

"It takes the black keys and the white keys both, to make perfect harmony." – Benny Goodman

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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HILLTOWNS

Forester's plans for gravel extraction

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

Hilltowns like Chester, Huntington and Russell are quiet these days but for 200 years they hummed loudly with industry as granite cutting and processing businesses, emery mining, wool and paper manufacturing operated on or near the Westfield River.

Now, often the most pronounced machine noise residents hear is from a CSX freight train lumbering its way to or from Albany or motorcycles at full throttle on Rte 112. The river post industry has become so quiet and pristine that 30 years ago it received a special designation from Congress as a Wild & Scenic River.

Now, a proposed gravel pit, on land owned by a local forester, threatens the 21st century quiet on Goss Hill in Huntington between Littleville Lake and Rte 112. Many residents are adamantly opposed and have expressed concern in two public meetings over the summer about noise, pollution, increased traffic on Rte 112 and potential health risks. The Huntington Zoning Board has requested nine related studies that are out for bid. Meanwhile, the town's conservation commission has approved the proposed plan.

To understand more about the motivation for the



The proposed pit site on Goss Hill looking towards the buffer of trees down to the river. Right, Looking south, this is the entrance to the access road off of Rte 112.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel

gravel pit and the company behind it, this correspondent sat down with Bill Hull of Hull Forest Products and his daughter, Mary. He lives in Pomfrey, Connecticut, but is in the Hilltowns frequently where Mary lives in Russell

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BLANDFORD

Bridge costs exceed grant

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera spoke with the Select Board Monday night about a One Stop grant that only covered \$100,000 of engineering costs for work on Beech Hill Road bridge.

The cost came in at \$130,759 and there is nothing budgeted for the additional \$30,759 for Gill Engineering. Springfield Water and Sewer Commission may consider some financial support, but it would not be for this current year. "We're still on the hook...it has to be paid," she said.

This is not the first instance she has come across where contracts were negotiated without approval from town accountant. "You can't sign a contract if the accountant doesn't sign off...that the funds are available," she said. This was just for a study, not for actual work and added that One Stop grants applied for this year to continue actual project construction have been denied. She will check with Finance Committee to find extra funds.

SWSC also has an agreement with the town for the brush truck and work on North Lane. This is an uncleared lane, according to Ferrera. SWSC wants to perform drainage maintenance on the road. The board was not clear of the location of the road and the request for the inter-governmental agreement was tabled.

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HILLTOWNS ABOUND WITH FALL SCENES



This fall screen is of the Westfield River in Russell.

Photo by Tricia Bergland

GOSHEN

Historical house holds 'Stone Soup' celebration

By Kam Osborne

The Williams-Boltwood Project in Goshen hosted an appreciation party on Saturday, Oct 19 as a "thank you" for the many volunteers and supporters, who have helped us accomplish so much.

"Stone soup" was the theme of the day. A large cast iron cauldron was hung over an open fire with a pot full of water into which a large smooth stone was deposited to kick off the soup. The Williams-

Boltwood Project staff and volunteers added their offerings of tasty vegetables and herbs. As the soup was simmering, everyone got busy creating scarecrows, dressed in period costumes and added some festive cornstalks to the house's front entry, while Bob Labrie was busy giving impromptu tours to interested passer-bys, who stopped in to see what all the festivities were about. The soup was amazing

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HILLTOWNS

Allen Bird Club holds program on whip-poor-wills and nighthawks



SPRINGFIELD – On Monday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, will host the presentation, “On Whip-poor-wills & Nighthawks” in the Tolman Auditorium of the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards St.

The increasingly uncommon call of the Eastern Whip-poor-will is a thrilling sound on moonlit summer nights. A favorite, late-summer ritual for many nature lovers is watching Common Nighthawks in the early evening skies. Both birds are aerial insectivores; birds that catch insects on the fly. Join other area bird enthusiasts to hear Patti Steinman of Easthampton’s Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary discuss these remarkable birds’ behaviors, ecological niches, population statuses and where to observe them locally.

Sponsored by the Allen Bird Club, the presentation, “On Whip-poor-wills

& Nighthawks” is open to the public free of charge. The Allen Bird Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing Greater Springfield area birders together since 1912. For more information, people may visit www.AllenBirdClub.org.



GRAVEL

from page 1

with her family. You may have seen Hull Forestlands signs around the Hilltowns, but what exactly do they do?

The company is involved in forest management throughout Massachusetts and all that woodland contributes to the company operating “the largest sawmill in the New York City and Boston area,” according to Hull literature. The sawmill is located in Pomfret. The company employs about 80 people total with five in Russell where their local lumberyard is on the grounds of an old papermill that was also used for charcoal manufacturing. When they are culling timber, they work with another 60 contractors including logging professionals and truckers.

Hull Forestlands, a sister company, is the family land trust which: “removes the possibility of development, ensuring that our working forests will remain a source of timber for generations to come.” That trust does not, however, mean that they will use land only for growing timber, thus the proposed gravel pit on one of their properties in Huntington.

Hull, who fought in the Vietnam War, was educated in forestry at the University of New Hampshire and has been working in the Hilltowns since 1996 when he bought 800 acres of property from Peck Lumber Company in the Tolland Forest.

For his business, Chapter 61 or the Massachusetts Forestland Taxation Act is essential. It provides for a reduction in property tax if a landowner has 10 or more contiguous acres of forest land and a commitment to improving the quality and quantity of timber on the land.

Hull Forest Products “meets with the landowner and finds out what their objectives are,” says Mary Hull. “Some want their view scape back. We help people grow beauty and value in people’s woodlands.” That can mean making money off of the timber and culling trees for recreational or scenic purposes.

Hull Forestlands maintains their own significant property in Huntington 1,300 acres as well as other Hilltowns. The 222 acre parcel, which would contain the gravel pit abuts C.M. Gardner State Park and the residential Goss Hill, which has farmhouses dating to the 18th century. The property sticks out like a nose as the Westfield River snakes its way south along the right hand side of the boundary. Of that property, 4.9 acres are proposed to become a gravel pit to be operated by Hilltown Sand and Gravel, which is just three minutes by car down Rte 112 and has been there for over 60 years.

Why would a forester want to own a gravel pit? According to Hull, timber just doesn’t have the margins to fully support the business. “In order to maintain all this forest, we have to raise additional revenue.”

“We are tree farmers,” he says.



Bill Hull, founder and CEO of Hull Forestlands and Hull Forest Products near his lumber yard in Russell.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel

“When they grow big enough, we harvest. But the income comes only every 25 years, but the taxes come every single year. We also have ongoing costs including issues like storm and culvert washouts we have to fix. We need a source of income other than timber.” He notes that what they are harvesting is hardwood used in the finishing of homes for flooring or cabinetry and most is sold wholesale.

This is not Hull’s first foray into gravel. He already owns a pit in Williamsburg. “It was a huge pit and we worked on it for 20 years. It’s now become a large solar project.”

Hull encourages residents to think of the varied uses of land. “Land is recyclable,” he says. “In Williamsburg it was woodland, then the settlers cleared it. But they left and the forest grew back up. Then it was a gravel pit for 100 years. Now it’s a solar farm.”

Gravel pits, though common throughout Massachusetts, are both necessary and not without controversy. The town of Granby has been fighting over the proposed Trompke gravel pit for the past few years. The project is moving forward, but was scaled back in September to lower concerns over noise and truck traffic. In Plymouth, an environmental group is pushing back over a sand pit and concerns that it will infiltrate the drinking water.

As materials handed out by Hull at the August Huntington meeting stated, “we all use sand, gravel and rock whether we recognize it or not.” Concrete, septic systems, driveways and of course roads depend on sand and gravel. Anyone, who has literally hit the roof of their car when attempting to drive on two big breaks in the pavement on County Road recently, can attest to the need.

Hull himself noted that climate change and the massive storms that have inundated the Hilltowns over the past few years have increased demand for

sand and gravel to fix blown out culverts and roads. “If you look in the town’s emergency management plan, it’s important to have access to one. There are very few operating pits in Huntington and they are pretty well worn out. Gravel is not something that grows. This will enable the town to have an assured supply for the next five - ten years.”

From Hull’s perspective, having a local processor, literally just down the road from where it will be produced, is a greener solution that bringing the gravel from other parts of New England. Given that a significant part of the cost of sand and gravel is transport, he says it will keep costs lower for the town and residents.

In respect to this proposed Huntington gravel pit, perhaps the most damaging point made to date was at the public meeting in July when the fact that Hull’s current lawyer, Michael Pill, worked for the town of Huntington in 1999 and wrote a motion to deny a gravel pit. That gravel pit was to operate in an area encompassing part of the currently planned one.

In the “Critical Review of Gravel Pit Special Permit Application by Goss Hill Corporation” dated May 12, 1999, on behalf of the town of Huntington, Michael Pill, Esq. states: “The bank of the Westfield River is an inappropriate location for a gravel pit. The plans submitted by Goss Hill Corporation show that both the access road and proposed gravel pit are bordered by the Westfield River.”

When the issue of Pill’s past report came up at the public hearing in July, Pill was present and vociferously stated the projects were very different and the 1999 one involved critical wetlands.

“Any attempt to compare the two [projects] is like comparing apples to oranges,” says Bill Hull.

“A lot has changed since 1999,” he continues. Hull bought the Goss Hill Corporation lands at a foreclosure

auction and subsequently purchased 73 adjoining acres “which gave Hull Forestlands ownership from the gravel area all the way north to Route 112. Hull Forestlands later purchased an additional inholding of about 3 acres that fronts on Route 112 immediately north of the 112 bridge over the river and on the south side of the road. We now own 222 acres with over a mile of frontage on the west side of the river.”

“The proposed gravel operation is just under five acres and will not be visible from Route 112 or nearby abutters due primarily to a mostly soft wood tree buffer of over 200 feet in width between the gravel operation and the west bank of the river.”

Hull says that his project is also different in that “the access road we are using to get to the gravel operations area is not the same access route proposed by the Goss Hill Corporation in 1999. My understanding is that their proposed route was closer to the river and not even all on their own land. Our route is a considerable distance from the river and cannot be seen from Route 112 or any of the homes along the river that abut our property.”

“This will be the only gravel operations area we will seek to permit on this entire 223-acre property. We are voluntarily doing this to reassure abutters and the public that we will not come back later with other proposed gravel operations areas along the river as some public hearing attendees suggested could possibly happen,” Hull says.

