

"The monster was the best friend I ever had." – Boris Karloff

# 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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## Horses travel around Blandford



Sperry Road resident Jessie Osden took advantage of the fine weather Friday afternoon to take an extended tour through town with her miniature horses drawing a wagon. With her are Tommie, in the front, and in the back seat are Skyler and Alexis. Escorting the Osden family, Kiara Lowman on a Haflinger. Horses and wagons are not a frequent sight on Blandford byways these days.

*Turley photos by Mary Kronholm*

### HUNTINGTON

## Gateway hosts concert with German students

By Wendy Long  
*Correspondent*

Gateway Regional High School student musicians, their families and the local community hosted 47 student musicians from Germany in a visit that culminated in an epic joint performance on Tuesday, Oct. 22 in the Gateway Performing Arts Center.

Band Director Beth Guertin and Matthias Heidenreich, Director of the Gymnasium Heide-Ost Symphonic Band began

planning the visit in 2019, which was scuppered for several years due to Covid.

Guertin said the project started five years ago with an email to area band directors from Matthew Westgate, Director of Ensembles at UMass, asking if anyone would like to host a school band traveling from Germany. Guertin agreed and began working with Heidenreich on the myriad details that needed to be considered: housing, food,

**STUDENTS**, page 2



Gymnasium Heide-Ost band students staying in Middlefield raced kayaks on the pond in front of AzureGreen.

*Courtesy photo by Tamarin Laurel-Paine*



Gymnasium Heide-Ost Symphonic Band Director Matthias Heidenreich and Gateway Band Director Beth Guertin take a selfie with the 100 musicians in their combined bands, who performed at Gateway Regional High School on Oct. 22.

*Courtesy photo by Beth Guertin*

### HUNTINGTON

## Select Board approves police detail rates

By Wendy Long  
*Correspondent*

The Huntington Select Board met on Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. to consider new police detail rates and spending out American Rescue Plan Administration funds, which must be incurred by Dec. 31.

Chairman Roger Booth, Bill Hathaway and Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin were all present; John McVeigh was out of the area on business. The meeting opened with a proposal from Police Chief Robert Garriepy to raise the rates for Huntington police when they are booked for outside, non-town, detail. Beginning Nov. 1, the hourly detail rate will increase from \$50 to \$60.



Police Chief Robert Garriepy

**POLICE**, page 3

### BLANDFORD

## Town Accountant to attend meeting

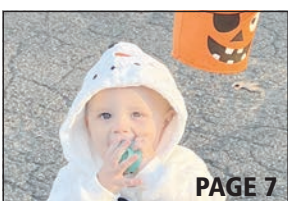
By Mary Kronholm  
*Correspondent*

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara brought a Highway Superintendent job description to the Select Board at Monday night's meeting for review.

She asked for additions or changes to be discussed at next week's meeting. She is working on a draft for an upcoming special town meeting and brought to the board's attention accounting issues.

She has asked for a meeting with Eric Kinsherf, the town's accountant to discuss the firm's work and the scope of the contract. Many things that had been requested, either by email or phone, were quick to have a response once the meeting was requested. Kinsherf will be asked to attend next week's meeting.

**ACCOUNTANT**, page 7



PAGE 7

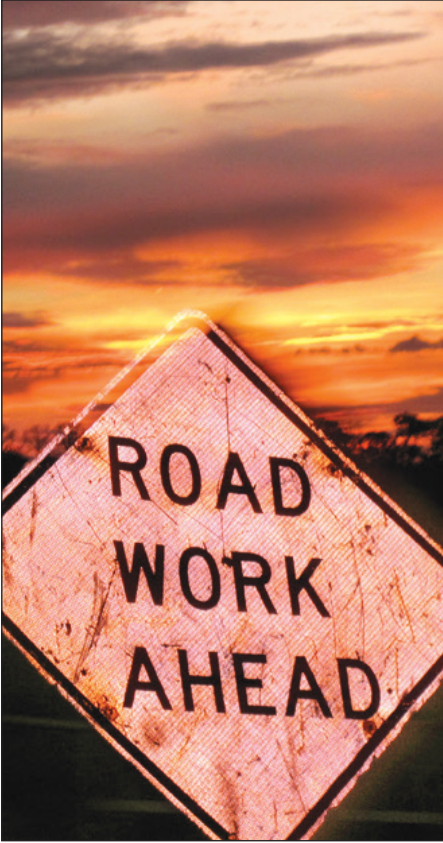
Becket.....10	Easthampton.....6	Montgomery.....10	Russell.....10	Worthington.....11
Blandford.....7	Florence.....6	Northampton.....6	Southampton.....6	
Chester.....8	Goshen.....11	Opinion.....4, 5	Stockbridge.....3	
Chesterfield.....10	Hilltowns.....2	Otis.....7	Westfield.....12	
Classifieds.....14, 15	Huntington.....2, 3	Pittsfield.....6	Williamsburg.....10	





## HILLTOWNS

# MassDOT announces I-90 roadwork



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces lane closures on I-90 eastbound and westbound for traffic marking, rumble strips, bridge repair, and guardrail work.

The work will take place now through Friday, Nov. 1 during nighttime hours.

In Otis and Blandford traffic marking operations and rumble strip work will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 21.0 to 27.0, now from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. with work concluding on Tuesday morning, Oct. 29 at 5:30 a.m.

Traffic marking operations and rumble strip work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 21.0 to 27.0 now from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. with work concluding on Wednesday morning, Oct. 30 by 5:30 a.m.

Bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 22.5, now through Thursday night, Oct. 31 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. each night with work concluding on Friday morning, Nov. 1 by 5:30 a.m.

In Blandford bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 westbound at mile marker 26.1, now through Thursday night, Oct. 31 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. each night, with work concluding on Friday morning, Nov. 1 by 5:30 a.m.

Bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound from mile marker 28.6 to 30.0, Thursday night, Oct. 31 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. with work concluding on Friday morning, Nov. 1 by 5:30 a.m.

In Stockbridge and West Stockbridge guardrail and bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 0.8 to 3.0 now through Thursday night, Oct. 31 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. each night, with work concluding on Friday morning, Nov. 1 by 5:30 a.m.

Bridge repair work will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 2.5 to 3.0, now through Thursday night, Oct. 31, from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. each night, with work concluding on Friday morning, Nov. 1 by 5:30 a.m.

Guardrail work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 3.8 to 7.0, now through Thursday night, Oct. 31 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. each night, with work concluding on Friday morning, Nov. 1 by 5:30 a.m.

Appropriate signage, traffic control devices, and messaging will be available to assist drivers through the detour route.

Drivers traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

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

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions. Visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com), a website that provides real-time traffic and incident advisory information and allows users to subscribe to text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

Follow @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

## HUNTINGTON

### STUDENTS

from page 1

overseas travel, concert preparation and generally having fun. "Then Covid hit and wiped it out," recalled Guertin.

Undeterred, the two kept in touch and created on-line opportunities for students to meet and perform together. "We did a virtual concert together. We watched them perform an evening concert via zoom. The next year, our seventh and eighth grade students performed a piece with them digitally." She said the directors "attended" each other's rehearsals, giving feedback to the other director's student musicians.

"It would be really funny. As soon as the kids realized the camera was on them, they started waving to kids overseas that they were beginning to know," Guertin said. Some kids were paired and became pen pals and when the GHO band finally came to America, were housed together. "Texting abbreviations have been an area of difference and explanation," Guertin said, describing just some of the cultural differences.

This year saw the planning brought to life with support from parents, school staff and the community at large. Playing to a nearly packed house on Oct. 22, each school's band performed separately and then joined together for two final pieces, one conducted by each director, ending with a standing ovation from an enthusiastic audience.

Heidenreich and two of his school's teachers, Julia Conrad (English and biology) and Christina Schettiger (German and English) traveled with 47 students, aged 13-21. Several graduates had been part of the 2019 planning and were invited back to take part.

The three GHO staff members were interviewed during a group rehearsal on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 19. As the Gateway Band included middle school students, who would have had to miss classes to practice with the high school band the extra rehearsal was created for them. "I think it's going really good," said Heidenreich, with Conrad and Schettiger saying that they had seen instances of GHO's older students helping the younger Gateway musicians with things like fingerings and tricky rhythms. High school musicians would join in that evening for a barbecue and bonfire.

"I think the host families must have their ovens on all of the time," said one of the chaperones, describing an unending array of muffins and baked goods that were made available at rehearsals and gatherings. Schettiger described the value of this as both a musical and cul-

tural experience.

Conrad noted that the trip was very important in the lives of the band students and alumni. Students attend school year round with period two-week breaks throughout. This trip required giving up one week of the current break.

GHO students and staff arrived in the U.S. on Tuesday, spending a couple of days in Boston before arriving in Huntington that Thursday. "It's been really good. Really good," said trumpet player Lotte Wittern, aged 17, a high school senior. "I think it's just like we expected it to be. We're all really thankful to be here."

Lilli Finnern, a clarinet player, was one of the alumni, who returned for this event. "It's very similar, compared to what we see in American movies." One of the biggest differences, she noted, was how the school day worked. GHO students attended classes with their Gateway student hosts over the visit. "In Germany, we stay in our classrooms for all subjects and the teachers move." Both GHO students said they thought that music really brought people together, although each school found it a little challenging to follow a conductor they weren't used to.

At Tuesday's Concert 53 members of the combined 7 - 12 Gateway bands took the stage first, performing "Night Chase" by Chandler L. Wilson.

Conrad then introduced the GHO Symphonic band and described their community, located in Northern Germany near Hamburg and about one hour from the Northern Sea. "For us as teachers, it is the greatest pleasure to see the faces of our students as they take part in this musical and cultural experience," Conrad said.

She then introduced Heidenreich, who led his band through a program that included "Jump and Joy" by Markus Got; "Eiger" by American composer James Swearingen; "Epic Game Themes" arranged by Paul Murtha; "The Lion King" Elton John, arranged by John Higgins and "Shiny Ultra" by Thiemo Kraas.

Gateway musicians then returned to the stage, creating a combined band of 100 musicians to perform the two final pieces. Heidenreich conducted the first combined piece: "Great Grey Giants" by Thiemo Kraas. As Guertin returned to the stage, she was presented with a thank you letter from Heide's mayor.

"This trip to the USA is a unique chance for these young individuals to build international bridges and forge

new friendships," wrote Oliver Schmidt-Gutzat, Mayor of the City of Heide. "Music has the remarkable power to bring together people from diverse backgrounds and origins. It is a universal language that conveys stories and emotions across geographical and cultural boundaries. We are therefore delighted that our students can be part of this special project." The letter closed with "Friendly regards from the 'market town' in the North Sea wind." Guertin was also presented with a band tee shirt and coffee mug.

