates on yoga at the library.

Activities for children include: CFCE Playgroup with Naomi Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., story time with Emily Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

A rotating schedule of after school fun is held at Westhampton Public Library

every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult or sibling 12 years of age or older.

LEGO Club meets first Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. (Nov. 6), open crafting second Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. (Nov. 13), Switch Happy hour third Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. (Nov. 20) and teen craft nights third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. (Nov. 20). This month's craft will be rubber stamp carving. They should email Emily at ewayne@cwmar.org to sign up.

Westhampton Public Library is holding their first ever "Holiday Small Works Show." People may spread some creative cheer and submit their work for this special community exhibition. All ages are welcome. 20% of all sales will be donated to the Friends of Westhampton Public Library. Art drop-off

is: Monday, Nov. 17 from 2-8 p.m.; Tuesday, Nov. 18 from 1-5 p.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 1-5 p.m. and Thursday, Nov. 20 from 2-8 p.m. Opening reception is Thursday, Dec. 11 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. Five College Learning In Retirement, a dynamic community of over 250 members will meet. They enjoy learning and interacting intellectually and socially with others of diverse backgrounds and experience. Peer-led learning and participation by members are at the heart of our organization.

Seminars, workshops, and discussion groups are offered in 10 week semesters in the Spring and Fall both in person and on Zoom. There are about 20 courses in each semester on a wide range of topics - literature, history, science,

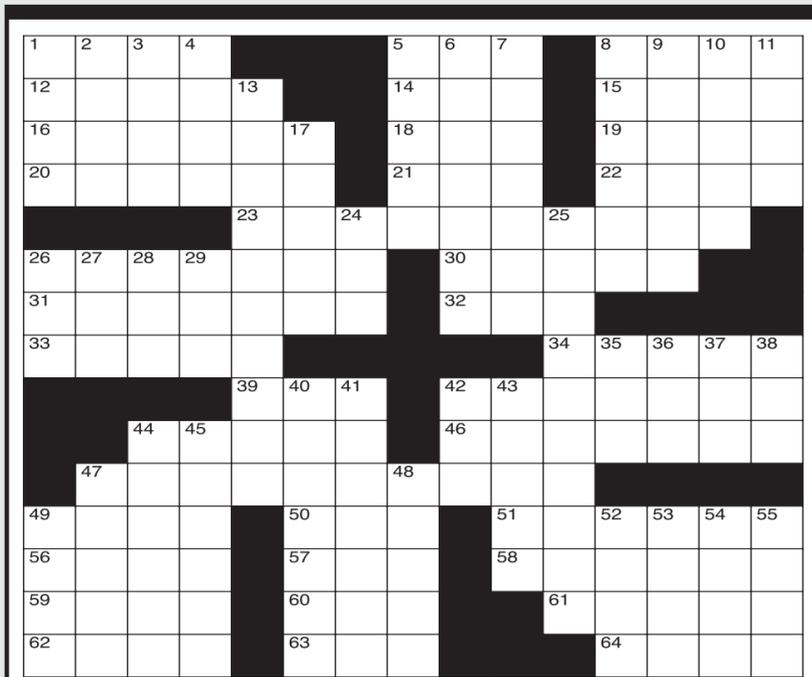
religion, current events, and our very popular Writing to Remember seminars. They also have social events and year long interest groups - Classic Film Club, Reading Round Table, Family History Group, and Viewpoints on current domestic and international issues and events.

On Wednesday, Nov. 5th at 2 p.m., a FCLIR member will be giving a talk at the Westhampton Library to more fully describe the benefits of becoming a member and to answer their questions.

On Saturday, Nov. 8 from 11a.m.-12:30 p.m. Kay Judge will offer a workshop on how to learn the art of tying brooms. Participants will also learn about the history and process of tying brooms. Each participant will create their own hawk tail style broom to take home. Supplies are

limited and registration is required. People may email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386 to sign up. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Public Library and the Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring this program.

On Sunday Nov. 30 at 2 p.m. the Hilltown Permaculture Club visits the Westhampton Blacksmith Museum on Stage Road to enjoy its rich collection of homemaking tools that pre-date the fossil fuel and electric age. They'll round out Thanksgiving weekend by giving thanks to the museum volunteers, who care for these important relics that once ensured a good life for the people who settled here. Participants will view and discuss the tools, hoping to inspire all to imagine DIY, locally-based, non-polluting solutions to their daily needs.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Remark
- 5. Upper body part
- 8. Expression of dismissiveness
- 12. Alternate name
- 14. Popular beverage
- 15. Swiss river
- 16. Step-shaped recess
- 18. Rocker Stewart
- 19. Bright shade of color
- 20. Popular "street"
- 21. Wrath
- 22. Heat units
- 23. Nocturnal omnivorous mammals
- 26. Fall back into
- 30. Remove from the record
- 31. Sound a splash made

- 32. Popular Dodge pickup model
- 33. Jamaican river
- 34. Notable event in Texas history
- 39. Cool!
- 42. Subset of Judaism
- 44. Newly entered cadet
- 46. Duct in urinary system
- 47. Exterminator
- 49. Snatch quickly
- 50. Have already done
- 51. Less healthy
- 56. Therefore
- 57. What couples say on the altar
- 58. Mysteriously
- 59. Look angry or sullen
- 60. Bird's beak
- 61. Taco ingredient
- 62. Square measures