One of the loudest concerns about the operation of the pit is the increased traffic on Rte 112 and the sharp curve just north of the access road. Bill Hull confirms that after the gravel is removed, this land will once again be returned to managed forest. “We would plant trees.” Mary Hull adds “And keep a portion of it as a wildlife food plot.” She says that edge habitat, where forest and brushlands meet, is particularly positive for wildlife. “With all the berries, herbs and flowers it improves wildlife diversity,” she says. “Young forest actually absorbs the most carbon. The best thing you can do is sustainable forest management.”

All of this, of course, is years down the road. As of yet, there is no precise timeline of even whether this property will rumble with machinery and the 35 trucks per week that the project has stated will be needed to move the gravel. As Karon Hathaway, chair of the Huntington Zoning Board of Appeals says: “We’re trying to get as much info as we can so we can make the best educated decision for townspeople and for Hull. We are not there yet.”

She encourages those interested in the project – or wanting to make comment – to attend the next public meeting on this issue on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. in Stanton Hall.

HILLTOWNS

ILI and CISAbroad win International Education Awards

The International Language Institute and CISAbroad were awarded and recognized for global education excellence on Friday, Sept. 13 in London.

ILI, located in Northampton, and CISAbroad, headquartered in Easthampton, were both celebrated at the PIEoneer Awards, considered the international education industry's equivalent of the Oscars.

ILI won in the category of Language Training Provider of the Year, while CISAbroad was highly commended in the Sustainability International Impact award. There to receive the awards were Caroline Gear, executive director of ILI and Kris Holloway, president and CEO of

CISAbroad.

"We received entries from 34 countries, which demonstrates the global reach of the awards, now in their eighth year," said Clare Gossage, COO and co-founder of The PIE News, which runs the awards. "Our judging panel of 57 represents the diversity of our participants. Each was responsible for scoring a shortlist of six to nine finalists."

"We are ecstatic that ILI won," said Gear, "We honestly didn't expect it and were honored just to be nominated. I'm so proud that ILI competes on the international stage. This win is a powerful testimony to our teachers, staff and volunteers and most importantly the language learn-

ers we are privileged to work with every day."

ILI's award recognizes language providers around the world that go the "extra mile to provide their students with a standout experience, and exceptional level of service, and those who are innovating to ensure students develop their language skills and become confident communicators."

ILI, a private, non-profit language school was founded in 1984 with a mission to promote intercultural understanding and diverse communities through high-quality language instruction and teacher training. Gear has worked with ILI since 1986 and has been executive direc-

tor since 2016.

"We are thrilled to be recognized," said Holloway of CISAbroad, "The competition was impressive. The fact that two western Massachusetts organizations were recognized is just amazing."

CISAbroad, started in 2000, provides US university students with education abroad experiences in eleven countries. The private company was started in 1999 by Jeff Palm with Holloway at the helm since 2018.

The PIEoneer Awards gala was held at the historic Guildhall in London, which dates to the 15th century and has served as the ceremonial and administrative center of the city of London for over 800 years.

MassDOT announces Municipal Pavement Program Grants

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces the award of \$50 million in funding to 45 municipalities as part of the Municipal Pavement Program.

The Municipal Pavement Program seeks to improve the condition of municipally owned state numbered routes, with an emphasis on National Highway System roadways, and to find opportunities to improve safety and accessibility for all modes.

Local cities and towns receiving funding in Fiscal Year 2025 are: Chesterfield – Route 143, Great Barrington – Route 41, Pittsfield – Route

7, Savoy – Route 8A and Windsor – Route 8A.

Local cities and towns receiving funding in Fiscal Year 2026 are North Adams – Route 2 and Stockbridge – Route 183.

Projects are selected by MassDOT each fiscal year based on pavement condition data, the proportion of state numbered routes in poor condition in a municipality and geographic equity. MassDOT works closely with selected communities to develop a scope of work for each roadway segment. All work is conducted by MassDOT contractors in coordination with the municipality.

Children's Museum holds annual Halloween bash Oct. 27

All over Western Massachusetts families prepare for the approach of Halloween and staff at The Children's Museum at Holyoke are no exception as they get to work designing and crafting spooky season makeovers for select exhibits throughout the building.

This creativity culminates on Sunday, Oct 27 from noon-4p.m. with their big Halloween bash, Trick or Treat at CMH, 444 Dwight St., where little and big ones are invited to don their costumes and receive themed trinkets and prizes from each in-character staff member at their decorated stations.

While the Trick or Treating is the main attraction, this magical afternoon will also offer fantastic face painting, guided games and creative crafts, all included with the price of admission.

The Museum is excited to offer a safe way to play with all the best parts of Halloween condensed into

something that works for everyone. This year's themed stations include Frankenstein's Spooky Science Laboratory, a Fantasy Fairy Village, a Dark and Cozy Bear's Den and so much more.

"We received such positive feedback from parents and caregivers at last year's event," says Emme Geryk, Programming Coordinator at The Children's Museum at Holyoke, "It's an honor to be a part of the magic of Halloween for the kids of our neighborhood and beyond, it motivates us all knowing we're playing a role in creating positive childhood memories."

In addition, People may purchase and paint a mini pumpkin in our Fundraising Pumpkin Patch alongside the free Trick or Treating. For more information about The Children's Museum at Holyoke, people may visit their website at <https://www.childrensmuseumholyoke.org>.

HUNTINGTON

Huntington set to hold trunk or treat event on Oct. 26

HUNTINGTON – Trunk or Treat will take place on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 5-6 p.m. at the Huntington Public Library, 7 East Main St, in the parking lot.

There will be no parking at the library; suggested parking is available at Pettis Field. Besides the trunk or treat there will be an activity for the children sponsored by the library at the same time, then live music from Built 4 Comfort and bonfire to start afterwards.

The Story Walk on the library grounds will also be part of the event.

The Hilltown Family Center's story walk is funded through a coordinated family community engagement grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. Deano's food truck will be on hand as well.

This event is a collaboration between the Huntington Recreation Committee, the Huntington Fire Association and The Huntington Library. Anyone wishing to host a trunk is asked to call Vicki at 413-667-0085 or email recreation@huntington-ma.us.

Clark presents first Sunday free

The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., first Sunday free series continues on Sunday, Nov. 3 from 1-4 p.m.

November's theme is "Frame and Reframe." This First Sunday Free the topic is the frame. In addition to their often-ornate decoration, frames serve an important function: defining what people can and cannot see.

Participants will decorate a frame to take home for their own photo or artwork. They may meet in the galleries at 1 pm and again at 3 pm.

for a tour with Hugh Glover, former conservator of furniture and frames at the Williamstown + Atlanta Art Conservation Center. He will give an in-depth conversation about the materials and preservation of frames that is sure to "reframe" the way they see art.

Admission and activities are free. For more information, people may visit clarkart.edu/events.

For accessibility questions, they may call 413 458 0524. Family programs are generously supported by Allen & Company.


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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Signing up for Social Security and Medicare Part B at 70

Dear Rusty

I just turned 69 years old in August 2024 and am still working full time. I signed up for Medicare Part A but, it is my secondary insurance because I have great health insurance through where I work.

My wife is retired and has Medicare Part A but, is on my insurance also and she is taking Social Security.

Our plan is for me to work until August 2026 when I'll be 71. I'll file for Social Security when I turn 70 and bank all of it for a year until I retire. That is money we plan to use for travel and fun things. I have three questions: when should I file for my Social Security so it starts in September; when do my wife and I file for Medicare Part B with a supplement so it starts in September; and are there negative tax implications to this plan that I haven't thought of?

Signed: Needing Info

Dear Needing Info

Sounds like you have a great strategy planned for your personal Social Security benefits and your Medicare Part B enrollment for both of you. To your questions:

If you will be 70 in August 2025, you can apply for Social Security about three months prior e.g., in May 2025. Just be sure to specify that you wish your SS benefits to start effective with the month of your 70th birthday.

Signing up a few months early is perfectly okay; you will indicate your desired benefit start date on your application and that is when SS will start your benefits. Remember, SS pays benefits in the month following the month earned, so your first payment will be received in September 2025 on the second Wednesday if you were born before the 11th of the month

As for Medicare Part B coverage for you and your wife, both of you can enroll in Medicare Part B a couple of months prior to you leaving work, but request that Medicare Part B coverage starts in the month your work coverage ends. In other words, you can enroll in Medicare before you retire from work, but request that your Part B coverage starts in the first month your employer coverage ends to avoid any gap in healthcare cover-

SECURITY, page 5

Corrections policy

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

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



GUEST COLUMN

Pretty leaves make great mulch and more!



Even though we thought it was going to be a year of drab fall foliage, the colors this past weekend surprised me.

I saw so many neat plants doing their thing in response to the shorter days. When chlorophyll is broken down as a result of less daylight, lots of other colors take the place of green in the leaves.

We have our oranges and yellows from the carotenoids, the purple and red shades from the anthocyanins and the rusts and browns from tannins, and then there are plants that look ghost-like because the green color is just plain gone!

Besides enjoying great foliage, I saw the start of some very large leaf piles. I know that raking up fallen leaves are not everyone's favorite task, but gardeners should rejoice!

Read on to learn about the many uses of leaves, straight from the archives.

Consider for a moment the forest, and how stands of trees grow successfully without any input from us. Why is that so?

It is thanks to nature's own process of decomposition. Leaves, branches, and pine needles, etc., fall onto the forest floor where microbes such as fungi and bacteria break them down into humus.

Humus works between the mineral particles and air spaces in the soil, helping it to retain moisture yet drain readily. It also helps to enhance overall soil fertility by making nutrients available to plants in a form they can readily use.

Worms and other macro-organisms aerate the soil and disperse the humus around

plant roots, making a self-perpetuating system. We can apply this lesson from nature to our own situation, making for more successful gardens and healthier lawns, and all by the use of leaves!

Perhaps the easiest way to deal with a small amount of leaves is to mow over them several times with the lawn mower. Soon the tiny pieces will disappear into the soil adding valuable nutrients as they break down.

The lawn mower also comes in handy after piles have been made. Mow over low piles or chop them up with a shredder, then they can be used for a variety of purposes.

Once the soil has frozen, chopped leaves make an excellent protective winter mulch for any type of garden. They won't mat down and rot the crowns of your favorite perennials the way whole leaves might, but they will moderate soil temperatures enough to prevent them from being heaved out of the ground during normal cycles of freezing and thawing.

