

"I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity."  
Dwight D. Eisenhower

# Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

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## BLANDFORD

### Select Board hear road work updates

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Highway Superintendent Rene Senecal told the Select Board Monday evening that the department was still working on line painting, patching potholes and prepping equipment for the winter.

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara told the board that she and Senecal will meet with Gill Engineering to consider their costs for getting the Beech Hill Road ready for construction. Since the grants for the actual construction part of the project were denied, they hope to see if some costs, such as permitting fees, can be eliminated.

She and Senecal will also review the job description for the highway superintendent.

A new host community agreement with the town and Pudding Hill, a small cannabis cultivator boutique shop is under review by Town

ROAD WORK, page 7

### BLANDFORD VOTERS LINE UP FOR POLL OPENING



Voters wait outside the polls in Blandford for them to open on Tuesday, Nov. 5 at 7 a.m.

Turley photo by Mary Kronholm

## HUNTINGTON

### Library launches new website

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Library Director Amanda Loiselle has announced that the Huntington Public Library has a new website.

In an effort to move away from social media as a source for library news, the new website will enable patrons to browse the collection, check out upcoming events and services, examine the "library of things" collection, and reserve museum passes available to card holders. Located at HuntingtonPublicLibrary.org, the new site also has information about the library's history, Trustees, a page for the Friends of the HPL and posts opportunities for volunteers, guidelines for donations, and specific pages of interest to teens and children.

"I'm very happy with it. I really like it. It gives me a lot of flexibility," said Loiselle. A feature she really likes is the ability to RSVP for special events. This not only helps Loiselle manage space, seating and refreshments, but she can quickly and easily launch an automat-

LIBRARY, page 3

## MONTGOMERY

### Zoning Board of Appeals approves gravel pit withdrawal without prejudice



ZBA Chair Peter Wilcox, from left, and members Dan McKellick and Joanne Hebert voted to accept a "withdrawal without prejudice" from Kent Brother Excavating, over a permit application for a proposed gravel pit in Montgomery.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

The Montgomery Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously approved a request to withdraw an application for a proposed gravel pit "without prejudice" at their public meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 29.

Kent Brothers Excavating of Southampton had applied on Aug. 21, 2024 for work on their property in Montgomery, previously known as the Scarfo Construction Pit, with the intent of establishing a sand and gravel pit. This marked the second public meeting on the application, with the first held Sept. 24, whereupon the ZBA voted a continuance while waiting for further information. Speaking with ZBA Chair Peter Wilcox before the meeting, the agenda was whether or not to accept

the Kent Brothers' request for the application's "withdrawal without prejudice," dated Oct. 18, 2024. Another option, said Wilcox, might be to vote not to accept the withdrawal request and vote the application down altogether, meaning it would be two years before Kent Brothers'

could reapply.

Following input from the public, who presented numerous arguments and materials urging the ZBA to vote down the application "with prejudice" or vote down the project altogether, Wilcox was joined by ZBA members Dan McKellick and Joanne Hebert in unanimously accepting the Kent Brothers' request to withdraw the application without prejudice.

Throughout the meeting, there were conflicting viewpoints between ZBA members and the public as to the meaning of the term "without prejudice." But co-owner Michael Kent stated afterwards, "Our understanding is that, as with anyone in the town, we could apply for a permit in the future at any time."

The meeting was called to

**"We've worked very hard over the years to build our reputation. So at this time we've decided to take a step back as we sort through things."**

—Michael Kent

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## HILLTOWNS

# Gasoline prices in the Northeast decrease a penny

Gasoline prices in the Northeast continue to trickle down, but petroleum markets are beginning to take notice of tightening supplies and a recent uptick in demand.

Last week, domestic stockpiles of oil and gasoline fell by 500,000 and 2.7 million barrels respectively, according to the Energy Information Administration. Much of the drawdown was fueled by Americans' increased appetite for driving as of late: gasoline demand last week eclipsed 9.1 million barrels a day, which is 5.3% higher than the comparable week last year.

Over the past four weeks, demand has been 3.4% higher than in the same weeks of 2023.

Outside of domestic market dynamics, global oil and gas markets are focused on the potential for continued conflict in the Middle East, which could send oil prices higher. Also increasing pressure on the markets is the OPEC+ announcement of a one-month delay in planned production increases of roughly 2 million barrels a day, which were supposed to begin in December.

The average gas price in Massachusetts is down a penny over

last week (\$3.05), averaging \$3.04 per gallon. Today's price is two cents lower than a month ago (\$3.06) and 48 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.52). Massachusetts's average gas price is six cents lower than the national average.

"This fall, U.S. drivers have benefited from notably cheaper gasoline compared to last year and demand figures suggest it has helped spur more consumption," said Mark Schieldrop, Senior Spokesperson, AAA Northeast. "If the trend continues, pump prices might not fall much lower in the short term."

AAA Northeast's Nov. 4 survey of fuel prices found the current national average down three cents from last week (\$3.13), averaging \$3.10 gallon. Today's national average price is eight cents cheaper than a month ago (\$3.18) and 32 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.42).

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6.5 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance and auto-related services.

## SBPHC to hold flu and Covid vaccine clinics

Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative will hold flu and Covid no cost clinics in Great Barrington, Monterey and Stockbridge.

They will have regular, senior and egg free flu vaccine and updated Pfizer Covid vaccine at no cost for ages six months and older. Clinic schedules are: on Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Housy Dome, 1064 Main St., Great Barrington; on Tuesday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m.-noon at Monterey Town Library, 452 Main St., Monterey; on Thursday, Nov. 21 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Stockbridge Town Hall, 50 Main St., Stockbridge and on Friday, Nov. 22 from 3-6 p.m. at W.E.B. Dubois Middle School, 313 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington.

People should pre-register by visiting [home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown](https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown). They may call 413-243-5540, extension 109 for help registering or to request an in-home vaccination by visiting <https://southernberkshirehealth.com/resources/>

[public-health-nursing/vaccine/](https://public-health-nursing/vaccine/).

They should bring their insurance card. Although the flu and COVID vaccinations are provided at no cost, people should have their insurance card at the time of registration as well as the day of the clinic.

This will reduce the wait time the day of the vaccine appointment.

SBPHC also offers in-home vaccinations to people living in member towns, who have difficulty leaving the house. To request an in-home vaccination, they may call Jill Sweet at 413-717-7209.

Registration is highly recommended for your flu or COVID vaccine, which can be done using one of these easy methods: visit <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown> and pick the desired clinic or call SBPHC staff at 413-243-5540, extension 109 and leave a message with their name, phone number and reason for call and they will call them back to register.

## Clark Art holds gallery talk

On Monday, Nov. 18 at 1 p.m. in the permanent collection galleries, the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., presents Meet Me at the Clark. This free gallery talk program is designed specifically for people living with dementia and their care partners.

On select Mondays, when the muse-

um is closed to the general public, specially trained educators guide open-ended conversations about art and how it celebrates shared humanity. Advance registration required; capacity is limited. To register, people should call the Education Department Coordinator at 413-458-2303 or visit [clarkart.edu/events](https://clarkart.edu/events).

## Freedom Credit Union seeks donations for service members

During November, Freedom Credit Union is collecting cash donations at all its branches throughout western Massachusetts to help the Westover Galaxy Community Council support military service members and their families at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee.

"We salute the service and sacrifices of the brave men and women serving at the Westover Base," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "Especially with the holidays coming, having loved ones away from home is challenging. We hope our contributions help ease the burden on military families."

Formed in 1988 as a committee within the Chicopee Chamber of

Commerce and incorporated as an independent organization in 1989, the Westover Galaxy Community Council is made up of veterans, local businesspeople and other citizens who support the men, women and mission of Westover ARB. Within Department of Defense guidelines, Westover Galaxy Community Council raises funds to contribute to events and special needs at Westover ARB, the largest air reserve base in the nation.

Anyone can contribute at any Freedom Credit Union branch. "You don't have to be a Freedom member," said Welch. "We feel fortunate to have such a generous community helping us give back to our troops."

## DCR closes roads at Mt. Greylock

Beginning Monday, Nov. 4 and continuing through Friday, Nov. 29, 2024, the Department of Conservation and Recreation will close Notch, Summit and Rockwell Roads at Mount Greylock State Reservation to all vehicular, bike

and pedestrian traffic to accommodate hazard tree removal work.

Rockwell Road from the Visitor Center to Jones Nose parking area will remain open for visitor access, weather permitting.



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## News, photo publication policy

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

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

**Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.**





# HUNTINGTON

## Water Dept. announces hydrant flushing

HUNTINGTON – The town of Huntington Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants on Tuesday, Nov. 12 through Friday, Nov. 22 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

## LIBRARY

ed announcement if something has to be canceled due to things like weather or illness.

As a small community library, the HPL's mission is to provide leisure and recreational reading to the community. But clicking on the "resources" tab of the new website brings users to a listing of online information for everything from book recommendations to homework help. Loiselle currently has four "featured resources" at the top of that page: Excel Adult High School (helping adults prepare for the GED); a genealogy resource called Heritage Quest; Peterson's Career Prep, which helps with resume writing and job search and Transparent Language Online, offering instruction in 100 different languages. Almost all of the data bases on this page are made possible by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and by the Massachusetts Library System.

Library Trustees Chair Linda Siska is a fan and explains that the new website is easy to use-even for those of us who are not technologically inclined. "The amount of skill, technological ability and time necessary to pull something like this off is very impressive," Siska said. "We are fortunate to have a library director like Amanda Loiselle. We are also fortunate to have been able to increase her hours at the library so that efforts like the website could be undertaken and completed."