Before taking the baton, Guertin acknowledged the many people who had made the tour possible. "We could not have done it without this entire community," Guertin started, naming the technology department (who quickly created the security IDs for the visitors on their first morning); District Nurse Leader Kelly Sudnick, who Guertin said not only cared for illnesses that arose but also hosted three students and Val Zeh. Zeh is in her second month as Assistant Principal of Gateway Regional Middle and High School. This event had the full support of Superintendent Kristen Smidy and Principal Dr. William Sullivan, but Zeh had stepped up even more as both administrators were out-of-district during the visit.

Guertin was careful to include everybody involved in the complex logistics involved over the visit, including Gateway security, custodial staff and Food Services Director Tasha Hartley. Also named were the Gateway teachers who had international students visiting their classes, and band parents for help with hosting, shopping, securing donations and food preparation. Bus company Lecrenski Brothers got a nod for helping with transportation.

Two area businesses received special acknowledgement at the concert. Tamarin Laurel-Paine and Adair Laurel-Carafella of AzureGreen and the Blossom Center in Middlefield were thanked for opening their home and center to 34 students and staff during the visit. Heather Lohr of the BBQ Tavern on the Hill was thanked for bringing pulled pork sammies and helping to provide "one heck of a BarBQue for our visitors!"

Choking up with emotion, Guertin concluded by thanking her husband and children for their sacrifice and support. "If I can't be with my own family, I'd choose to be with my band family," she said.

Guertin then led the combined

bands in "As Winds Dance" (Samuel R. Hazo), which was followed by a standing ovation from the appreciative audience.

Families and students reflected on the experience after the concert. Band parent Kate Forgue has two musicians (9 ninth grade tuba player Adam and senior Evan, bassoonist) and hosted four GHO musicians. "It was really good. They were very polite, respectful, and engaging with us."

Gateway Band President Olivia McIver, who hosted two students, said it had been good getting to meet everyone. "I think we should keep doing this," McIver said. Line Scheewe, GHO tuba player, was staying with McIver. She had been on a smaller music exchange to Italy, previously. "There's such value of learning about different cultures because we're in their home," Scheewe said. McIver's other guest, percussionist Martje Bergeest, said she'd enjoyed the music but thought the best part was meeting new people.

Students and staff who were housed with AzureGreen owners Laurel-Paine and Laurel-Carafella were treated to a Thanksgiving style dinner at the Blossom Center (led by their daughter Buffy), pumpkin carving, trick or treating, and taking part in kayak races. In return, the GHO students performed a smaller concert at the monthly pot-luck dinner held at the Center. Afterwards, all enjoyed a "pumpkin walk" among the lit, carved pumpkins.

Heide, with a population of around 22,000, is considered a "town" in Schleswig-Holstein. Heide is translated as "middle of the heath"--a name it acquired in the 1400s when four contiguous villages built a shared church in the area. Heide is known for having the largest market square in Germany, at 4.7 hectares.

Heidenreich formed the Gymnasium Heide-Ost Symphonic Band in 2006 and holds regular alumni concerts. His program includes a three-year rotation of a director exchange, hosting another school's band, and bringing his students to another district.

While there are no immediate plans for Gateway to visit Germany, Guertin is hoping to go to Heide next spring and is still exploring whether or not the Gateway band could someday do a full on exchange.

GHO band staff and students returned to Boston on Wednesday, Oct. 23 and were scheduled to return home on Thursday.



# HUNTINGTON

## Town Hall lists new hours

HUNTINGTON – Effective Friday, Nov. 1, the Huntington Town Hall, 24 Russell Road, will be open to the public Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Town Hall will be closed Friday

through Sunday and legal holidays. Town Hall will be closed to the public for the Tuesday, Nov. 5 State Election. Stanton Hall located at 26 Russell Road, will be open for voting from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

### POLICE

from page 1

A minimum of four hours will be charged for each assignment that is four hours or less; eight hours will be charged for details of between four and eight hours. A rate of \$90 per hour will be charged for work that exceeds the eight hour time period to the nearest half hour and on weekends, holidays and overnights defined as between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m..

If a detail is canceled with less than two hours' notice of the start time, the minimum four hours will be charged. Use of a police cruiser will require permission of the Police Chief or Sergeant and will be charged \$22.91 per hour; this fee will go to the town of Huntington. Additional details in the proposal included administrative fees (10%), use of flaggers, use of out-of-town officers and wearing of uniforms. Garriepy conferred with other area police departments to determine these rates.

Garriepy explained that the new rate will not go into effect for details at Gateway schools athletic events and graduation until July 1, 2025 because the district had already budgeted at the previous rate. Booth suggested writing up a contract with Gateway for the remainder of this fiscal year and confirming the new rate July 1. Garriepy has also informed the canoe race committee of the proposed changes. The department's contract with the Army Corps of Engineers expired last week and will be updated with the new rates, which were unanimously approved.

Garriepy also informed the Board that the Knightville Dam north gate is now open into the basin, to allow hunters to park off of route 112. The hillside at Littleville Dam has been mowed so that the community can resume sledding this winter. Residents, who walk at Littleville, had asked for a bench to be located near the flag pole. The Army Corps of Engineers had agreed provided the town donated the bench; moving one of the town benches was granted.

### Bids

The board also approved bids for replacement windows at the town library and for two new oil-fired heaters for the highway garage. Larochelle Construction, Inc. was awarded the library bid for \$24,900; the library will be asked to cover \$5,000 of this, with the remaining \$19,900 coming from ARPA funds. Still Services, Inc. was the sole bidder for the heaters and was approved at \$29,394.72.

### Town Hall hours

Hours of public access to town hall will change Nov. 1 to 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Employees will still report at 9 a.m. for an uninterrupted hour of work. While different boards and departments may also have evening hours for the public, town hall will be closed Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Plans proceeded for a town hall holiday gathering for employees and board members.

### Card access

Peloquin reported that the card access control project is now running. Systems are working with no issues. "I think this was a good idea," Peloquin said. Approval was granted for Peloquin to be authorized to order keys, with

Booth as the alternate.

### Door closures

Peloquin also said that the door closures for the downtown and Norwich Hill Fire Stations are not in place, meaning that once the door is opened, it does not automatically swing shut. Rackliffe Security can install heavy-duty closures for both doors for \$1,712.50; this was approved and will be funded through ARPA.

### New locks

Also discussed were new locks for town hall offices, including the vault and copy room. Peloquin suggested getting restricted keys that cannot be copied. Booth questioned if some of the doors might need to be replaced and Garriepy had suggested that they consider an alarm system and motion sensors. Booth asked that this go on the next agenda to include Garriepy and Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger and additional information on involved costs.

Three applicants for the Highway Administrative Assistant will be screened by Peloquin and Highway Superintendent Brad Curry on Oct. 30. They will have a recommendation for the Nov. 6 Select Board meeting.

### Beaver problem

Discussion continued around the beavers who have been gnawing trees around North Hall. The Conservation Commission declined to approve out-of-season trapping to remove the animals. The Commission also recommended letting the trees fall into the water and told Peloquin that removing the trees requires filing a Notice of Intent. Booth suggested filing the Notice to cut damaged trees that the tree warden determines are likely to fall-especially those that could fall on power lines or North Hall. Hathaway suggested putting chicken wire around the remaining trees to protect them.

### ARPA funds

Remaining ARPA funds were calculated at \$123,833 and will be considered for a new garage roof and garage doors for the highway department. The roof coating is out to bid and due back Oct. 31. The doors will go out to bid, but it is expected that there will not be enough money left for repairs to the salt shed, which will have to be on next year's annual town meeting warrant.

### Other business

Peloquin shared her final updates. She reported that Garriepy has been satisfied with the company and electrician installing the heat pump at the police garage, which is nearly finished. A request to appoint Nancy Arnold, Deborah Lariviere and Deborah Page as election workers for Nov. 5 was approved. Finally, she said that the Town Clerk's outdoor mailbox needs to be secured, now that the new ramp and sidewalk are completed. Booth asked that Peloquin, Garriepy and Town Clerk Michelle Booth confirm we have the correct box before it's secured, determine where it should be located and ensure that a security camera is in place.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next Select Board meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 5 p.m.

## Council on Aging to hold Memory Café on Nov. 13

HUNTINGTON – The Huntington Council on Aging will host the following events at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

On Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m., Jaane Doe and David Bond Engelhard will perform at the Hilltown Memory Café. A presentation on Mental Health for Older Adults and blood pressure checks will be provided by the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition's nursing team on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 1 p.m. The Hilltown Memory Café will follow at 2 p.m.

The weekly café provides seniors

with activities while their caregivers participate in a support group. The café is open to all with and without memory issues. The Café is made possible by a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services through funding under the Federal Older Americans Act and by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. All events are free and open to residents of any community.

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

## STOCKBRIDGE

### Grange to hold community dinner

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Grange will have a take out only community dinner Sunday, Nov. 10 with pickup from noon-1:30 p.m.

The menu features ham, mashed potato and vegetable with dessert choices of chocolate cream or apple

pie. Dinner is \$15 per person with take out pick up only at the Stockbridge Grange Hall at 51 Church St. Orders may be made by calling 413-243-1298 or 413-443-4352. Grange community dinners are designed to raise money for non-profit projects and building maintenance.

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### Question about Taxation of Social Security benefits

Dear Rusty

I am past my Social Security full retirement age, and I am still working. I am married and we file our income tax jointly. My husband is 64 and is not working now, but he may or may not, be able to work in the next year or so. At what point will my Social Security benefits be taxed, if I decide to take them now?

Signed Worried About Taxes

Dear Worried

Many Social Security recipients are surprised to find that their benefits may be considered taxable by the IRS, so I welcome the opportunity to clarify this topic for you.

Whether or not your Social Security benefits are taxable depends on your overall combined taxable income for your IRS tax filing status. Taxation of Social Security benefits for a married couple (filing jointly) depends on your combined income as a couple, which is called your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income" by the IRS. Your MAGI consists of your normal Adjusted Gross Income on your IRS tax return, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had.

If your MAGI, filing jointly, exceeds \$32,000, then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes taxable, but if your MAGI as a couple exceeds \$44,000 then up to 85% of your received SS benefits becomes taxable (at your standard IRS tax rate). Note that these tax thresholds are less for those who file their taxes as a single – e.g., for someone whose IRS filing status is "single," half of their Social Security benefits become part of their taxable income if their personal MAGI is over \$25,000 and up to 85% of their SS benefits are taxable if their individual MAGI is over \$34,000.

Another factor often misunderstood is that only a portion of SS benefits are added to your income amount taxed by the IRS. The amount added, somewhere between 50% and 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year depending on your MAGI, becomes taxable income at your normal IRS tax rate.