When spring arrives just pull back the mulch off the tops of the plants. It can stay in place covering bare soil, all the while conserving moisture, preventing weeds, and making humus!

If the "natural look" is unappealing to you apply a thin coat of bark mulch over chopped leaves to dress things up a bit.

Repeat this drill every year for your own self-perpetuating garden.

You can also incorporate chopped leaves right into the vegetable garden each fall. The use of a rototiller makes this job a snap.

Most will have decomposed by spring, but till the garden again a month or so before planting to finish the job.

Chopped leaves make a great addition to the compost pile.

Layer brown, carbon rich ingredients (such as chopped leaves) with green, nitrogen rich ingredients (such as grass clippings, vegetable scraps, non-weedy plant parts) together to get the pile cooking. Add a shovel full of garden soil or finished compost per layer to inoculate it with microbes

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

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

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

OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Phoenix rising from Granite Polishing Company

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

There is a phoenix rising from the granite dust in Chester. It is the Hudson Chester Granite Polishing Company rising out of the ground literally. It is located behind the Chester train station. It is being resurrected by volunteers putting in countless hours of clearing trees and debris accumulated over 80 years.

They are digging up equipment and foundations trying to restore the site to how it once looked and operated. This is the 1900s era business that cut, polished and engraved granite into grave monuments. This is where the train from the Becket “quarrie” brought huge chunks of granite from the cliffs there in Becket, to be finished.

There were several buildings here to cut the granite into varying sizes that would again be cut into monument sizes that would be polished to a smooth shine and engraved with names, dates and decoration. It was an area full of heavy machinery such as derricks, cranes, hoisting engines, air compressors and drills as well as most of the components of a blacksmith shop.

The John Henry, a powerful hammer man for the railroad in the 1880s, for this granite operation would be the 12 foot shot saw that is center stage at the site. Much of the polishing tools, heavy gear and parts are literally buried in the ground as they were driven in by a bulldozer. Word has it that whatever didn't sell after an out-of-business equipment sale, was bulldozed into the ground.

Combine that with all the 2-3 ton granite rubble lying about and people can understand how challenging it has been to uncover and restore the site. Yes block and tackle is used. Note the photo of a granite shard being fashioned into a bench.

The loading dock where the cut granite was moved onto the train for transport was well preserved and looks just as it did in 1910. All the many sites have signs posted with authentic photos displaying the original building that was there. There are even abandoned gravestones engraved with names and dates laying about. Now there's a mystery, why didn't they pick up Uncle Fester's grave-

stone back in the day?

What of these stalwart granite polisher workers? There are many photos showing workers some wearing aprons. Well we know now many of them would have suffered from silicosis. This is a disease due to breathing silica dust deep into the lungs that causes scarring and irreversible damage. Polishing granite would have created this fine dust.

Granite has 20 – 45%, typically 30% crystalline silica dust content compared to marble which has 2% silica dust content. So these workers would have been coughing and short of breath after working here for several months. They would have developed chronic obstructive lung disease after very few years of exposure. Filtering masks came into use by underground miners in 1934, but they were not generally used in manufacturing until later. They may have used water to mist down some of the dust around the saws and polishing tools. They may also have used a handkerchief tied around their nose and mouth to act as a mask. We do not have documented information about this. It was an era where workers were glad to have a job and any exposure to silica dust was accepted as part of the job.

If you are looking for more information on early granite quarrying and finishing, check out the Barre, Vermont Rock of Ages website. It was founded in 1885 and supplied granite for many American monuments. Why they did not publish records of the monuments where their granite was used is a mystery. The same could be said for the Hudson Chester Granite Polishing Company, no records of where the granite went.

One last note, fires were always a threat to the polishing company given all the sparks that were flying about. There were two fires that interfered with production. No lives were lost.

If anyone has historical photos or information about the company Liz Massa and Dave Pierce, the guiding leaders of the restoration project, they should contact Massa and Pierce. They usually can be found around the site.

The trail is open to the public. There will be the Sinister Saw Mill, a haunted trail event held on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 4- 8 p.m. at the Polishing Company site, 10 Prospect St. If people go, they

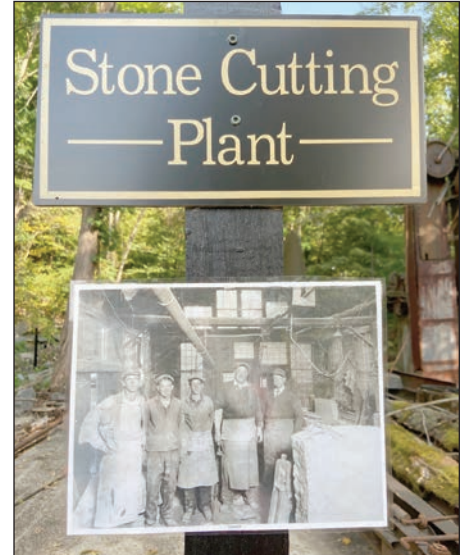


This is a new entry sign for the Chester Hudson Granite Polishing Company site that is being restored. The company was in business until 1940 when it closed, more because the granite industry was in decline. It had suffered from multiple fires during its history and always made a recovery.



The 12 ft shot saw is still on site at the old Chester Hudson Granite Polishing Company.

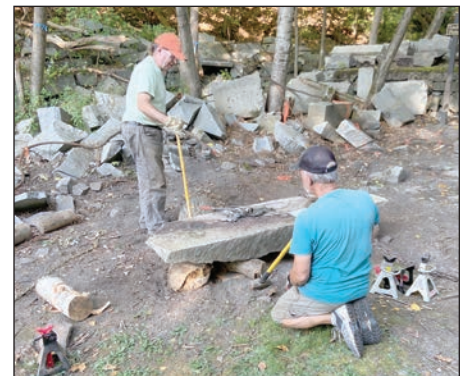
should bring their lucky talisman, they be horrors about – Happy Hollering on Halloween.



This is the site of stone cutting plant with a photo of workers covered with dust.



Photo of Hudson and Chester Granite Polishing Co showing the derrick in the foreground and tall smokestack in the background.



Hilltown Hikers Frank and Greg work hard to winch a granite chunk into forming a bench at the site. Turley Photos by Deborah Daniels

GARDEN

from page 4

and water well.

Let the pile sit for a year or turn it frequently for faster results. Compost is a near neutral source of humus, a well-balanced fertilizer and soil tonic, good for all types of gardens and even the lawn.

If you are too busy to layer and shredding sounds like a messy job, simply pile the leaves, moistening as you go. The resulting leaf mold is another healthy addition to the garden.

Research has proven that members of the cabbage family respond especially well to this type of humus. Keep in mind that oak leaves are more acidic than other leaves of trees native to our area.

If you use more of these in any of your gardening situations, adjust liming accordingly.

So get out the rake and improve your landscape!!

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

SECURITY

from page 4

age. Obviously, you should begin your private supplemental healthcare coverage to coincide with the start of your Medicare Part B coverage.

Regarding the tax implications, just be aware that a portion of your received Social Security benefits become taxable income if your Modified Adjusted Gross Income as a married couple exceeds certain thresholds. FYI, “MAGI” is your Adjusted Gross Income on your tax return plus 50% of your received SS benefits, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had.

If you file your taxes as “married/jointly” and your MAGI is more than \$32,000, then 50% of the SS benefits

you receive during the tax year becomes taxable income or if your MAGI as a married couple is over \$44,000 then up to 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year becomes taxable income at your normal IRS tax rate. Income tax on SS benefits occurs when your MAGI is over the thresholds for your tax filing status, so you should plan accordingly.

If your MAGI will be consistently over these thresholds after you retire from working, you may choose to have income tax withheld from your SS benefits, which is easy to do by submitting IRS FORM W-4V to your local Social Security office.

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.

News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously. All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows. **Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.**

BLANDFORD

Fire Chief issues cautionary advisory due to arid conditions

BLANDFORD – Fire Chief Adam Dolby issued a cautionary advisory for residents regarding current arid conditions.

He said, “The last several weeks have been extremely dry with no rain, low humidity and moderate winds. Add to that lots of new dry leaves and conditions are perfect for wildfires.”

He continues, adding that “residents are reminded that burning season begins in January and they should not



Adam Dolby

be burning any materials outside except for small cooking fires – think s’mores, not bonfire. If you do have a small fire outside, ensure it is properly contained, isolated from other combustible materials and fully extinguished when done.”

Dolby also asked that as always, if anyone sees any residents burning anything other than a fire capable of toasting a few marshmallows, they should call 911 to report it so that the fire department can investigate.

COA to host Veteran’s dinner

BLANDFORD – The Council on Aging will host the annual Veterans’ Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 5 p.m. at the Blandford Town Hall.

There is no cost to veterans and their spouses. Any additional guests will be asked for a \$5 donation. The menu is pot roast, baked potato, carrots, salad, rolls

and hot mulled cider. Deserts, donated by the Blandford Volunteer Fire Department Association, are apple and pumpkin pies. Coffee is courtesy of Starbucks.

Reservations must be received by Saturday, Nov. 2. People should call 8413-48-4279, extension 400 and leave name and number of people attending.

Recreation Committee lists this year’s Halloween event

BLANDFORD – The Recreation Committee met last Thursday to make arrangements for this year’s annual Halloween event.

The committee is “extremely low” on volunteers so the program has been cut back somewhat. The party will be this Saturday, Oct. 26 from 3-6 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Trunk or Treat will be in front of the

building along with tables the committee has lined up for popcorn, hot chocolate, hot cider, full-size candy bars and photo opportunities. There will be no indoor games this year due to the lack of volunteers. If anyone is interested in serving on the Recreation Committee, they may call Town Office Administrative Assistant Joann Martin at 413-848-4279, extension 206.

Blandford Historical Society holds annual meeting

BLANDFORD – The Blandford Historical Society will hold the annual meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Historical Society at the top of Main Street.

There will be a brief review of the treasurer’s report, bylaws and the election of next year’s officers and board members. There will be refreshments at 6:30 p.m. and the opportunity to see the

latest acquisitions in the society’s museum on the second floor.

Dennis Picard will present a program on captured Hessian soldiers during the American Revolution at 7 p.m. Picard is a well-known expert on history and historical interpretations. The Hessians were German troops hired by Britain to fight against the American colonists. The gatherings are open to the public.