- 63. Google certification (abbr.)
- 64. Singer Hansard

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Pubs
- 2. Wings
- 3. Popular BBQ dish
- 4. Small sponge cake
- 5. Open-roofed entrance halls
- 6. Organize anew
- 7. Type of wine
- 8. Forums
- 9. North Atlantic islands (alt. sp.)
- 10. Pond dwellers
- 11. Large integers
- 13. Signaled
- 17. Brief
- 24. Type of student
- 25. Tibetan monasteries
- 26. Revolutions per minute
- 27. NY Giants great Manning
- 28. Local area network
- 29. Residue from burning
- 35. Illuminated
- 36. Vasopressin
- 37. Notable space station
- 38. Wood sorrel
- 40. Adhering to laws
- 41. Chose
- 42. Hovel
- 43. Stood up
- 44. European city
- 45. Works ceaselessly
- 47. Mistake
- 48. Sun-dried brick
- 49. Sicilian city
- 52. A steep rugged rock or cliff
- 53. Murder
- 54. Other
- 55. "Deadpool" actor Reynolds

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Timing is everything, Arries. Even though you are anxious to start something big, this might not be the right moment for it. You'll benefit from stepping back to reassess.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

You are craving comfort, but growth is just outside of your range, Taurus. This week, a financial focus pays off. Don't ignore your gut when it comes to a financial matter.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21

You may be charming and magnetic right now, Gemini, but are you paying attention to what other people are saying? It's time to listen more than you're speaking.

CANCER

June 22/July 22

Emotions are running strong right now, Cancer. It is alright to be passionate. Your intuition will be heightened, but do your best to take a measured approach in the days ahead.

LEO

July 23/Aug 23

Leo, it's important to remember that, while the spotlight loves you, not every stage is meant for a solo. Share the attention midweek and others will love you even more for it.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, perfection can wait right now, even if you are craving ultimate order. Embrace progress even if it doesn't come in a polished form. Say yes to a new opportunity.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you are balancing a dozen things. This seems like a pattern for you, but avoid overextending yourself. Speak up and advocate for your needs.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

You are focused and quiet working behind the scenes this week, Scorpio. Some people need to be flashy with fanfare, but that's not you right now. Relish in the quiet success.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

You might be fired up with fresh ideas, Sagittarius. Just be sure your vision is rooted in reality. Write it down and stay open to feedback. It's best to avoid spontaneity right now.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you're bound to tire out if you don't pace yourself. Delegate things when you can, especially by the end of the week. A surprise compliment at work brings joy.

AQUARIUS

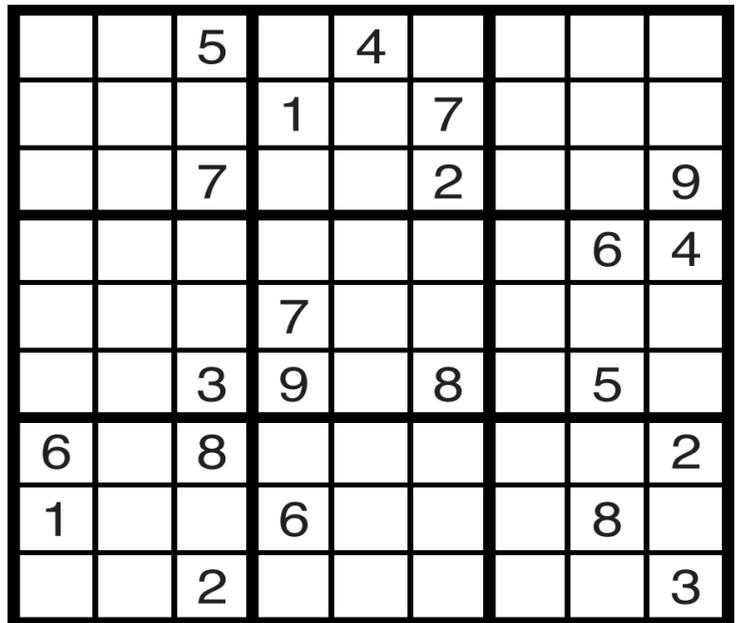
Jan 21/Feb 18

Let your curiosity lead you somewhere new. Someone different from your usual crowd could offer unique insight that you hadn't considered previously.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, creative energy is high right now, especially around Wednesday. You're close to a creative breakthrough, but you might need a practical play to get there.



SUDOKU

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!

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!

answers

N	E	L	G	E	G	S	E	R	V
V	S	L	V	S	E	B	N	E	L
A	L	I	R	E	O	O	G	R	E
R	E	K	C	I	S	E	D	I	G
H	O	R	T	A	V	A	R	E	R
V	H	T	E	R	E	L	E	P	
C	I	D	I	S	A	D			
O	M	A	L	A	L	O	H	N	I
S	O	L	I	D	A	V	A	R	E
S	G	B	E	E	R	I	M	V	E
N	O	E	N	E	R	O	R	E	S
R	E	V	A	V	A	T	E	S	
T	F	F	M	A	R	M	A	R	

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

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CUMMINGTON

Friday Night Cafe on Oct. 24

CUMMINGTON – On Friday, Oct. 24, the first hour for the Friday Night Cafe will be local poets Sue Riley, Patty Kimura and Rochelle Wildfong: Three Women - Three Voices.

The second hour will be with singer/songwriter Jack Swindlehurst. The cafe runs from 7-9 p.m. at the Village Church, located in the cultural district of Cummington.

Swindlehurst has been writing songs since the mid 1970s. He likes to consider that all songs are about

life and that includes love. Some songs are about love and that's life.