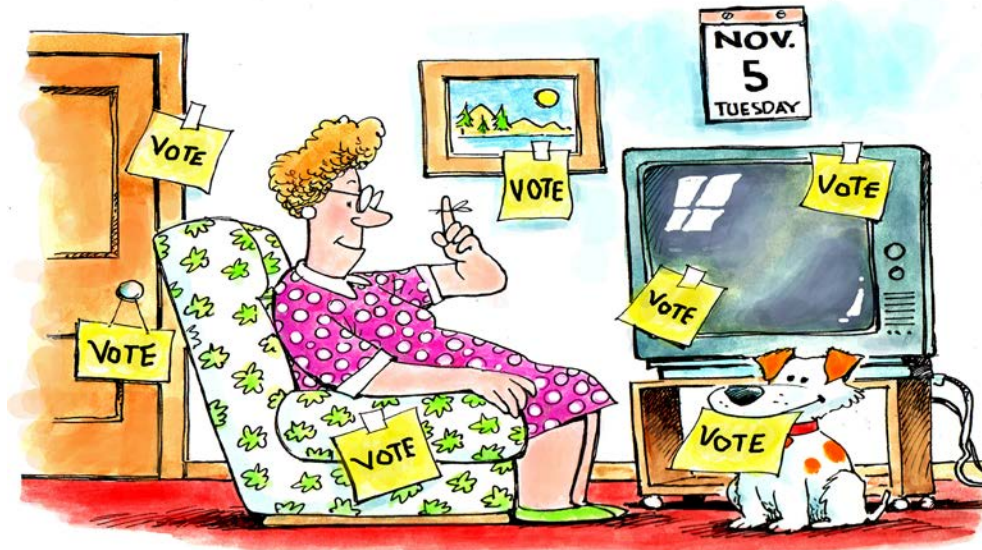
So, in your case, if you claim your SS benefits now and your combined income your MAGI exceeds the above levels for a married

SECURITY, page 7

## 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](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com), or call us at 413-283-8393.

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



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## GUEST COLUMN



A Brimfield resident reported white-throated sparrows in his yard. He said, "Adult white-throated sparrows are polymorphic, occurring in two plumage types or forms: white striped (bright) or tan striped (dull). Almost all of the white-throated sparrows I see are the tan striped morph." I also saw white-throated sparrows, but they are mostly the white striped morph.

I put a small amount of bird seed and shelled peanuts in my feeders in the morning. I do not fill them as there are many black bears in my area. With this wonderful Indian summer weather, I have been working outside since I use a laptop computer. Besides working on the two papers I edit, *Barre Gazette* and *Country Journal*, I enjoy



White-throated sparrow, white and tan striped morphs

the weather, and get to see birds coming and going at the feeders.

The white-throated sparrow is 6 ½ inches long with a dark crown with a buff or tan central stripe and white throat. Depending on which morph, they have either white or tan eyebrows with a yellow mark before the eye. Their breast is gray with a few, faint streaks.

The female has a less bold pattern on the head, duller yellow by eye, more streak-

BACKYARD, page 5

## Cross garlic off the list



It was a productive weekend "back at the ranch." I had a very long list of things to get caught up on in and around the garden. For the most part I completed everything on the list, although a new list has started. Doesn't it always?

The last task I completed was planting garlic.

I got started growing garlic because of my Uncle Tony. He always planted his garlic cloves in the spring. I think he was under the impression that garlic wasn't hardy and wouldn't survive the winter if you planted it in the fall.

It could very well have been the type he grew. As soon as the ground had thawed, I'd get out there and plant the cloves he'd given me and in just about three months I'd harvest the fists comprised of seven or eight teeny tiny cloves.

Since then, I've gone on to plant my bulbs in the fall and again, it's probably a variety thing, but my cloves are two or three times the size of those I planted in the spring those many years ago. I have a pretty good system going that I've shared with my readers a few times over the years. Read on for a refresher on garlic planting.

Garlic should be planted four to six weeks prior to the ground freezing, much like you would daffodils or tulips. The time is now!

Your goal is to have a well developed root system to anchor the plant through the winter. Because garlic prefers a pH of 6.5 (6.0-7 is OK), a sprinkling of lime won't hurt.

GARDEN, page 5

## 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](mailto: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.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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@ Country Journal



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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

### Health care from a nurse-advocate's point of view



Hello, readers! Having spent my growing-up years and graduating from nursing school here in western Mass, I am delighted to be able to share my perspective on today's health care with you in this new weekly column.

Health care has changed in a million ways since I earned my RN at Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Worcester in 1976. I went on to become a critical care nurse and worked for decades in hospitals. I am now a board-certified patient advocate, owner of NShore Patient Advocates, and considered a national authority in the field of patient advocacy.

My columns and two Amazon best-selling books arise from my philosophy of health care: That knowledge is power and that we are empowered to take charge of our health.

As a private patient advocate, I help people do just that: Take charge. I leverage my knowledge of the health care system to help them navigate complex

issues, whether it's caring for a loved one with dementia or getting a second opinion.

While I believe everyone needs a health-care advocate, I also believe that we can learn to advocate for ourselves and our loved ones. It just takes a bit of common sense and preparation.

Here are a few of the basics:

#### Be a good patient.

You are a good patient if you are on time for your appointments, have your questions written down in advance, are succinct in your questions and comments, take your medications as prescribed and follow all health-care instructions. Sometimes, it's also helpful to bring someone with you – spouse, partner, child, friend – who can listen, fill in information gaps and help you remember what the doctor said.

Good patients are also respectful. You want to be the patient who doctors, nurses and health-care providers enjoy serving.

#### Be prepared.

A medical emergency can happen at any time, and when it does, our minds seem to go blank because of fear and worry. Here's where a little bit of preparation comes in handy.

Compile the following and keep it where you or first responders can find it:

- Health conditions (i.e. heart disease, hypertension, cancer, diabetes, etc.)
- Copies of insurance cards
- All surgeries

All medications, with dosages and when they're taken

Allergies

Name and contact information for the primary care doctor

Name and contact information for the patient's representative, if that person isn't on hand

A signed HIPAA release form

#### Be knowledgeable.

In this era of internet scams, bogus information and deep-fake videos, we must take care to get our health-care information from reputable sources – and it's not some random Facebook account or website.

When you're searching for information about healthy lifestyles or medical conditions, stick with tried-and-true resources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov), WebMD (webmd.com) or Harvard Health (health.harvard.edu).

#### Know your rights.

Who owns your health-care information? You do! Not the doctor or the hospital. You have the right to see and review your medical records, doctor's notes after an appointment and what medications you might be receiving in the hospital.

You also have the right to appoint a patient representative, also known as an advocate. This is someone who is authorized to communicate on your behalf with health-care providers – they are your stand-in. In most states, the default

patient representative is a spouse or a parent, if a child is under 18.

But if you can designate anyone by completing a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) release form, which is available on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health website. Make sure it's on file with your doctor and the hospital.

My first experience advocating for a patient was during a family cruise in the Caribbean when my then-father-in-law developed a life-threatening health emergency. I stayed with him in order to communicate with doctors and make sure he was well-attended.

Back at work in the hospital ICU, I advocated for a patient who was experiencing complications from surgery. The doctor didn't like my questioning the patient's treatment, so I was placed on leave – and during my downtime, I realized the good I could do by helping other patients in similar situations. A patient advocate was born.

I hope you'll join me every week as I discuss current issues in health care and provide the tips you need to advocate for yourself and loved ones.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN, is a board-certified patient advocate and Monson resident. A critical care nurse for 30+ years, she is founder of NShore Patient Advocates, ([www.northshorern.com](http://www.northshorern.com)). Her book, "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" is available on Amazon. Contact her at [Teri@northshorern.com](mailto:Teri@northshorern.com) to set it up.

## GARDEN

Mix in a couple of inches of aged manure or compost to planting bed. I use a pitchfork to loosen and mix the soil with the manure and lime so that it's incorporated well.

Over the years I've learned that the secret to big bulbs has a lot to do with spacing. Space individual cloves eight-10 inches apart pointed side up and plant two-three inches deep (up to the knuckle if you are pushing them into the soil by hand) and firm down.

If rain has been scarce, water the planting well. A friend who attending one of my gardening talks a few years back, shared that she places a sheet of cardboard over the bed, and then applies mulch on top of that.

For the last few years, I have done this and it has worked out great to keep the weeds down. Garlic abhors weed competition.

One year, though, I had a problem.

I didn't see my garlic sprouting in the spring, so I lifted the cardboard, and the top growth was stuck underneath! I made holes for it to grow through and all was well.

Last year I made sure I watered the bed a lot so that the cardboard would soften and this wouldn't be a problem ever again.



Garlic loves fertile soil, so top dress with more aged manure/compost

in the spring, about the time when daffodils are up two inches. I slide back the mulch/softened cardboard and add the compost then replace it for continued weed suppression and moisture retention.

Repeat this process once per month in May and June.

If rain is scarce, make sure that your garlic beds get about one inch of

water a week. Stop additional watering one month prior to harvest and cut off curly "scapes" (immature flower heads) as they form.

Garlic is ready to harvest when one third of the leaves have yellowed/browned. Don't wait much past this time, or bulbs will separate within the fist, and length of storage could be affected. Cure in an airy location, free of humidity and moisture.

I get excited planting garlic. It's the first installation of the "new year!" Funny, how just three weeks ago I was almost sick of the garden, now it's all new again.

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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

from page 4

## BACKYARD

ing on the breast and grayer. The immature of either sex looks like the female. Immature plumage is kept through their first winter. Breeding pair usually contains one bird from each morph, either a tan female and white male or white female and tan male.

The female lays four to six light blue-green eggs with dark marks in a nest of grasses lined with hairs and rootlets. It is placed on the ground or under a small tree or shrub.

For many years, my family and I had horses. Their hair was a popular nesting material for the birds in our yard. Nests often had horse hair woven into them. After grooming the horses, birds would often come and fly away with strands of horse hair especially from the horses' mane or tail.

White throated sparrows summer in Canada and winter in the northeastern and part of the southern United States.

They feed on the ground eating weed seeds, grain, fruit and insects. They come to tray type feeders or scattered on the ground. They like cracked corn, sunflower seeds and millet.

Their song is two long whistled notes followed by three or four higher, quivering notes. It sounds like "sweet sweet Canada Canada Canada." Calls are "tseeet" when birds are in flocks and "pink" in alarm. They inhabit coniferous and mixed woods and brushy areas.

#### Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident reported not much happening at the Warren ponds. In his yard, he saw a male eastern towhee, a couple of ruby-crowned kinglets, five goldfinches, a chipping sparrow, song sparrow and white-throated sparrows.