Loiselle says she will still maintain the library's Facebook page, but it will primarily be used to post pictures of events that have taken place-not to announce upcoming happenings.

Loiselle recently began working on the website on her own time, saying that the previous one "was a mess." She became interested in creating a vibrant website while completing her Master's

## COA hosts Veterans dinner

HUNTINGTON – The annual Huntington Veterans Dinner will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16 at noon at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road.

The dinner will be a sit down meal with entertainment by Old Country Road. There will be no to go meals. The meal will consist of roast beef, side dishes, and dessert. Meals are available for Huntington veterans of all ages and their

immediate family only. Meals are free for veterans and donations are greatly appreciated for family members. People may call the Select Board Office at 413-512-5200 by Monday, Nov. 11 for reservations.

Reservations are limited to 70, so Veterans should call today. This event is sponsored by the Huntington Council on Aging.

## DV Task Force to meet

HUNTINGTON – The Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force will meet at Gateway High School, 12 Littleville Road, on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at the new meeting time of 3-4:30 p.m. in the second floor Career Center.

from page 1

of Library and Information Science degree from Simmons University last January. One of her classes focused her on organizing a new website in a planful way. This fall, the Library Trustees urged the Huntington Select Board to increase Loiselle's weekly schedule. It was approved and Loiselle's first project was using her extra hours to finally complete the new website.

The new website host was made available to HPL when they moved from Mass CAT, the state's automated library cataloging system, which charged the HPL \$1200-\$1300 a year. More recently, they switched to the Central and Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing, a similar service which charges \$800 per year and offered the website infrastructure as part of their membership.

"I found this website easy to do. I wanted a place that was easy to update," said Loiselle. The previous website had not been updated since her social media staff person left a year ago. Another advantage? The old website was covered in ads because it was free to the library; the new one has a cleaner, fresher look.

By going to the library website, patrons can confirm upcoming monthly programs like a new "Book Swap Club," a monthly discussion of books that people recommend) on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 4:30 p.m., Crafternoon for all ages on Thursday, Nov. 14 at 4 p.m., Game Night on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 4 p.m. and Cookbook Club on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m. Participants should bring their favorite recipe for soups, stews or sides. November's book club read will be "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt and new members are welcome to join in the discussion on Thursday, Nov. 14 at 4:30 p.m.

In the meantime, Loiselle invites everybody to check out the new website and give her feedback-especially if anything isn't working or could be clearer.

## Assembly of God to hold first ever Friendsgiving dinner on Nov. 16

HUNTINGTON – The Pioneer Valley Assembly of God, 63 Old Chester Road will hold their first ever Friendsgiving dinner of turkey and all

the fixings on Saturday, Nov. 16 at 5 p.m. This event is free. Registration is required by visiting [www.pioneervalleyag.org/turkey](http://www.pioneervalleyag.org/turkey).



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## BECKET

## Becket Athenaeum lists event

BECKET – The Becket Athenaeum, 3367 Main St., will host the Book Club on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 1:30 p.m.

The book is "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict and Christopher Murray. People may email [info@bwlibrary.org](mailto:info@bwlibrary.org) to request a physical book or for details regarding the separate virtual meeting.

Bidding for the Online Silent Auction opens on Thursday, Nov. 14

at noon and closes on Friday, Nov. 29 at midnight. People should visit [bit.ly/BA=2024auction](http://bit.ly/BA=2024auction).

Game night for ages 13+ will be held Thursday, Nov. 21 from 6-8 p.m. People should RSVP [bit.ly/BA-Nov21-game](http://bit.ly/BA-Nov21-game).

Baby and toddler playgroup meet Tuesdays from 10-11 a.m. Story time and craft meets Saturdays from 10:30-11:30 p.m. and stay and play meets Saturdays from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## MassDOT announces I-90 lane closure

BECKET – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces that overnight low speed lane closures will be in effect in Becket along I-90 westbound near mile marker 18.4.

Work will take place nightly from 7 p.m.-5 a.m. the following morning. The work is anticipated to be completed by Friday morning, Nov. 8.

Appropriate signage and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers traveling through the affected 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: dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions. Visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com), a website providing real-time traffic and incident advisory information, and subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Follow @MassDOT on X (formerly known as Twitter) to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### Why does the government raid Social Security?

Dear Rusty

The Social Security program is funded by employees and their employers.

The federal government does not contribute to the program, right? So why does the federal government feel they have the right to raid the fund? All the money sent to Ukraine and other unnecessary programs could have been used to pay back what they owe to Social Security.

Signed: Disgruntled Senior

Dear Disgruntled Senior

You are correct that the Social Security program is mainly funded by payroll taxes on employee earnings and by employers, who match those employee contributions.

FYI, some additional SS revenue is received from income tax on Social Security benefits, as well as from interest on the special issue government bonds held in the Social Security Trust Fund. But the assertion that the Federal Government used (raided) the Social Security Trust Fund for any other purpose is a myth.

All Social Security revenue received since the program began in 1937 has been accounted for and all excess funds are contained in a special Trust Fund in the form of interest-bearing government bonds, reserved to pay future benefits. FYI, the interest on those bonds contributed about \$67 billion to the Trust Fund reserves in 2023. Social Security revenue, today, is not adequate to pay all benefit obligations and the extra money needed to pay full SS benefits for everyone is obtained by redeeming Trust Fund reserves. Redemption of those Trust Fund bonds is how the federal government "pays back" the cash loaned to it by Social Security.

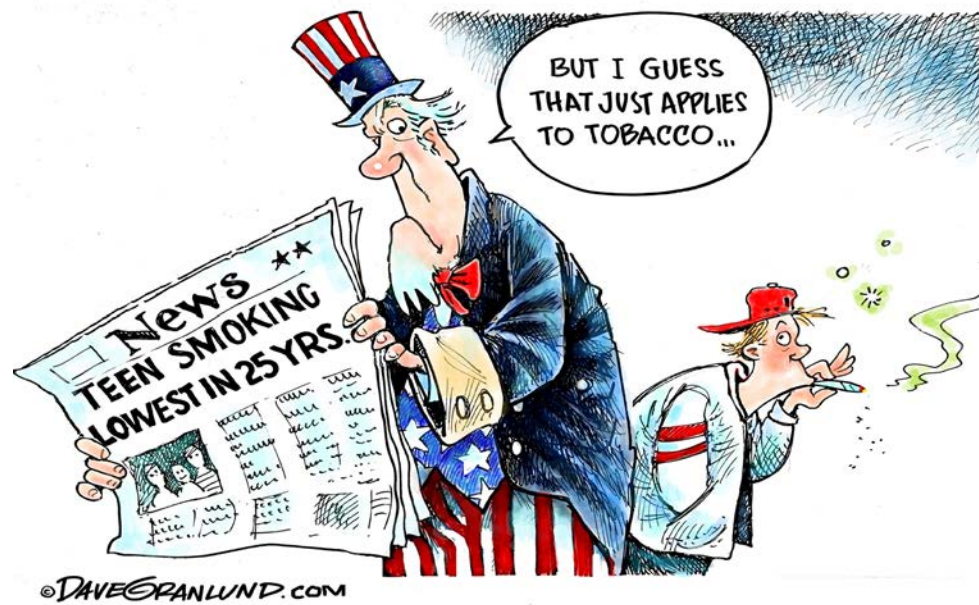
The excess SS money received from contributions was loaned to the Federal Treasury by the SS Trust Funds, interest-bearing bonds were issued by the government in return for the cash received and the bonds issued are redeemable as needed by Social Security to pay benefits. FYI, the average interest on the 2023 bonds in the Trust Funds was about 4.125%, whereas the average rate of return on all bonds held in reserve was about 2.387%. This transaction is the same as for any other investment vehicle except the bonds in the Trust Funds are redeemable at any time without penalty.

SECURITY, page 6

## 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.



## GUEST COLUMN

### Tulips and daffodils on vacation, oh my!



My spring flowering bulbs have traveled quite a distance to make it to me, and what a debacle in the process.

Usually, my order, placed in late July comes effortlessly around mid October. The east coast port strike may have only lasted three days, but it sent my bulbs that had come from the Netherlands first to New York, then to Mobile, Alabama, then to the Bahamas and finally, a week ago, to New Jersey, where they will be sent to me, hopefully.

I say this because it is time to get the tulips and daffodils I ordered in the ground, so they can do their thing before the calendar finally decides it is November and not September.

We learned how to plant garlic last week, and we plant spring bulbs each fall nearly the same way. Read on for a refresher course, and if you haven't gotten your bulbs in yet, there is no time like the present.

Let's consider these main points:

**Timing:** We do our best to plant our bulbs in early fall, so that they can take advantage of optimal temperatures for rooting. Strong roots will keep the bulbs in place, well-anchored during the freeze/thaw cycles of winter.

**Location:** Most bulbs thrive in full sun, in fertile, well-drained soil. It is important to avoid "wet feet" at all costs when planting bulbs. This means you should steer clear of low areas in your yard, or those that tend to pool water, such as under downspouts or roof overhangs.

**Fertilization:** I like to use a well-balanced granular organic fertilizer for my bulbs, mixing it into the soil at planting at the rate recommended on the bag. Bone meal was always the fertilizer of choice for bulbs, but this is no longer so.

It has been shown that in addition to

phosphorus and potassium, bulbs require small amounts of nitrogen and trace minerals for optimal growth. These days advanced methods of cleaning bones by steaming have all but eliminated the nitrogen and trace minerals from bone meal.

In the spring, another fertilizer application can be made, and if you have an option, choose one with a higher nitrogen to support strong leaf growth. Daffodils are less dependent on fertilizer than tulips and hyacinth- the size of these flowers will diminish over time.