BRIDGE

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Rene Senecal reported that the line painting is on-going. He is reviewing maintenance expenditures for outsourced jobs and he is trying to see that work is done in house.

Animal Inspector

Animal Inspector Jess Carrington asked the board for permission to use a town vehicle to make her inspections. “I’m not really comfortable” using her personal vehicle for this purpose and stressed the need for identification. The board said she could use the town pick-up truck for this purpose.

Appointments

The board appointed Judith MacKinnon, Susan Bloomrose and Brittney Stuck as poll workers.

Jennifer Girard spoke with the Select Board about keeping the fee for liquor licenses for the Blandford

Country Store and the Blandford Country Club at \$150 for the coming year. The board approved the renewal fees for \$150.

Other businesses

Administrative Assistant Joann Martin told the board she is working with Sara Hunter to make sure all the payroll records are accurately done and uniform. Chair Cara Letendre suggested a training session for all the departments.

Letendre reviewed plans for the Halloween event Saturday.

Michael Wojcik met with the board regarding the fence installed between the Highway Department and Veterans’ Park at Town Commons. Letendre said that projects like that need to be budgeted for in advance and also brought to the Select Board and Town Administrator for consideration and approval.

Wojcik also told the board he had

fertilized the grass and planted flowers and he has maintained them throughout the summer.

Wojcik mentioned several other concerns that need attention, including flags at Town Common and its maintenance and damaged gutters at the transfer station. Senecal interjected that the gutters would be repaired “next Friday.”

“You need to reach out to the select board first, if something is frustrating you,” said Letendre. Jeff Allen brought up liability issues and said, “We need a process.”

Letendre told Wojcik, “Now we are operating much more professionally, things are done differently now than when they were done in the past.” She reiterated that concerns should be brought to the attention of the board and Ferrera.

The town has to prioritize the work and itemize it according to what area, according to board member Theodore Cousineau.

Refurbishing work

George Reichert reported to the Select Board that the refurbishing work at the former town office building, U.S. Post Office and Bicentennial Park is nearly complete. Windows need to be washed, shaded laminate needs to be replaced at the Post Office, external electrical outlets and a faucet should be considered, and a broken glass window needs to be replaced. Estimates are coming for a faucet but electrical outlets are on the list.

Reichert said there should be a maintenance plan for the future so the building does not fall into disrepair again. Letendre said she wants to ask voters what they want to do with the building before any decision is made.

Executive session

The board went into executive session to discuss strategy for union negotiations after a roll-call vote and not to reconvene in open session.

from page 1

WILLIAMSBURG

Hilltown Misfits 4-H Club announces upcoming events

By Carson Bisbee

WILLIAMSBURG – The Hilltown Misfits 4-H Club met for its first meeting of the 4-H year and has many exciting events coming up.

The Hilltown Misfits is a 4-H club led by Sherry Whitmore and youth have projects in equine, rabbitry and crafts. They meet the second Sunday of the month at the Williamsburg Grange.

If people love horses they should come to the annual Hilltown Misfits 4-H Funday on Sunday, Oct. 27 at the Hampshire County Riding Club in Goshen at 10 a.m. The funday is a gymkhana, which is games on horses, like the barrel

and pole patterns seen at rodeos. The club will also be selling food as a fundraiser. This is a fun event to participate in or be a spectator.

Another fundraiser will take place on Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Williamsburg Congregational Church Fair from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The club will have a raffle table with five baskets. These include a breakfast basket, movie basket, harvest basket, warm and cozy basket, and finally a dinner date basket. Fundraisers help the club purchase supplies and host more workshops and events.

If people have any questions, they may email hilltownmisfits@gmail.com. They can also follow the 4-H club on Facebook.

Grange to hold potluck, program

WILLIAMSBURG – The Williamsburg Grange invites the public on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. for a program by Shannon Wade about the history and renovations to the Williamsburg Grange Hall.

Potluck dinner will take place at 6 p.m. All are welcome to this free program. It will take place at Grange Hall 10 Main St. People should use the side door entrance. For more information, people may call or text 413-896-3230.



Members of the Women’s Fellowship in front row Denise Banister and Sue Snow and in back row, Linda West, Louise Bacon and Daria D’Arienzo. Photo by Jenn Burdick Photography

WCC to hold annual fair

WILLIAMSBURG – The Williamsburg Congregational Church, 4 North Main St., will hold its annual church fair on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be tables by local vendors, attic finds and antiques, handmade candy and Cabot Cheese, homemade baked goods and a delicious lunch of homemade soups, breads and

pies. There will also be a raffle of the annual handmade queen sized quilt. Raffle tickets are \$5 each.

For vendor information and raffle tickets should call 413-268-7557 and leave a message or email burgy-church@gmail.com. They should remember to leave their name, phone number and email address.

CHESTER



Outside the gallery displays the old A&L Market awning. The building dates from 1800s and it has a marvelous brass door handle. Owner Annie Laurie plans to change the awning and post the gallery name outside.



This carved table has some ceramics and carvings. Paintings hang on the wall.
Turley photos by Deborah Daniels

New art gallery opens

By Deborah Daniels
Correspondent

CHESTER – The former A & L Market in Chester is now serving up paintings, carved art pieces, stonework, jewelry and more fine art.

There will be an opening reception Saturday, Nov. 2 from 2-5 p.m. and the public is welcome. The new gallery is called “A Reason to Pause” and welcomes all to come inside. The proprietor Annie Laurie grew up in Chester. She has a degree in visual art from Berkshire Community College and describes her-

self as a pastel artist, painting in oil. She has experience managing an art gallery in Pittsfield.

She is excited to offer a holiday show, which began Wednesday, Oct. 23 and features local artists. Some of the artists that will be featured are Scott Taylor, Robert Rombeiro, Daniel Delisle, Ellen Joffe, Ilene Richards, Robert Stone and Laurie’s work as well.

The following artisans will also be featured Paula Hogan, John Marge, Dale Rogers, Linda Briggs and George Marek, whose work includes woven baskets and wood carvings.



Annie Laurie is artist and gallery owner of “A Reason to Pause, which recently opened in the former A & L Market in Chester.

Hamilton Memorial Library list events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., is now fully open for business.

The renovated space is ready to welcome everyone back.

The library has two upcoming programs to help celebrate the Halloween spirit. Ronny Le Blanc from the shows “Expedition Bigfoot” and “Paranormal Caught on Camera” and author of the book, “Monsterland” will give a

spooky presentation on New England UFOs on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. in the Chester town hall auditorium.

The second event is for children on Thursday, Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. at the Hampden Park on Hampden Street, for a story walk sponsored by the Hilltown Family Center. Participants will follow the path through the park to see how the story unfolds then head over to the Hamilton Memorial Library for a fun

Halloween-themed craft.

Library programs are always free and RSVPs are appreciated. Library hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1-6 p.m. Thursdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 am.-1 p.m. People may visit www.hamilton-library.org.

The library can be reached by calling 413-354-7808, or emailing chester-library@gmail.com.

Snowflake Holiday Craft Fair to be held Nov. 2

CHESTER – The Snowflake Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2 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.



Hilltown Hikers host Sinister Saw on Oct. 26

CHESTER – The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers will host the Sinister Saw on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 4-8 p.m.

People should park at 10 Prospect Street and on Emery Street across from the ball field. From junction of Routes 20 and 102 in Lee, take Route 20 east and drive 18 miles to the Chester center, turn left onto Main Street and bear right onto Prospect Street under the railroad and turn right to continue on Emery Street to the parking lot across from the ball field. From Westfield take

Route 20 west to the center of Chester, turn right onto Main Street and under the underpass to Prospect Street. GPS 42.279570, -72.975155

This will be a spine tingling, jump out of your pants walk through the haunted woods to the Hilltown Hikers Granite Saw property. Volunteers will have a haunted trail complete with a 12-foot diameter cutting saw, real tombstones, haunted gags, bloody ghouls, skin crawling sounds, zombies and more.

No registration is necessary, all

are welcome. No dogs are allowed. Donations are welcome to support the historical renovations to the Chester Granite Saw. People should wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for uneven ground. The Chester Rail station across the street will be open for children’s events, snacks and a bonfire. More details are available by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com.

People may email western-masshilltownhikers@aol.com or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions.

WORTHINGTON



These youngsters and adults line up by the fence at the newly restored Ball Field in Worthington.

Photos by Charley Rose

Families enjoy a game of kick ball

WORTHINGTON – Ball Field Restoration work done was done on Saturday, Aug. 17 by the Worthington Rec Committee and the Open House Kickball event was held on Oct. 4.



Attendees of the Open house play kick ball at the Open House held on Friday, Oct. 4.

Town clerk lists election info

WORTHINGTON – The last day to register to vote in the Tuesday, Nov. 5 election is Saturday, Oct. 26.

Voter registration forms are available at the Town Hall in the Town Clerk's Office.

Early in person voting hours are Thursday, Oct. 24 and Friday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 28; Tuesday, Oct. 29; Thursday, Oct. 31 and Friday, Nov. 1 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Town Hall in the Town Clerk's Office.

Polls on Tuesday, Nov. 5 will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. People may call 413-238-5577, extension 110 or email townclerk@worthington-ma.us.

WESTFIELD

First United Methodist Church to hold great fall family event Oct. 26

WESTFIELD – The First United Methodist Church, 16 Court St., will hold a great fall family event on Saturday, Oct. 26 at 5 p.m.

People will enjoy soup and crust bread while listening to music

by the "Old Country Road. All are welcome. A free will offering will be taken. People should RSVP to KelseyLou512-gmail.com or call church office at 413-568-5818 for more information.

Alzheimer's Support Group meets Oct. 30

WESTFIELD – Alzheimer's Association Support Group will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. in Armbrook Village Senior Living Support Community, 551 North Road.

Caregivers and family members are invited to enjoy a light dinner and to share their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with their loved ones. The public is welcome. To join this group, people may call 413-568-0000 or email reception@armbrookvillage.com. Groups are held the last Wednesday of the month.

Town holds Halloween events

WORTHINGTON – The costume parade will be held Saturday, Oct. 26 starting at 4 p.m. at the Worthington Fire Station and marching to R.H. Conwell Elementary School

Trick or treating will begin after the parade and ending no later than 8:30 p.m. The Maples will be distributing candy again this year. The Hilltown Community Ambulance will also be distributing candy in the Town Center. The annual Halloween Party will be from 6-8 p.m. at the Town Hall. There will be a DJ, light refreshments and drinks.