#### Black swallow tail caterpillars

The Brimfield resident also said

in an email, "Over a week ago we found a couple of black swallowtail caterpillars on a volunteer 12" tall fennel plant growing out of the space between pavers in our walkway. I collected the caterpillars and put them in the house in a small aquarium with fennel leaves. Last year we found three black swallowtail caterpillars chrysalises in the garden, kept them inside a shed over the winter and in the spring tied the chrysalises to tree branches. All three hatched and flew away."

#### Fun facts about Canada geese

The Brimfield resident also offered some facts about Canada geese he got from MassWildlife. Human intervention radically altered the status of this species within the Bay State. Before the 1930s, these geese rarely nested here, today many Canada geese

## SECURITY

from page 4

couple, then a portion either 50% or up to 85% of your SS benefits received during the tax year will be included in your income taxable by the IRS. Note, too, that it is possible to have income tax withheld from your Social Security benefits by submitting IRS form W-4V to your local Social Security office. You can download this IRS form at [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf).

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

from page 4

are in this state year round.

Their migratory population still pass through in the spring and fall and stop to rest during migration. Resident population are descendants of captive geese used by waterfowl hunters; live decoys were outlawed in the 1930s and captive birds were released. With no pattern of migration, these geese began nesting in Massachusetts. In the 1960s and early 1970s, MassWildlife moved geese from the coast into central and western Massachusetts to the applause of both hunters and non-hunters. A population explosion followed.

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



## FLORENCE

# Florence Bank donates \$5,000 to Tech Foundry

FLORENCE – Florence Bank donated \$5,000 to Tech Foundry of Springfield in its 10th anniversary year, supporting its newly established Innovation Fund to help enhance the organization's digital literacy curriculum and grow its reach.

Serving Hampshire, Hampden and Franklin counties, Tech Foundry provides tech training and mentoring, increases access to careers and jobs in the tech field, builds talent and opportunity pipelines, drives digital literacy and promotes diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the region.

Training and mentorship are available at its classrooms in Springfield and off-site at organizations such as Councils on Aging and libraries across the region. A new learning lab, called the Tech Hub, in

Holyoke, also allows a focus on digital literacy, training, device distribution and tech support.

"Tech Foundry helps connect people to living-wage jobs in the tech sector and increase equity and access for all in our community while driving economic development," Tricia Canavan, CEO of Tech Foundry, said. "We want to raise awareness of the ways in which we offer opportunity to residents and also partner with employers."

Founded in 2014, the organization surged after the pandemic, doubling the number of classes offered annually and serving roughly 400 people a month, up from roughly 90 per year before the Tech Hub opened in October 2023. Students and mentees are trained for jobs that

include IT help desk, digital imaging and deployment, network administration and field technician.

"We've long been aware of Florence Bank's deep and broad community support," said Canavan, expressing gratitude for the recent grant. "They understand the unique needs of the community and can leverage their generous financial donations to really make an impact."

Florence Bank President and CEO Matt Garrity said, "It's a win when organizations like Tech Foundry are successful, so we are happy to provide support that will strengthen the organization and the community."

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, Tech Foundry hosted a workforce development luncheon in the spring and held a

casual fundraiser, called Gaming for Tech, at the Quarters in Hadley on Sept. 19. On Oct. 24, a gala fundraising event was held at MGM Springfield.

Canavan said the goal is to raise \$325,000 for the Innovation Fund to drive growth. Roughly \$294,000 has been raised so far and there is roughly \$60,000 left of \$100,000 in matching funds.

To donate, people may visit [thetechfoundry.org/donate](http://thetechfoundry.org/donate).

To learn more about Florence Bank, people may visit [florencebank.com](http://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.

## PITTSFIELD

# Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. hosts annual thankful food drive

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. hosts its third Annual Thankful Food Drive from Friday, Nov. 1 through Saturday, Nov. 30.

Donations of non-perishable food items will benefit the South Community Food Pantry and St. Joseph's Church Food Pantry. The drive is accepting non-perishable items such as canned vegetables, canned or dry beans, canned fruit in juice, low-sodium soups, canned tuna in water, canned chicken, canned stews, brown rice, unsalted nuts, shelf stable milk and milk substitutes, whole grain pasta, pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, unsweetened apple sauce, peanut butter and whole grain cold cereals. No open packages, expired items or perishable food will be accepted. d

Drop off by members of the public is welcomed at the following Pittsfield locations: 413Shirts, 1595 East St.;

All-Ways Moving & Storage Co., 241 West Housatonic St.; Barrington Stage Company (Wolfson Center), 122 North St.; Berkshire Art Center, 141 North St.; Berkshire County ARC Main Office, 395 South St.; Berkshire Family YMCA, 292 North St.; Berkshire Fitness and Wellness Center, 137 North St.; Berkshire Regional Transit Authority, 1 Columbus Avenue; Berkshire Theatre Group, 111 South St.; Berkshire United Way, 200 South St.; Berkshire Yoga Dance & Fitness, 55 North Street, Suite 201; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 1 Fenn St.; Carr Hardware, 547 North St.; City Hall, City of Pittsfield, 70 Allen St.; CT Management at the Clock Tower, 75 South Church St.; Dory & Ginger, 299 North St.; Dottie's Coffee Lounge, 444 North St.; Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., 431 North St.; Hillcrest Educational Centers,

788 South St.; Holiday Inn, 1 West St.; Peace Train Tees, 2 South St., Suite 150; ServiceNet, 141 North St.; The Plant Connector, 46 West St. and Witch Slapped, 78 North St.

People may also drop off food at Hill-Engineers, Architects, Planners, Inc., 50 Depot St. in Dalton.

In tandem with the Food Drive, Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and Framework will feature a new exhibition entitled the "rt of Food," November 1 -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. 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. to 2 p.m., closed 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.

## SOUTHAMPTON

# Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting

SOUTHAMPTON – Residents, businesses and surrounding community members are invited to learn about and provide input on the town of Southamptton Hazard Mitigation Plan on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. during the Select Board meeting.

It is also possible to attend remotely. The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to assess Southamptton's risks from natural hazards and climate change impacts and provide an action plan to reduce the town's vulnerabilities.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is being completed by the town with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Upon completion, the plan will be submitted to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and FEMA for review and approval. A FEMA approved HMP makes the community eligible for

federal and state mitigation grant funding.

The meeting will include a discussion of natural hazards and climate impacts in Southamptton and the hazard mitigation planning process. Municipal officials and PVPC staff will be available to answer questions and respond to input about this project. The meeting provides an opportunity for community members to share feedback that will be incorporated into the plan. All members of the public, representatives from surrounding communities and other interested parties are invited to attend the event.

For more information about this event, people may email PVPC's Mimi Kaplan at [mkaplan@pvpc.org](mailto:mkaplan@pvpc.org) or call 413-781-6045. Since 1962, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has been the designated regional planning body for the Pioneer Valley region, which encompasses 43 cities and towns in Hampden and Hampshire Counties.

## EASTHAMPTON

# bankESB promotes Katie Woods

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB recently promoted Katie (LaValley) Woods to assistant branch manager of its 770 Main St., Agawam office.

Woods of West Springfield, joined bankESB earlier this year as a float teller supervisor. Previously, she was assistant branch manager at PeoplesBank and before that, store operations manager at CVS Health. In her new role, Woods will assist the branch manager in reaching



Katie Woods

branch goals while delivering excellent customer service and helping employees and customers unlock their potential.

Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton. Through their sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankESB and the Easthampton Savings Bank Charitable

Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Hampden and Hampshire counties.

## NORTHAMPTON

# Friends of Cooley Dickinson Hospital receives gift from Richason Family

NORTHAMPTON – The Friends of Cooley Dickinson, a volunteer organization that supports the hospital, received two generous gifts from the Richason family totaling more than \$210,000.

The gifts, which the organization will use to support the hospital's childbirth center and new emergency department, come from the estate of Mark J. Richason (\$32,500) and the Richason Living Trust (\$178,000), established by George R. Richason, Jr.

The Richason family's deep connection to Cooley Dickinson stems from the exceptional care provided to Frances Richason, Mark's mother and George's wife. Frances was a dedicated volunteer at Cooley Dickinson for more than 30 years, earning recognition for "meritorious service." She passed away in 2002 at age 84.

"For more than 120 years, Friends of CDH have been committed to advocating for and supporting Cooley Dickinson through volunteerism and fundraising," said JoAnne Finck, president of Friends of Cooley Dickinson. "Frances Richason exemplified this spirit with her 30 years of service and it is heartwarming to see her family carry on her dedication. These gifts will make a lasting impact on our hospital, improving care from birth through end-of-life."

Frances' husband George is the former associate head of the chemistry department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and is one of just four non-athletes or coaches

inducted into its athletic hall of fame. An avid supporter of student-athletes, he spent decades on various UMass athletic committees, including as the chairman of the athletic council, as a member of search committees for senior athletic leaders, and as the faculty representative to the NCAA. George's more than 70 years of service to the university led to a certificate of "special congressional recognition" in 2014. He passed away in 2015 at age 99.

"The Richason family's legacy of compassion, generosity, and community service continues through this incredible act of giving. We are very lucky to be a community hospital with such a strong, passionate, and dedicated group of supporters," said Robin Kline, director of volunteer and patient services at Cooley Dickinson. "The Friends of Cooley Dickinson, with whom Frances was deeply involved, have accomplished so much for our hospital, and their contributions continue to benefit countless patients."

To learn more about, or to join, the Friend of Cooley Dickinson, people may visit: [cooleydickinson.org/about-us/friends-of-cooley-dickinson](http://cooleydickinson.org/about-us/friends-of-cooley-dickinson).

Cooley Dickinson Hospital ([cooleydickinson.org](http://cooleydickinson.org)) is a not-for-profit, acute care hospital that offers community-based programs and services in Northampton. A member of the Mass General Brigham System, Cooley Dickinson has been advancing the health of people in the Pioneer Valley since 1886.



# BLANDFORD

## Nicole Daviau elected to Mass. Library System executive board

BLANDFORD – Porter Memorial Library Director Nicole Daviau was nominated by the executive board of the Massachusetts Library System to be a member of that executive board.

Monday, Oct. 28, she was elected by the MLS members at the annual meeting in



Nicole Daviau

Devens. Her three-year term begins January 1.

"I am excited to be able to represent Blandford at this state level and to bring small libraries to the table for conversations about library services and how to best serve librarians as they support their communities."

## Town Clerk offers election info

BLANDFORD – Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo reminds voters that it is legitimate to take the red Information for Voters booklet with them into the voting booth on election day.

However, "There is a sixth question on the ballot which is not mentioned in the booklet," she said.

Question 6 is as follows: Shall the Representative for this District be instructed to vote for legislation to create a single-payer system of universal health care that provides all Massachusetts

residents with comprehensive health care coverage including the freedom to choose doctors and other health care professionals, facilities and services and eliminates the role of insurance companies in health care by creating an insurance trust und that is publicly administered?"