**Spacing:** Most folks will agree that drifts or clusters of bulbs are more stunning than one or two sprinkled here and there about the garden. Spring bulbs can come in all sizes, so the general rule is to plant them two times the width of the bulb apart from one another.

For example, if the bulb is three inches wide, plant it six inches apart from its neighbor.

**Depth:** The same rule applies for depth. Two times the height of the bulb is the ideal planting depth; you can even go a tad deeper.

This is especially true if you are hoping your tulip bulbs will return year after year. If your garden soil has been loosened up, planting lots of bulbs is easy.

I have described the fast, "jab and grab" method before, but here it is in a nutshell: Holding your trowel facing in, jab it into the soil and pull forward. If you have not achieved the desired depth, repeat the motion.

Grab the bulb and drop it into the hole, pushing the soil back over as you do so.

**Care during bloom time:** I always deadhead the spent flowers on my bulbs. The theory behind deadheading is that you remove the flower as it withers, before the plant wastes energy forming a seed.

That way energy is redirected to the bulb, and to forming next year's flowers. In college we were taught to do it, for the above rationale as well as to keep the plant looking tidy.

Most folks simply remove the entire stem at ground level. One part about this process always bothered me though, why don't we just pop off the spent flower parts and leave the stem - it is very leaf-like in

GARDEN, page 5

## 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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## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

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

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



# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

### Working Hard or Hardly Working

By Patricia Racine

former owner of Katie's Country Store

If I had a dollar for every time I was asked if I was working hard or hardly working, I would be a very wealthy woman: and that phrase got me thinking about whether I was asked this because I am a woman.

Statistically women make up 47.4% of the workforce, 42.1% of managerial positions and 31.7% of executive positions; if you consider the fact that we entered the workforce in the 1920s it's a slow climb up the ladder in 100 years.

What is strange is that if you research further, you will find that women are more disciplined, faster thinkers, possess a higher work ethic, workaholics, live longer productive lives, but still resign from their jobs 17% more than men.

That last statistic is not that strange since women also experience more stress than men, of course we not only have careers but also are responsible for taking care of the home and family. We are also dealing with men in our industries, whether they are above or below us in the

corporate hierarchy that constantly have criticism about how we do our jobs. Of course we are stressed.

Now add on how women are talked to or about in their work environment, I could list off the inappropriate, off-color, borderline harassing comments made to me by males at work, who would never have said those things to my father when he was the store's owner.

Other female business owners and executives that are in my circle have similar stories, they talk about how they get ignored if a man is sitting beside them, even if he is her subordinate. But once they get past the flash of irritation of the snub, they find it hilarious when the realization of who is in charge hits the man who thought they were the secretary. I am now part of the High Lawn Farm team and it didn't go unnoticed to me that there are a lot of women as department heads at the Farm. 4.1% of dairy companies are headed up by females and we are one of those few with a young, energetic approachable female Farm Manager. Personally, I think it makes for a kinder, gentler workplace where your everyday

accomplishments are applauded. I'm still adjusting to getting positive feedback on a daily basis, but it sure is nice.

We women walk a fine line in executive positions; we have to be able to hold our own with men while remaining true to our innate care-giving selves. Show too much assertiveness and you are labeled with a derogatory name, but not enough and you will get walked all over and seen as weak. Again, no wonder women are stressed.

Being large and in charge of a business isn't for all women, and that is perfectly fine. It is truly a personal choice as to how much we want to take on at work and how much of ourselves we are willing to give up. But it is important for the 68.3% of us not in executive positions to support those that are and encourage others that have the aspirations to lead future companies. It is important for women in executive positions to form a circle consisting of other females on the same level; you need those people to bounce ideas off, get support and most importantly vent.

It is very difficult to get the same support from a male counterpart, they

just don't understand. And that is okay too, we can't expect miracles to happen; but they should be making more of an effort to show us the respect that we have earned.

In this day and age it is just ridiculous to still be dealing with sexism in the workplace when it is women who are better educated, 62.6% of Master's Degrees are earned by women. So why are we still fighting for equality? Ladies, we make up 51.1% of the US population. Let's get it together, we are the majority.

On a positive note, my manager and I agreed that we feel the younger generations of women should have an easier time climbing the ladder than us because of all the groundwork we have laid. Hopefully these young women take advantage of all the advancements we older ones have fought for and the trials we have gone through and keep pushing for more women lead companies.

I really hope I get to see that world when women are broadly recognized for how intelligent, ingenious and industrious we really are. I believe that there is nothing a woman can't do except sometimes open a jar.

### Hurricane Helene in the Southern Appalachians

By Julie Midura

Guest Column

After months of anticipation and weeks of planning, we were finally on our way to western North Carolina to begin our 200-mile backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail. Our backcountry permits were safely stashed in our backpacks for the first 70 miles of trail that weave through the Great Smoky Mountains, and the resupply packages we had mailed to several trail towns would be waiting for us in some of the hostels and outfitters as we made our way north.

After the 800 mile drive from our home in Massachusetts, we dropped our car off at Mountain Harbour Hostel in Roan Mountain, Tennessee, where my sister met us so that she could shuttle us to Fontana Dam in North Carolina- the starting point of our 17-day backpacking trip. Our SUV would be waiting for us at the hostel. At least, that was the plan.

But on Thursday evening, Sept. 26, just a few hours after arriving in Tennessee, we received an urgent email from Great Smoky Mountain headquarters imploring us to postpone our hike. The hurricane that barreled into Florida was continuing inland without breaking stride... and was heading straight for the Southern Appalachians. Tom and I would be hiking right smack in the middle of it.

We considered delaying the start of our hike to Sunday, but the Appalachian Trail Conservancy soon issued a statement that the trail should be considered closed to hiking from the southern terminus in Georgia all the way to Rockfish Gap, Virginia. 860 miles of trail. This closure was unprecedented.

The unrelenting rain that fell upwards of 30 inches in some areas- was creating perilous conditions in the mountains. Landslides were imminent and trees were falling like toothpicks. As the mountains became overrun with moisture, historic amounts of water rushed down the creeks and into the rivers, which resulted in the highest river levels ever observed across the region.

The monumental force of the flood waters widened the rivers beyond what the riverbanks could contain, rerouting the water directly into the towns. The angry water carved a path deeply into the earth and swallowed everything in its path, including trees, cars, homes and highways. Tractor trailers were picked up by the catastrophic flooding and crushed like matchbox cars. Highways



were washed away, concrete bridges collapsed and entire towns were underwater. Hundreds of lives were lost. What remained were towns, homes and businesses buried in mud and looking more like war zones. The magnitude of the storm has made Hurricane Helene one of the most impactful weather events the Appalachians has ever seen.

Thankfully, Tom and I were taken in by family members who live in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, which was spared significant damage. While there, we learned that all roads into Roan Mountain- where we had left our SUV- were inaccessible. Power and cell service were nonexistent. We looked on the hostel's Facebook page to see if there were any updates on how they had fared, and were shocked to see a video taken by the owners during the height of the storm. The entire property we had dropped our car off just three days prior had become unrecognizable. What was once a gravel parking lot was now a raging river. We watched the video as our SUV was inundated by the flood waters.

But we are the lucky ones. Had we already been on the trail when the storm

hit, it could have easily been our lives we lost and not simply our car.

A few days later, we rented a car and began the long drive home, feeling heartbroken. Our heartbreak had nothing to do with our flooded SUV. Little to do with the lost backpacking trip that we

had been looking forward to for so long. Rather, it had everything to do with the devastation we witnessed and the people who had lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones.

We arrived back home two weeks earlier than we planned to, and went through the motions of unpacking, doing laundry and going through the mail, all while feeling as though we were in a fog. Tom shared that it felt strange to be back home so soon. Like we weren't supposed to be there.

Both of us were experiencing the kind of sadness that creeps into your bones and settles there.

So we took a day to regroup, then crammed our overnight backpacks and hiking gear into our tiny 2010 Honda Fit with 200,000 miles on the odometer, and headed to the White Mountains of NH. We prayed that our beat up old car would make it through the rough and rutted dirt roads that lead to some of the trailheads.

When we reached the trailhead at 5 p.m., we threw our heavy packs over our shoulders and headed into the woods to find a place to set up our tent for the night. It was our hope that spending a few days away from it all would allow us to process the devastation we saw in Tennessee and North Carolina.

We spent the next few days walking the trails, climbing the mountains and inhaling serenity in the wild places of New Hampshire. As we gazed out at the vast Pemigewasset Wilderness from a rock ledge on Zeacliff while waiting for the sun to set, it truly felt like a balm for our souls. See you in the wild places, my friends.

## GARDEN

from page 4

appearance and will do a fair job of photosynthesizing and adding to the plant's energy reserves.

**Care during post bloom:** Unfortunately, foliage should remain in place until it is completely yellow and withered. It seems to take a long time to get to that point, especially for daffodils, and we can get impatient in the process.

There is good reason for leaving it there - it is making energy for flowers next year. The best way around the inevitable ugliness is to camouflage them with other plants.

Try interplanting daffodil bulbs such as alongside daylilies or other leafy plants. Once the foliage yellows

it is safe to remove it - a gentle tug is all that is necessary to release the leaves.

I will certainly have my hands full when the shipment of bulbs arrives, but the beautiful gardens around Old Sturbridge Village come springtime will be well-worth the effort!

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



# OPINION

## HILLTOWN HISTORY

### Taking a monumental hike to Peeskawso Peak

By Deborah Daniels  
Correspondent

The views from the top of Monument Mountain are stupendous, taking in Mt. Greylock in the Berkshires to the Catskill Mountains in New York and the upper Housatonic River Valley.