The event is free, donations are appreciated. Due to on-going renovation of the Village Church, the show will take place in the sanctuary. The vestry and the usual snack table will not be available. There will be some simple snacks and drinks in the main entry area for consumption during intermission.

Once again this program brought by the friendly

folks at the Village Church, who believe music can be a powerful force for building community. Friday Night Cafe receives promotional support from the Cummington Cultural District, and is supported in part by grants from the Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hinsdale-Peru, Plainfield, Williamsburg, Windsor and Worthington Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

BECKET

Becket Art Center announces events

BECKET – The Becket Art Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will hold a ghost story telling event on Thursday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m.

Costumes are encouraged for this free event. Donations and registration is welcome by visiting their website.

On Monday, Oct. 27 from 5-6 p.m. drum with Rick Shrum takes place. All instruments are pro-

vided and no previous experience is necessary. This is for ages 12 plus and up. Fee is \$15 per class, \$10/\$5 for members and free for children age 12 – 18.

On Saturday, Nov. 1 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., they will hold a holiday arts and craft market place.

This is an opportunity to support local artists and discover one of a kind items.

Sock and mitten collection goes to food pantry

BECKET – A winter sock and mitten drive takes place Nov. 1 through Jan. 3. People may drop off new socks and mittens for their neighbors in need at the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main St. on Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. All sizes of socks and mittens for children, women and men are needed. All donations will be given to the Becket Food Pantry for distribution. For more information call Bill Mulholland at 413-770-1897,

WESTFIELD

Wyben Christmas Craft Fair returns

WESTFIELD – The Wyben Christmas Craft Fair returns on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Wyben Union Church, 678 Montgomery Road.

The church will transform into a festive marketplace filled with handcrafted gifts, artisan goods and

seasonal treats perfect for holiday shopping and community cheer. Shoppers can browse pottery, hand-knit items, cards, journals, holiday décor and more.

The local 4-H Club offers its popular fresh evergreen wreaths. The kitchen will serve its famous

corn chowder luncheon and there will be home-baked goodies and a raffle with all proceeds benefiting a local charitable organization. People may bring their friends, appetite and holiday spirit and join Wyben for a joyful day of shopping, snacking and giving back.

GREAT BARRINGTON

CDCSB hosts movie premiere

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Community Development Corporation of South Berkshire will hold the premiere of "Impact in the Berkshires: Creating a Vibrant Community" on Monday Nov 3 at 7 p.m. at The Triplex, 70 Railroad St.

with doors opening at 6:45 p.m.

Directed by award-winning local documentary filmmaker, Yonah Sadeh, the 30-minute film features residents, business owners and community champions shaping a more inclusive and thriving South County.

There will be post-screening question and answer with Sadeh and CDCSB leadership Light refreshments will be provided by Rubiner's Cheesemongers. This is a free event; RSVP is required by visiting Berkshires.eventbrite.com. Seating is limited.

NORTHAMPTON

Mannheim family establishes Cooley Dickinson Hospital fund

NORTHAMPTON – Cooley Dickinson Hospital announces the establishment of The Paul and Susan Mannheim Endowment for Facilities Improvement with a gift of \$560,000 from Susan and her late husband, Paul Mannheim, a family with deep roots in the Pioneer Valley, known for their long commitment to community service.

Paul's involvement with Cooley began in 1988 as a member of the Golf FORE Health Committee, and he eventually became a volunteer and trustee. In honor of his exceptional contributions, he was honored in 1999 with the distinguished William E. Dwyer Distinguished Service Award. Over nearly four decades, Sue and Paul have supported many capital projects at Cooley both individually and through their business, including what is now the Main Entrance, Imaging and Childbirth Center as well as the North Building and Kittredge Surgery Center.

It was his dedication and involvement in the Facilities Committee that inspired the family's philanthropic gift that established the endowment. Sue vividly remembers Paul coming home one day and urgently needing to speak with her. "He asked if he could take out a life insurance policy and name the hospital as the beneficiary," she recalls. "We didn't even think about it for many years and could have never imagined it would be the gift it is today."

After his death earlier this year, the life insurance benefit payout was used to establish The Paul and Susan Mannheim Endowment for Facilities Improvement. The endowment continues Sue and Paul's enduring commitment to their community hospital, ensuring the hospital can continue to invest in its facilities and provide its community with exceptional, compassionate care.

"Oftentimes members of our community, like Paul and Sue, reach out because they want to make a gift,



Shown are Susan Mannheim, from left and daughter, Kristen Diamond.

Submitted photo

but they are not sure what the possibilities are," noted Chief Development Officer, Diane Dukette. "There are

creative ways to structure gifts at a modest present cost that can have a significant future impact, such as this wonderful gift."

WORTHINGTON

Halloween events happening

WORTHINGTON – On Friday, Oct. 31, the annual Halloween parade starts at 5 p.m.

People will meet at the Fire Station and walk to the school. Trick or Treating will take place from 5-8 p.m. A lit

porch light means come and trick or treat. Trick or treaters are urged to visit the residents at the Maples.

There will be a Town Hall party from 5:30-8 p.m. with music, dancing and free hot dogs and snacks. The events

are hosted by Worthington Parks and Recreation and sponsored by the Worthington Council on Aging and Parks and Recreation. For more information, people may email parksandrec@worthington-ma.us.

WORTHINGTON PARTICIPATES IN NO KINGS RALLY



A group from Worthington participated in the No Kings rally on Saturday, Oct. 19 as part of Indivisible Hilltowns. They stand in front of the Town Hall on Huntington Road.



One hundred fifty people attended the rally in Worthington.