A "Yes" vote supports advising the state representative to vote for this proposed legislation and a "No" vote opposes advising the state representative to vote against this proposed legislation.

## ACCOUNTANT

from page 1

### Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Rene Senecal told the board that gutters have been replaced at the Transfer Station with a one-year guarantee on the installation. Patch work is ongoing at Lloyd and Cobble Mountain Roads. The department is getting plows and sanders ready for winter and he reiterated the need for additional funds to restore inventory to get through the plowing season. There is less than \$2,000 in that account and Ferrara told Senecal for the time being, "Lets deficit spend," until funding can be restored. "I don't know what money is available," she added.

Senecal also reminded the board of a need for a logging policy, loggers need to present a plan, tell the town where they will be cutting and if roads and ditches are destroyed in the process the logger should be responsible. He cited logging on Beulah Land Road as an example of no information forthcoming to the town and consequently the road has been "torn up" as well as the ditches and water "no longer follows the ditch, it flows on the road." In discussing the Highway Superintendent job description, Senecal said the superintendent would not have to have licenses, but would "delegate personnel" to do work that requires special licenses. "You need someone to manage the department and still be a worker and you have to make it financially appealing," he said. "You're going to have to look at the money."

### Board of Health

Board of Health member Jennifer Girard reported to the board that written

complaints were required for any issues so there is a record. There have been anonymous complaints about an exposed pool at a Main Street residence and about a trailer on a lot on Albano Drive with several people living in it with no septic system; the trailer is on the land without a building permit and two years ago a temporary electrical access was installed. The Board of Health will send a letter citing infringements via the Chester/Blandford Police.

There have also been complaints of illness as a result of consumers eating onions at McDonald's on the turnpike service area. Accounting issues for the Board of Health have been resolved. Girard continues Risk Management work with harassment.

### Other business

In other business, Administrative Assistant Joann Martin told the board she is continuing to correct how payroll/time sheets are submitted.

The board tabled an inter-governmental agreement with Springfield Water and Sewer Commission for their use of North Lane Road as it does not appear to be in Blandford, but in Granville. They did sign off on the inter-governmental agreement with SWSC for the brush truck and they approved the Green Communities report.

George Reichert gave what he called his second to last update on work at the former town hall building. He is waiting to hear about the tinted laminates for the Post Office windows. Trim work is done. He would like to see the split-rails replaced at Bicentennial Park.

## BLANDFORD HOLDS HALLOWEEN EVENT

Mom Witch Natalie Murphy accompanies Snowman Jackson Murphy Saturday afternoon at Town Hall Halloween event Saturday afternoon.

Turley photos by Mary Kronholm



Select Board Chair and Recreation Committee member Cara Letendre served up popcorn at Town Hall Halloween event Saturday afternoon.

## OTIS

### Transfer Station closed Nov. 4

OTIS – The Transfer Station will be closed Monday, Nov. 4 for repairs and will reopen on Thursday, Nov. 17.

### Community Health Programs visit

OTIS – Community Health Programs Mobile Health van will be at the Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main St. on Thursday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m.-noon.

There will be same day care, flu vaccines, back to school physicals, non-emergency sick visits, STI, UTI and other screenings, reproductive care and counseling and SNAP and food security assistance and referrals. For more information, people may visit [chpberkshires.org/mobile](http://chpberkshires.org/mobile).

## 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.

## 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.

## JAMESON'S HIGH MEADOW FARM

PICK YOUR OWN APPLES  
Many varieties available!  
Great Family Fun!



410 Skyline Trail, Chester, MA • 413-354-9609  
Open Daily 9 am - 4 pm  
Call for picking conditions and available varieties.



# CHESTER

## Hamilton Memorial Library lists events

CHESTER – The next special story and fun time event will be Thursday, Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. at Hampden Park on Hampden Street sponsored by the Hilltown Family Center.

Children and parents or guardian 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 and goodies.

Story and fun time for young patrons will continue to meet every Thursday at 11 a.m. in the library, except on Thursday, Oct. 31. This is a great opportunity for socialization and developing new skills.

The Writers Support Group meets the second Wednesday of each month at 4:30pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 13. The purpose of this group is peer support, encouragement and optional sharing and feedback of material.

Sourdough Brandon is coming to Chester and will share his knowledge and skills in making and maintaining sourdough starter in a sourdough starter workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. in the Council on Aging room at Chester Town Hall. All participants will leave with their own starter. People must RSVP by calling 413-354-7808 with their name and phone number.

The book club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 4:30pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 4:30 p.m. People may join in discussing, “Smoke Gets in Your Eyes, and Other Lessons from the Crematory” by Caitlin Doughty. In this fascinating memoir, Caitlin humorously shares lessons learned as a young, female mortician. Light refreshments will be served.

The Hamilton Memorial Library will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 27 and Thursday, Nov. 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Director Tammy Merenda reads “10 Things I Love About Halloween” by Samantha Sweeney to the children at the Oct. 24 story time. Submitted photo

## HALLOWEEN THRILLER



Liz Massa is in front of the 12 foot saw or as it was called during the Halloween thriller the Halloween meat cleaver. The event got scarier as the night wore on.



A terrifying skeleton attacks an innocent bystander at the Halloween thriller held Saturday, Oct. 26 in Chester. Turley photos by Deborah Daniels

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# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers pose for a group photo in front of a 65 foot tall keystone arch bridge.

Submitted photo



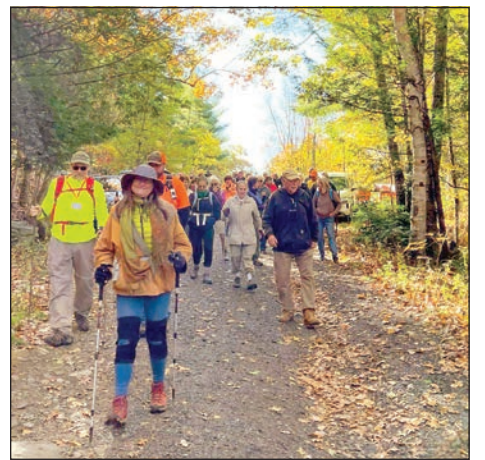
A hiker stands under the 70 foot stone arch.



Liz and Adam are shown coming up from the under the 70 foot tall arch.



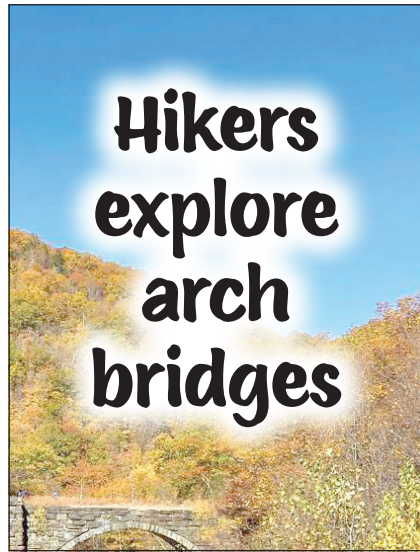
Tom stands below the Gator arch.



Hikers make their way along the Pontoosuc Turnpike.



The hikers cross over the gorge on the pedestrian bridge.

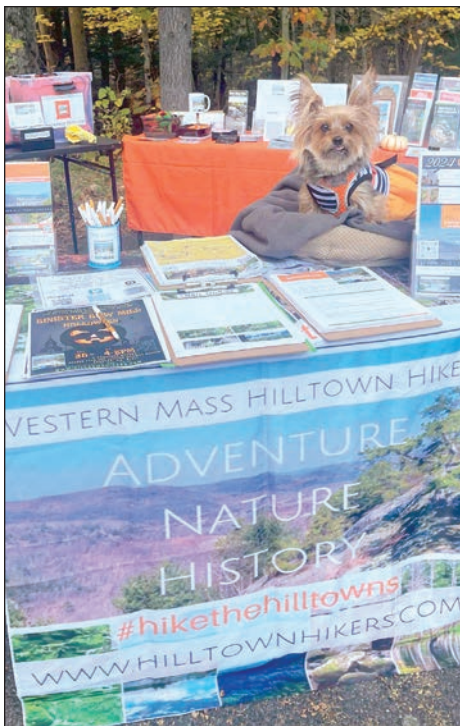


The annual Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers Keystone Arch Bridges Trail group hike this year was over and under the stone dry laid train bridges.

The event was narrated by Dave Pierce of the Chester Railway Museum narrated the event while hiking five miles in and back on the largest unpopulated tract of forest along the wild and scenic West Branch of the Westfield River. The group visited the double arch, 65 foot tall, 70 foot tall and partial bridge 7 where they could see the hollow wall construction of these stone wonders.

Pierce's narration of this hike taught participants how these bridges were constructed and how changes over the years realigned the tracks to suit modern day locomotives. The double arch is still used today and carries the commuter Amtrak as well as freight trains.

They also visited an old quarry along the trail where stone was quarried out from here in blocks to build these train bridges. Thanks to the shuttle volunteers Paulette, Greg, Adam and Tom. For those who missed this hike, they can catch the 2025 hike to the same location.



Cybil greets the hikers at sign in for the hike to the arch bridges.



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## RUSSELL

# Russell Public Library offers November programs

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library, 162 Main St., is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3-7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The library will be closed Saturdays during three day holiday weekends.

StoryWalks® sponsored by the Hilltown Family Center are located at Noble View Outdoor Center's All Person's Trail and behind the Russell Public Library around the community fruit trees and play area.

On Saturday, Nov. 2 from 2-4 p.m. in keeping with the season of Mysteries and Monsters the Vogel Brothers will talk

about their search for Bigfoot. People may register by calling 413-862-6221 and leaving a message, emailing [rpldirector@townofrussell.us](mailto:rpldirector@townofrussell.us) or come in and sign up at the library by Thursday, Oct. 31.

On Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 6-7:15 p.m. Cate from the Hilltown Community Ambulance will show how to administer Narcan and an Epipen. People may register by email [rpldirector@townofrussell.us](mailto:rpldirector@townofrussell.us), call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Friday, Nov. 8.

Adults and Teens may sign up for a pastel painting workshop with Gregory J. Maichack on Thursday, Nov. 14, from 6-8

p.m. Greg will guide participants in painting, "Seascapes," art inspired by Winslow Homer's painting Summer Squall. This workshop is for those with and without art experience. People may register by email [rpldirector@townofrussell.us](mailto:rpldirector@townofrussell.us), call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Story Time for children ages 3-9 will take place Saturday, Nov. 16, from 11 a.m.-noon. Ms Jennifer will share a story, craft and snack filled with seasonal fun. People may register by email [rpldirector@townofrussell.us](mailto:rpldirector@townofrussell.us), calling 413-862-6221 and leave a message or coming in and sign

up at the library by Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Adults and teens on Tuesday, Nov. 19th, from 6-8 p.m. may watch the "Reciprocity Project," a series of seven short films, a joint endeavor of Upstander Project and Nia Tero in association with REI Co-op Studios, that seek to share Indigenous (Native People from the Americas) perspectives on their relationship to the Earth, other living beings and one another.