It got its name from the stone mound the Mohicans made when visiting what they considered a sacred site. They would pray into a stone and place it on a pile. That pile of stones was six foot tall and 18 foot wide by the time the colonists discovered it.

It is said the colonists collected and used the stones to build their chimneys. The Trustees of Reservation were donated the land in 1899 from Helen C. Butler to keep it open for the public's hiking enjoyment. More precisely she donated 260 acres of land in memory of her sister, Rosalie Butler, "to prevent vandals from disfiguring it with advertising signs and be preserved forever for the public's enjoyment."

She was from New York City and had a summer cottage in Stockbridge. She showed foresight and generosity. It is



Monument Mountain is in Great Barrington off Route 7 just outside Stockbridge. This is a view from on top of the mountain.



Gray boulders/cliffs that make up much of the trails of Monument Mountain.

1,642 feet to the summit and the 3.2 mile loop is up, up and up on bouldered, paths and along cliffs and ledges.

It is a work out. The last recorded fall (2019) from the peak required the victim be airlifted to the hospital. The trails have been renamed out of respect for the Mohicans, who were the first settlers here and the summit is called Peeskawso Peak.

Every Aug. 5 there is a hike up the mountain to commemorate a famous hike made by authors in 1850. Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809 – 1894), Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804 - 1864) and Herman Melville (1819- 1891) trekked up the mountain together. This was the first time that Hawthorne and Melville had met.

An unexpected thunderstorm blew the group into a sheltering cave where Hawthorne and Melville became friends. It is said they spent the night in the cave and finished the climb to the summit celebrating with a champagne toast. Hiking on the Hickey Trail you pass a cave or extended rock overhang that is speculated to be the cave where they took shelter.

Hawthorne and Melville corresponded through letters presumably sharing ideas, commenting and editing each other's work for the next two years. Strangely the letter writing ended after 2 years. What caused the divide has been the subject of much speculation by literary scholars. The following is some background info on the authors to help you decide what happened?

Nathaniel Hawthorne was 46 years old when he met Herman Melville who was 31 years old. Both had grown up without fathers. Hawthorne's father died of yellow fever when he was 4 years old. Melville was 12 years old when his father committed suicide after his import business went bankrupt.

Both authors shared a love of the sea. Hawthorne's father was a sea captain. Melville went to work first as a cabin boy on a merchant ship and later as a sailor aboard a whaling ship. Both authors married and had three children. Both authors worked in shipping customs jobs because writing did not provide enough income to support their families. So they shared



A Moby Dick like whale rock is located near the end of the Mohican Monument Trail.

much in common.

Hawthorne grew up in Salem and went to Bowdoin College. Here he met Franklin Pierce, who became a close friend and he also met Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Both friends were to become very influential people in their own right.

Hawthorne wrote short stories that were published in newspapers and magazines. He wrote anonymously. His book "Twice Told Tales" was a collection of his stories published in 1837. He sent a copy to Longfellow, who wrote a favorable review of it and this helped ignite his writing career. "The Scarlet Letters" was published in 1849. It was a best seller, selling 2,500 volumes in ten days.

He worked as a surveyor for the Salem Custom House, a politically appointed job that he lost in 1850. He moved to Lenox when he was offered a cottage to live in by a friend for very little rent. He called this home Tanglewood because of the dense forest that surrounded it. Today it houses practice studios for the Boston Symphony Orchestra at what is known as Tanglewood Concert Area.

He wrote "The House of Seven Gables" here and it was published in 1851. He published a biography of Franklin Pierce in 1852. He was appointed to the U.S. Consul in England in 1853 thanks to Franklin Pierce, who became our 14th President in 1852.

He now had a family of two daughters and one son. He toured France and Italy before returning to the United States in 1860. He bought a house in Concord and named it "The Wayside Inn." He traveled to the White Mountains with Franklin Pierce in 1864 to restore his failing health. He died in his sleep of what was most likely gastric cancer at the age of 59 years.

Herman Melville grew up in Albany, New York. After his father died he and his seven siblings were raised among extended family members. He did not go to college, but attended local schools. When he was 21 yrs old he became a crew member on a whaling ship, named Acushnet. Previously he had been a cabin boy.

He spent three years learning the ropes of sailing. He and a friend desert-



The Devil's Pulpit as viewed from the top of Monument Mountain.

ed the whaling ship and lived on the Marquesas Islands in Polynesia, among the Typee people. Here he observed first hand the ways of a cannibalistic society. He spent time in a Polynesian jail for his part in a mutiny at sea. He heard tales of "Mocha Dick," a white killer whale while he was a sailor.

These experiences gave him insight into human behavior through the world of whaling seamen and he experienced a very different culture in Polynesia. His first book was "Typee" published in 1846 about this experience. It got him recognized as a writer and it was successfully received. His next book was "Omoo," a sequel to "Typee" published in 1847.

His next three books did not sell well at all. He wrote "Moby Dick," published in 1851 as an epic novel. It was Hawthorne who persuaded him to develop it as a novel and not a travel story. He dedicated this book to Hawthorne. However it was a commercial failure at the time. It was not until 1920 that it became popular and then was considered one of the greatest American novels ever written. Meanwhile he had married Elizabeth Shaw in 1847. She was the daughter of the Chief Justice of Massachusetts. Her father periodically helped Melville out financially as his writing never allowed any financial stability. Melville stayed at his uncle's property in Pittsfield. He later borrowed money and bought a farmhouse here, known as Arrowhead. People can visit this historic house museum today.

Melville moved to New York City in 1863 and he became a U.S. Customs inspector. Melville had two sons and a daughter. His oldest son died in 1867 from a self inflicted gunshot wound. He outlived his second son who died in 1886 of tuberculosis.

He had written "Bartleby, the Scrivener" and "Benito Cereno" two short stories that were popular before turning to writing poetry with no success. He kept his day job as a customs inspector. He had written "Billy Budd," but it was unfinished at his death. He died of cardiovascular disease in 1891, at the age of 72. "Billy Budd" was found and published in 1924. It became very popular.

Both authors corresponded frequently for two years. It has been estimated that some 1,800 letters were written. Most have vanished. It has been said that Hawthorne's wife tore pages out of his journals without offering any explanation. Perhaps she had an inkling that immortality was about to knock on her door?

When do you know your life is no longer a private affair but will be considered a topic to be pored over by academic researchers trying to unravel your personal story? There is another theory that Hawthorne tried unsuccessfully to get Melville a government position. And this failure may have embarrassed and strained their relationship. We do not know why these two very talented authors fell out. The letters stopped and the friendship faded away. The conjecture over why it failed continues to fascinate.

## SECURITY

Said another way, all excess money ever received by Social Security is/was invested in special-issue government bonds and resides in reserve to pay future benefits, as needed.

"Paying back" the money represented by bonds held in the Trust Funds would not be a wise financial move because it would eliminate all future interest earned by those bonds again, that interest was about \$67 billion in 2023). Federal money spent for other purposes e.g., Ukraine is from the general U.S. Treasury and not from the Social Security Trust Fund, which is held totally separate from the

U.S. Treasury. Since inception, all money ever contributed to Social Security has been and is used for one purpose and one purpose only to pay Social Security benefits to those eligible, which, by the way, does not include "illegal aliens" or anyone else who is not a legal resident of the United States.

For clarity, Social Security does have a future financial issue because annual benefit obligations are now greater than annual Social Security revenue and money from the SS Trust Fund is now used to make up the difference. Unless the program is reformed

soon, the Trust Fund reserves about \$2.8 trillion as of 2023 will be depleted and benefits for all Social Security recipients will be cut by about 23% starting in 2033 or 2034 according to the Trustees of Social Security and the Congressional Budget Office.

Congress needs to act soon to enact Social Security reform to restore the program to fiscal solvency. The Association of Mature American Citizens is steadfastly lobbying Congress to enact the needed Social Security reform as soon as possible.

The Association Mature Citizens

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

from page 4



## BLANDFORD



This is a photo of last year's Craft Fair in Blandford. This year Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

File photo

### Craft Fair takes place

BLANDFORD – Another tried and true holiday event in Blandford is the Craft Fair at the Historical Society building at the top of Main Street on Saturday, Dec. 7.

The event coincides with the Firefighters' Pancake Breakfast and opens at 9 a.m. and will run until 4 p.m. Returning crafters are: Cindi Carr with her hand-painted glass; Mallory Crossman with tiny treasures on main; Linda Coffey and her photography calendars; Barb Blair's Country Wood Crafts; Becky Greene with her jewelry from Around the Bend Creations; Ashley Neveau's crocheted creations and Donna Britton of Morning Skye Farm will have pottery and knitted socks and mittens.

More regular artisans are Chelsea Prokop of Country Roads with knitted hats and headbands;

Blandford artists Susan Racine and her watercolors and Jeri Hamel with her paintings and note cards. Meghan Chaffe of Brookman Candle will participate and bring her handmade candles and organizer Jess Ripley of Maple Corner Farm will have canned goods, maple syrup and other maple products.

### Porter Memorial Library lists events

BLANDFORD – Library Director Nicole Daviau announces special and regularly occurring events at the Porter Memorial Library.

"Communi-Tea Reads," the library's book club will meet Saturday, Nov. 16 at 11 a.m. at the library. The book for discussion is "Orbital" by Samantha Harvey. This is an account of a day in the life of the astronauts as they circle the earth, with each day hav-

ing 16 orbits.

The library's featured Family Photo Day is set for Friday, Nov. 29 from noon-2 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 30 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. People may call or stop at the library to reserve a time.

The sensory crafts programs for all ages are on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday mornings the Book Squirms meet, for younger children and their care-givers, at 10:30 a.m.

### COA breakfast takes place Nov. 22

BLANDFORD – The Council on Aging breakfast is Friday, Nov. 22 at 10 a.m. at the COA room at Town Hall.

