

# 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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## RUSSELL



Volunteers who helped make Haunted Strathmore a memorable event, pose for a picture.

Photos Courtesy of Russell/Montgomery Police Dept.

## HAUNTED STRATHMORE draws large crowd

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

There were all kinds of things going on at the Russell/Montgomery Police Department's Haunted Strathmore on Friday, Oct. 24 and Saturday, Oct. 25.

There were hayrides geared for juniors and others for adults. There was a haunted pumpkin patch, a Jack O'Lantern contest, free popcorn and cider and food trucks, Our Mother's Kitchen on Friday and North Elm Butcher Block on Saturday.

D.J. Fractal Tribe appeared Friday while there was live music featuring Kitty and the Beard on Saturday. According to Police Chief Kevin Hennessey people came from all over the Hilltowns and surrounding communities.

"There were a lot of people," he said, "about 400 on Friday, and over 1,000 on



Fortunes were told with the Tarot Cards.

Saturday."

Hayrides were discounted for adults from \$10 to \$5, if they brought a non-perishable food item. These were donated to local food pantries and the Salvation Army.

Some of the 40 volunteers included Bobby Holmes who provided technical support and assembling scenes along the path in the

park; CC, a volunteer who found and contributed props, Mindy Poudrier who played a character role and worked on setting up the scary area.

The Russell Highway Department, Electric Company, Select Board and the Hampden County Arborists, who removed dangerous tree limbs and moved big rocks to accommodate



Another special attraction was the anamaton Georgie from the movie "It."

parking and walkways also helped out. The Hilltown Hikers sent candy and a donation.

"The event," said police Lt. Sean Schattuck, "went very well...no

issues, and plans for next year are already in the works." Hennessey believes Strathmore Park is an ideal location for the Halloween event. "Safety is an important consideration," he said.

## BLANDFORD

### Select Board holds Roundtable discussion

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Select Board held the October Round Table discussion on Monday, Oct. 27.

The specific topic was the review of the capital budget requests submitted by departments. Topics ranged from property maintenance and ran through cemetery, conservation, disability, ball field, fire, highway, library, town clerk and water department needs. Many of the requested expenditure items had already been accomplished but there are some yet to be taken care of.

#### Property maintenance

A big concern is property maintenance. There are water/ice issues at the rear of the town hall building and can be dangerous. Does the town want to hire a maintenance person or outsource the job was a concern. A job description is in the works.

#### Cemetery

Cemetery Commissioner T.J. Cousineau (also Select Board member) reported that he has a quote for \$17,000 for mowing three town cemeteries; the Old Burial Ground, the Hill Cemetery and the North Blandford Cemetery. This is the first of the required three quotes for the work.

Funding for accessibility items at the town hall are pending a successful grant award; this would include signage, grab bars and lever doorknobs.

#### Fire Department

There was a lengthy discussion about Fire Department needs, especially a new facility.

Most of the requested items would not be acquired until there is a new facility that can accommodate equipment such as a replacement for Engine 1, a proper rescue vehicle, a vehicle that can carry extraction tools in case of an automobile accident, etc. "We're just trying to forecast needs," said Fire Chief Adam Dolby. He also said that the department has been "extremely frugal" and is not spending any of the funds received for calls to accidents on the Mass Turnpike. He said the department receives just over \$400 for every fire vehicle that is on site. "But that's for the whole time," he added.

#### Library

Library Director Nicole Daviau said there would be "significant costs" to bring the library up to code without moving forward with the expansion plan. There is no second exit/entry among other things.

## BLANDFORD

### Porter Memorial Library announces news, events

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Every Tuesday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. is an opportunity to explore fun art techniques at the library.

Children and adults are all welcome; no experience needed. Every Wednesday morning from 10:30-11:30 a.m. is the regular Book Squirms with stories, songs and sensory play, plus socializing for preschoolers and their caregivers.

On Friday, Nov. 7 the Pokemon Club meets at 5 p.m. for Pokemon crafts, trivia, trading and what's new.

Saturday, Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. John Crane will discuss his grandfather James Crane's WWI diary, "My Thoughts Turn Often to Home." To read the diary before the event, people may email blandfordporterlibrary@gmail.com.

The library will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day. The adult book club, Communi-Tea, meets on Saturday, Nov. 15 at 11 a.m. and will discuss "James" by Percival Everett, a reimagining of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

LIBRARY, page 6

## BLANDFORD

### Board holds hearing on bylaw change

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

In preparation for the Special Town Meeting on Monday, Nov. 17 Planning Board Chairman Greg Garfield opened the board's Public Hearing Thursday, Oct. 30.

The hearing was for the board to consider moving forward with an amendment to the Zoning bylaws for solar and battery energy storage system for a temporary moratorium. Garfield read the proposed bylaw change in its entirety. The warrant is available on the town's website at townofblandford.gov. A recording of the hearing and meet-

ing is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiCjEaUq5Hg>.

The Planning Board voted to move forward with the proposed moratorium. According to Garfield, this will allow the town to strengthen pertinent bylaws. "But," he said, "we will have to work quickly."

"This whole thing (solar, Battery Energy Storage System and substation expansion) started so quickly; this is being bull-rushed at us," he added.

The meeting was "quiet" and "went ok" according to Garfield. "There were lots of comments, nothing negative."

He felt that everyone is concerned about "what's going on" and that the theme seems to be that as a small, rural town, people would like a say in what happens in town.

Garfield compared the presentation by Mission Clean Energy to the town and the lack thereof by Blue Wave. Mission Clean came into town with a team and interfaced with the community while Blue Wave has not done that, according to Garfield. Blue Wave has applied for solar installations on Chester and Huntington Roads.

Garfield said that Blue

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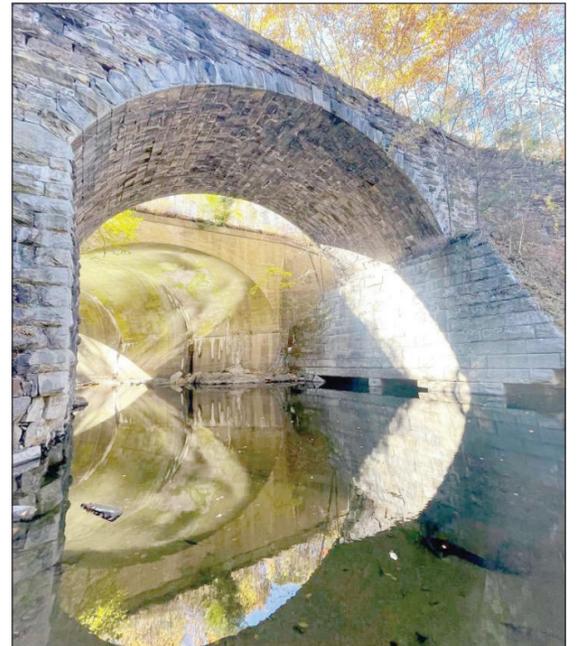


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# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



## Hilltown Hikers visit railroad arch bridges

Hikers look at the 65 foot stone arch bridge, a National Landmark. Submitted photos

The gator arch, the only unprotected stone arch bridge, located off the trail. The newer concrete poured bridge directly abuts this historical one and is used today.

CHESTER – The Western Railroad was surveyed and engineered by Maj. George Washington Whistler in the 1830s.

Editor Buckingham of the Boston Courier predicted in 1827 “it would be as useless as a railroad from Boston to the moon.” The route utilized portions of the Pontoosic Turnpike stage road to Albany. It was surveyed on horseback, to this day is some of the most remote and forbidding territory in the state. When complete the Western was the highest (1458 ft.) and longest (150 mi.) railroad in the world.

Whistler was the father of one of the most famous American painters, James MacNeill Whistler. His second wife, Anna, has also become an icon by way of “Portrait of the Painter’s Mother” (1871).

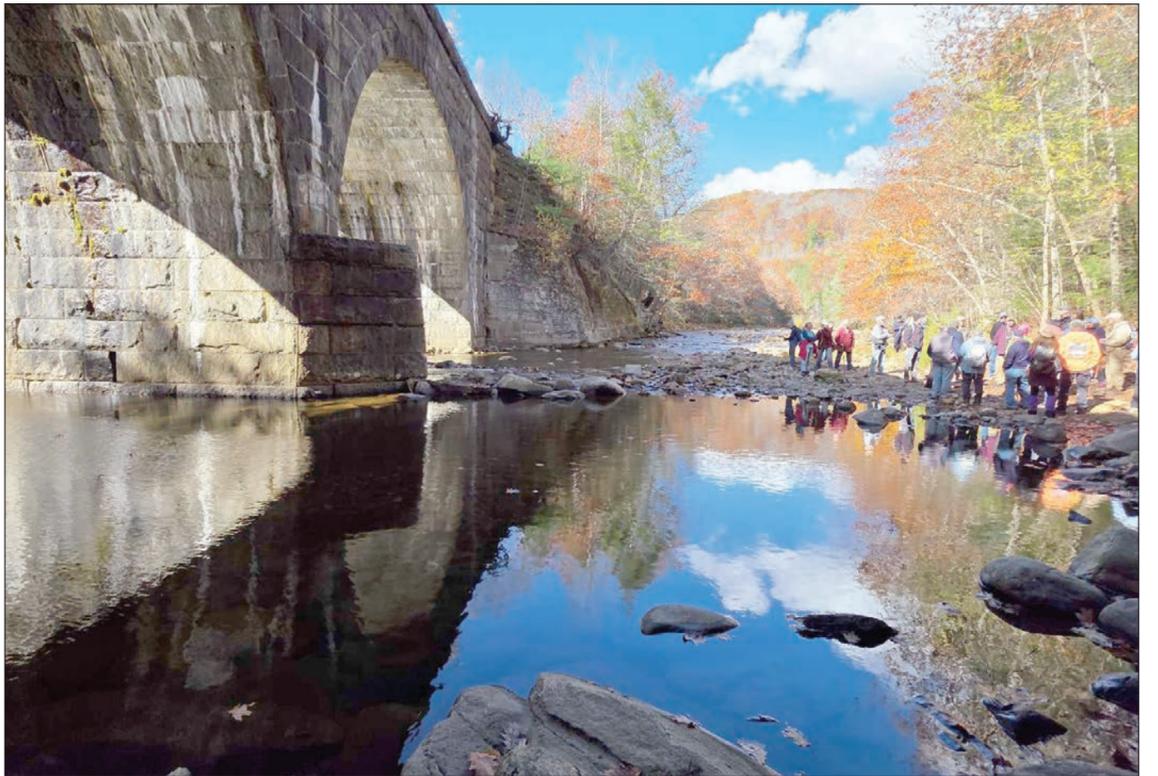
Alexander Birnie was the artisan responsible for the Keystone Arches. A second-generation Scottish stonemason from Stockbridge, he was hired to construct 27 bridges, culverts and walls for the mountain segment of the line. On this portion of abandoned rail bed, the Hilltown Hikers

crossed two spectacular stone arch bridges, 65 and 70 ft. high and pass a breathtaking stone retaining wall.