Photos by David Dimock



A tractor goes down Huntington Road during the No Kings rally last Saturday in Worthington.

WFD offers lockboxes and street address signs for seniors

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Fire Department is offering free lockboxes to older adults 60 Plus in October.

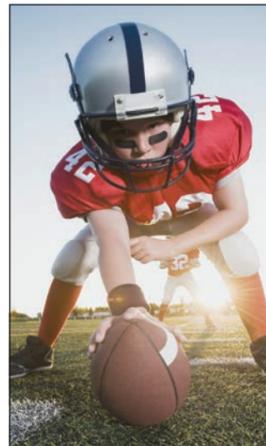
A lockbox is a small secure box with a combination that holds a house key. When an emergency call comes through 911, the dispatcher will inform the responding

officer or paramedic via secure format of the location and combination of the lockbox, allowing quicker entry to the home.

If seniors would like to participate in this offer, they should call 413-238-1557 and leave their name, address and phone number. A member of the Fire Department will call

to arrange details and answer all questions.

Also, seniors, who did not request a street address sign last May and still want one, can to request one by calling at 413-238-1557 and leave their name, address and phone number.



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at nationalmssociety.org.



PITTSFIELD

‘Festival of Trees’ takes place weekends Nov. 21 to Dec. 28

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire Museum and Hancock Shaker Village announce a unique collaboration for the 2025 Festival of Trees program, entitled Festival of Trees: Barn to Be Wild.

This annual festive tradition typically sees Berkshire Museum hosting dozens of trees decorated by local organizations, businesses and individuals, all inspired by that year’s theme. Festival of Trees “Barn to Be Wild” will run every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Nov. 21 to Dec. 28

at Hancock Shaker Village, 1843 West Housatonic St. It will be closed on Friday, Dec. 26. Admission tickets are \$20 per adult. Children 12 and under, Berkshire Museum members and Hancock Shaker Village members are free. Other discounts and special offers can be seen at Hancockshakervillage.org.

This year, Berkshire Museum has partnered with fellow Berkshires-based cultural institution Hancock Shaker Village to bring their event offsite to the village’s scenic histor-

ic grounds while Berkshire Museum is under renovation. “This is an amazing opportunity for both organizations,” said Berkshire Museum Executive Director Kimberley Bush Tomio. “Festival of Trees is such a beloved holiday event in the Berkshires, and this collaboration allows us to keep the tradition alive while working with such an incredible organization.”

This year’s theme, “Barn to Be Wild,” honors the work of host site Hancock Shaker Village and its unique farm and archi-

tectural heritage. Home to the iconic Round Stone Barn and recognized as the oldest working farm in Berkshire County, Hancock Shaker Village celebrates the history and legacy of the Shakers, a religious group that lived communally and espoused values of equality and pacifism. It is the most comprehensively interpreted Shaker site in the world, spread across 750 acres and featuring 20 historic buildings, barns and structures. The working farm plays a key role in the Village’s education programming with

interpretation set around the gardens, farm practices, and many animals that reside on site.

“This is an exciting year of growth for Hancock Shaker Village and the Berkshire Museum with transformational building projects underway at each site,” said Carrie Holland, Director and CEO at Hancock Shaker Village. “This presents us with a very unique moment to lean into the spirit of collaboration and co-produce a creative interpretation of a decades-long Berkshires tradition.”

To learn more, people may visit berkshiresmuseum.org or hancockshakervillage.org. Questions about accessibility, parking or any other venue-related questions can be directed to Hancock Shaker Village by calling 413-443-0188.

Businesses, organizations and individuals interested in participating with a tree may email Berkshire Museum development and membership manager William Demick at wdemick@berkshiresmuseum.org or call 413-443-7171, extension 382.

NPC hosts nonprofit resource fair at Berkshire Innovation Center

PITTSFIELD – The Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires hosts a nonprofit resource Fair at the Berkshire Innovation Center on Monday, Oct. 27 from noon-4 p.m.

Sponsored by Berkshire Funding Focus, CORE 401(k) Program, and Lamar Advertising, this free networking event features a broad range of vendors and two “Meet the Donors” panels.

Over thirty vendors will have tables on the ground

floor of the BIC including: Berkshire Leadership Program, Acrisure, Adirondack Payroll Services, Berkshire Funding Focus, Carlann Digital, Community Television of the Southern Berkshires, Convivo LLC, CORE 401K, Impact Hacker, Jillian J Events, Little Green Light, Liz Albert Strategic Fundraising, MassDevelopment, Miss Hall’s Horizons Program, Mountain Magnolia Marketing, Northern Berkshire Community

Television, Only In My Dreams Events LLC, Precision Bookkeeping by Coral, Randall Trophies LLC, Red Ball Promotions, Roger Magnus Research, S Brown Consulting LLC, SMS Consulting, Southern Berkshire Shopper’s Guide/The Berkshire Eagle, The Love of T Foundation Inc., Tiffany Thibodeau Consulting, Tricia McCormack Photography, TSNE (Third Sector New England), Woodlife Farm Market and Wright

Collective.

“We’re excited to expand this event and expect a good turnout because of the combined offerings of the resource fair and Meet the Donors,” said Liana Toscanini, founder of the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires. In the Berkshire Innovation Center auditorium nonprofit attendees will have the opportunity to meet Massachusetts funders including Mass Cultural Council, MassCollab, MassDevelopment, Sincere

Foundation and The Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts. At 3 pm. Berkshire Funders take the stage including: Adams Community Bank, Berkshire Bank, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Jewish Women’s Foundation, Lee Bank, Milltown Foundation, MountainOne and NBT Bank. The audience will hear directly from funders about philanthropy trends, funding focus and guidelines, and tips

for applying.