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS \$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIB EYE STEAKS \$8.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH WHOLE CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN AT SEA TILAPIA FILLETS \$3.33 lb
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GOSHEN

Pizza and Dance Party raises over \$1,000

GOSHEN – People who travel on Route 9 in Goshen on Saturday, Oct. 5 between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m. may have wondered about the festive lights and the propulsive rhythms of ABBA's "Dancing Queen" emanating out of the recently restored windows of the Town Hall.

Goshen held a successful and fun fundraiser in support of two important renovation projects: Re-imagine Goshen Center and the historic Williams-Boltwood Project.

The Goshen Open Space Committee is spearheading the multiyear Reimagine Goshen Center initiative, which includes renovations and improvements to Memorial Park and the town green. The mission of the initiative is "To create a vibrant town center that provides a recreational, cultural, and social gathering place that welcomes people of all ages and abilities, to promote community pride through beautification of our town center, and to provide a landscape to encourage physical activity and social gatherings."

The ongoing capital campaign is aiming to raise \$20,000 for this endeavor. To date, they have raised \$2,600 from both public and private sources. Lorraine Brisson, a member of the Open Space Committee and the driving force behind the project, describes Saturday's event as an "opportunity to respond to the many questions/inquiries about the



People enjoy the last dance at the Pizza and Dance Party held Saturday, Oct. 5 in the Goshen Town Hall.

Submitted photography

project from members of the community." "People are really excited about the project. They are eager for these opportunities to get together as neighbors and to build a stronger sense of community," says Melanie Dana, a 20-year veteran member of the Goshen Open Space Committee. A robust outreach effort continues, and if people would like to learn more about it email at reimaginesgoshen01032@gmail.com

reimaginesgoshen01032@gmail.com.

The Williams-Boltwood Project is working to restore a landmark built before Goshen was incorporated as a town and even before Washington was president. It was the town's first meeting house, a tavern, store, inn, school, church house, and stagecoach stop, first post office and a boarding house. After structural repairs are complete, the project will restore the site to be a

historically accurate economic and cultural venue. We will re-open the store for local artists, create community meeting and event space in the parlors and tavern, and co-working office space for local business owners. Bob Labrie, project treasurer notes, "Right now we need funds to repair water damage to the northeast corner of the building. This is expensive and will require grant funding or some very wealthy donors. But community involvement is equally important. Events such as tonight are important to let everyone in the community know what is happening behind the scenes. For a small-town Goshen has some big and exciting projects in process." Kam Osborne, project director states, "We have a monumental task ahead of us, but its history is much too important to let go. I challenge anyone to find another example of something this historically rich under one roof." To learn more about the Williams-Boltwood Project and how you can get involved, people may visit williamsboltwood.com or email WBHouseTrust@gmail.com

Saturday's event drew over 50 people, including State Representative Lindsey Sabadosa. Attendees enjoyed pizza, community, conversation, dance, plenty of raffle items and the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting the town's future. The event raised \$1,200.



Kam Osborne stirs stone soup and Robin Langer holds the ladle. Richard Ballon and Mel Lamere are in the background.

Submitted photos

HISTORICAL

from page 1

and the scarecrows comical.

The Williams-Boltwood Project is working diligently to restore the historical property at 2 Williams Drive. The project has accomplished an amazing amount of work since the project acquired the property two years ago: thanks to the amazing support from over 100 volunteers and supporters from local hilltown communities. This one property is where the town of Goshen was formed during the Revolutionary War. It also served as Goshen's first school house, first Baptist church house, mercantile, tavern, inn, stage-coach stop, first post office and a boarding house.

The 19-room building truly is a microcosm of how new towns were created in early New England. As Kam Osborne, program director states, "It is a history that is much, much too important to ignore." All efforts are currently directed at saving the building structurally and restoring it in a historically accurate manner. Once restored, the building will be returned to the Hilltown communities to use as a consignment

store for local artists, open "tavern" room for cultural events, meeting space for local community groups, co-working office space for local business owners and a one bedroom apartment. The project is completely volunteer driven and always looking for new volunteers to visit the site and get involved.

The project's final monthly work party of the year will be Saturday, Oct 26 from 9 a.m.-noon. Interested individuals are encouraged to stop by and explore what the project is doing.

On Saturday, Nov. 30 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. the section of the building that once served in the 1800s as the only store for miles will be "open for business" with gently used Christmas decorations, coats, sweaters, gift items and winter items such as sleds and snowshoes available for sale. Please stop by to kick off your holiday shopping and see this beautiful historical site.

For more information, people may visit www.WilliamsCorner.com. If they would like to volunteer or visit the house, they may email WBHouseTrust@gmail.com.



Eric Berube and Betsy Wassamann are shown with a scarecrow in period dress clothing.

Trunk or Treat set for Oct. 31

GOSHEN – All are invited to Trunk or Treat at the town parking lot, Main Street, with Rag Shag kickoff from the Fire Department at 6 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded for best costume and best decorated car. There will be games at the church as well as the trunk or treating in the town parking lot. Businesses are invited to bring a car or truck to advertise their business and pass out candy. This is also a great volunteer idea for high school seniors. There is no fee to participate. People may call Jess at 413-570-6130 with questions.



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OTIS

Sirens to perform at Notice Otis cultural event

OTIS – The Otis Historical Commission and Otis Preservation Trust will host the second Notice Otis cultural event of the 2024-25 year, featuring The Sirens musical trio, performing live in person on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. in Otis Town Hall.

A question and answer session will follow the talk. Admission is free, but pre-registration is required. To register to attend this in person only event or for more information, people may visit www.otispreservationtrust.com or www.townofotisma.com. There is no charge to attend this event but pre-registration is required. Donations are welcome.

The Sirens are three powerhouse women of song: legendary performer Wanda Houston, talented guitarist and solo artist Elizabeth Berliner and gifted singer/songwriter and comedienne Liv Cummins. These magical muses combine to seduce audiences with gorgeous voices



The Sirens, a musical trio, will perform live at the second Notice Otis cultural even on Thursday, NOV. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Otis Town Hall.

Submitted photo

and enticing harmonies with catchy melodies and clever, heartfelt lyrics of Sandy McKnight's original pop songs, with a little folk, rock, jazzy blues, bluesy jazz and

country thrown in the mix.

Sandy McKnight, band creator and guiding light, was a 50-year veteran in the music business: songwriter, bass play-

er, producer, and solo artist. He toured with multiple bands including The Truants and Numbers; worked with notable artists including Dennis Diken (Smithereens), Todd Rundgren, Earl Slick, Graham Maby and '80s TV legend John Davidson. McKnight created the three-woman group to show off their powerhouse voices and his melodic, heartfelt songs through catchy hooks, clever lyrics and tight, juicy harmonies, along with a fun, joyous spirit.

Otis Preservation Trust works with the Otis Historical Commission to organize and preserve the history and heritage of Otis for future generations by supporting efforts to preserve, restore, repurpose and educate about buildings, monuments, lands and memorabilia of Otis. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Prescription drug take back happens Oct. 26

OTIS – The Otis Police Department, 1 North Main Road, will hold a national prescription drug take back sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration

on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Police Department.

People may visit DEATakeBack.com for more information.

BECKET

Becket Day happens Nov. 2

BECKET – The community, businesses and organizations of Becket are throwing a spectacular second annual Becket Day bash on Saturday, Nov. 2.

This day-long festival, originally brought to life by the Becket Arts Center, Dream Away Lodge, Neon Newt and Route 8 Pub, is all about showcasing the spirit of this town. With an influx of talented artists and makers in recent years, alongside the well-loved Becket Arts Center and cherished local spots like the Dream Away Lodge, Route 8 Pub, Sherwood Shoppe, Neon Newt, Himalayan High, plus the brand-new Becket Country Store, there's so

much to explore and enjoy.

Participating businesses and organizations include: Becket Arts Center open noon-6 p.m., Becket Athenaeum from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Becket Country Store 8 a.m.-7 p.m., The Dream Away Lodge 5 p.m. to late, Himalayan High 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Neon Newt 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Route 8 Pub noon-9 p.m. and Sherwood Shoppe 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

At Becket Athenaeum story time is at 10:30 a.m. Children will hear "The Breakdancing Bear in Becket" written and illustrated by Becket and Washington children. There will be free take home craft kits while supplies last.

COA hosts presentation on BRTA senior medical transportation

BECKET – The Becket Council on Aging is hosting a presentation on this medical transportation for seniors pilot program with Berkshire Regional Transit Authority on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 10-11 a.m. in the Becket Town Hall Community Room.

All are welcome to attend.

To qualify for this program, the individual must be 60 years plus and

living in one of the following rural areas: Alford, Becket, Clarksburg, Florida, Hancock, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Ashford, Otis, Richmond, Savoy, Washington and Windsor.

Coffee and pastries will be served. People should RSVP by calling Paula Bergeron, COA Director at 413-623-8934 extension 127.

Becket Arts Center lists events

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will hold a silent auction now through Saturday, Nov. 2.

Silent auction items to bid include: earrings by Liesl Carlson, pottery by Barbara Patton, maple bowl by Lou Wallach, gift basket from BAC Gift Shop, Becket swag for Pease Store, blueberry products from Drowsy Dragon and more. One hundred percent of proceeds go to the Becket Arts Center.

and more Bidding closes Nov. 2 at the Members Showcase and Talent Show.

Items up for auction are on display in our art lounge. Now through Thursday, Oct. 31, Katherine Oakes' spooky illustrations will be on display in the art lounge.

Holiday Arts and Crafts Marketplace will take place Saturday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Over 25 local crafters, artists and more will be there. The marketplace event supports local artists, crafters and bakers. It is free and open to the public. People may also tour the galleries.

AmVets to hold breakfast

OTIS – AmVets Post 77 will be having a Veterans pancake breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 10 from 8-11 a.m. at Farmington River Regional Elementary School, Route 8.

Cost is \$5; veterans eat free. Last year over 100 were served pancakes and sausage. Thanks to school for hosting this event every year.



MIDDLEFIELD

MCC holds monthly service

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Congregational Church, 167 Skyline Trail, will be holding their monthly Church Service on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 5 p.m.

The chief cook and bottle washer will not be available that day, so there

will be no dinner after the service. The church also plans on having a few activities being held in the Sanctuary during the month of December. The culmination will be the Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 t 4 p.m., which hasn't been held since Covid. All are welcome.