People may celebrate Veterans Day and National Native American Heritage Month at the library by checking out a book by Veteran or Indigenous authors. There are displays throughout the library.

## MONTGOMERY

# Grace Memorial Library announces upcoming events

MONTGOMERY – The Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main St., holds NIA, a meditative dance practice, every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

People are invited to dance; no experience is necessary just the desire to feel good, moving in their own bodies way. NIA integrates elements of dance, martial arts and healing arts into one joyful practice. Think the mediation of yoga and the grace of Tai Chi. This class is free and open to everyone.

Cookbook Book Club will hold a

Friendsgiving Edition on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

People should stop by the library and pick up this month's Cookbook Club selection before Thursday, Nov. 21. The library shelves are stocked with a delightful assortment of cookbooks for people to explore. People should bring a dish inspired by their favorite recipe to share. Library staff will provide the beverages.

Upcoming events at the library include Yoga on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

People may reserve a spot by emailing Chris Brown at [chrisbro40@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisbro40@yahoo.com).

Music in Montgomery is held every Thursday at 3 p.m. Participants will enjoy live music.

The 2024 November Monthly Motif Reading Challenge theme is "It Starts with a B," let the literary adventure begin

On Saturday, Nov. 16 at 10 a.m. there will be a make and take holiday and birthday card workshop with Sandy Mann. People will create three or four unique designs. Seats are limited, so sign

up at the library by Wednesday, Nov. 13.

On Saturday, Nov. 30 at 10 a.m. there will be a kissing ball workshop with Julie and Laurie. Participants will make a festive holiday decoration. The \$5 fee covers all supplies, except for pruning shears and any additional decorations people may want to add. People should pre-register at the library by Wednesday, Nov. 27 to secure your spot.

The library is open Tuesday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Thursday from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## BECKET

### BAC members to host talent show

BECKET – In partnership with Becket Day, the Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will host its first Performing Arts Members' showcase on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 4-6 p.m.

The talent show will feature musi-

cians, comedians, actors and writers, who are part of the BAC community. The event is open to the public and free, though donations are welcome. For more information, people may visit [becketartscenter.org](http://becketartscenter.org).

### Pie and craft sale happens Nov. 16

BECKET – The Congregational Church of Becket, 22 YMCA Road, will hold its annual homemade pie and craft sale on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Guild Hall on YMCA Road.

They will be baking apple, blueberry, blueberry rhubarb, strawberry rhubarb, rhubarb and pumpkin pies. Cost will be \$15 per pie. There will also be a Pie Bar where one can purchase a slice

of pie and a hot drink. Local craft persons will display their wares at that time also.

It will be important to pre-order the pies by calling 413-623-8300 or 413-623-6455.

They will be boxed and ready for pick-up that day. Certified organic blueberries have been donated by Mountain Pasture Farm of Becket.



These are some of the craft items available for sale at the Holiday Arts and Crafts Marketplace on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Submitted photo

### Holiday arts, crafts marketplace Nov. 9

BECKET – The Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will hold its first Holiday Arts and Crafts Marketplace on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

More than 25 artists, crafters and

bakers will be selling their creations in plenty of time for holiday gift-giving. For more information and a list of vendors, people may visit [becketartscenter.org](http://becketartscenter.org).

## WILLIAMSBURG

### Final climate and energy session happens Nov. 3

WILLIAMSBURG – In addition to the many things individuals can do to increase the resiliency to climate change, there are some exciting options coming up.

The last of four sessions on Climate and Energy provided by Indivisible Williamsburg and the Energy Committee of Williamsburg will take place Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2 p.m. at the Anne T. Dumphy School, 1 Petticoat Hill Road.

The session is about options.

Paul Fenn of Local Power LLC, Williamsburg, will tell people about the development of Community Choice Aggregation, which Williamsburg uses, then describe future community energy strategies. These strategies are designed to work with the existing power grid and to increase local resiliency. They cover decarbonization and several other elements such as the waste system. Light refreshments and child care will be provided.

## CHESTERFIELD

### Church hosts turkey dinner Nov. 2

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Congregational Church, 43 Main Road, will be hosting a traditional turkey dinner on Saturday, Nov. 2 with take out order pickup at 4:45 p.m. and dinner seating at 5:30 p.m.

The dinner features home-made roasted turkey, stuffing, potatoes, but-

ternut squash, cranberry sauce, quick breads, apple and pumpkin pie as well as coffee, tea (hot or iced) and lemonade. The cost for adults is \$18, children ages 6 to 12 are \$10 and children 5 and under are free.

Reservations need to be made by calling Zoe at 413-358-6567.

### Church to hold monthly breakfast

CHESTERFIELD – The word is out; the best breakfast in the Hilltowns can be found at the Chesterfield Congregational Church, 43 Main Road.

The church will have its monthly breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 10 from 8-10 a.m. The cost is a voluntary donation.

The menu features pancakes with or without blueberries, French toast, pure Chesterfield maple syrup, free range, organic, farm-fresh eggs any style including eggs Benedict, breakfast sandwiches, sausage, home fries and excellent homemade corned beef hash, juice, tea and coffee. In addi-

tion, the special item for this breakfast will be ginger date pumpkin bread.





# WORTHINGTON

## Hilltown Holiday Help community project accepting applications

WORTHINGTON – For more than twenty five years local families have received help with gifts for their children through a community project called Hilltown Holiday Help.

Children of families with low to moderate income in the hilltowns are eligible to receive clothing, books and toys. This effort is organized by the Hilltown Community Health Centers in conjunction with the National Honor Society with contributions from other organizations and individuals throughout the hilltowns and beyond.

For families in need, wish lists will be available through Hilltown Community Programs staff from now through Monday, Nov. 25 via telephone, email or by stopping by Play to Learn groups, the Gateway School-Based Health Center or the Hilltown Community Health Centers located in Huntington and Worthington. Families with children from newborns through the age of twelve, may be eligible. Gifts will be distributed Dec. 11 through Dec. 13, through contactless curbside pick-

up or delivery. People may call 413-667-2203 for more information.

Donors may arrange for a drop off time with staff or send monetary donations via U.S. Mail to the Attention of Kim Savery c/o HCHC Finance Office at 58 Old North Road, Worthington, MA 01098 with checks made out to HCHC (Hilltown Community Health Centers) with Holiday Help in the memo.

People may visit <https://www.hchcweb.org/hilltown-holiday-help/> to send electronic donations: Hilltown Holiday Help - Hilltown Community Health Center.

If people are unable to commit to becoming a sponsor this year, please look for the National Honor Society's /Huntington Fire Department's fundraising boot drive in Huntington on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or consider donating money or volunteering to deliver. People, who are interested in donating or have questions, may call Susan at 413-307-6012, email [slebarron@hchcweb.org](mailto:slebarron@hchcweb.org) or call Kim at 413-685-3500 or [ksavery@hchcweb.org](mailto:ksavery@hchcweb.org).

## Fundraiser to benefit hurricane relief

WORTHINGTON – A group of citizens are hosting a bake sale Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9 a.m.-noon at Packard Park.

Donated baked items may be brought to PackardPark on Saturday, Nov. 2 starting at 8 a.m.

All monies raised will be donated directly to: The Black Mountain Strong Hurricane Helene Relief Fund. vChecks may be made out to The First Congregational Church of Worthington with a memo note "Black Mountain."

This is a community-to-community pitching in to help out down in the Appalachia Mountains.

There is also a Teddy Bear collection to be donated to Black Mountain United Methodist Church. Brand new bears will be accepted and should be no more than 18-inches big. This is a community effort to help those who have lost so much due to Hurricane Helene last month. People may call Elodi at 413-238-4466 with any questions.

# GOSHEN

## Open Space Committee to host Bingo fundraiser

GOSHEN – The Goshen Open Space Committee will host a Bingo fundraiser with all proceeds going to the Re-imagine Goshen Center project on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 1:30 p.m. in the Goshen Town Hall, 42 Main St.

The doors will open at 12:30 p.m. Cost is a suggested donation of \$20 when people pre-register by Tuesday, Nov. 5 or \$25 for walk-ins. Participants will get ten games of Bingo and a door prize ticket. Additional bingo card sets are available for \$5 and daubers for \$1. Raffle and 50/50 tickets available.

Prizes include gift cards from George Propane, Cummington Supply, Ashfield Hardware, The Old Creamery Co-op, Spruce Corner Restaurant and more. Other prizes from Paul's Sugar House, Williamsburg Blacksmith, plus stained glass, quilts, wall hangings, hand knitted items and much more.

To pre-register, people should mail a check and include their email address for confirmation to town of Goshen, Open Space Committee, 40 Main St., Goshen, MA 01032. In the memo field, they should write Re-Imagine Bingo.

People may email [reimaginesoshen01032@gmail.com](mailto:reimaginesoshen01032@gmail.com) with any questions, Open Space Committee Hosts Bingo Fundraiser

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People may email [reimaginesoshen01032@gmail.com](mailto:reimaginesoshen01032@gmail.com), call Lorraine at 413-268-3660 or Mickey at 413-535-0431 with any questions.



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CJ24TMC



# WESTFIELD

## St. Joseph's National Catholic Church to host community dinner Nov. 17

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph's National Catholic Church at 73 Main St., is hosting a community dinner on Sunday, Nov. 17 at noon.