Nonprofits can network with service providers, funders and each other, walking away with useful information and valuable connections. While the Nonprofit Resource Fair is targeted to nonprofits, anyone can attend and walk-ins are welcome. The fee is \$20. Those that register in advance will be eligible to win door prizes. To register, people may visit <https://npcberkshires.org/product/nonprofit-resource-fair-meet-the-donors/>.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goshen Conservation Commission Legal Notice

The Goshen conservation commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the wetland protection act (MGL chapter 131 section 40) on **November 3, 2025 at 6 PM** at the Goshen Town Hall to review a **Request for the Determination** filed by Robert Schrader for 22 Westshore Dr., Goshen. The work to be reviewed is a plan to repair septic system at 22 Westshore Dr. 10/23/2025

Town of Worthington Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Worthington Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing in response to a Request for **Determination of Applicability (RDA)** regarding the work associated with the installation of an agricultural fence within a wetland and buffer zone, as part of a proposed ground-mounted solar photovoltaic facility at 190 Ridge Road.

The Hearing will be held **Thursday, November 5, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in the Selectboard meeting room at Town Hall, 160 Huntington Road. 10/23/2025

Town of Chester Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

Thursday, October 30, 2025 09:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands

Protection Act, the Chester Conservation Commission will review the following:

Request Amendment to Order (WE# 131-0075) submitted by Salvini Associates LLC, on behalf of Joeseeph and Heidi Couture for a single-family home build and septic installation at 66 Crane Road. 10/23/2025

Town of Blandford Public Hearing Notice

Pursuant MGL, CH. 40A Section 9 the Blandford Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Blandford Town Office, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 at 6:05 Pm on **Thursday, October 30, 2026**. This hearing is scheduled under the following Blandford Zoning By-laws Section VIII Ground Mounted Large Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Section XVI, Battery Energy Storage Systems. The hearing is to consider the Town’s adopting a **Temporary Moratorium** on Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Battery Energy Storage Systems. The moratorium will be in effect through **May 31st 2026** or the date on which the Town adopts amendments to the Zoning By-laws concerning Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Battery Energy Storage Systems whichever occurs earlier.

During the moratorium period, the Town Shall undertake a planning process to study, review, analyze and address what revision to the Zoning By-laws relative to Large Scale Ground

Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Battery Energy Storage Systems are needed or desirable to allow for and regulate such use consistent with applicable law while protecting the Town’s environmental resources and furthering its planning goals. Or take any other action in relation thereto

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated. If unable to attend please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008. Failure to make recommendations on the matter for review shall be deemed lack of opposition thereto. A copy of the proposed articles is available for review at the Blandford Post Office and Town Hall.

A copy of Article I: Temporary moratorium on the Construction of Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation and Battery Energy Storage Systems may be found at <https://TownofBlandford.com/planning>.

Greg Garfield, Chair
Blandford Planning Board
10/16, 10/23/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampton Division
Docket No.
HD25P2111EA
Estate of:
John Pease Tuttle
Date of Death:
August 31, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE**

PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Raymond L. Tuttle of Westfield, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Raymond L. Tuttle of Westfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 10/23/2025

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Town of Worthington Public Hearing Notice

The Town of Worthington will hold a public hearing at Town Hall **November 4, 2025, at 6:30 PM**, to discuss the discontinuance of winter maintenance on the following roads from **November 15, 2025, to May 1, 2026**:

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
South Worthington Road	Beyond Dufault’s Driveway (67)
Starkweather Road	River Road End will not be plowed
Thayer Hill Road	Sweeney’s Driveway (#150) to Ryan’s Driveway (#215)
West Street	Barbenne’s Driveway (#829) to Chester Line

Virtual access:
<https://www.gotomeet.me/CharleyRose/selectboard-meeting>
10/23/2025

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Country Journal

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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INFLATION

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

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER-CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST **\$2.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN RIB END or LOIN END ROAST **\$2.22** lb

USDA INSP. STORE CUT BONE-IN HAM STEAK **\$3.99** lb

SLICED IN OUR DELI

USDA INSP. ROAST BEEF **\$6.99** lb

USDA INSP. MONTEREY JACK CHEESE **\$4.99** lb

TAILGATE SPECIALS

USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD BBQ MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS **\$3.69** lb

USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS **\$3.35** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF T’BONE or PORTERHOUSE STEAK **\$9.89** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS **\$7.77** lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF **\$5.29** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG **\$1.66** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG **74¢** lb

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN PARTY CUT CHICKEN WINGS 5 LB BAG **\$8.88** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN MATLAW STUFFED CLAMS 20 OZ. **\$6.99** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN AT SEA TALAPIA FILLETS **\$3.99** lb

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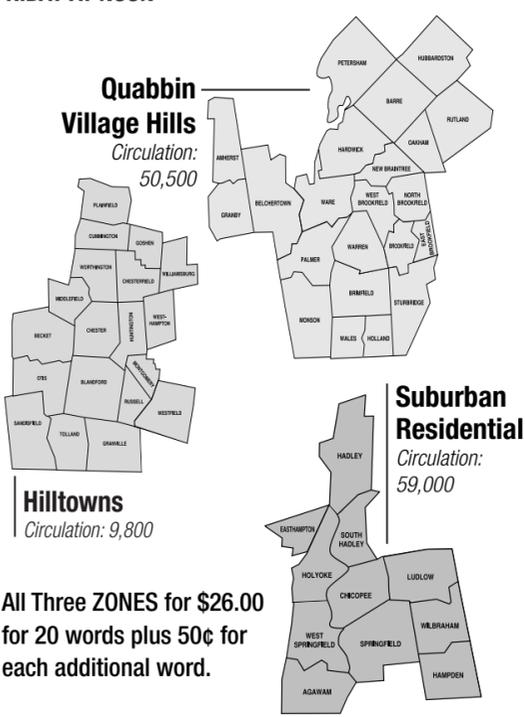
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STOCKBRIDGE

Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce seeks volunteers

STOCKBRIDGE – The 36th Annual Stockbridge Main Street at Christmas will be celebrated on Dec. 6-7 organized by the Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce.