Town Clerk announces voting information

MIDDLEFIELD – Early Voting is taking place at the Middlefield Town Hall on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9-11 a.m. and again from 3-5 p.m.

This is also the last day to register to vote for the Tuesday, Nov. 5 election and people may register to vote during that time. Early voting will also take place on Monday, Oct. 28 from 1-6 p.m. at the Middlefield Town Hall. In-person voting is Election Day Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Middlefield Town Hall.

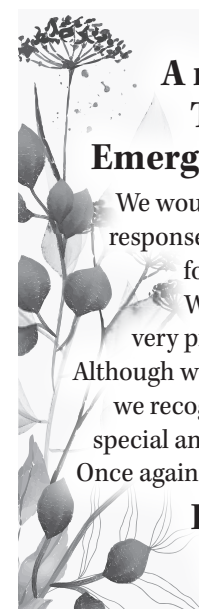
Middlefield Council on Aging announces menu

MIDDLEFIELD – The Middlefield Council on Aging will serve lunch in the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at noon. The menu is eat in or take out. The choice is cheese lasagna or shepherd's pie, spinach and onions and a dinner roll. Dessert is cake.

People should call 413-623-9990 to reserve a meal the previous Monday, Oct. 28 by noon. Suggest donation is \$3.

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.



A note of Thanks to The Middlefield Emergency Response Team.

We would like to thank you all for the response to our home on Chipman Rd. for a Medical emergency. We found all of you to be very professional, caring and kind. Although we don't know all of you personally, we recognize your faces as part of our special and beautiful town of Middlefield. Once again we would like to thank all of you.

**Baker Family of
Chipman Rd.**

PITTSFIELD

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. hosts 'Art of Food' show

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and Framework will feature a new exhibition entitled the "Art of Food," Friday, Nov. 1 to Wednesday, Nov. 27, at Framework by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., 437 North St.

"Art of Food" will exhibit paintings, mixed media, photography and even a LEGO® sculpture that fit the broad theme of food. The exhibit is being held to benefit the Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.

Thankful Food Drive running Friday, Nov. 1 through Saturday, Nov. 30 in downtown locations to be announced. Donations of non-perishable food items collected will benefit the South Community Food Pantry and St. Joseph's Church Food Pantry. Artists have agreed to donate 10% percent or more of the purchase price of their artwork to the Thankful Food Drive.

Artists include Christian Barry,

Diane Firtell, Erin Laundry, Jenifer Fuore, Keith Emerling, Kristen Tool, Lisa Ostellino, Michael Coyne, Peter Vacchina, Ronan Chris Murphy, Sally Tiska Rice, Sharon Wallerius, Susan Geller, Tatyana Lisser and Xyl Lasersohn.

There will be an Opening Reception with the artists on Friday, Nov. 1 from 5-8 p.m. and the show will be on view Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-

2 p.m. and closed Monday, Nov. 11 by visiting the Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. offices at 431 North St..

Those attending the Opening Reception are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food or cash donation to kick off the Thankful Food Drive. Those that bring a donation to the reception will receive a free gift. For more information, people may call Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. at 413-443-6501.

WESTHAMPTON

Household hazardous waste collection Oct. 19

WESTHAMPTON – Residents are reminded that, as a participant in the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, Westhampton will be hosting a household hazardous waste collections this coming Saturday, Oct. 19 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Transfer Station.

The FCSWM District has agreements with towns in the Pioneer Valley, which allow residents to participate at their events. In all cases, pre-registra-

tion is required and space may be limited.

To pre-register for the Franklin County Solid Waste District's October collection should register at franklin-countywastdistrict.org or complete and mail a flyer form found at town halls and transfer stations. Phone registration is not accepted. To participate in a collection outside of Franklin County, people may call Jan at the Solid Waste District at 413-772-2438.

CUMMINGTON

Friday Night Cafe set for Oct. 25

CUMMINGTON – Sean and Heather have been singing together for more than 30 years and they will perform Friday, Oct. 25 from 7-9 p.m. at the Village Church, in downtown Cummington in the heart of the Cummington Cultural District

Their performances are driven by their eclectic taste and their enduring love of vocal harmony. Their October Café show will be a family affair, featuring a full evening of three-part harmony and more with their child, Lou Kimball and a special guest or two.

The event is free; donations are appreciated. Snacks are provided; bring

your own drinks. The show will take place in the intimate Vestry space. Masks are welcome and encouraged. This is once again 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.

FLORENCE

Florence Bank sponsors Cancer Connection's dinner, silent auction

FLORENCE – The Florence Bank recently sponsored Cancer Connection's 2024 Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction with a \$7,000 gift to support the organization that serves as a haven for people with a cancer diagnosis and their caregivers.

"We're on track to reach our \$40,000 goal, thanks in large part to Florence Bank and its generous sponsorship," said Chelsea Kline, executive director at the Cancer Connection. The nonprofit offers a broad range of free services. Founded in 2000, it will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2025.

"The people we serve tend to be isolated and they have a lot of emotions and don't necessarily have a safe outlet for them," Kline said. "They can come to us when they're feeling overwhelmed, scared and having all these emotions that go along with a cancer diagnosis and be in community here. This is a place to

find strength."

Cancer Connection programs include therapies such as massage, acupuncture and reiki; support groups for those living with a cancer diagnosis and their caregivers; one-one-one emotional support with trained befrienders on staff, who hold confidential conversations with caregivers and people with a diagnosis on Zoom or in person.

"We have space for laughter and jokes and processing grief. That's what's so special about this community here," Kline said, noting there are groups for young adults, those living with a breast cancer diagnosis, men only and those for caregivers and families.

Florence Bank President and CEO Matt Garrity said, "We are honored to support an organization that provides comfort to those enduring a cancer diagnosis in our midst. That we can help them gives our bank community a sense

of comfort as well."

The Cancer Connection serves about 350 people per month through weekly programs, special workshops and its integrative services and roughly 170 individual sessions via email, calls or visits.

The annual Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction was held Oct. 17 in Amherst. The event is one of Cancer Connection's largest fundraisers.

Shelley Daughdrill, Florence Bank's retail banking director / senior vice president of retail administration and Emily Tower, vice president and main office branch manager, serve on the Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction committees.

"All money raised from the event funds our services and programs and keeps them free of charge and accessible to all," Kline said.

Florence Bank has sponsored the Harvest Dinner for over 10 years, and the Cancer Connection has been a yearly

Customers' Choice grant recipient since 2011.

"The bank has been incredible to us," said Kline. I love that their Customers' Choice event celebrates the work of nonprofits and bring individuals together. The bank is very supportive of our work.

"The bank feels like a place that recognizes the community," she added. "It's so comforting to bank locally."

For information on programs, support services and special events, people may visit cancer-connection.org. To learn more about Florence Bank, people may visit FlorenceBank.com.

Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield and Springfield.

GREAT BARRINGTON

Virtual tour of Jewish Museum

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, Nov. 10 at 4 p.m. Congregation Ahavath Sholom will hold a virtual tour from the New York Jewish Museum, led by renowned lecturer, Rena Tobey.

The fee is \$25 for Congregation Ahavath Sholom Members and \$30 for non-members. People should visit www.ahavathsholom.com or call 413-528-4197 for reservations. This latest tour, titled "Tissot and the Hebrew Bible," showcases original designs by the French painter James Tissot (1836-1902) from a collection of over 350 paintings depicting stories from the Hebrew Bible.

Tissot's watercolor illustrations cover all the books from Genesis to the Prophets and are highly cherished in the Jewish Museum's col-

lection. These illustrations, presented as cinematic vignettes, have had a significant influence on popular culture for many years.

After receiving great praise for his illustrations of the Christian Bible, Tissot embarked on a project to illustrate the Hebrew Bible. In 1896, he visited Palestine multiple times to seek inspiration, immersing himself in the landscapes relevant to the biblical stories to ensure historical accuracy in his illustrations.

Tragically, Tissot passed away suddenly in 1902 while working on the project. His studio artists continued the series, either completing his unfinished works or creating new pieces in his style. This tour delves into the captivating story of how these illustrations found their way into the Jewish Museum's collection.

EASTHAMPTON

Christmas tree tradition continues

EASTHAMPTON – The tradition of selling Christmas trees in downtown Easthampton lives on thanks to the Easthampton Congregational Church, corner of Main and Union Streets.

For many years, various civic organizations, most recently the Kiwanis Club, sold Christmas trees at the Easthampton rotary. This year, for the fourth year in a row, the church is proud to carry on the tradition. Sales now take place on the church grounds at the corner on Main and Union Streets.

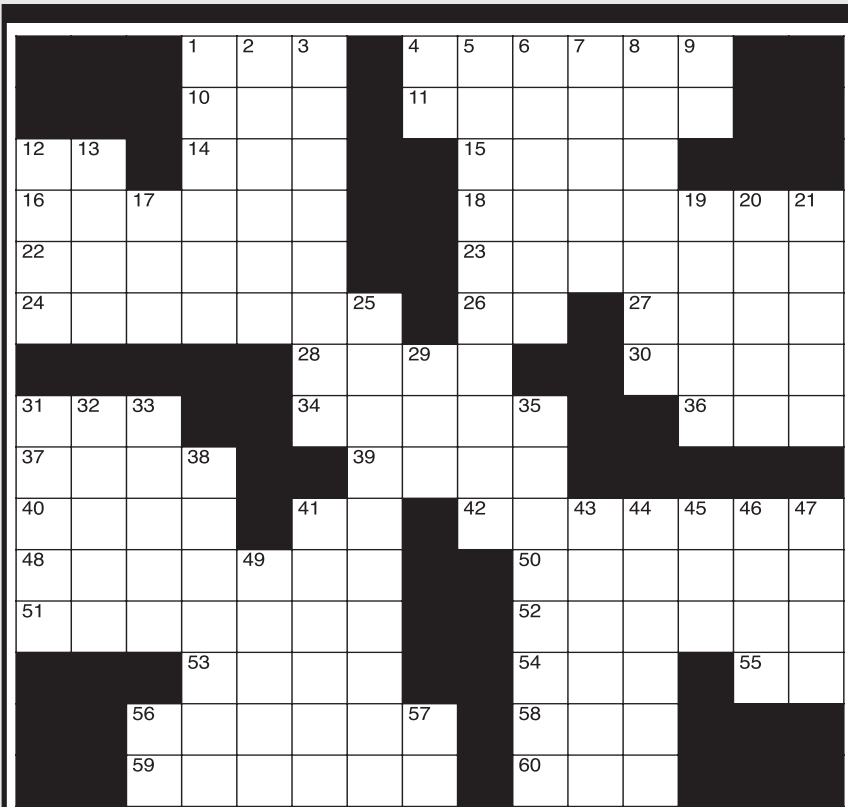
The trees, freshly cut at a family run farm in New Hampshire, include Fraser Fir and Balsam varieties. Not only are the trees pesticide free, making them safe for households, but they are recyclable. Fun Fact: Goats love eating Christmas trees. According to church member Neil Fairman, sales will begin on Black Friday, Nov. 29 with a special promotion

of \$5 off any tree.