This community dinner will feature succulent baked stuffed chicken breast

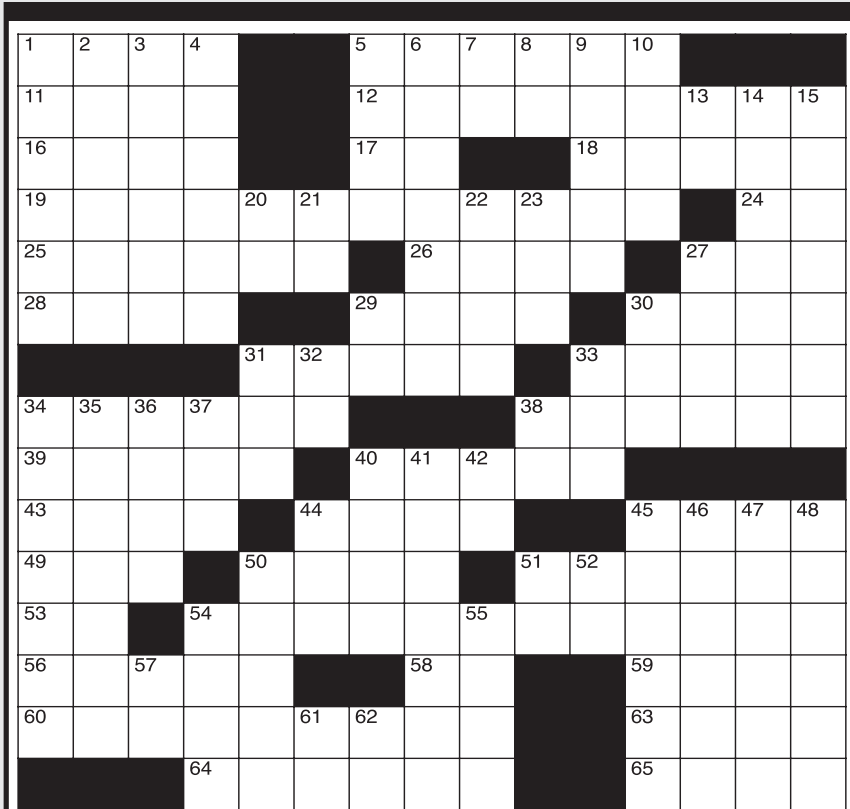
with gravy, butternut squash, green peas and cranberry sauce. Dessert served will be homemade pumpkin pie. Local apple cider, coffee and bottled water will also be served.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10

for children 12 and under. Everyone is welcome. To purchase tickets and reserve a place, text or telephone Cliff at 413-977-2007 and if leaving a message, people should provide their name and telephone number. Deadline for purchasing

tickets is Wednesday, Nov. 13.

A limited number of take-out meals-to-go will be available for pick-up at 12:30 p.m. When ordering tickets, please indicate if dinner is to-go. All community members are welcome.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 5. Highly impressed
- 11. Pronoun to identify something specific
- 12. Uttered in an impassioned way
- 16. Outfits
- 17. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 18. Stewed game casserole
- 19. Indignities inflicted on others
- 24. Blood type
- 25. Says beneath one's breath
- 26. Taxis
- 27. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- 28. NFL great Randy
- 29. Where college students live
- 30. Brief Yankees sensation Kevin

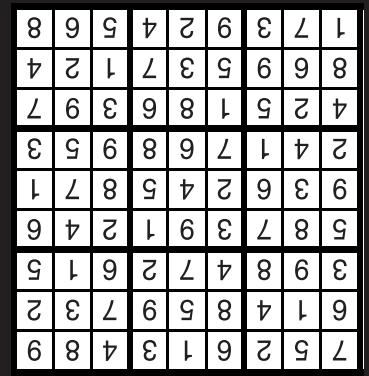
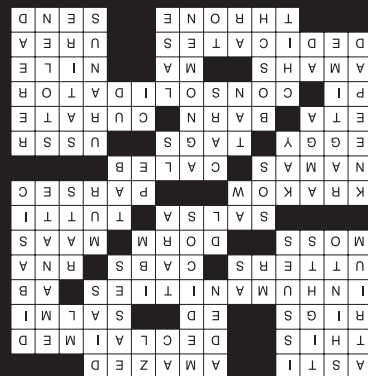
- 31. Condiment
- 33. -frutti
- 34. Polish city
- 38. Astronomy unit of distance
- 39. Romanian village
- 40. Bears first overall pick Williams
- 43. Irritated
- 44. Clothing for sale has them
- 45. One-time world power
- 49. When you anticipate arriving
- 50. Farm building
- 51. Organize thoughtfully
- 53. Detective
- 54. One who reduces
- 56. Nursemaids
- 58. Partner to "Pa"
- 59. World's longest river
- 60. Commemorates
- 63. Compound
- 64. The Lannisters and Starks fought for one
- 65. Email function

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Open-roofed entrance
- 2. Japanese religion
- 3. Dancer's garments
- 4. Distributes
- 5. Yemeni port
- 6. Spanish doctors
- 7. It cools your house
- 8. Engine variant
- 9. Makes more manageable
- 10. Days (Spanish)
- 13. Milliliter
- 14. Spread out from
- 15. With two replaceable hydrogen atoms
- 20. Respectful title for a man
- 21. Equally
- 22. Scarlett's home
- 23. Big Blue
- 27. Subway dwellers
- 29. One-tenth of a liter
- 30. Central European river
- 31. Distress signal
- 32. Expression of sympathy

- 33. Bar bill
- 34. Football equipment
- 35. Dance music
- 36. Russian river
- 37. Mary \_\_, cosmetics
- 38. Gym class
- 40. Autos
- 41. Fourth and honorable name in ancient Rome
- 42. Defeats (abbr.)
- 44. A way to color
- 45. Planet
- 46. Form of humor
- 47. Taken without permission
- 48. Go over again
- 50. Auto parts manufacturer
- 51. Detective's source
- 52. Home of the Flyers
- 54. Short official note
- 55. Emit coherent radiation
- 57. In the year of Our Lord
- 61. Atomic #18
- 62. Not from, but...

**answers**



## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**

**Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Your energy levels are soaring. Channel this vitality into a new project or personal goal. Be cautious of being too impulsive, and think things through before acting.

**CANCER**

**Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, focus on behind-the-scenes work around the office — it's not always about being in the spotlight that gets you ahead. All of your contributions are valuable.

**LIBRA**

**Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, focus on finding harmony in your relationships this week. You might need to mediate conflicts or offer support to loved ones. Use your diplomatic skills to create balance.

**CAPRICORN**

**Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, your dedication and hard work are likely to be recognized, leading to potential advancement or new opportunities. Just wait for all of the exciting things to come your way.

**TAURUS**

**Apr 21/May 21**  
Embrace flexibility in your personal life, Taurus. Being open to change will lead to unexpected opportunities and strengthen your relationships. There are a few surprises ahead.

**LEO**

**Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, embrace your natural charisma and confidence, but also remember to show appreciation for the people who support you. Balance is key in all social situations this week.

**SCORPIO**

**Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Trust your instincts when making decisions, especially those related to work or personal projects, Scorpio. Your intuition is pretty sharp this week, so use it to your advantage.

**AQUARIUS**

**Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Use creative energy to explore new ideas or tackle creative projects. When you interact with others, you also may gain some fresh ideas to use to your advantage.

**GEMINI**

**May 22/Jun 21**  
Communication is key for you this week, Gemini. You may find that your words carry extra weight and influence. Use this to your advantage at work and in your personal life.

**VIRGO**

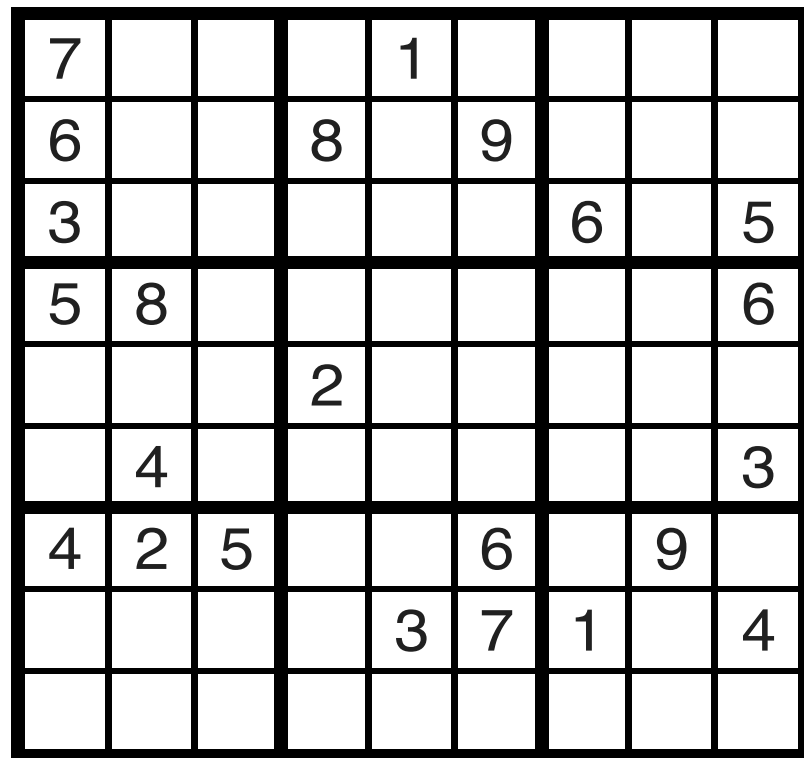
**Aug 24/Sept 22**  
It is time to get organized, Virgo. Tackle any lingering tasks or projects that need your attention. Your meticulous attention to detail will serve you well as you bring order to things.

**SAGITTARIUS**

**Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, adventure is calling out to you. Whether it's a spontaneous trip or exploring a new hobby, embrace opportunities to expand your horizons.

**PISCES**

**Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, this week calls for reflection and healing. Take time to address any emotional needs and seek support if you want to talk to someone or simply need another be close to you.



# SUDOKU

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**Here's How It Works:**

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## REGION

## BEAT to hold Zoom meeting

Rosemary Wessel, the Director of Berkshire Environmental Action Team's No Fracked Gas in Mass program, will speak at the November Berkshire Green Drinks event on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

This free virtual event will take place online via Zoom and start at 6 p.m.. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

People may visit [tinyurl.com/Nov2024-Berks-Green-Drinks](https://tinyurl.com/Nov2024-Berks-Green-Drinks) to learn more and register.

Rosemary will discuss Berkshire County's last peaking power plant, Pittsfield Generating and how peak-demand power needs could be met without fossil fuels.

A peaking power plant is an electric generating facility that only operates when electricity use is very high, such as on very hot and humid summer days when air conditioning demand is high or on very cold winter days when both heating and electric demand are high. These facilities are usually powered by dirty fuels like oil, "natural" gas, or kerosene and emit significant amounts of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides, a hazardous gas that can cause serious respiratory issues.

People are invited to join BEAT for this virtual event and learn how

transitioning of Pittsfield Generating could be a cornerstone for establishing a clean energy economic zone in the Berkshires while removing one of the last large sources of pollution.

Rosemary Wessel is Director for BEAT's No Fracked Gas in Massachusetts program. For ten years, she's been working to stop development of new and remove existing fossil fuel infrastructure while advocating for conversion to clean alternatives.

Berkshire Green Drinks, formerly Pittsfield Green Drinks, is an informal gathering on the second Wednesday of the month that is free and open to everyone with any environmental interest. A guest speaker talks about an environmentally related topic for approximately 30 minutes beginning at 6 p.m.; the presentation is followed by a discussion and question and answer. The drinks aren't green, but the conversations are. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join and bring along questions.

Berkshire Green Drinks is sponsored and organized by the Berkshire Environmental Action Team. For more information regarding Berkshire Green Drinks, people may email Chelsey Simmons at [chelsey@thebeatnews.org](mailto:chelsey@thebeatnews.org) or call 413-464-9402.