The weekend will be filled with festive events including historic property tours, a holiday concert and Norman Rockwell's Stockbridge Main Street at Christmas re-creation. The historic property tour is an exciting part of this weekend. It is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 6 from 1 a.m.-3 p.m. The Chamber of Commerce needs at least two volunteers per shift. The shifts are 10:30a.m.-1 p.m. and 1-3:30 p.m.

The volunteers will be given information by the property owners and will assist them in showing the

homes to the interested visitors. They will not be giving "tours" per se, but will be greeters, extra security, etc. As a volunteer, they will be offered a complimentary ticket to view the other homes either before or after their shift

Properties on the tour this year are: Merwin House, Chesterwood and National Shrine of Divine Mercy Residence and Ventfort Hall Mansion and Gilded Age Museum in Lenox

Volunteers should provide their mailing address, phone number and email address, the time slot they wish to volunteer either 10-30 a.m.-1 p.m. or 1-3:30 p.m. and if they are flexible with the location and shift.

The Chamber of Commerce also needs vol-

unteers for the Holiday Concert on Saturday and at the Ticket/Button Station on Sunday. The holiday concert is at the First Congregational Church on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 4:15-6:30 p.m. Volunteers will verify tickets, hand out programs, enjoy the concert and assist with closing. Sunday Ticket/Button Station is on Sunday Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Volunteers will verify tickets, distribute buttons (outdoors).

People may call the office by Saturday, Nov. 8 at 413-298-5200 if they are available or email info@stockbridgechamber.org.

For more weekend details, people may visit the Stockbridge Chamber's website at www.stockbridgechamber.org.

EASTHAMPTON

bankESB commits \$100,000 to Support Mercy Medical Center

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB announced a \$100,000 multi-year commitment to Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, in support of the Sister Mary Caritas Endowed Nurses' Education Fund.

This investment will help provide critical resources for the ongoing education, training and professional development of nurses, ensuring patients in Western Massachusetts continue to receive the highest quality of compassionate care.

Established to honor the legacy of Sister Mary Caritas, former President of Mercy Medical Center and a lifelong advocate for accessible, high-quality healthcare, the endowed fund strengthens the hospital's ability to recruit, retain, and

advance skilled nursing professionals. Nurses supported by the fund will benefit from advanced training opportunities, certification programs, and educational scholarships that directly enhance patient care across the community.

"bankESB is proud to stand alongside Mercy Medical Center in its mission to provide exceptional healthcare close to home," said Matthew Sosik, president and CEO of bankESB. "Nurses are at the heart of every patient experience, and by supporting their continued education, we are investing not only in the future of healthcare but also in the well-being of families across our region."

"We are grateful to bankESB for this generous donation to the Sister Mary Caritas Endowed Nurses'

Education Fund," said Susan Pettorini-D'Amico, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, chief nursing officer at Mercy Medical Center. "This important fund not only allows us to recruit at local colleges and universities with paid internships, but it also supports current Mercy nurses interested in pursuing elevated certifications and licenses, as well as colleagues who want to pursue a new career in nursing."

The \$100,000 pledge underscores bankESB's long-standing dedication to strengthening local communities through philanthropy, volunteerism, and support of organizations that make a difference in people's lives. To learn more about bankESB's community giving programs, The Giving Tree, people may visit bankESB.com.

REGION

Connected and online program deadline to apply is Nov. 7

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll administration and Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's Massachusetts Broadband Institute launched the Connected & Online Program, a \$23 million initiative to close the digital device gap across Massachusetts.

The program will distribute approximately 27,000 internet-connected devices such as laptops, desktops, tablets, assistive technology and supportive equipment to eligible organizations across the state.

Funded by the U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund, the Connected and Online Program is part of

the state's broader digital empowerment strategy and aims to increase access to education, expand workforce training and support access to health care services, especially in Gateway Cities and rural communities. Devices will be preloaded with security and accessibility software and distributed at no cost to approved applicants.

"Access to the internet is no longer a luxury it's a necessity for work, learning and health," said Governor Maura Healey. "Through this program, we are making sure that communities across Massachusetts have the tools they need to succeed in the digital economy. Closing the

digital divide is essential to building an economy that works for everyone, no matter their zip code."

"From rural towns to our largest cities, residents deserve the chance to log on and connect with opportunity," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "These devices will help families access telehealth, students complete their homework, and job seekers apply for new opportunities. This investment is about removing barriers so that everyone in Massachusetts can fully participate in our economy."

"MBI is proud to partner with organizations across the state to support telehealth,

remote patient monitoring, online learning opportunities and workforce development," said MBI Program Executive Jody Jones. "The first step to accessing critical services in today's world depends on a reliable device that is connected to the internet. The goal of this program is to increase access to these devices and ensure that all residents, regardless of where they live, are able to fully participate in the digital economy."