Santa is coming to the Easthampton Congregational church on Saturday, Nov. 30 from noon-3 p.m. He will be in the courtyard of the Christmas tree lot. Children may visit with Santa and pictures may be taken as well.

Reverend Sherry Tucker is the Pastor of Easthampton Congregational Church, an open and affirming church. According to Tucker, "When folks purchase a tree from the church, they can feel good that their dollars will go towards supporting our church's mission of helping others in the community. The church is grateful for the Easthampton community's support in past years. We are pleased that we can again offer quality trees at a competitive price. We hope all people enjoy a meaningful holiday season."

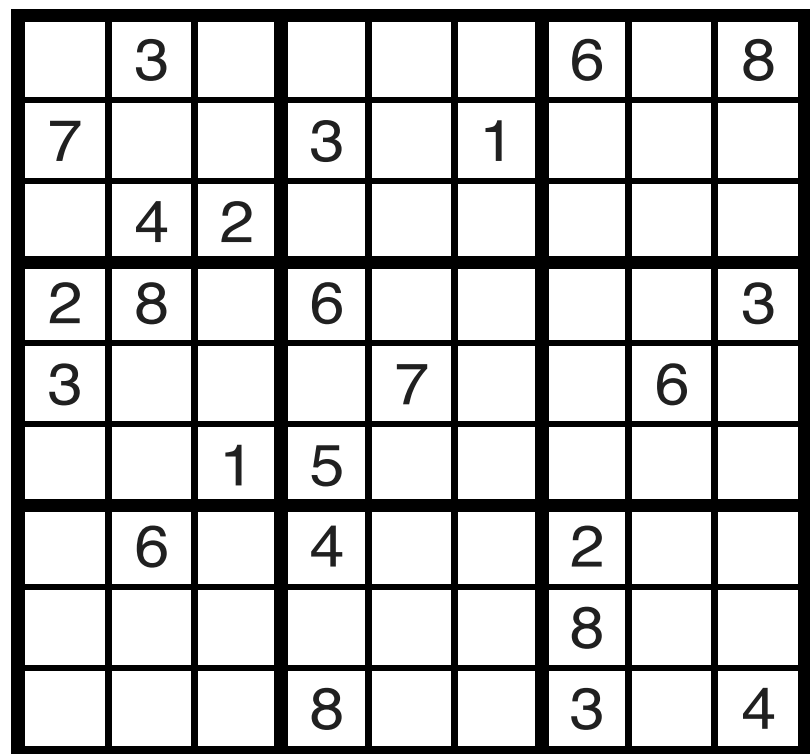
If people have any questions, they may call Mona at 413 531 4230.



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. "60 Minutes" network
 4. Train line
 10. Go quickly
 11. Straightforward
 12. Canadian province
 14. At any rate (abbr.)
 15. Genealogy
 16. Make changes
 18. Utter repeatedly
 22. In a way, turned up
 23. Type of ship
 24. Agents of one's downfall
 26. Not out
 27. Something to scratch
 28. Round water pot
 30. Refreshing green fruit (slang)
 31. Promotions
 34. Primordial matters
 36. One-time world power (abbr.)
 37. Source of illumination
 39. The content of cognition
 40. An Arab ruler
 41. South Dakota
 42. Gnawed at with teeth
 48. Hawaiian island
 50. Smaller
 51. Of a single person
 52. Rigid bracelet
 53. Barbary sheep (Fr.)
 54. Not even
 55. Specific gravity
 56. Engage in petty bargaining
 58. Boxing's "GOAT"
 59. Split between parties
 60. Notable offensive
- CLUES DOWN**
1. A place to lounge
 2. Skewed views
 3. Peacefully
 4. Commercial
 5. Auxiliary forces
 6. Large mollusk
 7. Take out again
 8. Sharp and forthright
 9. Knight (chess)
 12. Source of fiber
 13. Flesh covering some birds' beaks
 17. Energy
 19. Night monkeys genus
 20. Small, sharp nails
 21. Pleasant-smelling liquid
 25. Affirms one's hold
 29. CNN's founder
 31. Texans can't forget it
 32. "Oppenheimer" actor Matt
 33. Expression
 35. Vessel
 38. Lacking poetic beauty
 41. Tall, swift and slender dog
 43. Sports personality Michelle
 44. Robber
 45. Liquefied natural gas
 46. Snakelike fishes
 47. The most worthless part of something
 49. City in Crimea
 56. Bad grades
 57. Reichsmark

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

- ARIES**
Mar 21/Apr 20
You'll feel a strong urge to take initiative, especially in areas related to your career or personal projects, Aries. However, be careful to avoid over-extending yourself.
- CANCER**
Jun 22/Jul 22
You may find yourself reevaluating your work-life balance, Cancer. It's a good time to establish healthy habits and set realistic goals for self-improvement.
- LIBRA**
Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, engage in activities that stimulate your mind and encourage personal growth. Pick up a new skill or engage in thought-provoking conversations with loved ones.
- CAPRICORN**
Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, set aside time this week to work on personal goals and address any unresolved issues. Quiet activities and solitude can provide valuable insights and inform your next steps.
- TAURUS**
Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you might find yourself evaluating your spending habits or considering new ways to increase your income. It's a good time for financial planning and budgeting.
- LEO**
Jul 23/Aug 23
Romantic relationships may experience a boost this week, so it's a great time for connection and fun, Leo. Just be mindful of avoiding overindulgence and don't stray from your principles.
- SCORPIO**
Oct 24/Nov 22
Explore your deeper values and how they align with your financial goals. Embrace this opportunity to make strategic decisions that will benefit you in the long run.
- AQUARIUS**
Jan 21/Feb 18
You may find yourself drawn to group activities or collaborative projects, Aquarius. It can be challenging to cede control, but you can learn from others as you go along.
- GEMINI**
May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, be open to new information and perspectives, as they could lead to valuable insights. Social interactions may be particularly rewarding, so make time for friends.
- VIRGO**
Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, it's a good week for practical projects that enhance your daily life. Think about what you can change around the house to be more efficient with your actions and time.
- SAGITTARIUS**
Nov 23/Dec 21
Personal goals and self-improvement are on your mind this week, Sagittarius. You may feel a surge of motivation to pursue your ambitions or start new projects.
- PISCES**
Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you might feel a stronger sense of responsibility in your work if you switch up your tasks. If you feel the work is getting stale, figure out what you can change.



SUDOKU

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

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Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

ROOFING

JENKINS ROOFING specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - **413-566-5596/413-433-5073**. Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

SERVICES

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374**.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack **413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994**

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**.

HELP WANTED

CAR DRIVER WANTED
Lizak Bus Service
413-436-5262
Apply Now

FLEXIBLE HOURS, decent pay & tips, healthy physical exercise, learn to move furniture and pianos correctly. Jimmy Burgoff Moving & Hauling, Belchertown. **413-256-6800**.

JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER WANTED. Excellent pay & benefits. Must be licensed in MA. Pioneer Plumbing **413-623-5911** or **pioneerinoffice@gmail.com**.

PART TIME SNOW PLOW DRIVERS NEEDED

Part time snow plow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2024-2025 season. Positions available for both CDL (\$30/hr) and non-CDL License (\$25/hr). If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at **(508) 867-2451** or email **hwy-secretary@newbraintree.org**.

SHORT ORDER COOK, breakfast/lunch. John's Corner in Ludlow. Call John **413-537-2455**.

WARREN WATER DISTRICT is hiring for part-time office help. Please apply in person at **988 Main St., Warren 413-436-9819**. EOE.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

AGAWAM on Main St. 2000 sq. ft. professional building, will sub-divide. Call **413-348-3418**.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

Classified Advertising DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**

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

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Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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GREAT VALUE!
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

REGION

Rays of Hope Walk & Run takes place Oct. 27

SPRINGFIELD – Bringing more than \$17.2 million over 30 years to western Massachusetts in support of breast cancer care, research, and education, the Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer will once again



welcome supporters to hit the pavement on Sunday, Oct. 27, beginning at Temple Beth El in Springfield.

Hyundai Hope on Wheels is this year's presenting sponsor of the 2024 Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer. Over the years, all money raised remains local to assist individuals and their families affected by breast cancer. Baystate Health Foundation administers the funds which support treatment, breast health programs, outreach and education, the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment through the Baystate Health Breast Network, as well as support for the Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research. Rays of Hope also provides grants to various community programs throughout western Massachusetts, who promote whole body wellness of survivors.

There is still time to register to walk or run at baystatehealth.org/raysofhope. Participants can choose to register as an individual or start a team, then create their own personal webpage to assist them in their fundraising efforts. While there is no minimum donation to participate, participants are required to raise at least \$50 to be eligible to receive a 2024 Rays of Hope participant t-shirt. As in the past, the Rays of Hope BIG WIG program offers special "big wig" status to those raising \$1,000 or more online only by credit card.

Check-in for the Run Toward the Cure will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the race will take off at 8:30 a.m. Walker registration will open at 9 a.m. and the Walk Toward the Cure steps off at 10:30 a.m. Buses begin operating at 7:30 a.m. for runners and at 8:30 a.m. for walkers to shuttle them to Temple Beth El.

Parking for runners is only at Springfield Elks Lodge at 440 Tiffany St. in Springfield. Parking for walkers is at Blueberry Hill Elementary School, Cartamundi, East Longmeadow High School, Longmeadow High School, and Maybury Material Handling. More details on parking can be found at baystatehealth.org/raysofhope.

The Rays of Hope Merchandise Store will be open to offer the latest swag for sale. All Baystate Health entities are now cashless, including the Rays of Hope Merchandise Store, which will be accepting credit cards and Venmo transactions at the event.