Also on this section of the trail are two impressive hand-dug cuts through solid rock. The builders of 1840 had only black powder to loosen rocks and picks, shovels and horse carts to remove it.

Stone taken from the cuts was used to construct secondary walls, but for the “ring stones” or “voussoirs” of the arches themselves, Chester Blue granite was utilized. This had to be transported in wagons to the rail head and brought to the site on the primitive rail equipment of the day, a formidable task in itself.

The trains you see still cross other examples of these mortarless bridges here, testimony to their integrity. The average locomotive in 1840 weighed about 12,000 lbs. The locomotives of today, which traverse arches still in use on this line, weigh in the neighborhood of 415,000 lbs. Those bridges show no ill effects from their crossing. Thanks to Dave Pierce of the Chester Foundation for narrating the journey.



The hike started at the double arch in Chester, still used today by trains on a regular basis including Amtrak passenger rail.



Hikers gather at the lower parking lot for an introduction by special guest Dave Pierce of the Chester Foundation.



The Hilltown Hikers are shown below the 70 foot stone arch bridge, a National Landmark.

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*Country Journal*  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

## HUNTINGTON

# COA lists events

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

Ray Guillemette, Jr. will perform his King & Kountry show on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 2-3 p.m. The show is an Elvis and country music tribute. He is a 10 time international award winning entertainer and has performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Japan. This is a free event and all ages from any community are welcome to attend. The performance is made possible by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

On Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 2-3 p.m., Alex and Ronnie will perform. The movie "Harry and the Hendersons" will be shown on Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 2 p.m. Heather Morgan from Southern Hilltown Adult

Education Center will present "Spams and Scams" on Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 1-2 p.m.

Also on Wednesday, Dec. 3, the movie "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" will be shown at 2 p.m. The Hilltown Memory Café is held weekly on Wednesday 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.

## Task Force meets Nov. 12

HUNTINGTON – The Southern Hills Domestic Violence Task Force will meet in person on Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 3 p.m. at Gateway Regional High School, 12 Littleville Road, in the Career

Center on the second floor. For more information, people may email SouthernHillsDVTaskForce@gmail.com. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 16.

## STOCKBRIDGE

# Stockbridge Grange to hold community dinner

STOCKBRIDGE – The Stockbridge Grange, 51 Church St., will hold a community dinner Sunday, Nov. 9 with take out pickup starting at noon and sit down meal at 1 p.m.

The menu features roast pork, mashed potato, vegetable, bread, and dessert choices of chocolate cream or apple pie. Dinner is \$17

per person. The meal will be served in the Stockbridge Grange Hall. People may make both in-person reservations and take out orders by calling either 413-243-1298 or 413-443-4352.

Grange dinners are held to raise money for non-profit projects and building maintenance. The Grange thanks people for their support.

## HILLTOWNS

# MassDOT announces I-90 roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces daytime and overnight bridge work, bridge painting, crack sealing and associated lane closures on I-90 eastbound and westbound in the towns of Becket, Lee, Montgomery, Russell, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge.

In Becket, bridge work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 18.4 from now through Friday, Nov. 7 from

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

In Montgomery and Russell bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 westbound at mile marker 36.0 from now through Friday, Nov. 7 from 6 a.m.-noon.

In Becket, Lee, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge crack sealing will be conducted on I-90

eastbound and westbound from mile marker 0.0 to mile marker 17.3 on Friday night, Nov. 7 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m. the following morning.

Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers traveling through the area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions,

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

## RUSSELL

### ELLIOT ST. JEAN CELEBRATES FIRST COMMUNION



Elliot St. Jean, front middle, with his brothers Logan and Patrick is shown with his parents, Larry and Madonna St. Jean, back. Elliot made First Holy Communion on Sunday, Oct. 19 at Holy Family Parish in Russell. Submitted photos

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# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT OPENING Highway Department

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

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

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

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

More information can be found on the Town of Worthington website: [www.worthington-ma.us](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 position is filled.

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# EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 24-28, 2025.

**Thursday, Nov. 20 at 2 PM for November 27 issue**

- Agawam Advertiser News • Country Journal
- The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

**Friday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue**

- Sentinel • Quaboag Current

**Monday, November 24 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue**

- The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

**Tuesday, November 25 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue**

- Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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# OPINION

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Leave things in nature untouched

To the Editor

I am a resident of Worthington and an active outdoorsman and fly fisherman.

I live very close to the Chesterfield Gorge and actively enjoy the pristine beauty of the Westfield River and the land surrounding this watershed. However, I am very concerned about the preservation of this tremendous natural resource and the impact that users can have on this property.

Over time, I believe, the best way to preserve this great resource is to leave it the way we find it and not alter its beauty in any permanent way. So, recently, when I read a full-page article in the Country Journal about the painting of a so-called "Flag Rock" along the Westfield River I became concerned.

My concern is simple. Displaying and painting rocks and altering a conservation property is in conflict

with natural preservation.

Please don't get me wrong, I strongly support the patriotic feelings associated with the painting of the "Flag Rock," but I believe it is not the appropriate place for such displays. In addition, I think it opens up a precedent where others might think it is okay to modify conservation or public land that should be left in its natural state for everyone to enjoy.

Caleb Harris  
Worthington

## GUEST COLUMN



### Should I ask for retroactive benefits?

Dear Rusty:

I turn 70 next month, Oct. 3 and am making an application for Social Security benefits to begin in January 2026.

I want the maximum Delayed Retirement Credits and the highest permanent monthly benefit. I do not want to leave money on the table, so should I request six months of retroactive benefits or at least retroactive to October when I turn 70? If I do this, will I lose DRCs and adversely impact my ongoing monthly benefit after February 2026?

Signed: Turning 70

do not wish to receive retroactive benefits. I want my maximum monthly benefit effective with the month I turn 70 years of age."

If, however, for some reason you still wish to claim effective with January 2026, you should indicate in the "Remarks" section of your SS application that you only wish three months of retroactive benefits, for the months of October, November and December 2025. This is to prevent you from losing the money you would miss by waiting beyond October to claim. If you ask for benefits retroactive to any month earlier than the month you turn 70, your monthly benefit will be permanently reduced.

*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.*

Dear Turning 70:

I must ask why claim your Social Security to start in January? You are entitled to your maximum SS monthly benefit in the month you reach 70 years of age, so waiting until January doesn't gain you anything. You could apply in August, specifying you wish your benefits to start in October, and you would get the maximum age 70 benefit you are entitled to (e.g., the maximum Delayed Retirement Credits available to you, and the highest possible monthly benefit).

Since you are looking for your maximum DRC's, to prevent SSA from giving you any retroactive benefits, which would permanently lower your monthly amount) you should enter in the "Remarks" section of your application that "I



## GUEST COLUMN

### Garden Lady follow up

Martha wrote in after my column on Stinging Nettle. As you may recall, a reader had reached out about this plant and how it had begun to grow rampant in her field.

She was nervous about coming in contact with it, and nervous for her dog, as well, who likes to run in the tall



grass. Her main concern was eradicating it, and although I gave her some advice on how

to do that, I should have also given the plant a little more well-deserved recognition.

Herbalists and others interested in the nutritional value of nettle often plant it "on purpose."

This is what Martha had to say: "I did, indeed, plant

GARDEN, page 5



Horned lark



By Ellenor Downer

Recently, the Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sighting of a horned lark on the summit of Mt. Wachusett in Princeton.

Only the male horned larks have "horns." They are tiny and hard to see. Males are sandy to rusty brown above with a black chest band and a curving black mask. The face and throat are either yellow or white. The female lacks the horns and face mask. She is brown with darker streaks and has a white eyebrow and white below.

They are about the size of a robin and the only lark species in North America. The female lays three to four pale gray to greenish white, blotched and spotted with brown eggs in a slight depression in the ground. Incubation is by the female and young are fed by both

parents. Young may leave the nest after nine to 12 days. They are not able to fly for about another week.

Larks forage entirely by walking and running on the ground. Except when nesting, they usually forage in flocks. They eat seeds and insects. They also eat berries. They are present all year in most areas from southern Canada south. They are strictly migratory in the far north.

#### Mass Audubon bird sightings

On Oct. 25 Wachusett Mountain in Princeton, hawk watchers reported sighting from the summit two northern harriers, ten sharp-shinned hawks, nine Cooper's hawks, 18 red-shoulder hawks, four red-tailed hawks, two American kestrels and one merlin. In

addition, people saw two bald eagles, 37 turkey vultures and one horned lark.



Northern kestrel

#### Helping birds

With more than 40 million acres of lawn in the U.S. alone, there's huge potential to support wildlife by replacing lawns with native plantings. People will have less grass to mow by adding native plants. They then will be able to watch the birds come into

their yard. They also provide shelter and nesting areas for birds. The nectar, seeds and berries help feed the birds.

#### Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident emailed on Oct. 17 that he went to the Brimfield State Forest a few days ago and checked three ponds. He said, "Not much about, one pond had eight Canada Geese and another had a group of wood ducks. Maybe a couple dozen in a beaver pond, it was difficult to get a count with all the stumps and branches in the water."