Chef Joann Martin has planned a 'loaded quiche,' maple sausages accompanied by a breakfast salad.

All are welcome, and COA

Director Margit Mikuski asks that those attending consider a \$5 donation to keep the program running smoothly. People may call her at 413-848-4279, extension 400 and leave a message stating who will attend and how many people.

### ROAD WORK

from page 1

Counsel.

Beginning the week of Nov. 12 heavy asphalt laden trucks will be travelling North Blandford Road. Senecal assured Ferrara that the road could withstand that sort of traffic. Ferrara told the board the Otis Town Administrator had asked if this would be possible as there is road paving in the area of Algeria and the old Lee/Westfield roads. As long as the trucks obey the speed limit, the use of the road is possible. Police Chief Jen Dubiel will be notified.

The problem with a mobile home on Albano Drive has been addressed and the unit will be vacated by the end of the month.

Maple Lane has proved to be in very good condition so as to permit winter maintenance this year according to Senecal, "It's the best I've ever seen it."

The board voted by roll call to go into executive session and not return to public forum for the purpose of "contract negotiations with nonunion personnel."



Santa is shown with Firefighter John Piper at a previous breakfast.

File photo

### Firefighters Association to host pancake breakfast

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The Blandford Volunteer Firefighters Association will host their Ninth Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Town Hall from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Santa will be there. There will be pancakes with maple syrup, bacon, sausage, breakfast beverages and coffee and tea. The Recreation Committee will host a hot chocolate table and there will be the traditional raffle.

Donations for the raffle are already coming in, according to organizer Pat Lombardo. Anyone who would like to donate a raffle item can leave it at the Fire Department Training Center next to the Post Office on Main Street any Wednesday night between 6:30 and 8 p.m.

Several area businesses support the event. The Blandford Country Store provides the pancake batter mix, Ripley's Maple Corner provides maple syrup, Starbucks donates coffee, and along with the Recreation Committee's hot cocoa, Lombardo says the Council on Aging loans their pots and pans.

Many other area businesses support this annual fundraiser with raffle donations, too.

This year, an added treat from the Blandford Country Store will be a cookie and ornament station. This will be a chance for children, especially, to decorate a gingerbread cookie and create an ornament to hang on the family tree.

Fire Chief Adam Dollby said, "The residents of Blandford are a fiercely independent bunch. The pancake breakfast is a chance to get all of us together and remind us that independence doesn't have to mean isolation. It's also a chance for everyone to meet the volunteers and show appreciation for their dedication and service."

He continued, "Financially, the effort means we can have extra funds through the year for uniform needs and supplies that may not have been foreseen in the budgeting process."

"Plan to come to the breakfast to support your local volunteer Firefighters," said Lombardo. "It's a real community event."

The cost is \$10 for adults, children ages 5-to 12-years-old \$5 and children under 5 get breakfast free.

## PITTSFIELD

### Hancock Shaker Village to hold Community Day Nov. 9

PITTSFIELD – Hancock Shaker Village, 1843 West Housatonic announces its annual Community Day will take place on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 1 a.m.-4 p.m.

Admission is free all day for all ages. Activities at the museum on Community Day craft demonstrations of woodworking, blacksmithing and weaving; interpreter-led tours and Shaker talks and visits with the barnyard animals. All buildings in the historic vil-

lage are open for exploration as well as several special exhibitions like Sisters Harvest featuring artists Alyssa Sakina Mumtaz and Maggie Pate, and Bright Passage: An Illuminated Interior by artists Melissa Thorne.

This year the village partnered with Berkshire Museum in hosting "Muh-he-con-ne-ok: the People of the Water That Are Never Still," one of Berkshire Museum's Mobile Museum Units. The unit will be on display and staffed by

Berkshire Museum staff throughout the day. The accessible, one-mile Farm and Forest Trail, is also open for everyone to explore. A specialized slate of food and beverage offerings will be available in the Café and the Mercantile Store will be open for a curated shopping experience.

In addition to free admission for all, Hancock Shaker Village makes programs accessible to the Spanish-speaking members of the community

with a Spanish language audio tour available through a smartphone app.

In support of Community Day, Hancock Shaker Village is collaborating with Mill Town Foundation, which shares the mission priority of expanding community access to arts and culture resources in Berkshire County.

People may email Michael Crotty at mcrotty@hancockshakervillage.org or visit HancockShakerVillage.org for more information.



# HUNTINGTON



This family went all out for Trunk or Treat in Huntington. *Submitted photos*



This Trunk had scary spiders, spider webs and skeleton.



Lots of people attended Trunk or Treat in Huntington on Saturday, Oct. 26.

## Huntington hosts HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT event

HUNTINGTON – Trunk or Treat was held on Saturday, Oct. 26 with live music from Built 4 Comfort and lots of candy.

Approximately 15 trunks participated in the event including the library with bookmark making kits. Best Trunk went to the trunk decorated as the movie UP by The Goewey family. The Bonfire was

unable to happen due to dry conditions, but the Fire Association was still on hand with fire trucks and emergency vehicles for children to see. Crazy Arepas stepped in as replacement food truck and they were busy all night as was The Purple Door Kitchen with fresh cookies.

Movie night at Stanton Hall will be

held on Friday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. Movie to be shown is “Despicable Me 4.” This event is free and all are welcome to attend. People may bring their own dinner, snacks and refreshments. People are encouraged to bring blankets, sleeping bags, pillows etc. to be comfortable. Chairs will be available. Santa is planning his trip around

town with the help of the Huntington Fire Department on Saturday, Dec. 14 and the Recreation Committee will have refreshments for those, who wish to meet him at his first stop at the Gazebo on the town green. He will also be collecting for a toy drive if they would like to drop anything off. Time to be determined.

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## WORTHINGTON

### COA to serve grab n go meals

WORTHINGTON – The Council on Aging serves grab n go meals every third Thursday, Nov. 21 from noon-1 p.m.

Pick up of the free meal is at the Town Hall. Meal choices for the free monthly every third

Thursday will be baked ziti or veal chop, butternut squash, sides, dessert and milk. People should RSVP by calling 413-238-1999 by Sunday, Nov. 17. They should leave their name, address, phone number and the names of the addition-

al people receiving meal. They should pick up their meal on Nov. 21. One time enrollment forms are available at the Town Hall and COA bulletin board. They may drop off the completed form in the Town Offices and COA office drop box. They will need to RSVP and they can fill out form when they pick up their reserved meal. They should bring their own bag. A donation to the Highland Valley Elder Services would be appreciated.

## MONTGOMERY

### ZONING BOARD

from page 1

order at 7 p.m. in Town Hall. Wilcox explained that the clock was ticking and the issue needed to either be decided by Dec. 21, 2024 – 60 days after the first hearing or an additional meeting or continuance scheduled. Officials noted that Montgomery voters had failed to pass an earth removal by-law several years ago that had been modeled after nearby Huntington's, which would have provided better guidance to all parties involved.

About ten area residents attended and were invited to comment. Glenn Stanisewski was one of the first to step forward saying, "The applicant has failed in their responsibility to document the impact of their project." As proof, Stanisewski presented several documents and maps about the property, following assessments he conducted on the proposed site. Stanisewski works for the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service and assessed the stream that runs through the property using the "Stream Visual Assessment Protocol." (SVAP, NWCC Technical Note 99-1). He also confirmed two vernal pools using the USDA-NRCS Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States (version 9.0) and wetland hydrology indicators using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Certified Wetland Delineation Manual, Northeast Supplement (version 2.0).

This evidence of wetlands requires Montgomery's Conservation Commission to also weigh in on the use of this property as a gravel pit. He added that the vernal pools he found will be certified through the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game's Heritage Hub website, where he has uploaded his reports and photos of the pools.

Stanisewski also produced a bedrock geology map showing quartzite deposits near the gravel pit site. "When crushed, quartzite would produce silica dust," he reported. Silica from quartzite is generally believed to be a known carcinogen.

Stanisewski is a soil scientist with over 37 years of experience as a field soil scientist, resource soil scientist and water quality assessment computer modeler with experience in four states, including Massachusetts. After submitting his reports and maps, Stanisewski concluded that the burden is on the applicant to document dangers to residents, cyclists and pedestrians and urged the ZBA vote to withdraw the application with prejudice.

Local resident and organizer Jeanne Kiendzior presented a petition with 96 signatures specifically asking to halt the special permit and variance permit for a commercial gravel pit for Kent Brothers. She added that the group had been in touch with State Senator John Velis and State Representative Kelly Pease. They have also put up signs and coordinated media coverage in their campaign to sink the gravel pit.

ZBA members said that it was unclear if the Kent Brothers would crush materials on site but residents countered that Kent had referred to bringing in a third party to do the crushing on-site. Residents also noted that Kent Brothers had said they would be bringing in outside materials, such as asphalt and concrete, to crush on site. It was noted that

the ZBA could set "no crushing" as a condition for approval if Kent Brothers reapplied for the same purpose.

In response to other questions from the public, the ZBA assured abutters that they would receive written notice if Kent Brothers reapplies in the future. Darcie Gasperini, a nearby resident of Southampton, said, "Southampton people will be affected and they've been trying to have Montgomery keep them informed." There was no response from the ZBA on this point.

After closing the session to public comment, the ZBA voted to accept the withdrawal request without prejudice. During that discussion, they revealed that Kent Brothers should have started by going before the Planning Board and Conservation Commission, instead of the ZBA. McKellick said, "I will go on the record that they should have gone through the other boards first. I believe they were sent here first in error." Wilcox said he was in the process of writing up a clearer process for town departments.