For more information about this year's Rays of Hope Walk and Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer, held rain or shine, people may call 413-794-8001 or visit baystatehealth.org/raysofhope.

PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF: Beaufort
IN THE MATTER OF:
THE ESTATE OF
Kenneth E. Gagne
(Decedent)

Frampton L. Harper, II, Esquire
Frampton L. Harper, II, Esquire, as Special Administrator of the Estate of Kenneth E. Gagne, deceased,
Petitioner

vs.

Unknown or Unascertained heirs or devisees of the Estate of Kenneth E. Gagne, deceased;

Alice M. Nye; Arthur L. Gagne, Jr.; Clyde J. Gagne; Blanche R. Smith; Donald V. Berube; Remi F. Berube; Edmund J. Cunningham, III; Debra Ruth Gagne; Teresa Ann Gagne Novotny; Chad Gagne; Jeremy J. Gagne; Lisa M. Gagne Holm; Christy A. Gagne; Annette L. Gagne Horan; Zachary J. Lyman; Kaitlyn M. Paradee; Macala D. Paradee; Casandra S. Paradee; Robert Charles Gagne, Jr.; Madeleine H. Patterson Fernandes; Ruth May Cooper Troupe; Daniel C. Patterson; John Ruth; Linda L. Ruth Steiner; Diane Ruth Benedict; Carol M. Boyd Marechal; Dolores F. Chisholm; Lisa Mary Specht Niles; David L. Specht; Donald K. Wass; Betty M. Ashnault; Lincoln M. Specht, Jr.; Marilyn Ann Specht Clarke; Valerie Brady MacNeill; Michael Cooper; Deana Cooper; Bruce N. Cooper; Tammy L. Butler Schieber; Steven Parriert; Natalie Parriert Mills; Steven J. Ruth; Cheryl K. Ruth Brooks; Todd A. Boyd; Christopher A. Boyd; Gary Reese; Joy Irene Reese Affolter; Jill Reese Lindeman; Richard Bruce Reese; James Campbell Tennant, III; David A. Suggs; William E. Suggs; Sherri Lynn Suggs White Baker; Elizabeth Anne Tennant McClelland; Deborah L. Collins Hamblton; Francis Richard Collins, Jr.; Steven J. Wetmore; Patricia L. Wetmore; Lesley Gayle Wormell Dewey Pugsley; Ronald L. Wormell; Peter M. Wormell; Paula Marie Ashnault Burgess; Sherry L. Ashnault Smith; David M. Sprague; Susan M. Davis Roselund; Robert L.

Brown; Gary L. Brown; Carolyn Lois Brown Barboza; Peggy Ann Pratt; Marilyn Ann Pratt Trucchi; Lois Bartlett Pratt Medeiros; Carol Jean Pratt Helides; Susan P. Pratt; Richard L. Pratt; Karen Lynn Pratt Cosgrove Rioux; Jennifer P. Pratt Lewis; Joanne E. Pratt Williams; Julie Ann Pratt Plass; Janice L. Pratt Rezendes; Dianne M. Churchill Keeley; Robert D. Churchill; Alisa Churchill Akkaraju; Christina A. Churchill; Richard M. Churchill; Susan A. Churchill Giacalone; Stephen G. Churchill; Robert W. Churchill, Jr.; Mary Ellen Churchill McKillop; Paul M. Churchill; Jeffrey A. Churchill; Gerald W. Churchill; Carol Anne Churchill Capello; William F. DeRusha; Kenneth D. DeRusha; Martin K. DeRusha; Lynda D.S. Batson; Kristen O. Simms; Paul E. Simms; James A. Dean, Jr.; Russell D. Kuhlman; Richard C. Kuhlman; and Rodney A. Kuhlman, Jr.,
Respondent(s)

SUMMONS
TO THE RESPONDENT(S)
ABOVE-NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Petition herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to this Petition upon the petitioner, at the address shown below, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Petition, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

NOTICE OF HEARING
TO THE RESPONDENTS ABOVE-NAMED:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 2:00 o'clock, p.m. at the Beaufort County Probate Court, 102 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina 29902, for the purpose of determining the heirs-at-law of Kenneth E. Gagne (hereinafter, the "Decedent"). This action was commenced by the Petitioner on February 23, 2023, at the Beaufort County Probate Court to have the Probate Court declare the

heirs-at-law of the Decedent upon his death on or about August 22, 2018. Any objections to the Petitioner's right to commence this action, as to the owners of any property, real or otherwise, that was owned by the Decedent at the time of his death, or to Petitioner's prayer for relief declaring the heirs-at-law of the Decedent must be filed with the Beaufort County Probate Court on or before **Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 2:00 o'clock, p.m.**, or advanced in person at the scheduled hearing.

NOTICE TO
RESPONDENTS
TO THE RESPONDENTS ABOVE-NAMED:

And to any thereof that may be residents or non-residents of South Carolina, and to the natural, general, testamentary or other guardians thereof, and to the persons with whom they reside or by whom they may be employed, if any there be, and to all other Respondents whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained.

TAKE NOTICE, that the Summons and Petition were filed in the Office of the Probate Court for Beaufort County, South Carolina on February 23, 2023; that the Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem was filed in the Office of the Probate Court for Beaufort County, South Carolina on August 23, 2021 and Order of Publication was filed in the Office of the Probate Court for Beaufort County, South Carolina on October 7, 2024; that on August 23, 2021, Caitlin C. Reed, Esquire of 99 Main Street, Suite 103, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, 29926, was appointed Guardian ad Litem, her appointment to become absolute twenty (20) days after the service of the Summons; and Notice to Respondents was filed in the Office of the Probate Court for Beaufort County, South Carolina on October 8, 2024.

RUFF & RUFF, LLC
Harley D. Ruff
(SC Bar # 64284)
17 Professional Village
Circle
Beaufort, South Carolina
29907
Telephone: (843) 524-5400
Fax: (843) 524-5401
Email: hruff@ruffllc.com
ATTORNEY FOR
PETITIONER

Beaufort, South Carolina
October 8, 2024

10/24, 10/31, 11/07/2024

**Town of Blandford
Conservation
Commission
Public Notice**

At its regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday, October 28th, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road**, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a Ecological Restoration Notice of Intent (NOI) received from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC). The SWSC is submitting an NOI for the removal of a culvert and restoration of an intermittent stream and bordering vegetated wetlands located off of North Lane, Blandford, MA 01008

The Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended).

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

Nicolas Pietroniro,
Conservation Agent
Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission
10/24/2024

**Gateway Regional
School District
Invitation to Bid
School Transportation**

The Gateway Regional District School Committee of Massachusetts will receive sealed bids for furnishing school bus transportation of students to and from Chester Elementary, Littleville Elementary, and the Gateway Main Complex for a five (5) year contract.

Contract documents, including specifications dated October 22, 2024, may be obtained at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050 after 2 p.m. on October 22, 2024. Town maps, school locations, and all other information are available for your study

at the School Business Department offices.

Each bid should be submitted on the bid form furnished in the specifications and addressed to the Gateway Regional School District, Attention: Stephanie Fisk, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA. Bid package must be received no later than 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, Thursday, November 21, 2024, in Room 112 (Distance Learning Room), at the Gateway Complex, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, Massachusetts, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. All bids received by fax or by electronic mail will not be considered.

If, at the time of the scheduled bid opening, the Gateway District is closed due to uncontrolled events such as fire, snow, ice, wind, or building evacuation, the bid due date will be postponed until 1:00 p.m. on the next normal business day. Bids will be accepted until that date and time. In the event of inclement weather, etc. the Bidder is responsible for listening to the media to determine if the District has been closed.

The bids on the contract signed with the name and address of the bidder must be submitted together in a sealed envelope that is plainly marked in the lower left-hand corner: "**BID FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION.**" Each bidder shall include a signed statement of non-collusion.

Each bidder must deposit with the bid, security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total contract price for the first year, either in the form of cash, bid bond, certified check, or cashier's check, issued by a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the Gateway Regional School District. All bids submitted will be binding for thirty (30) business days subsequent to bid opening.

The Gateway Regional District School Committee reserves the right to reject any or all transportation bids in whole or in part and to waive any informalities in bids received if it be in the best interest of the school district to do so.

Gateway is an EOE employer.

Stephanie Fisk,
Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations
Gateway Regional School
District
10/24/2024

**Town of Worthington
Public Hearing Notice**

The Town of Worthington will hold a public hearing at Town Hall **November 6, 2024, at 6:30 PM**, to discuss the discontinuance of winter maintenance on the following roads **from November 15, 2024, to May 1, 2025:**

Almon Johnson Road	Feakes' Driveway to West Street
Dingle Road	Samarov & Bell's Driveway to Hall's Driveway
Goss Hill Road	Augustin's Driveway to Chester Line
Kinne Brook Road	Mason's Driveway to Chester Line
Patterson Road	Justamere Farm Driveway to Chester Line
Prentice Road Road	Upton's Driveway to Fairman
South Worthington Road	Beyond Barry's Driveway
Starkweather Road	River Road End will not be plowed
Thayer Hill Road	Sweeney's Driveway to John Ryan's Drive
West Street	#829's Driveway to Chester Line

Virtual access: <https://www.gotomeet.me/CharleyRose/selectboard-meeting>
10/24/2024

HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Hilltown Hikers host guided group tour



Hikers stand around the 12 foot shot saw blade.

CHESTER – The first official Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers guided group tour at the Chester Granite and Polishing Works and the final Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area hike for 2024 took place recently.

The tour guides Frank, Tom and Greg, took all on a history walk through the 1870 Granite Stone Finishing Mill property telling the story of how the stone industry in Western Massachusetts originated here in Historic Chester Factory Village. The historical restoration process has just begun.



The hikers climb granite steps to the loading dock.



Frank shows the newly excavated shovel at Chester Granite and Polishing Works in Chester.



Frank shows the granite polisher.



Hiker view the loading dock.

Submitted photos



Are you on Medicare?

Major Prescription Drug Changes Are Coming in 2025!!!

Most Plans Will Be Impacted. Don't Be Caught By Surprise on January 1st

We will help you find the correct coverage in 2025.

Call or E-Mail for an Appointment



413-437-1066



scorbin@dowd.com



www.dowdcares.com

Walk-In Appointments Also Available in our 14 Bobala Rd., Holyoke Location



Medicare Advantage



Prescription Drug Plans



Medicare Supplements

Steve Corbin, Licensed Insurance Advisor

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