He said, "In the yard the Eastern Towhee and Northern Catbird were last seen the second week of October. Besides the usual suspect there have been white-throated Sparrows (most were the tan-striped color form), common yellowthroat (female). An unusual sighting was a male northern flicker taking a drink at the bird bath. That is the first time that I have seen a woodpecker take a drink" He also saw two dark-eyed juncos, the first of the year in his yard. One took a bath.

#### Sunflower seed heads

The Brimfield resident reported the tufted titmouse and northern cardinal really like the sunflower seed heads that he has been hanging on one of my feeder stations. Because of the black bears, he has no bird feeders out yet.

#### Warren ponds

The Brimfield resident drove past the ponds in Warren. At the one on New Reed Street, there was an adult bald eagle, three mallards and two double-crested cormorants.

#### Canada geese

I saw a flock of about two dozen Canada geese land in a harvested cornfield in Barre this past Saturday. I do not know if they were local geese or some migrating south from the north.

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](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

## Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

The Country Journal welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Country Journal, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com).

Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by **noon Friday** to be considered for the following Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the

newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

#### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's

Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

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

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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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## OPINION

### A day in the life of a patient advocate: Never a dull moment

People often ask me what a patient advocate does. Truly, when my phone rings I never know what the day might bring. But if I have done my job, by the time my head hits the pillow, I will have made someone's life better or their hospital stay safer.

Let me walk you through a day in the life of a patient advocate.

#### Morning

I receive a call from a senior health-care industry professional with a referral for a man who is struggling to care for his wife, who has Alzheimer's. Dementia is hard not only on the person who has it, but on their loved ones who are determined to care for them. It can be a lonely existence.

This man needs support because he wants to keep his wife safe at home, meaning he will need to find 24-hour care. In addition, he is suffering from caregiver stress and has health challenges of his own. It seems also that a new neurologist is needed to get a fresh set of eyes and a new evaluation of his wife's condition.

One of our nurses will follow up with this couple after I share their story and initial priorities of care.

Then, a community member calls regarding an elderly neighbor who has been in the hospital for several weeks and is having complications that come with prolonged hospitalization. People who are hospitalized for days or weeks at a time may suffer sleep deprivation and disorientation, which can

complicate their recovery.

The neighbor is concerned that the man is not receiving the care he should, but I explain that we cannot legally help unless we are formally retained and have the individual's or family's permission to act as their representative.

In addition, the man has a wife at home with dementia and no family around to help out. We plan to have a call this afternoon to discuss having one of our nurse advocates going to assess the patient's situation and make sure his wife is well cared for in his absence.

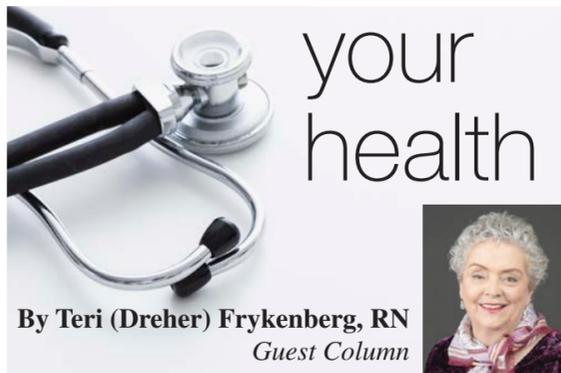
#### Afternoon

I prepare for a panel discussion presented by the National Association of Healthcare Advocacy Consultants.

Two sisters contact me about their father, who is experiencing complications following what was supposed to be a straightforward surgical procedure. When they tell me his story, I realize that the proper standard of care is not being met. Because of the trauma he is experiencing, the patient is also displaying disturbing psychological symptoms for which he is being (unnecessarily as it turns out) medicated.

The sisters tell me that they have tried to speak to the medical staff but don't feel they are being heard. Meanwhile, they are terrified of losing their dad.

Patient advocates are often able to dial back the drama and get the situation sorted because we understand patient rights as well as



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

the hospital's perspective and can try to work out a win-win for all concerned. I schedule a visit to the hospital. Later, if this family receives a bill from the hospital, I will work to make sure they don't pay a penny.

#### Evening

I get a call from a former client whose sister had a massive stroke four years ago, and now the insurance company is saying she no longer qualifies for placement in a skilled nursing facility. There has been fragmented communication among the physicians, therapists and family.

The family wants me to appeal the insurance company's decision and gather documentation that will allow the sister to be approved for further long-term care, therapy and high-tech care for her needs. While waiting for documents, I speak with the woman's daughter to formulate a plan.

Finally, I update presentations for our Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur train-

ing program and speak with two nurses who are eager to sign up and start their own advocacy businesses. From their hospital experiences, they can see that families need a great deal of help these days navigating the health-care landscape.

My days aren't always this busy, but every day reminds me of the significant impact I can have on someone's life, health and well-being. It's worth it, to be sure.

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

from page 4

## GOSHEN

### COA lists events

GOSHEN – The Council on Aging will host a Thanksgiving luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at noon in the John James Memorial Hall, 42 Main St.

Jerry from Spruce Corner Restaurant will be cooking up a delicious meal of turkey, potatoes and butternut squash. There will be pie for dessert. Veterans will be honored with a special poem and gift. People may call Kerry at 413-268-9354 by Nov. 4 to let her know they are coming.

On Friday, Nov. 7 Community Connections meets from 10-11 a.m. Lorraine Brisson will be at the group to educate and answer questions about preparing their gardens for winter or even getting ready for spring. They will meet in the upstairs dining room of the Goshen Town Hall.

On Tuesday, Nov. 18 and Tuesday, Nov. 25 Highland Valley Elder Services will deliver grab and go lunches to Goshen COA on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Participants pick up their hot lunch at the Goshen Town Hall from 12:30-1 p.m. The lunch for Nov. 18 is a choice of chicken and bean enchilada or stuffed shells and the choice for Nov. 25 is seafood Newburg or chicken cordon bleu. The meals also include milk, vegetables and dessert. There is a suggested \$4 donation given to HVES to offset the cost of the meal. People may call Kerry at 413-268-9354 if they would like to sign up to get these nutritious and delicious meals.

Flu and Covid vaccine clinic will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. in John James Memorial Hall, 42 Main St. There is no charge, but participants should bring their insurance card. People contact Joan at 413-296-4536 x102 or joang@hilltowncdc.org if they have

questions.

Baystate Wellness on Wheels Bus Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 1:30-4:40 p.m. Goshen Town Parking Lot

Also on this day from 1:30-4:30 p.m. in the Goshen Town parking lot, the Baystate Wellness on Wheels bus will be set up to provide preventative screenings, education, resources and coordinated access to care. The bus travels throughout Western Mass and is staffed to offer health screenings for diabetes and blood pressure and to provide equipment such as home blood pressure cuffs as needed, for all people over 18 regardless of insurance. People from all Hilltowns are invited to attend.

On Wednesday, Nov. 19 games group will meet in the Goshen Library from 2-4 p.m. They have a variety of games to choose from and they will also have cards. People may bring their favorite game and teach others how to play.

On Thursday, Nov. 20 Technology Help in the library will be available from noon-2 pm. People can ask questions regarding their computer, phone, tablet or any other technology-related question and they will do their best to help.

Exercise classes continue with Joan Griswold take place on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Goshen Town Hall. The instructor focuses on functional movement which enhances physical strength and balance, allowing for ease and comfort with the daily tasks. People should wear supportive footwear and bring water and free weights if they have them. There is a brief health questionnaire Griswold will have them fill out. This class is also offered simultaneously on Zoom, so if they prefer this method, people may email Joan at joan@byhealth.com.

## GARDEN

nettles; they are in a part of the yard where their growth will be somewhat controlled. But are they not an excellent source of calcium, and have plenty of other health benefits, besides? It seems we are quick to 'eradicate' the less tame plants, which, upon investigation, can prove to be beneficial."

Martha, your point is well-taken! I guess it goes along with the old saying, "one person's trash is another person's treasure." Or better yet, how about "one person's weed is another person's medicine?"

Along similar lines, this question came in from Steven, who lives in Becket. He wrote to the Garden Lady curious about the late blooming perennial, Monkshood.

First he provides some background: "My wife was starting to clear a small flower area we have next to the driveway two weekends ago. She was cutting down daisies that we didn't even plant there. I saw a flower next

to the daisies, which I had never seen before and asked her what it was. She said she had no idea, that she'd never seen it before either. I took some pictures, and every search I did on them said that they're Monkshood. I told her that the search said they're poisonous.

I walked away and then read a little more and found out that they're poisonous to the touch. I went back to tell her and she had cut them down without touching them because she was scared our dog would get into them. We just left them where they're lying. The stems are still sticking out of the ground. What are your thoughts? Is that what you think they are too? My research didn't show them growing in this area. Also, thoughts about how we should handle them if they are indeed poisonous?"

Monkshood (Aconitum) is a pretty perennial that has blue "hooded" flowers along two-four foot spikes.

It is a cottage garden favorite because it is one of a few flowers that do bloom in blue shades, and it blooms towards the end of summer, when few others plants are in their glory.

Due to the unique flower shape, the plant is mainly pollinated by "long tongued" bumble bees, who pry open the flower to get at the pollen. With all this said, the plant sounds great!

Now here comes the "but..." Caution should indeed be exercised around Monkshood. It goes by other common names that are more telling of its true nature, Wolfsbane and Devil's Helmet among others.

The plant contains a deadly toxins, aconitine and diterpene alkaloids that can result in death if ingested. It is even advised to use gloves when handling the plant, even its roots if you were to dig it up, because of absorption that can occur through the skin.

Most experts recom-

mend not growing it in gardens that pets or children may frequent.

I hope this answers your question, Steven. I do think that you were on target to be concerned, especially because of your dog.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

### News, photo publication policy

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

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

**Deadline is Friday at NOON.**



### 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.

#### Pioneer Valley Assembly of God

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

#### Hilltown Community Church

Rev. Dr. Robert Perreault  
55 Main St., Russell, MA 01071  
413-275-3232  
Office: 413-862-3341  
hilltownchurch3341@gmail.com  
Sunday Mornings 10 a.m.