One ZBA member said that Kent Brothers wrote that they are looking at a different use for the property and speculated that they wouldn't reapply for a gravel pit. This launched a heated exchange between the public and board with the public stating the ZBA was favoring Kent Brothers. One resident concluded, "We all moved here to get away. We don't want the town to bring in industry."

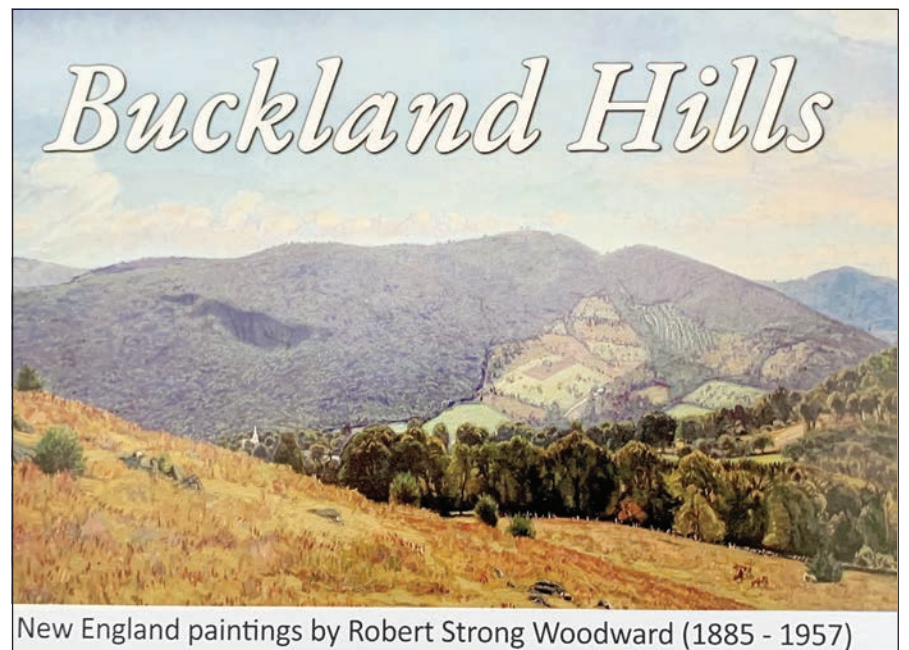
Afterwards, Stanisewski said he was not surprised by the ZBA's decision. "Our group's focus is to amend the zoning by-laws so that this situation doesn't happen again. Not just for the residents of Southampton/Montgomery Rd. but for all the residents of Montgomery."

Kiendzior also weighed in, saying she was disappointed that they had not accepted the withdrawal with prejudice, giving her group two years to complete their research on the environmental impact that the gravel pit could have in the area. She added that Montgomery and Southampton residents also have concerns about truck traffic, adding that the impact on roads, culverts and bridges would not be covered by the estimated \$5,000 in annual taxes that Kent Brothers would pay the town.

"Montgomery is a residential, agricultural town and a gravel pit really does not fit in with our future plans of peace and tranquility and safety for all," Kiendzior said. "Our association will be keeping an eye on future meetings and appreciate any help in keeping our communities aware."

Speaking for the company, Michael Kent confirmed that they issued the request to withdraw because of the initial responses by the community. "We've worked very hard over the years to build our reputation. So at this time we've decided to take a step back as we sort through things." Kent also confirmed that they are now working with R. Levesque Associates from Westfield on compliance issues related to an order of conditions issued to the previous owner. "We're leaving all options open at this time," Michael Kent affirmed.

## BUCKLAND



New England paintings by Robert Strong Woodward (1885 - 1957)

Buckland Historical Society's beautiful, full color, 2025 Calendar of Robert Strong Woodward's paintings, entitled, "Buckland Hills," is now available for \$20. Submitted photo

### Historical Society selling calendars

BUCKLAND – The Buckland Historical Society calendars entitled "Buckland Hills" featuring paintings by Robert Strong Woodward is now available for purchase or \$20.

People may purchase calendars art Andy's & The Oak Shoppe, 352 Deerfield St., Greenfield; Boswell's Books, 10 Bridge St. and Nancy L. Dole Books & Ephemeria, 20 State St. in Shelburne Falls and the Buckland Public Library, Upper Street, Buckland. They can also be viewed and ordered on line by visiting [www.bucklandmasshistory.org](http://www.bucklandmasshistory.org).

People may visit [www.robert-strongwoodward.com](http://www.robert-strongwoodward.com) where they can see more of this local

artist work. Woodward was a New England artist from Buckland, 1885-1957 and sold

his work to celebrities such

as Jack Benny, George Burns, and Robert Frost. Woodward was born in Northampton in 1885. At the age of 21, Woodward suffered an accidental gunshot wound and was permanently paralyzed from the waist down. He settled in Buckland on his uncle's farm and turned to painting.

In his lifetime, Woodward painted around 600 oils and 285 known chalks. Through his landscapes, barn paintings and window pictures, Woodward documented a passing New England. He died of stomach cancer in 1957.

Buckland Hills, is the theme for this year's annual Woodward calendar to benefit the Buckland Historical Society. Ten of the 12 named hills within Buckland's borders appear in this, the 18th issue of the calendar series.

## WILLIAMSBURG

### Meekins Library hosts art exhibit

WILLIAMSBURG – The Meekins Library, 2 Williams St., will hold an artist reception for Christine Mirabel on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 1:30-3 p.m.

Her exhibit entitled "Nature and the City, An Exhibit by Christine Mirabel," will be on display at the Meekins Library in the Neil Hammer Gallery. Mirabel is an emerging Latina artist, who has been painting with acrylics for over a year and a half. Her purpose for painting is to create beauty. She expresses her love of nature through art. Water is a com-

mon subject and frequently appears in her works in some form whether it be as the ocean, creeks, clouds or even rain. Her art tends to be abstract and symbolic with messages to discover. It's up to the viewer to interpret what they find.

She performs improv at Happier Valley Comedy in Hadley and writes poetry in her spare time. She learned painting techniques mainly by watching online video tutorials and experimenting. She continues to educate herself and explore the world around her.

**YOU Are Invited to Dance!**

**Grace Hall Memorial Library  
Montgomery  
Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.**

No experience necessary just a desire to feel good moving in your own bodies way! NIA, facilitated by Laurel Lenski, is a meditative dance practice that integrates elements of dance, martial arts and healing arts into one joyful experience! (Think, the meditative qualities of yoga and the grace of tai chi!) This class is FREE and open to every body!





## CHESTERFIELD

### A tale of two signs: Church gets new sign

By Lynne Scott

CHESTERFIELD – After a long absence, Chesterfield Congregational Church will have a brand new sign and display case adorning the front of the church.

Not much is known about the old sign which read: First Congregational Church Organized 1764.

The upper sign was made from some sort of layered particle board. In order to make the letters raised, the carver must have routed out all that he did not want to remain, leaving the letters, numbers and designs raised by a half inch.

The new upper sign and lower glass enclosed display case were recently made by Francs Gallo of Williamsburg. He used red cedar, mahogany and sapele among his materials. The upper sign is a handsome replica of the old, complete with large scrolled top edges and wide decorative moulding on the sides.

Both pieces are painted in an authentic historical green color. But the upper sign was missing something. It was a beautiful green sign with no lettering of any kind. Members needed to replicate the old sign as best they could. That's when the international travels of the signs began.

In June of 2024, Caleb Harris and Lynne Scott took the old sign up to Prince Edward Island, Canada. They



The Reverend Douglas G. Small, from left, holds the new sign and Caleb Harris holds the old sign in front of the Chesterfield Congregational Church. Submitted photo

wanted their friend and cabinetmaker, Kenny Thomson, to take a look at it and see if he could do something similar. He thought this might be a project he could tackle.

So, in September, the new blank sign went up to Canada and into Kenny's shop. Many steps ensued—doing a gravestone rubbing technique of everything on the old crumbling sign, transferring these images to card stock, and transferring them again to half inch birch. Then came the tedious two-day step of cutting all the outside edges with a miniature scroll saw.

Next was cutting the interior edges

with a jigsaw mounted inside an empty box with the blade sticking out the top. This enabled Kenny to have his two hands free to carefully cut out small interior details. Next, involved sanding all inside and outside edges with a miniature vertical belt sander. Two coats of paint and two coats of varnish on both sides and edges were then applied.

Finally, all was arranged on Happily, the new sign made it through customs at its last border crossing and is where it will be for many generations to come. If objects, historical or otherwise, could talk, perhaps this is the story these two might tell.

### COA to host Veteran's Day breakfast

CHESTERFIELD – The Chesterfield Council on Aging will host a Veteran's Day breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Chesterfield General Store and Cafe, 432 Main Road.

Special guest Day Nye, Veterans Services Officer, will attend.

To RSVP, people may email Brooke.coa.chesterfield@gmail or call 413-296-4007.



## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

### Grade K to 8 students eligible to enter 'Name a Snowplow' contest

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces the third annual "Name A Snowplow" contest for statewide elementary school students in Massachusetts.

The contest seeks to solicit names for 12 MassDOT snowplows that will be in service for the upcoming 2024/2025 winter season. The purpose of the contest is to celebrate the snow and ice season and to help recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season.

Applications for the Snowplow Naming Contest are due on Friday, Dec. 6 by 5 p.m. and can be submitted by visiting an online portal at <https://www.mass.gov/forms/name-a-snowplow-contest-submission>. There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted per school.

The contest winners will be invited to participate in a scheduled snowplow unveiling event. Winning selections will be announced by Monday, Dec. 23.