## Senate votes to modernize child custody jurisdiction laws

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Senate passed legislation to simplify and modernize child custody jurisdiction laws in the Commonwealth.

An Act relative to the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act would simplify custody jurisdiction laws and bring Massachusetts into conformity with other states around the country. By so doing, the Commonwealth would be creating a more streamlined process for families going through challenging times while supporting the safety and well-being of children who find themselves in custody challenges.

Under the new law, clear rules would be established for multi-state custody cases, prioritizing the home state of the child and ensuring Massachusetts courts can work effectively with courts in other states nationally and in other countries for international child custody orders. Going forward, once Massachusetts courts have exercised jurisdiction over custody, those courts would maintain jurisdiction over potential changes in the judgment or order, so long as a parent or the child remain in state. This will prevent forum shopping and competing lawsuits in multiple jurisdictions.

"Passing this bill will help to simplify the process for families during one of the hardest points in their lives, making the path forward easier and ensuring that children aren't harmed in the process," commented Senator Adam Gomez

(D-Springfield), a former Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities. "By listening to those deeply involved in the process we've passed a bill here that will make things less complicated for families, and I look forward to seeing it move further in the legislature."

"I'm proud that the Massachusetts Senate passed my legislation to bring Massachusetts in line with the rest of the nation by enacting the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, better known as UCCJEA," said Senate Majority Leader Cynthia Stone Creem (D-Newton), lead sponsor of the legislation. "This legislation will provide more certainty and uniformity for families involved in difficult child-custody cases and will protect the jurisdiction and integrity of Massachusetts court custody decisions. I am grateful to have the support of the Boston Bar Association, the Massachusetts Bar Association, and the Massachusetts chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers behind this important bill."

S.2754 was sponsored by Majority Leader Cynthia Stone Creem and was reported favorably from the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. The Senate has twice previously passed a version of this legislation, in 2016 and in 2018. Having been passed by the Senate, the legislation will now be sent to the House of Representatives for consideration.



Shown from left are Stephen Phillips, Kara Herman, Nathaniel Claudio and Natasha Cassidy from Freedom Credit Union and Kristen McClintock, executive Director, The Gray House, Inc. Submitted photo

## Freedom Credit Union helps Food Bank of Western Massachusetts

SPRINGFIELD – Freedom Credit Union is helping families in need put food on the table.

Its annual campaign for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts extended over three months this summer, raising enough to cover the cost of more than 10,000 meals.

"It warms our hearts to know we've helped remove some of the stress families face as they struggle to keep up with the rising cost of food and other necessities," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "We're deeply thankful for the generosity of those who helped us support our neighbors living with food insecurity."

Freedom Credit Union collected donations of cash, nonperishable food and personal care items at all its branches, raising a total of more than \$3,350. For every dollar donated, the Food Bank can provide three meals. In addition, food donations weighed in at nearly 1,435 pounds and were delivered to the Gray House, a member organization benefiting from the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. That amounts to another 1,195 meals.

Every month, Freedom Credit Union collects donations for a different charity. This month, people can make contribu-

tions at any branch through Thursday, Oct. 31 to support Rays of Hope in its fight against breast cancer.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has been feeding neighbors in need and leading the community to end hunger since 1982. It provides food to residents in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties through its members, which include independent food pantries, meal sites and shelters.

Originally chartered in 1922 as the Western Massachusetts Telephone Workers Credit Union and renamed in 2004, Freedom Credit Union is a nine-branch, full-service financial institution. Today, membership is available to anyone who lives, works or attends school in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin or Berkshire counties in Massachusetts and Hartford or Tolland counties in Connecticut. Freedom Credit Union has conveniently located Massachusetts branches in Chicopee, Feeding Hills, Greenfield, Ludlow, Northampton, Turners Falls, West Springfield and two in Springfield, as well as a Loan Production Office in Enfield, Connecticut. For more information, people may visit [freedom.coop](https://freedom.coop).

## Ride to Provide raises over \$73K

SPRINGFIELD – On Sunday, Sept. 29, seventeen bike teams from Jewish organizations in Western Massachusetts participated in the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts' Ride to Provide 2024 to raise funds for all the good things these organizations do locally and internationally.

The event took place at Sinai Temple in Springfield. In total, Ride to Provide 2024 had approximately 120 participants and raised more than \$73,600 in registrations, donations to teams and generous sponsors.

In addition to the fundraising, Ride to Provide 2024 celebrated Jewish culture and gave the Jewish community the opportunity to be together and be in com-

munity.

Following is a list of all participating bike teams: B'Yachad Springfield, Congregation Beit Ahavah, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation B'nai Torah, Congregation Sons of Zion, Hebrew Free Loan Association of Greater Springfield, Jewish Community of Amherst, Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts, Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, Lander-Grinspoon Academy, Lubavitcher Yeshiva Academy, New England Jewish Academy, Ohel Minyan, Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts, Sinai Temple, Springfield Jewish Community Center, and Temple Beth El.

## Brush fire warning: State, local leaders urge caution amid high fire risk

STOW – With 47 active brush fires reported statewide, including 18 in the past 24 hours, local and state officials are urging residents to use extra caution with any open flame or other heat source outdoors.

Representatives from the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, Department of Conservation & Recreation, Department of Fire Services, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts reminded residents that the ongoing weather conditions make dry leaves, dead vegetation, and other fuels extremely receptive to ignition.

"The dry, sunny, breezy weather

is great for recreation, but it also means that any outdoor fire will spread quickly and become very difficult to manage," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "We're seeing preventable fires growing to dangerous sizes and drawing numerous resources, locally and regionally."

Based on the preliminary causes of recent fires, officials are asking residents to:

Remember that open burning is prohibited statewide through January and in many communities year-round.

Refrain from outdoor cooking and heating. Sparks and embers from chimneys, fire pits, and grills can easily ignite dry vegetation, debris, and overhanging

branches.

Use caution with lawnmowers, leaf blowers, all-terrain vehicles, and other power equipment. The engines can become hot enough to ignite dry leaves and grass.

Dispose of ashes from fireplaces and wood stoves in a metal can, douse them with water, and cover them with a tight-fitting lid. These ashes can remain hot enough to ignite combustibles long after the fire goes out: never dump them outdoors or in the trash.

Extinguish smoking materials in a sturdy ashtray with water or sand. Never toss cigarette butts, matches, or other smoking materials over the edge of a bal-

cony, stub them out on stairs or railings, or toss them in dry vegetation or debris.

Weather conditions statewide currently place all Massachusetts communities at elevated risk of brush fires. Many of these fires could spread to or from residential areas. Residents should monitor fire conditions closely and follow instructions from local public safety officials. Ensure that Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) are enabled on your cell phone. If your community has a local alert system, sign up to receive local warnings.

Find more outdoor fire safety tips on the Department of Fire Services' website by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/outdoor-firesafety>.



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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 [hwyssecretary@newbraintree.org](mailto:hwyssecretary@newbraintree.org).

**PART-TIME CUSTODIAL** position at St. Mary's Parish in Hampden. \$20/hours, 12 hours a week/flexible. Call **413-566-8843** or email [stmary-hampden@gmail.com](mailto:stmary-hampden@gmail.com).

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## HELP WANTED

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **Water and Sewer Administrative Coordinator** for 18 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook and well organized. Hours are flexible but must be worked during the regular Water and Sewer department hours of Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Water and Sewer Department as needed. Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing [WaterandSewer@huntingtonma.us](mailto:WaterandSewer@huntingtonma.us). Position is open until filled.  
*Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

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

### DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

The Town of Wilbraham is looking for a Director of Veterans Services. For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov).  
EOE

## HELP WANTED

### TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

#### HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill **two full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department.

Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

- Highway maintenance laborer salary rate range: \$18.16 - \$26.46
- Highway maintenance laborer with CDL and Hoister's license salary rate range: \$25.00 - \$36.41

Further information can be found on the Town's website:

[www.worthington-ma.us](http://www.worthington-ma.us)

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday-Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: [worthingtonhighway@gmail.com](mailto:worthingtonhighway@gmail.com) or to Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098. This posting will remain pertinent until the two positions are filled.

*The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*



## HELP WANTED

### TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

#### HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT OPENING

##### Highway Department

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

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

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

Salary rate range: \$62,941.00 - \$91,707.00, with potential for winter overtime.

More information can be found on the Town of Worthington website:

[www.worthington-ma.us](http://www.worthington-ma.us)

Please send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to:

[selectboard@worthington-ma.us](mailto:selectboard@worthington-ma.us). This posting will remain pertinent until the positions are filled.

*The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

## HELP WANTED

### Worthington Police Department 51 Huntington Road, Worthington, MA 01098

#### FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER

The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for Full-time Police Officer.

Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license.

They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.

This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined and possess a community policing philosophy and live in, or near Worthington. Previous candidates must reapply.

Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to:

**Worthington Police Department  
P.O. Box 246  
Worthington, MA 01098**

Or via email to: [chief@worthingtonpd.org](mailto:chief@worthingtonpd.org)  
Subject line: Employment  
Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.

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## REAL ESTATE

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

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

## Classified Advertising

# DEADLINE

MONDAY AT NOON

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### MIDDLEFIELD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

The Middlefield ZBA is holding a public hearing on **Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.** at the Middlefield Town Hall regarding the application of Cody Gerry and Tylor Gosselin for a Special Permit for new construction of a detached one-family dwelling at property located at 212 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, MA. Deed Book No. 8368, Page No. 347.

Maureen Sullivan,  
ZBA Chair  
10/31, 11/07/2024

### 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 Parriet; Natalie Parriet 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 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 objec-

tions 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](mailto:hruff@ruffllc.com)

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

Beaufort, South Carolina  
October 8, 2024

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

### Town of Worthington Highway Garage Assessment Request for Proposals

The Town of Worthington invites proposals from qualified vendors to conduct and provide a comprehensive Assessment of our Highway Garage and its associated systems and site. Request for Proposals may be obtained from the Office of the Selectboard, 160 Huntington Road, Worthington, MA 01098, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9AM - 3 PM, upon request via email at [selectboard@worthington-ma.us](mailto:selectboard@worthington-ma.us) or by phone at 413-238-5577 x100.  
10/31/2024

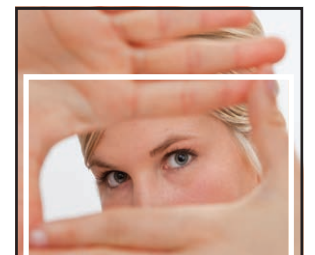
### Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice

On **Tuesday, November 12, 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  
10/31/2024



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[eversource-ma.com/ci-heat-pumps](https://eversource-ma.com/ci-heat-pumps)  
or call 844-887-1400.**