#### First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

Rev. Jack Kraaz  
4 North Main St., Williamsburg, MA 01096  
413-268-7557  
burgychurch@gmail.com • burgychurch.org  
Facebook: First Congregational Church of Williamsburg  
YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w)  
Office Hours: Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 12 noon  
Days and Hours of Services: Sun. at 10 a.m.

#### Holy Family Parish

Rev. Ronald F. Sadlowski, known as Fr. Ron  
5 Main St., Russell, MA 01071  
413-862-4418  
Office Hours: No set times.  
Please call, leave a voice message or email: [holyfamilyrussell.org](mailto:holyfamilyrussell.org)  
parish@holyfamilyrussell.org  
Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.  
Sunday Masses: 8:15 a.m. & 11 a.m.

### CHURCH DIRECTORY



### Your Community Church

#### Pioneer Valley Mennonite Fellowship

Deacon Jerald Reinford  
400 Huntington Rd.  
Russell, MA 01071  
(413) 297-6037  
Sunday worship at 10am  
Visitors appreciated.

#### First Congregational Church of Blandford

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

## BLANDFORD

## KNOCK KNOCK 'TRICK OR TREAT'



Logan Farrell with his brother, Lukas, are all dressed up to Trick or Treat Friday night in Blandford. *Turley Publications photo by Mary Kronhol*

## Board of Health offers help to those on SNAP benefits

BLANDFORD – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits were shut down Saturday, Nov. 1, which may have an impact on Blandford residents.

This is firstly, temporary while the government is shut down and secondly, until clients are re-certified. Clients will be notified when they need to re-certify and if any of these changes apply to them.

If there are any ques-

tions regarding SNAP benefits or if anyone needs assistance, they should contact the Huntington Food Pantry at 63 Old Chester Road, Huntington by calling 413-667-3196 or the Blandford Board of Health by emailing boh@townofblandford.gov or calling 413-848-4279, extension 401. All information is confidential.

To help make a difference, people may donate any unexpired non-perishable items at the town hall

or Blandford Country Store. These items will be brought to the Huntington Food Pantry.

The Board of Health stressed that it is very important to remember should they receive a phone call regarding their SNAP benefits to not give out personal information. SNAP will contact those with benefits by mail. If there are any concerns, people may report them to the Federal Trade Commission by calling 202-326-2222.

## Water break affects I-90 eastbound and westbound service plazas

BLANDFORD – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announced Friday, Oct. 31 that a water supply issue at both the eastbound and westbound service plazas on I-90 resulted in no sanitary facilities and limited food service.

Water Commissioner Brad Curry said Saturday morning that the Water Department first became aware of the problem when Chester Road residents reported a drop in water

pressure and some, loss of water.

He and Water Department Interim Superintendent Steve Gondron were able to isolate the problem on the water main that serves the two turnpike plazas. The precise location of the break was still unknown early Saturday, but Water Department is working with turnpike officials to find the break.

The water line to the turnpike has been an ongo-

ing problem, according to Curry. There was a loss of over 200,000 gallons of water last May when the problem first began. At that time, the water break was difficult to locate, but finally discovered in a drainage area that is state property and inaccessible to the town's Water Department.

Curry said that the turnpike water main break had been isolated and all residents' water pressure and supply restored Friday night.

## Highway Department crew works on Russell Stage Road

BLANDFORD – The Highway Department was on Russell State Road Wednesday almost at the town line.

They were there to clear out what Superintendent Ray

Hultay called "years of build-up" in what was originally a roadside drainage space. The one-time gully had been collected leaves and dirt until it was higher than the road sur-

face, according to Hultay, which gave rain water or melting snow nowhere to go except onto the road.

Over time, during warm weather, the runoff began to

crumble the road away. And during the winter months, there was an ice buildup that flowed across the road. Hultay called this a "veritable glacier," which had to be removed

with heavy equipment and "an exorbitant amount of salt."

The ice on the road created slippery conditions. Chester Blandford Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel was not

aware of any major accidents on the road, but knew about the ice problem. She said she was "excited" to see the work being done and would "certainly prevent accidents."



Backhoe operated by Mario Godbout scrapes away at buildup of dirt and debris on Russell Stage Road Wednesday, Oct. 29.



Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay puts finishing touches on cleared roadside. *Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm*



Assisting in the project on Russell Stage Road were Police Chief Jen Dubiel and Officer Santi Messina. They kept traffic moving smoothly. Chief Dubiel in foreground and Officer Messina beyond.

## LIBRARY

from page 1

Another special event for the month is the Poop Museum on Saturday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Town Hall. The library is hosting Susan Maguire from the United Kingdom, who will talk about all things Poop.

The Library Building Committee meets Thursday, Nov. 20 at 5 p.m. at Town Hall. The meeting is open to the public. The latest developments regarding the library expansion proposal are on the agenda.

### Thanksgiving Library Hours

The library will close early on Wednesday, Nov. 26; the hours will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The library will be closed all day on Nov. 27 for

Thanksgiving and reopens Friday, Nov. 28 at 2 p.m.

### Family Photo Day

What is now a regular holiday feature at the library, the staff will photograph your family on Friday, Nov. 28 from 1-3 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 29 from 1-3 p.m. This is a free event, but please sign up for a time slot by email or stop by the library to see the schedule. Staff will use their cell phone and take as many photos as they can during the time slot. Then they can edit or print them.

### Gingerbread Day

Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. children and teens will decorate gingerbread creations.

Then there's the Adult and Family Gingerbread Competition. People may bring their entry to the library between Monday, Dec. 1 and Friday, Dec. 5. Winners will be announced and prizes bestowed on Saturday, Dec. 6 at noon.

### Information meeting

There will be a public information meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 2 for residents to learn details of the library expansion plan prior to the Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 9 when voters will consider accepting the building phase for the expansion. The design and floor plan are on display at the library. Residents can stop at the library with any questions.

## SELECT BOARD

from page 1

She noted that Jennifer Girard of the Blandford Country Store volunteered cider donuts for Halloween.

The Water Department has a critical need for an update for the ozone/electric service as well as the intake pipe from the reservoir and critical repair to the line on Russell Stage Road.

### Assessors

Administrative Assistant for the Board of Assessors

Michaela Smith said that the Patriot Properties (property record cards) module is so dated there is no one, who can help with its functions. A newer module must be purchased. Select Board member Jackie Coury suggested this be included in the coming fiscal year budget.

### Other business

In other business, the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association quar-

terly report was reviewed; they responded to 31 of 27 calls, made 19 transports, and 27 calls responded at the paramedic service level. The report was July through September.

The board approved winter maintenance for two private roads; Beagle Club Road and Maple Lane and signed the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on Monday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m.



A tree took down wires on Russell Stage Road on Friday, Oct. 31.

*Photo courtesy of Blandford Highway Dept*

## Heavy winds cause downed trees

BLANDFORD – There were several reports of downed trees and wires due to the heavy winds over Friday, Oct. 31 and Saturday, Nov. 1.

Russell Stage Road was blocked to through traffic because wires were down across the road just below

the intersection of Sperry Road.

According to Highway Superintendent Ray Hultay, power went off around 10:30 p.m. Friday night. He was called in about 2 a.m. Saturday to assist with clearing debris. The rest of the highway crew came in later.

On Saturday morning, traffic was routed away from Russell Stage Road, either up or down Dickinson Hill Road to avoid the problem area while crews worked. Power was restored about 3:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon. There were trees down on Julius Hall Road as well.

# BLANDFORD

## Library to host Susie Maguire of the Poop Museum Nov. 15

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – “This is one program no one will want to miss,” said one local mother on hearing about the program.

Susie Maguire from Great Britain is the mastermind behind the Poop Museum. She will bring exciting excrement to the Town Hall on Saturday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m.

Poop, by many other names, cow plop, meadow muffin, horse apple, and more all add up to what will be a delightful dunghill with all sorts of doo-doo on display. Some excremental examples may be readily recognizable to Hilltowners because of the many scat

stool samples already deposited in yards and walkways.

Coyote caca is as familiar as is bear boo-boo. That’s right, another word for poop. Both can be found just by looking around and keeping an eye open for what’s on the ground.

Then there are rabbit pellets. Little jelly-bean shaped droppings from bunny’s bowel let you know that Peter Rabbit has been munching on garden greens.

Locally, raccoon and opossum poo-poo can be found as well. These turds are smaller and can resemble cat stool.

Some of the topics Maguire will cover during her presentation will answer many questions such as does every animal poop? Is there

really poop you can play in? Which animal does a poop dance?

Porter Memorial Library Director Nicole Daviau said she is “anxious to get the potty started.”

Go for the guano or come for the cacky, this event is a must.

The Hilltown Community Health Center’s Family Support Program sponsors the Poop Museum through a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant from the Department of Early Education and Care.

Maguire is traveling throughout the United States visiting schools and libraries with the Poop Museum.

All excrement can be exciting.



These young library patrons display a Yoto, a digital card player. The Porter Memorial Library has two Yotos to borrow along with cards, which contact audio books at for all ages. Submitted photo

## Porter Library has Yoto players

BLANDFORD – Library Director Nicole Daviau announced the new arrival at the library of two Yotos, a digital card players.

Also multiple collections of cards are available for circulation to Blandford residents only. Parents must be present to check out the item.

The books on cards are available for all ages and, include classics such as the Wizard of Oz, Little Women, as well as newer stories such

as the Wings of Fire series, Horrible and Dungeons and Dragons Dungeon academy.

In addition to these longer books there are also popular characters such as a Disney collection and Paw Patrol and also some music cards. According to Daviau, audiobooks are shown to increase literacy and enjoyment of reading for all ages and these “screen free players” help ensure that kids

read to them easily in multi-ple environments.

The Yotos also come with a headphone jack and provide the ability to listen independently. These are a popular choice for parents for car trips and bedtimes.

The Yoto players have easy to use dials and controls. The cards are also available without the Yoto player for any Blandford family that already has a player.

## Conflict of interest training reminder

BLANDFORD – Town Clerk Coris Jemiolo reminds all town employees and volunteers that the Conflict-of-Interest training through the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission must be done every two years.