"With the winter soon approaching, we are excited to announce that the third annual Name a Snowplow Contest' is now accepting submissions from elementary school students statewide," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. "Each year, this is a fun opportunity for students to show off their creativity, and we look forward to seeing which names will end up on our snowplows this winter season."

"The Name a Snowplow contest has been a major success the last two years, with great submissions from schools across the Commonwealth" said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "This contest is a fun way for kids to learn about public works and for our snow and ice crews to connect with their communities. We are excited to receive creative names for our plows this year."

A selection panel composed of MassDOT employees will choose two elementary school classroom winners that are located within each of the six Highway Division districts. The winning submissions will be evaluated based on

two grade-level categories: kindergarten through fourth grade and two fifth grade through eighth grade.

During the second annual snowplow naming contest last winter, the winning names were: Flower Plower, Edward Blizzardhands, Glacier Gobbler, Polar Pathmaker, Snow B Wan Kenobi, The Snolar Express, Sleetwood Mac, Snow Place Like Home, Snow-hemian Rhapsody, The Mayplower, Snow Monstah, Fast and Flurryous. These names, which were placed on the sides of plow trucks a year ago, remain on those vehicles.

People may visit <https://www.mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2024-25> for more information.

### Holyoke Community College hosts 'Thrive: Beyond Surviving' art exhibit

HOLYOKE – Artists from as far away as Florida and Ukraine answered the call for submissions for the latest exhibition at the Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College, "Thrive: Beyond Surviving."

The show opened Thursday, Oct. 31, and runs through Friday, Dec. 20, is a collaboration between the Taber Art Gallery and the Thrive Center, which operates the college's food pantry and provides other student support services

focused on basic needs.

The show includes about 60 submissions from artists in the Pioneer Valley, across the United States, and around the world.

Gallery director Rachel Rushing said the theme sprang from conversations she had with Ben Ostiguy, the Thrive Center special programs director.

"Thrive supports HCC students struggling to meet basic needs by focusing primarily on three areas: housing, hunger

and healthcare," said Rushing. "One of the Taber gallery's values is collaboration. Working with Thrive is a great way to amplify their program while featuring work from artists who have concerns in these same areas."

Through an open call for submissions, artists were encouraged to enter work that considers the systemic, communal or individual obstacles and barriers to survival, what surviving means, how we as humans can continue to dream, push, and hope for more than the minimum, and the struggle of exhaustion versus the ability to rest.

"I was impressed by the diversity of media," said Ostiguy. "Some of the pieces were surprising to me. One is a card catalog, with video inside the drawers. There's some traditional painting, and a lot of photography. The whole idea of Thrive, and overcoming struggle, there's a certain vocabulary that we use. But when you bridge that up with the visual arts, it can be nonverbal and interpreted in many ways." For example, Zac Benson, an artist from Anderson, South Carolina, sent in a life preserver made with fabric salvaged from pews of an old church that was being renovated as a safe haven for the town.

Artists in the exhibition include: Hannah Eve Osinoff, Jules Jones, Jeanne

Ciravolo, Çagri Saray, Steven Labadessa, Katerie Gladdys, Michiel Teeuw, Sava Harris, Nishchay Thakur, Maria Golosnaya, Lauren Packard, Sumin Kim, Delnara El, Yan Paul Dubbleman, Katrina Slavik, Diren Demir, Eva Pushkova, Joan Green, Sergey Melnitchenko, Polina Shumacher, Oksana Kami, Nick Gladkiy, Jose Trejo Maya, Yurii Naumovych, Oleksandra Mykhailova, Anastasiia Dekhtiaruk, Hemant Rao, Adam Burton, Sarah Hussein, Conrad Valone, Rhi Stanton, Ilya Fedotov-Fedorov, Tara Austin, Seth Guy, Wayne Friedrich, Peyton Sachs, Iris M. Kirkwood, Kira Somerset, Julia Smiarowska, Mathijs Hunfeld, Aileen Bassis, Beth Krensky, Anna Kavehmehr, Jordan Holms, Jason Thomas Haynes, Alexa Wright, Mols Slom, Shannon Farley, Megan Du, Heimir Bjorgulfsson, Shabnam Piryaeci, Camila Bernardo, Ziyao Lin, Wendell Smith, Zac Benson, Chandler Cheng, Frederick Ingoldby, Jinson Joseph, Lisa DeLoria Weinblatt and Frank Magnotta.

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. during regular school sessions.



Ben Ostiguy, left, Thrive Center special programs director, and Rachel Rushing, Taber Art Gallery director, unpackage submissions for a new exhibit, "Thrive: Beyond Surviving." They are holding a piece from Norwegian artist Heimir Bjorgulfsson titled "Waiting to Make the Most of It," photograph on photo collage, 2021. Submitted photo



## WESTFIELD

### Alzheimer's Assoc. holds support group

WESTFIELD – Alzheimer's Association Virtual Support Group sponsored by Armbrook Senior Living and Memory Support Community, 551 North Road, will be held Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 6 p.m.

Caregivers and family members are invited to share their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with their loved ones.

This month's group is virtual. People should email their name and phone number to reception@armbrookvillage.com to be added to the Zoom list, or call 413-568-0000. Groups are held the last Wednesday of the month.

## HAYDENVILLE

### Sen. Mark announces office hours

BOSTON – State Senator Paul W. Mark announces his staff will host office hours in Williamsburg for two days in November.

Staff will hold office hours on Tuesday, Nov. 12 and on Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 1-3 p.m. in the Town Offices, 141 Main St., Haydenville. Residents

of any of the 57 municipalities in the Senator's Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Hampshire District are encouraged to share ideas on current or potential state legislation, or to ask for assistance with issues involving any state agency. Appointments are not required.

## CUMMINGTON

### Friday Cafe takes place Nov. 8

CUMMINGTON – On Friday, Nov. 8, from 7-9 p.m. Andrew Kinsey and Marc Fromm play various types of acoustic music: bluegrass, folk, Irish, old-timey at the Village Church, in downtown Cummington in the heart of the Cummington Cultural District.

Kinsey, a member of Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem, is a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist, playing bass, banjo, ukulele and penny whistle. Fromm plays guitar and sings. They have in common a love for music, complaining and being captains of their respective high school soccer teams.

The event is free, donations are

appreciated. Snacks are provided, Bring Your Own drinks. The show will take place in the intimate Vestry space. Masks are welcome, and encouraged. Once again, this is brought by the friendly folks at the Village Church, who believe music can be a powerful force for building community.

Friday Night Cafe receives promotional support from the Cummington Cultural District, and is supported in part by grants from the Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hinsdale-Peru, Plainfield, Williamsburg, Windsor, and Worthington Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

## OTIS

### Assessor's doing home inspections

OTIS – The Assessor's are doing home inspections throughout the town now through Friday, Nov. 15

There are three assessors' out and about throughout town this week doing home inspections.

One is driving a 2015 gray Nissan Versa with MA Plate 2AJ436. The second is driving a 2020 Kia Soul with CT Plate AX-69874. The third is driving a red 2020 Chevrolet Equinox with CT Plate 632AJH.

### Story walk located behind St. Mary's

OTIS – The Otis Library story walk through the month of November will be "Brother Eagle, Sister Sky" painted by Susan Jeffers.

The walk is located behind St. Mary's of the Lake, 48 North Main St.

### Fire Chief issues ban on all open burning

OTIS – A Red Flag Warning has been issued for the State due to the extreme dry conditions.

All open burning including campfires are prohibited in Otis until further notice per the Fire Chief. This includes all state and private properties in Otis.

### Transfer Station closed Nov. 11

OTIS – The Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, Nov. 11 for Veterans' Day.

The Transfer Station will be open on Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

## WEST STOCKBRIDGE

### Town receives complete streets funding award

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration awarded over \$4.5 million to 11 communities as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 Round 1 of grants for the Complete Streets Funding Program.

These grant awards will be used by recipient municipalities to fund local multimodal infrastructure projects that improve travel for pedestrians, public transit users, bicyclists and people using other forms of transportation. A Complete Street enables safe, convenient, and comfortable travel for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation. Administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Complete Streets Funding Program aims to teach communities about Complete Streets and encourage the integration of Complete Streets into regular local planning practices.

"Our Complete Streets program has

been a valuable funding source for our cities and towns, with hundreds of projects receiving grants in the past eight years," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "We're ready to support our municipal partners as they make these key improvements to roadway safety and multimodal access."

The MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Program was launched in 2016 and provides technical assistance and construction funding to eligible municipalities to plan and implement Complete Streets. Prior to this round, the Complete Streets Funding Program has awarded 278 construction project grants across the Commonwealth, totaling over \$100 million.

Locally, this round of funding provides funding to West Stockbridge. West Stockbridge received \$112,612 for pedestrian improvements at the Swamp Road/Main Street intersection. The proj-

ect includes the relocation of a crosswalk, the installation of ADA-compliant curb ramps and improvement at the intersection for drivers by building permanent bollards to better direct turns. The project will also improve the walkability at the Depot Street Municipal Parking Lot by building a pedestrian zone and a new sidewalk segment while also relocating a crosswalk to better connect visitors parking in the lot to the town sidewalk.

Municipalities may apply for up to \$500,000 in construction project funding in one application. Examples of project elements that can be implemented through the program include sidewalks, multimodal paths, bicycle lanes, improved street lighting, and pedestrian signalization at crosswalks or intersections. For more information about the Complete Streets Funding Program, people may visit [www.mass.gov/complete-streets-funding-program](http://www.mass.gov/complete-streets-funding-program).

## CHESTER



Children line up for special guided Halloween story walk. Submitted photos



A special StoryWalk and Fall Fun event was held by the Hilltown Family Center and Hamilton Memorial Library held at Hampden Park in Chester. This event was sponsored by the Hilltown Community Health Center and the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

### Hamilton Memorial Library announces upcoming events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library is back open at their regular location.