Eligible applicants to the Connected and Online Program include municipalities, libraries, health care providers, workforce centers, educational institutions and

nonprofits. Each organization may request a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 500 devices.

Applicants will demonstrate how the supplied devices will be accessible to the public, either through lending programs or on-site use and how expanded access to devices aligns with the needs of the communities they serve. Applicants must also include a strategy for measuring usage and outcomes and outline a plan for ongoing end-user support and device management.

The deadline to apply for the Connected and Online Program is Friday, Nov. 7.

A division of the

Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) is working to extend high-speed internet access and availability across the state. To achieve this, MBI uses state and federal funding to launch infrastructure expansion programs that target areas of the state that lack high-speed internet access as well as programs that tackle barriers to internet adoption and increase availability, addressing critical issues around affordability, enhanced public Wi-Fi, the need for internet-enabled devices and digital literacy training. People will learn more by visiting <https://broadband.masstech.org>.

RMV announces driver's education returns to in person format

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles announced that, starting Monday, Sept. 22, all classroom instruction provided by professional driving schools will transition back to an in-person format.

The RMV has been in communication with driving schools, customers and other stakeholders, explaining how this change will result in enhanced student engagement, stronger learning outcomes, equal opportunities for all schools and improved road safety.

The option of remote (virtual) classes was introduced as an accommoda-

tion during the pandemic. Effective Sept. 22, a live instructor will be required to teach all classes including the parent class. There will be a maximum of 30 students per class for a student/teacher ratio of 30:1. Research supports that in-person learning fosters better focus, higher engagement and more effective preparation for safe driving.

For information, people may visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drivers-education-programs>. For the latest RMV updates and information, people may follow the RMV at MassRMV on X, formerly Twitter.

Dimming lights boosts bird migration

People offer migrating birds a big boost simply by dimming outside lights according to the Allen Bird Club.

Millions of birds migrate through Massachusetts each fall and spring, and the majority fly at night. Unfortunately, outdoor lighting can distort birds' vision, causing needless fatalities as they blindly fly into lit buildings. Light overflow also disorients birds' navigational senses, making their arduous journey harder. According to the National Audubon Society, "While lights can throw birds off their migration paths, bird fatalities are more directly caused by the amount of energy the birds waste flying around and calling out in confusion. The exhaustion can then leave

them vulnerable to other urban threats."

Fortunately, there are four simple steps people can take to make a positive difference. As a bonus, many of these tips save money, improve sleep quality and restore the ecosystem's essential circadian cycles.

Turn off unnecessary lights. "When not in use, turn off the juice" is a 1970s jingle that rings true today. It's a great way to remember to save energy, money and birds.

Use motion-activated outdoor lighting or timers. Motion-sensitive lights are often a better choice for home security because they offer an element of surprise, while lighting a building all night can unintentionally highlight every point of access. Timers work well for

family members, who arrive home after dark but don't need a light all night.

Cap outdoor lighting so illumination points down. Theaters, where the entire stage is lit while the audience sits in darkness, are a great example of how lighting can be directed only to where it's needed. Use lights that have solid lids pointing light down.

If people work in a large office or industrial building, they could ask if night lighting can be reduced. Upper story lighting on tall buildings can be particularly tragic for flocks of migrating birds. Boston, Connecticut, and New York all have "Lights Out" programs during peak bird migration, Aug. 15 to Nov. 15 and April 1 to May 31. Make a company a migration champion by

joining the trend.

Those who want to track Massachusetts's night-migration can do so for free by visiting the website BirdCast.info. Created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, UMass Amherst and Colorado State University, this online migration tool offers area-specific migration forecasts and shares live or day-after migration data. Glimpsing data from the remarkable, nighttime migration of birds will shine a light on the importance of flicking the switch on blazing skies.

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

MassDOT announces re-procurement preparation for Service Plazas contract

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces they are preparing to re-procure the contract to rehabilitate, operate and maintain the 18 service plazas across the state.

"These service plazas play a critical role for our residents, visitors, workers and economy. MassDOT's focus has always been on delivering the highest-quality service plazas that offer the best value for taxpayers," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver, who will oversee the process. "After careful consideration, we have determined that the best path forward to ensure the success of this project is to reprocure the contract. This will allow us to make any necessary changes to the RFP to ensure we are attracting robust interest from highly

qualified bidders and securing the best value possible."

MassDOT will also work with the current lease holders to ensure that travelers and workers do not experience disruptions to essential services.

Earlier this year, after a lengthy, multi-stage procurement process, the MassDOT Board authorized Secretary Monica Tibbitts-Nutt to award the Transition and Lease Agreements for the service plazas to Applegreen. After signing a Transition Agreement and during the lease negotiation process, Applegreen made the decision to withdraw.

After careful evaluation of all options, MassDOT is preparing to re-procure the service plaza contract in order to deliver the highest quality

facilities and services for travelers while ensuring the best value for taxpayers and toll payers. MassDOT will begin negotiations with the current leaseholders for extensions immediately to ensure continuity of service and labor at the plazas.

MassDOT has been reviewing the original procurement and will seek feedback from the industry to develop recommendations for a revised Request for Proposals that will best ensure robust interest from high-quality bidders and set the project up for success.

Day-to-day management of the service plazas is being transferred to the MassDOT Highway Division to ensure structured performance oversight, regular inspections and centralized corrective action.

DOER awards \$911,000 for local clean energy projects

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration announces \$911,000 in grants to support clean energy initiatives across Massachusetts.