However, the acknowledgement form

must be returned annually, that is, every year. Many have or will receive a notice from the Ethics Commission that they must take the training; what it means is the acknowledgement form must be returned to them for this year.

The Conservation

Commission meetings have been changed to Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. as of Oct. 28 and will be monthly from November through March. Then from April through October, the Commission will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

## BYLAW

Wave also has three applications for installations in Becket. Mission Clean has not yet submitted an application.

Garfield said he would like to see a collaborative effort on the part of Blue Wave. “They are trying to outmaneuver us. They don’t live in this town, but we do,” he said.

At the end of the public comments during the hearing, Garfield acknowledged the presence of Blue Wave. He said, “It would have been really nice for a developer like Blue Wave to get

on board with the towns and help the towns put reasonable development of these solar fields (forward) instead of just coming into town and sticking them wherever they can, with consideration for the town. You folks are here, look around this room,” he said.

“These are residents of this town. This is a small town. You’re a developer of this stuff. I would have hoped that the state and the developers would have been invested in the town, too.”

At this point, Garfield said he had checked Blue



Shown at the Planning Board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 30 are from left backs to camera, Scott O’Connor, Ron Racine, Chairman Greg Garfield, Co-chairman Edna Wilander and Secretary Sara Simpson. Submitted photo

Wave’s website, their mission statement about working together. “I haven’t seen any help, any assistance or any expert advice on any of that stuff. It would be nice...for some sort of collaboration with the towns, with your expertise.”

The Special Town Meeting on Nov. 17 will begin at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. In addition to the moratorium article, there are five other articles for paying previous year’s bills and necessary unanticipated expenses for the Highway Department bathroom.

from page 1

## BECKET

### First Congregational church to hold annual holiday pie sale on Nov. 15

BECKET – The First Congregational Church, YMCA Road, will be having the Annual Holiday Pie Sale and Craft Fair on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or until sold out.

People may order

apple, blueberry, pumpkin, strawberry rhubarb, blueberry rhubarb or rhubarb by calling 413-624-8300 or 413-623-6455 to reserve pies. Pies will be boxed and ready to freeze to enjoy over the holidays. Pies continue to be \$15 each.

The church will also be serving pie by the slice if people want to sample the pies. Warm drinks and cold cider will be available for sale also. All proceeds from the pie sale will be used to benefit the Restoration Fund of the church.

## PITTSFIELD

### Downtown Pittsfield presents kids paint and sip

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church will host a free kids paint and sip on Friday, Nov. 7 from 57 p.m. in the auditorium at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 67 East St.

This free harvest-themed paint and sip is best suited for ages 5 to 12, although younger and older children are welcome. All materials, instruction, snacks, and juice will be provided. There will be a bonus wooden ornament craft as well.

Children are welcome to drop in anytime over the course of the event and all children must be accompanied by an adult. The auditorium is on the second floor of the parish house, and the entrance is on Allen Street.

For more information, people may visit downtownpittsfield.com or call Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. at 413-443-6501.

The mission of Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. is to strengthen and promote Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.’s membership through advo-

cacy, collaboration and celebration.

Since 1983, Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. has been the recognized leader, facilitator, and principal advocate for downtown. DPI is a membership organization consisting of property owners, businesses, residents, cultural and entertainment venues, restaurants, and non-profit organizations, who have joined forces to increase economic activity by promoting downtown as a great place to live, work and play.



**Turley Publications, Inc.**



**Logan Distler**  
September 22, 2024  
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Grandparents: Christopher & Michele Mues, Warren  
Carole & the late Bruce Distler, Long Island, NY

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**Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 12, 2025**



Send Us Your Photos!

countryjournal@turley.com

# CHESTER



These children display their decorated Halloween pumpkins.

Submitted photos



Some of the participants in the Hamilton Memorial Library inflatable race pose for a picture



This couple display Austin Powers and Dr. Evil with Mini Me costumes.



A "witch" reads a Halloween tale at story time.

## Hamilton Memorial Library lists events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 West Main St., story and fun time is every Thursday at 11 a.m.

This is a great opportunity for the little ones to socialize, learn new skills and have some fun.

On Tuesday, Nov. 11 from 1:30-5:30 p.m. there will be a Veteran's Day appreciation event; Veterans and a guest may stop in for a warm drink and light refreshments in their honor.

Library open house will take place on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. People may join in celebrating their town's library and all that it has to offer including new updates. Family portraits will be offered free of charge with digital cop-

ies. People should sign up ahead of time for portraits by calling 413-354-7808. Light refreshments will be served. The Book Club meets the third Wednesday of each month, Nov. 19 at 4:30 p.m. In November, they will be discussing the novel, "The Secret Life of Sunflowers" by Marta Molnar. People are invited for snacks and lively discussion. Extra book copies are available. Intrinsic movement let's play, learn and dance welcomes back special guest, Laurel Lenski, on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 11 a.m. during the regular story and fun time. Lenski always gets the fun going with her contagious enthusiasm and energy. This is perfect for younger patrons.

## Baptist Church holds patriotic service Nov. 9

CHESTER – The Chester Baptist Church, 14 Middlefield Road, invites all Veterans and families to attend a special patriotic service on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 10:45 a.m.

All Veterans will receive a token of appreciation in recognition of serving our nation. A delicious home cooked meal will be served at noon for all who attend.

Chester Baptist

Church is located across from the Chester Town Hall. Weekly Sunday services include Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m., morning worship at 10:45 a.m. and an afternoon service at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday evening Bible study and prayer is held weekly at 6:30 p.m.

People may call Pastor Dan Herr at 413-668-7768 or email pastor@chesterbaptistchurch.org with any questions.

## Community listening session set for Nov. 12

CHESTER – The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, in collaboration with the Chester Water Commission and the town of Chester, invites residents, business owners and community members to a Community Listening Session on Drinking Water on Wednesday, Nov. 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road.

The session will provide an opportunity for the public to learn about Chester's public water supply as well as about pending legislation around testing of drinking water from private wells.

Attendees will be able to share concerns, ask questions and hear updates from members of the Chester Water Commission and Board of Health.

"This listening session is about communication and collaboration," said Patty Gambarini, Chief Environmental Planner at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. "We want to hear from residents and business owners about their experiences and priorities around drinking water so that local and regional planning can best reflect the needs of the Chester community."

Topics will include an explanation of Chester's public water system and how the water is treated and tested to ensure it is safe and an overview of private wells in the community including pending state legislation that would require testing of private wells: House Bill H.900, An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H900>) and Senate Bill S.585. Residents are encouraged to submit questions in advance by emailing Becky Basch at [bbasch@pvpc.org](mailto:bbasch@pvpc.org) with "Chester Drinking Water" in the subject line.

Dinner and beverages will be provided. While registration is not required, it will help PVPC plan for food and materials. The first ten people to register will receive a \$25 gift card. Registration is available by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/DWchester>.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is the regional planning agency serving 43 cities and towns across the Pioneer Valley. PVPC works with communities to support sustainable growth, safe water systems and informed public engagement throughout Western Massachusetts.

# WORTHINGTON

## Hilltown Artisans Guild holds holiday show and sale

WORTHINGTON – The Hilltown Artisans Guild will be holding their 2025 Holiday Show and Sale at Worthington Town Hall, 160 Huntington Road, Route 112, on Saturday, Nov. 15 and Sunday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days.

There is no charge for

admission, so plan to have a fun day shopping. The show and sale will be featuring the special work of talented artists and craftspeople from the Hilltowns and beyond. Available works will include fine art (paintings, photography and prints), handcrafted cards,

pottery, jewelry, tote bags, clocks, adult coloring books, stained glass, art calendars, quilts, knit, crochet and other woven, fiber and wood art and many more unique products. For more information, people may email [HilltownArtisansGuild@gmail.com](mailto:HilltownArtisansGuild@gmail.com).

## Road work takes place on Routes 143, 112

WORTHINGTON – The week of Monday, Nov. 10 through Friday, Nov. 14, there will be cleanup of rock at ledge #2 located at West End of project and a small amount of cleanup of ledge removal at ledge #1 near Bashan Hill Road.

There will be driveway and shoulder work in the road reconstruction area between East Windsor Road and Liston's Bar and Restaurant. Work was between the work hours of 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. One-way alternating traffic will be in place with traffic

officers directing traffic. On Route 112, Huntington Road, the week of Monday, Nov. 3 through Friday, Nov. 7 One Warner Brothers crew will blacktop driveway aprons and shoulder work. One Warner Brothers crew blacktop driveway aprons and shoulder work should be complete the week Monday, Nov. 10 through Friday, Nov. 14 should be complete this week. There will be one way traffic with traffic officers directing traffic from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Work was between the work hours of 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. One-way alternating traffic will be in place with traffic

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## Friends group hosts felted pumpkin workshop

WORTHINGTON – The Friends of the Worthington Library will host its first Cabin Fever Craft workshop of the season, "Needle Felted Pumpkins," on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 1-4 p.m. at The Worthington Historical Society, 6 Williamsburg Road.

This is a make-and-take craft workshop led by local crafter Nancy Babcock. Participants will learn needle felting techniques and tips as they create custom season-

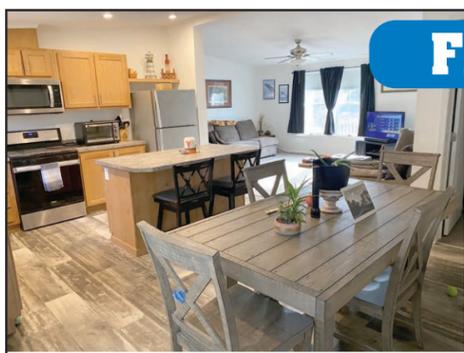
al pumpkins during an afternoon of crafting and conversation.

This workshop is intended for older teens and adults. Class is limited to ten participants. All materials will be provided. The cost for the class is \$35 per person. All fees go to materials and to support children's programs, museum passes and wishlist books at the library.

People may register at the Worthington Library during library hours: Tuesday

and Thursday from 3-7 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. People may email the Friends of the Worthington Library at [worthingtonfowl@gmail.com](mailto:worthingtonfowl@gmail.com) or call The Worthington Library at 413-238-5565.

The Friends of the Worthington Library is a volunteer-run committee established to support The Worthington Library in Massachusetts with programs and patron resources.



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# CHESTER

## Halloween event brings out spooky creatures

The Chester Recreation Committee would like to thank all the sponsors and volunteers, who made this year's Chester and Blandford Halloween event spooktacular.

There were large turn-out for trunks, food truck by Our Mother's Kitchen, over \$500 in prizes donated by the Blandford Select board plus more including trophies, Live music was by the Picky Bastards and a Beer Garden by Mel's Kitchen of Chester with a flavored glow in the

dark drinks. There were s'mores, fire pit, face painting, the inflatable race, over 150 pumpkins and so much more.

Thank you to all of our sponsors town of Chester, Western Mass Hilltown Hikers, Chester Rec Committee, Chester Fire Dept, Chester Police Dept., Our Mother's Kitchen, Kosinski Farms in Westfield, Mel's Kitchen in Chester, Hamilton Memorial Library, Chester Council on Aging and The Pease Store.



The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers were one of the sponsors for the joint Blandford and Chester Halloween event.

*Submitted photos*



These youngsters proudly display a second place ribbon.



This trunk or treat winner displays a first place blue ribbon.



There were plenty of pumpkins for the Halloween event.



The band provided music at the Blandford and Chester Halloween event.



Another trunk manned by a pink bunny and some skeletons.

## EASTHAMPTON

### bankESB supports Cooley Dickinson Hospital's golf tournament

EASTHAMPTON – bankESB announce its \$10,000 sponsorship of Cooley Dickinson Hospital's annual Golf FORE Health Tournament, a premier fundraising event that supports vital healthcare programs and services for the community.

The Golf FORE Health Tournament, which was held on Sept. 16 at The Ranch Golf Club in Southwick brought together local businesses, community leaders and supporters for a day of golf, camaraderie and philanthropy. Proceeds from the event directly benefit Cooley Dickinson Hospital, helping to ensure patients in Hampshire and surrounding counties have access to high-quality, compassionate care.

"Supporting organizations like Cooley Dickinson Hospital is one of the most meaningful ways we can give back," said Matthew S. Sosik, president and CEO of bankESB. "Healthcare touches every family, and we are honored to play a role in helping the hospital continue its mission of delivering excellent care to our neighbors."

This year's Golf FORE Health Tournament fund-



Cara Crochier, vice president, marketing officer, bankESB; Nancy Lapointe, trustee, Cooley Dickinson Hospital; Kevin B. Whitney, DNP, RN, EMT-P, president and chief operating officer, Cooley Dickinson Hospital; Lauren Tabin, assistant vice president, branch officer, bankESB and Elizabeth Schabacker, assistant vice president, branch officer, bankESB and back row, William Judd, vice president, cash management, bankESB; Joseph Williams, vice president, commercial lending, bankESB; Timothy Czerniejewski, assistant vice president, commercial lending, bankESB; Michael Oleksak, senior vice president, commercial lending team lead, bankESB and Christopher Scott, vice president, commercial lending, bankESB.

Submitted photo

ed programs that enhance patient services, expand access to advanced treatments and strengthen Cooley Dickinson's commitment to community health and wellness.

"We are honored to share our gratitude to bankESB for their platinum sponsorship of our 2025

Cooley Dickinson Golf FORE Health tournament," expressed Diane Dukette, chief development officer, Cooley Dickinson Hospital. "Proceeds from this year's tournament benefitted the expansion and renovation of our Emergency Department, helping us to provide high quality, com-

passionate care for you and the people you love." Dukette continued, "bankESB was one of the earliest supporters of the Emergency Department campaign with their \$500,000 Community Challenge and their continued support is a strong declaration of their commitment to the health of our shared

community."

Through the bank's community giving initiative, The Giving Tree, this sponsorship reflects bankESB's ongoing dedication to community giving, with a focus on organizations that improve quality of life across western Massachusetts.

### Local author among featured writers for 2025 collection

EASTHAMPTON – J.D. O'Brien is among 20 featured writers in this year's Best American Mystery and Suspense short fiction collection. The Best American Mystery and Suspense 2025, published by HarperCollins, was released Oct. 21. His story, "Outlaw Country," follows a struggling Nashville country singer, who decides the best way to get his name in lights is to commit a high-profile crime. It originally appeared in the journal Starlite Pulp and was selected for the Best American anthology by New York Times best-selling author Don Winslow and series editor Steph Cha. The annual series features the finest mystery short fiction published in the previous year.

J.D. O'Brien is the author of the novel "Zig Zag," a 2023 Southwest Book of the Year that has been praised by leading crime writers and reviewers. He lives in Easthampton, where he is revising a draft of his second novel and working on a sequel to "Zig Zag."

## WESTFIELD

### Annual Wyben Lighted Tractor Parade scheduled for Nov. 22

WESTFIELD – The second annual Wyben Lighted Tractor Parade takes place Saturday, Nov. 22 with a start time of 5 p.m.

Weather date is Sunday, Nov. 23. The idea for the parade originated with Greg Bolduc from Bolduc Farms as the Wyben Association committee was seeking ideas to expand what was offered for activities in the small community of Wyben and beyond. Wyben is a rural and agricultural section of Westfield and the thought of the lighted tractor parade resonated with the members of the committee.

Because of devoted local farmers and their families who decorated over 40 tractors and the enthusiastic group of 12 volunteers serving on the committee, the 2024 parade was

a monumental success. If people plan to drive their tractor in the parade, they should email Greg Bolduc at bolducfarmma@gmail.com, Brian Hartley at brianhartley00@gmail.com or check out the Wyben Association Facebook page.

Lighted tractors are asked to begin lining up at 3:30 pm at the junction of Montgomery Road and West Road. As a way to give back, the Wyben committee is asking parade goers to bring new unwrapped toys for local children 12 and younger and/or gifts cards for teenagers in foster care and for families in need. There will be three decorated bins located at the start of the parade, at Meadowbrook Antiques and at the Wyben Union Chapel.

Brian and Kathy Hartley, the 2025 Parade

Marshals for Wyben's 4th of July parade, will lead the parade beginning at 5 p.m. traveling along Montgomery Road ending at the junction of Montgomery and North Road, decorated tractors will park in the Wyben Union Chapel parking lot at the conclusion of the parade for everyone to enjoy. There will be free hot cocoa, hot cider and homemade cookies for children and adults alike. A special visitor may make an appearance to pass out goody bags for children while supplies last. There will be a decorated box at the chapel for those wishing to donate a non perishable food item for Westfield's Food Pantry. There is limited parking along the route and also on West Road, North Road and Wyben Road.

### Friends of Peace seeks community to observe Veterans Day on Nov. 10

WESTFIELD – On Monday, Nov. 10 from 11 a.m.-noon, the eve of Veterans Day, Westfield Friends of Peace calls for people to stand with them in Park Square to commemorate Armistice Day, honoring veterans by calling for peace in our nation and in the world.

Veterans Day began as Armistice Day, the day the Great War ended, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. It was a day to call for world peace, remembering "the war to end all wars." Sadly, the meaning of this day has

changed for many.

Attendees are encouraged to bring signs in support of veterans and in support of peace, not signs for or against any individual politicians. Especially welcomed is the participation of veterans wearing their hats, medals, or uniforms, as witnesses for peace.

The Second Congregational Church and the Episcopal Church of the Atonement in Westfield are encouraging members to attend. Members of Veterans for Peace and the Veterans Action Team of Indivisible Northampton

and Swing Left Western Massachusetts are active participants. Members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Northampton will be present and invitations to all area faith groups have been extended.

All people of goodwill are welcome. Anyone interested in forming an ongoing "Westfield Friends of Peace" witness are invited to stay on after the gathering ends at noon. Any questions about this or future events can be emailed to westfield\_friends\_of\_peace@yahoo.com.

### St. Joseph's Church hosts dinner

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph's National Catholic Church, 73 Main St., hosts a community stuffed pork roast dinner on Sunday, Nov. 16 at noon.

Dinner will feature tender stuffed pork roast, along with apple sauce, glazed carrots and mashed potatoes. The featured dessert

will be fresh homemade pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream. Included beverages are coffee, apple cider and bottled water. Everyone is welcome.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. To purchase tickets and reserve a place, people may text or

telephone Cliff at 413-977-2007 and if leaving a message, provide heir name and telephone number. Take-out/meals-to-go will also be available for pick-up at 12:30 pm. When ordering tickets, indicate if dinners are to-go. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Wednesday, Nov. 12.

## WILLIAMSBURG

### Meekins Library exhibits Bodnar's woodwork

WILLIAMSBURG – The Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., will exhibit Greg Bodnar's, woodworker, objects and furniture now through Saturday, Nov. 29.

Born in New Jersey in 1957, Greg Bodnar worked as a carpenter for 10 years prior to enrolling in Leeds Design Workshop learning from master cabinet maker David Powell, then apprenticed to Frank Klausz a master cabinet maker from Hungary. He has won numerous honorary mentions in woodworking and carving and was published in Current Work in the June 2001 edition of Fine Woodworking magazine.

Bodnar grew up in the woods and learned to love the forest, building tree forts and bows and arrows. His reverence for the trees spills over into his work. He believes in the American craftsmen.

There will be an Artists Reception on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 1-3 p.m.



A piece of furniture made by Greg Bodnar, which is on display at the Meekins Library in Williamsburg now through Nov. 29.

Submitted photo

## NORTHAMPTON

### Cooley Dickinson to offer free valet

NORTHAMPTON – Beginning Monday, Dec. 1, Cooley Dickinson Hospital will offer complimentary valet parking services for patients and visitors.

The new service is part of the hospital's ongoing commitment to improving the patient experience and ensuring a safe, welcoming environment for all who visit Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

"The experience of our patients and visitors begins the moment they arrive," said Kevin Whitney, DNP, RN, President and Chief

Operating Officer of Cooley Dickinson Hospital. "We are pleased to offer valet parking to support our community."

The valet team will be stationed at the hospital's Main and North entrances Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with the exception of Mass General Brigham-observed holidays to assist patients and visitors, particularly those with medical conditions or mobility challenges that make walking any distance a challenge.