This funding, administered by the Department of Energy Resources through the Regional Energy Planning Assistance program, will allow eleven regional planning agencies to provide essential technical assistance to 143 cities and towns to plan and implement clean energy projects. Grants awards include: the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, \$79,000; Franklin Regional Council of Governments, \$81,000 and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, \$140,700.

"When we invest in local clean energy proj-

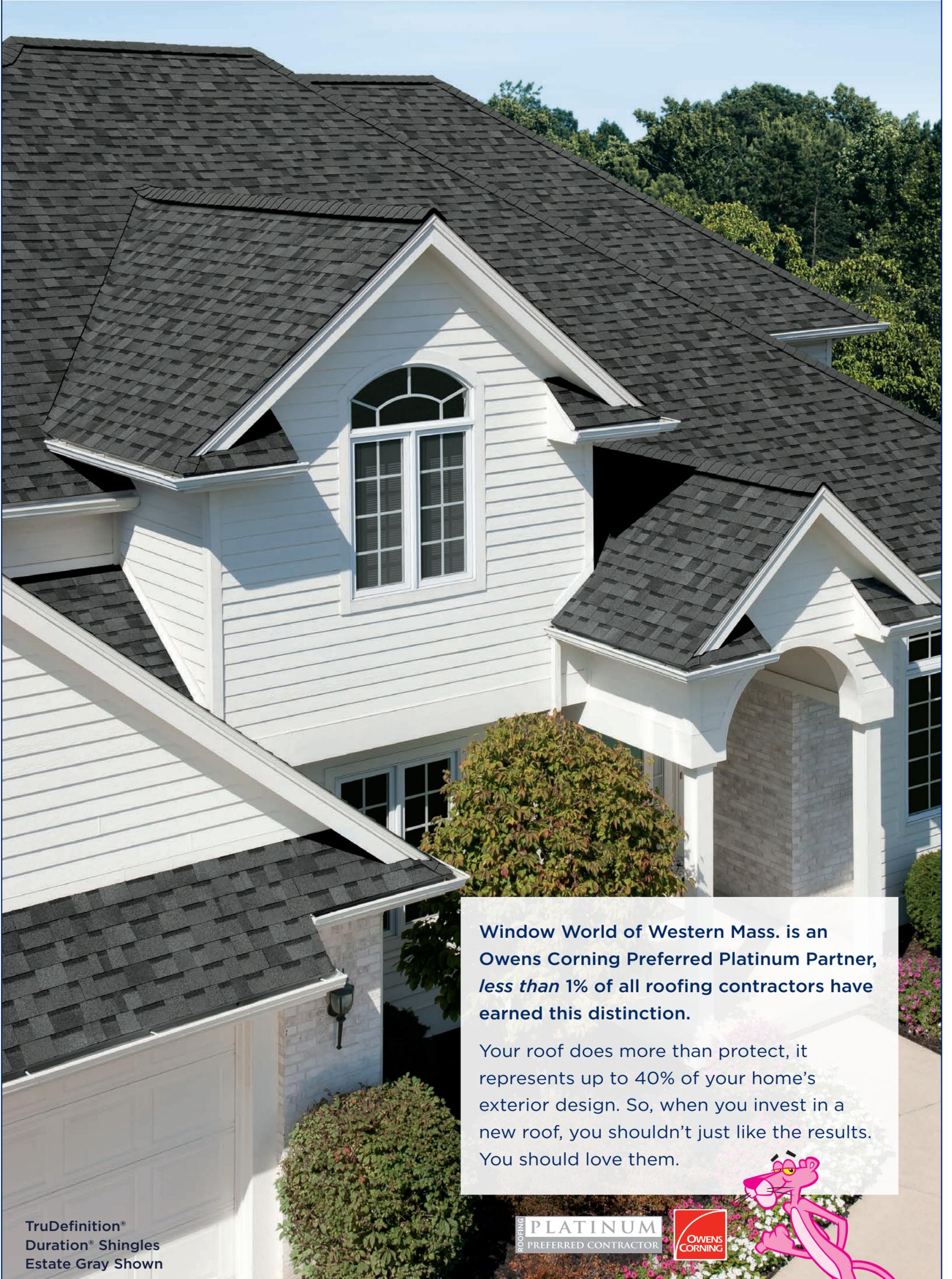
ects, we help our communities lower energy bills and reduce pollution," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "This program gives cities and towns the tools they need to plan and act. That means cleaner air, lower costs, and stronger neighborhoods across Massachusetts."

"This funding provides valuable support to under-resourced municipalities, and catalyzes regional projects," said DOER Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony. "We're proud to help our cities and towns build the knowledge and expertise they need to plan and complete clean energy projects. These projects boost local economies, lower energy costs and create healthier, more resilient communi-

ties." This funding is designed to help communities achieve Green Communities Program designation and assist current Green Communities with the management and expansion of their clean energy efforts. Local clean energy projects cut energy use and save taxpayer dollars by reducing the cost of local government. The grants will also enable municipalities to collaborate on regional clean energy projects and improve emissions reduction planning.

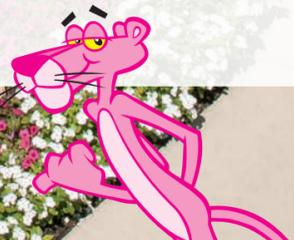
An important part of the program is training for local energy managers and volunteer committees. By enhancing local expertise, communities will be better equipped to propose and review energy projects tailored to their needs.

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