"Hospital valet services

provide meaningful benefits by making arrivals easier and safer for everyone," said Catherine Reed, Executive Director of Operations. "This service helps reduce stress, especially for patients with limited mobility, and improves traffic flow across the campus." Reed noted that the addition of valet parking also contributes to more efficient use of existing parking spaces and helps create a positive first impression that reflects the hospital's dedication to professional and compassionate care.

### Hosmer Gallery exhibits 'Rollin on the River'

NORTHAMPTON – The Hosmer Gallery, located on the second floor of Fobes Library, 40 West St., hosts an exhibit entitled "Rollin' on the River," which features 25 years of Zea Mays

Printmaking.

An opening reception will be held on Friday, Nov. 14 from 5-7 p.m. Exhibition dates are now through Friday, Nov. 28. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday

from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Friday through and Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The gallery is closed Sundays and holidays. The gallery is accessible by stairs and elevator.

# SCHOOLS & YOUTH

## Henry David Thoreau Foundation offering scholarships

The Henry David Thoreau Foundation awards collegiate scholarships of up to \$26,000 to eight to ten students graduating from public or private high schools in Massachusetts.

As Henry David Thoreau Scholars, these select high school seniors may enroll in any college and university in the world

while they major or minor in an environmentally related field. The Henry David Thoreau Scholarships are up to \$26,000 four-year scholarships awarded to eight students graduating from public or private high schools in Massachusetts. High school seniors awarded the Henry David Thoreau Scholarships can enroll in any college

and university in the world while they major or minor in an environmentally related field. Henry David Thoreau Scholars are encouraged to enroll in internships or study abroad to broaden their awareness and understanding of environmental issues.

Henry David Thoreau Scholars have studied a wide variety of environmen-

tally related areas, including biology, epidemiology, oceanography, international affairs, and environmental law, and upon completing their undergraduate degrees, they became members of the Henry David Thoreau Society.

The Henry David Thoreau Foundation further assists its scholarship win-

ners by identifying environmentally related internships, offering internship stipends, and providing networking opportunities. Upon graduation from college, Henry David Thoreau Scholars are inducted into the Henry David Thoreau Society. A sign of success of the Henry David Thoreau Foundation's mission to foster environ-

mental leadership is the support past scholarship winners provide to present scholarship winners.

To learn more about the Henry David Thoreau Foundation and the Henry David Thoreau Scholarships, people may visit [thoreauscholar.org](http://thoreauscholar.org). Students have until Feb. 1, 2026, to apply.

## STCC hosts careers in health care night on Nov. 13

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Technical Community College will host an Allied Health Careers Exploration Night on Thursday, Nov. 13 from 4:30-7 p.m. in the School of Health and Patient Simulation, Building 20, on the STCC campus.

The event is free and open to the public. Anyone

considering a career in health care is encouraged to attend and learn about the many in-demand allied health programs available at STCC. Visitors will have the chance to learn about STCC's healthcare degrees and certificate programs, tour the college's state-of-the-art patient simulation labs, connect with faculty, current students

and healthcare professionals and explore career paths in fields such as nursing, dental hygiene, respiratory care, medical coding and more.

"This event is a wonderful opportunity for anyone thinking about a health care career to see firsthand what STCC has to offer," said Christopher Scott, Dean of the School of Health

and Patient Simulation. "Attendees will be able to meet instructors, experience our simulation spaces and discover programs that can lead to rewarding, high-demand jobs."

The night will feature tours of STCC's SIMS Medical Center, a nationally recognized patient simulation facility, and tours of depart-

ments. The SIMS Medical Center is one of only a handful of simulation centers in New England accredited by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, a distinction that underscores its commitment to excellence in healthcare education and training.

Advanced registration is encouraged by visiting [stcc.io/alliedhealthcareersnight](http://stcc.io/alliedhealthcareersnight).

While no registration is required, visitors are asked to check in with organizers in the first-floor lobby of building 20, on the Pearl Street side of the campus.

For more information, people may email the School of Health and Patient Simulation at [SHPS@stcc.edu](mailto:SHPS@stcc.edu) or call 413-755-SHPS (7477).

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Town of Chester Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE**  
Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40) and its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00), the Chester Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Monday, November 17, 2025 at 4:00 PM** in the Chester Town Hall, located at 15 Middlefield Road #16, Chester MA 01011. The Commission will review a **Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)** permit application submitted by Fortune Consulting c/o Eric Faivre & Ellen Colson for the proposed installation of a new private water supply well and septic system at 6 Sylvester Hamilton Road (Assessor's Map 408-75) in Chester. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to wetland resource areas. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 11/06/2025

**Town of Worthington Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing**  
In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Worthington Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing in response to a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) regarding the work associated with the installation of an agricultural fence within a wetland and buffer zone, as part of a proposed ground-mounted solar photovoltaic facility at 190 Ridge Road.  
**The Hearing will be held Monday, November 17, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Selectboard meeting room at Town Hall, 160 Huntingdon Road.** 11/06/2025

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Town of Worthington Planning Board**  
The Worthington Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing regarding a Special Permit

application from BWC Wades Stream, LLC / BlueWave Solar for a Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation at 190 Ridge Road. The proposed project overlaps the Water Supply Protection District, therefore requiring a Special Permit.  
The Hearing will be held **Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:30 PM**, at the Worthington Town Hall. Remote public access will be provided utilizing GoToMeeting virtual software: <https://www.gotomeet.me/PlanningBoard>. To attend via phone dial (224) 501-3412; access code: 845-552-877.

The full proposal, including plans, can be reviewed at the Worthington Town Hall, 160 Huntingdon Road, Worthington, between 10 AM and 2 PM, Monday through Friday. Please contact Katrin Kaminsky at (413) 238-5577 x110 or [townclerk@worthington-ma.us](mailto:townclerk@worthington-ma.us) for more information about reviewing the application. 11/06, 11/13/2025

## REGION

### Operation Christmas Child takes place Nov. 17-24

Volunteers are preparing to collect Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 17 - 24.

Nearly 5,000 drop-off locations will open across the country in November and shoebox packers can find their local drop-off locations in Massachusetts by visiting <https://www.samaritanpurse.org>.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering gift-filled shoeboxes to children including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Operation Christmas Child hopes to reach another 12 million children in 2025.

Shoebox packing is fun for individuals, families and groups. People may find a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoebox web-

page. The project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God's love to children in need. Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

"Samaritan's Purse works around the world to help people in need, but it's not about good works; it's about the Gospel," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "Please prayerfully consider packing a shoebox this year with Operation Christmas Child. These simple gifts open the door for us to share the true meaning of Christmas."

Participants can find the nearest drop-off location and hours of operation as they make plans to drop off their shoebox gifts. The online

lookup tool is searchable by City or ZIP code. Signs at each location will identify the drop-off. Local locations include Word of Grace, 848 North Road, Westfield; Grace Church Congregational, 1055 Williams St., Pittsfield; Pioneer Valley Baptist Chapel, 56 Perkins St. Chicopee and Moldovian Baptist Church, 66 Bridge St., Agawam.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 232 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

# 3

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVW2 code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

GIFT TO:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT DIESEL MECHANIC** - In charge of daily repairs & maintenance on trucks as well as keeping equipment records/ordering parts. Health insurance/vacation. Mon-Fri. Come & meet with us! **RB Enterprises Ludlow, MA 413 583-8393**

**CREW LEADER**  
**Sturbridge Department of Public Works**

The Town of Sturbridge Department of Public Works (DPW) is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Crew Leader. This is a full-time role with competitive benefits. Starting pay rate of \$34.11/hr, with yearly step increases.

- Key Requirements:**
- Valid Class A or B CDL
  - Equipment Hydraulic License 2A (required)
  - Equipment Hydraulic Licenses 4G and 4E preferred, with the ability to obtain within 6 months)
  - Effective communication skills.
  - Two years of supervisory experience in the construction field or municipal.
  - Proficiency in operating all DPW equipment, including but not limited to: grader, loader, roadside mower, excavator, backhoe, and street sweeper.

Application Details:  
 • Application and job description are available on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>  
 • Interviews will begin on November 4, 2025, and will continue until the position is filled.

**Additional Information:**

- The DPW operates as a union shop.
- The Town of Sturbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

For more information, please refer to the job description or contact the Sturbridge DPW directly at 508-347-2515 or [dpw@sturbridge.gov](mailto:dpw@sturbridge.gov).

**Job Posting: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Town of Sturbridge, MA**

The Town of Sturbridge is seeking a dynamic, experienced, and highly qualified professional for the position of Assistant Director of Public Works. This is a senior-level, management position that will support the Director of Public Works in overseeing the planning, administration, and daily operations of the Public Works Department.

**About our community**  
 Sturbridge is a welcoming community known for its picturesque landscapes, historic charm, and vibrant local attractions. As Assistant DPW Director, you will play a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing the Town's infrastructure, ensuring a high quality of life for our residents.

**Key responsibilities**  
 The Assistant Director will provide a variety of engineering and administrative services under the guidance of the DPW Director, with a primary focus on:

- Conducting plan reviews for subdivisions, site plans, roadways, water, sewer, and stormwater designs.
- Managing all stormwater permitting activities associated with the NPDES MS4 General Permit.
- Supervising and overseeing the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS).
- Coordinating snow and ice removal activities.
- Addressing resident inquiries related to town projects, utilities, and permitting.
- Presenting engineering reports to and responding to inquiries from town boards and committees, including the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Conservation Commission.

**Qualifications**  
 • Education and Experience: A bachelor's degree in civil/environmental engineering or a related field from an accredited four-year college or university is required. Candidates must have two to five years of related public works experience and/or training, or an equivalent combination of •

**Technical Knowledge:** Knowledge of public construction bidding and Massachusetts procurement laws is essential.  
 • Computer Skills: Proficiency in spreadsheet software, GIS software (such as ESRI), and word processing software is required.

• Communication Skills: Strong verbal and written communication skills are necessary to interact effectively with town staff, other agencies, and the general public.  
 • Licenses: Must possess a valid Driver's License.

**Benefits**  
 The Town of Sturbridge offers a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package that includes:

- Salary up to \$100,000 DOQ
- Health Insurance,
- Paid time off and paid holidays
- Retirement Plan

**How to apply**  
 Submit a cover letter, resume, and Town job application to Frances Wychorski, Constituent Liaison in the Town Administrator's Office, via email at [bosadmin@sturbridge.gov](mailto:bosadmin@sturbridge.gov) or via mail at **308 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566**. This position will remain open until filled. The Town of Sturbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**REAL ESTATE**

**FOR RENT**

**WARE:** 2BR, 2nd Fl. Walk-up, Walk to BigY/McD, W/D, Off-street Parking, Utilities Not Incl., 1st/Last/Security Avail -- Dec. 1, \$1,100/mo. 508-277-6044

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.

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MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

or call: 413-283-8393

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Hilltowns**  
 Circulation: 9,800

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 Circulation: 59,000

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# OBITUARY

## Margaret E. Sakaske, 101

Jan. 9, 1924 – Oct. 31, 2025

Margaret Sakaske age 101 years, daughter of the late John D. DuPont and Julia Murphy Dupont passed on Oct. 31, 2025.

Margaret was born in Otis, but grew up in Becket with her four brothers: Ralph, Richard, Frederick and Harry, all of whom predeceased her.

She moved to Chester when she married her husband, the late Edward D. Sakaske. Margaret had many jobs during her life, but the one she cherished most was that of Crossing Guard for the Chester schools.

After retiring, she spent her winters in Florida, where she loved to walk the beaches collecting seashells and shark's teeth, which

she would use in making beautiful art pieces. She loved knitting and many were recipients of her mittens. She loved to go bowling with her friends and bowled well into her later years.

She leaves her son, Stephen, and his wife, Diane; her grandson, Shane and his wife, Jessica and her two great-grandsons, Blake Sakaske and Evan Willette. She also leaves her nephew, Joel Sakaske, whose Friday visits she looked forward to and many nieces and nephews.

Margaret lived a long and wonderful life and will be missed by all who knew



and loved her.

The family would like to thank Noble Hospital and Hospice for their great care of Margaret and support for the family.

**Honoring** Margaret's request there will be no services.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of Margaret, please consider the Chester Fire Department, 300 Rte. 20, Chester, MA or the Hilltown Community Ambulance, 1 Bromley Road, P.O. Box 351, Huntington, MA. They provided Margaret great care in her time of need.

Graham Funeral Home assisted the family.

### Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

### DEATH NOTICES

#### KNAPP, GRANT M.

Died Oct. 19, 2025  
Celebration of Life 2-4 p.m.  
Worthington Country Club

#### SAKASKE, MARGARET

Died Oct. 31, 2025



## EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **THANKSGIVING**

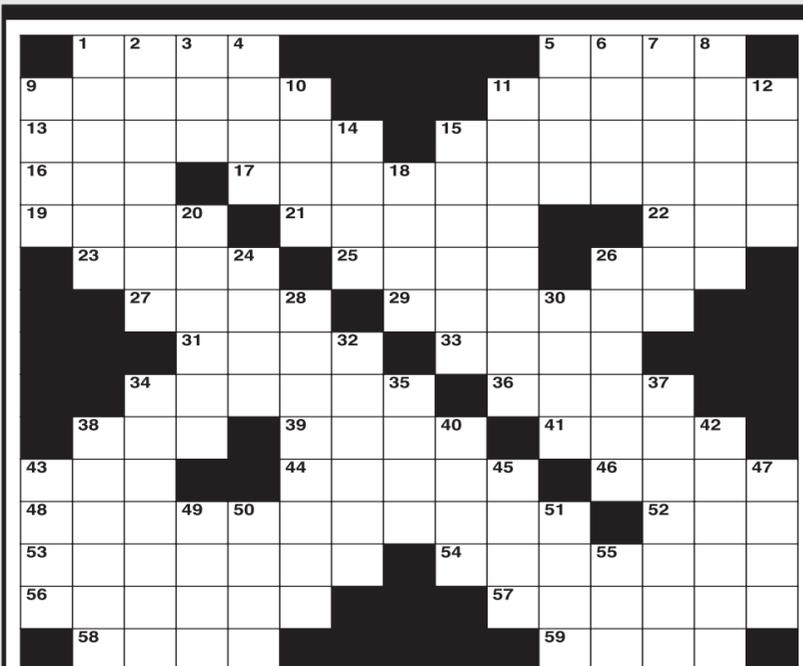
There will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE**  
Place your advertisement no later than

**Thurs., Nov. 20, 1 p.m.**

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



#### CLUES ACROSS

1. Difficult
5. Coarsely ground corn
9. There's one for the "world"
11. Loved Romeo
13. Sticky situation
15. Pelvic areas
16. An informal debt instrument
17. Cannot be repaired surgically
19. A device attached to a workbench
21. Related on the mother's side
22. Sound unit
23. \_\_\_ Sagan, astronomer
25. Utah city
26. A disappointing effort
27. Steal goods during

- a riot
29. Wakes up
31. Hair salon service
33. Serenaded
34. Looked intensely
36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.
38. A type of cast
39. One's duty
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Having had the head cut off
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most unnatural
56. Dennis is a notable one
57. Ointments
58. Students' exam
59. Leaked blood

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Brave
2. Act of awakening
3. Jest at
4. Sandwich store
5. Chapter of the Koran
6. Dismounted
7. Small vehicle
8. Irked
9. One who earns by disreputable dealings
10. Monetary unit of Samoa
11. Long, mournful lamentation
12. Weight unit
14. Alone, single
15. Decreases
18. Indicates beside
20. Worn by exposure to the weather
24. A body of traditions
26. College students'

- ultimate goal
28. Amino acid
30. Nasal mucus
32. US government entity
34. Swinish
35. Legislative body in Russia
37. Grant an exemption to
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
45. Witnesses
47. Picnic invaders
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient person of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unwell

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

#### ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

This is a great week to start a new project or hobby, Aries. Your energy is very high right now. Just be careful not to bite off more than you can chew.

#### TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

This week is all about treating yourself, Taurus. You have been working very hard and it's about time you indulge in some well-deserved relaxation. Think about ways to unwind.

#### GEMINI

May 22/June 21

Gemini, your social calendar is buzzing. You will be the life of the party this week, so get ready for some fun conversations and exciting invitations in the days to come.

#### CANCER

June 22/July 22

You might be feeling particularly cozy and creative this week, Cancer. Your home is your sanctuary, so consider a DIY project to make it even more restful and comfortable.

#### LEO

July 23/Aug 23

People may be drawn to your confident and playful nature this week, Leo. This is a great time to express yourself creatively or take the lead on a group activity.

#### VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you are a master of small details. This week you may find joy in organizing and perfecting something you care about. Tidying up may feel therapeutic right now.

#### LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, get ready for some surprises. The universe is giving you a little nudge towards fun and adventure. Keep in mind a casual outing could turn into an exciting experience.

#### SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Pay attention to your gut feelings, Scorpio. Your intuition is sharp this week. You may be able to navigate a tricky situation with surprising ease and do so in a good mood.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

A funny misunderstanding will lead to a lot of laughter with a close friend, Sagittarius. Don't be afraid to tell jokes, even if they aren't the best. Humor will land well this week.

#### CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Your hard work is paying off, Capricorn. Take some time to celebrate your wins, big or small. You might find a new way to make a routine task more enjoyable.

#### AQUARIUS

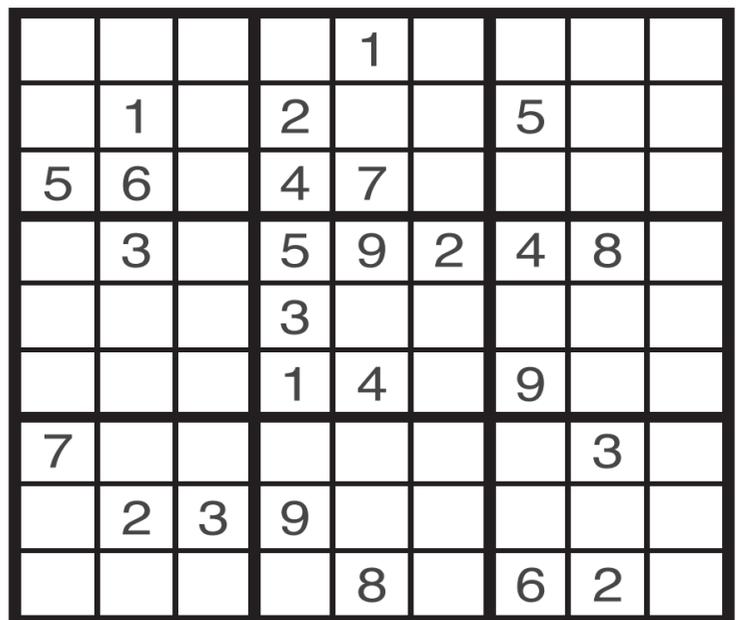
Jan 21/Feb 18

Creativity is flowing this week, Aquarius. You may have some innovative ideas, so don't be afraid to share them with others. A brainstorming session with coworkers can be rewarding.

#### PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, right now your imagination is your best friend, so let it guide you to some fun and whimsical activities. This is a great time to listen to music or to learn to play an instrument.



## SUDOKU

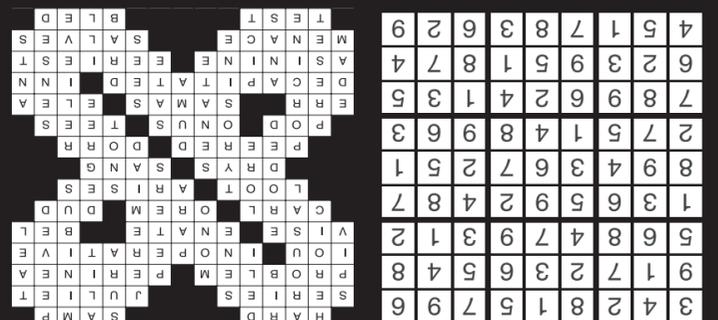
#### Here's How It Works:

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

#### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

## answers



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