Open: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 1-6pm, Thursdays 10am-3pm, and Saturdays 9am-1pm.

November 2024 Events:

Story and Fun Time for young patrons will continue to meet every Thursday at 11 a.m. at the library. This is a great opportunity for socialization and developing new skills.

Writer's Support Group meets the second Wednesday of each month Nov.13 at 4:30 p.m. The purpose of this group is peer support, encouragement and optional sharing and feedback of material.

Sourdough Brandon is coming to Chester and will share his knowledge and skills in making and maintaining sour-

dough starter. This event will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. in the Council on Aging Room at Chester Town Hall. All participants will leave with their own starter. People must RSVP by calling 413-354-7808 with their name and phone number.

The Book Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. (Nov. 20). They will be discussing, "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes, and Other Lessons from the Crematory," by Caitlin Doughty. In this fascinating memoir, Caitlin humorously shares lessons learned as a young, female mortician. Light refreshments will be served. Extra copies of the book are available.

The library will be closed on Wednesday Nov. 27 and Thursday, Nov. 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

### Chester Baptist Church plans special patriotic service

CHESTER – The Chester Baptist Church, 14 Middlefield Road, invites all veterans and families to attend a special patriotic service on Sunday, Nov. 16 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. People may call Pastor Dan Herr at 413-668-7768 or email pastor@chesterbaptist-church.org with any questions.



# PUBLIC NOTICES

## MIDDLEFIELD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

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

Maureen Sullivan,  
ZBA Chair

10/31, 11/07/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS24P0571EA Estate of: Matthew E Donovan, Sr. Also known as: Matthew Donovan Date of Death: 08/29/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Mary D Senatore of Huntington, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Mary D Senatore of Huntington, MA** and **Daniel Donovan of Huntington, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written

appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/04/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 01, 2024  
Mark S Ames  
Register of Probate  
11/07/2024

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

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

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

Alice M. Nye; Arthur L. Gagne, Jr.; Clyde J. Gagne; Blanche R. Smith; Donald

V. Berube; Remi F. Berube; Edmund J. Cunningham, III; Debra Ruth Gagne; Teresa Ann Gagne Novotny; Chad Gagne; Jeremy J. Gagne; Lisa M. Gagne Holm; Christy A. Gagne; Annette L. Gagne Horan; Zachary J. Lyman; Kaitlyn M. Paradee; Macala D. Paradee; Casandra S. Paradee; Robert Charles Gagne, Jr.; Madeleine H. Patterson Fernandes; Ruth May Cooper Troupe; Daniel C. Patterson; John Ruth; Linda L. Ruth Steiner; Diane Ruth Benedict; Carol M. Boyd Marechal; Dolores F. Chisholm; Lisa Mary Specht Niles; David L. Specht; Donald K. Wass; Betty M. Ashnault; Lincoln M. Specht, Jr.; Marilyn Ann Specht Clarke; Valerie Brady MacNeill; Michael Cooper; Deana Cooper; Bruce N. Cooper; Tammy L. Butler Schieber; Steven Parriet; Natalie Parriet Mills; Steven J. Ruth; Cheryl K. Ruth Brooks; Todd A. Boyd; Christopher A. Boyd; Gary Reese; Joy Irene Reese Affolter; Jill Reese Lindeman; Richard Bruce Reese; James Campbell Tennant, III; David A. Suggs; William E. Suggs; Sherri Lynn Suggs White Baker; Elizabeth Anne Tennant McClelland; Deborah L. Collins Hambelton; Francis Richard Collins, Jr.; Steven J. Wetmore; Patricia L. Wetmore; Lesley Gayle Wormell Dewey Pugsley; Ronald L. Wormell; Peter M. Wormell; Paula Marie Ashnault Burgess; Sherryl L. Ashnault Smith; David M. Sprague; Susan M. Davis Roselund; Robert L. Brown; Gary L. Brown; Carolyn Lois Brown Barboza; Peggy Ann Pratt; Marilyn Ann Pratt Trucchi; Lois Bartlett Pratt Medeiros; Carol Jean Pratt Helides; Susan P. Pratt; Richard L. Pratt; Karen Lynn Pratt Cosgrove Rioux; Jennifer P. Pratt Lewis; Joanne E. Pratt Williams; Julie Ann Pratt Plass; Janice L. Pratt Rezendes; Dianne M. Churchill Keeley; Robert D. Churchill; Alisa Churchill Akkaraju; Christina A. Churchill; Richard M. Churchill; Susan A. Churchill Giacalone; Stephen G. Churchill; Robert W. Churchill, Jr.; Mary Ellen Churchill McKillop; Paul M. Churchill; Jeffrey A. Churchill; Gerald W. Churchill; Carol Anne Churchill Capello; William F. DeRusha; Kenneth D. DeRusha; Martin K. DeRusha; Lynda D.S.

**Batson; Kristen O. Simms; Paul E. Simms; James A. Dean, Jr.; Russell D. Kuhlman; Richard C. Kuhlman; and Rodney A. Kuhlman, Jr., Respondent(s)**

**SUMMONS TO THE RESPONDENT(S) ABOVE-NAMED:**

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

**NOTICE OF HEARING TO THE RESPONDENTS ABOVE-NAMED:**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 2:00 o'clock, p.m. at the Beaufort County Probate Court, 102 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina 29902, for the purpose of determining the heirs-at-law of Kenneth E. Gagne (hereinafter, the "Decedent"). This action was commenced by the Petitioner on February 23, 2023, at the Beaufort County Probate Court to have the Probate Court declare the heirs-at-law of the Decedent upon his death on or about August 22, 2018. Any objections to the Petitioner's right to commence this action, as to the owners of any property, real or otherwise, that was owned by the Decedent at the time of his death, or to Petitioner's prayer for relief declaring the heirs-at-law of the Decedent must be filed with the Beaufort County Probate Court on or before **Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 2:00 o'clock, p.m.**, or advanced in person at the scheduled hearing.

**NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS**

TO THE RESPONDENTS ABOVE-NAMED:

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

TAKE NOTICE, that the Summons and Petition were filed in the Office of the Probate Court for Beaufort County, South Carolina on February 23, 2023; that the

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

**RUFF & RUFF, LLC**  
Harley D. Ruff  
(SC Bar # 64284)  
17 Professional Village Circle  
Beaufort, South Carolina 29907  
Telephone: (843) 524-5400  
Fax: (843) 524-5401  
Email: hruff@ruffllc.com  
**ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER**  
Beaufort, South Carolina  
October 8, 2024

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

**LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING**

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of the Town of Huntington will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, December 2, 2024 beginning at 6:00 pm in Stanton Hall.**

The Public Hearing is for the Special Permit Application of Pioneer Assembly of God (PVAG) for a sign for the Huntington Food Pantry at 63 Old Chester Road (Parcel # 255-17-A).

A copy of the application will be available for review (by prior appointment) by contacting the office of the Board of Selectmen in Town Hall during regular business hours.

Zoning Board Of Appeals  
Town Of Huntington  
11/07, 11/14/2024

**Town of Williamsburg Accepting Sealed Bids for Contract No. 2025-01 Replace Water Services**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the Town of Williamsburg, Massachusetts will receive sealed Bids for Contract No. 2025-01, Replace Water Services - S. Main Street and Fort Hill Road until **2:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, November 21, 2024**, at the office of

the Town Administrator, 141 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Haydenville, MA 01039 at which time and place said Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Work includes installing 12 water service connections on S. Main Street and 14 water service connections on Fort Hill Road from corporation to curb stop (materials furnished by Owner) including curb stops with boxes and service piping connected to existing corporations on the water mains; installing one (1) hydrant (materials furnished by Owner); and furnishing and installing pavement and site restoration.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents are available online at **www.biddocs.com** beginning November 6, 2024. Select Bid Listing, Construction, Current Listings then select this project. Next Register as an ePlan Holder at no cost to get an electronic copy of the documents. Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available at **www.biddocs.com** (may be viewed electronically and downloaded at no cost) or hard copies may be purchased at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (telephone: 978-568-1167).

This Contract is being bid under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 39M. 11/07/2024

**Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice**

On Tuesday, **November 12, 2024, at 6:00 PM** at the **Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road**, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a **Ecological Restoration Notice of Intent (NOI)** received from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC). The SWSC is submitting an NOI for the removal of a culvert and restoration of an intermittent stream and bordering vegetated wetlands located off of North Lane, Blandford, MA 01008

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

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

Nicolas Pietroniro,  
Conservation Agent  
Town of Blandford  
Conservation Commission  
11/07/2024



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Fax: 413.283.7017  
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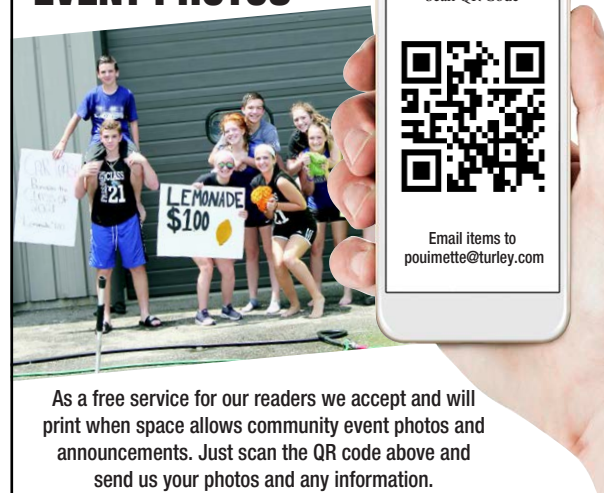
Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit **www.publicnotices.turley.com**

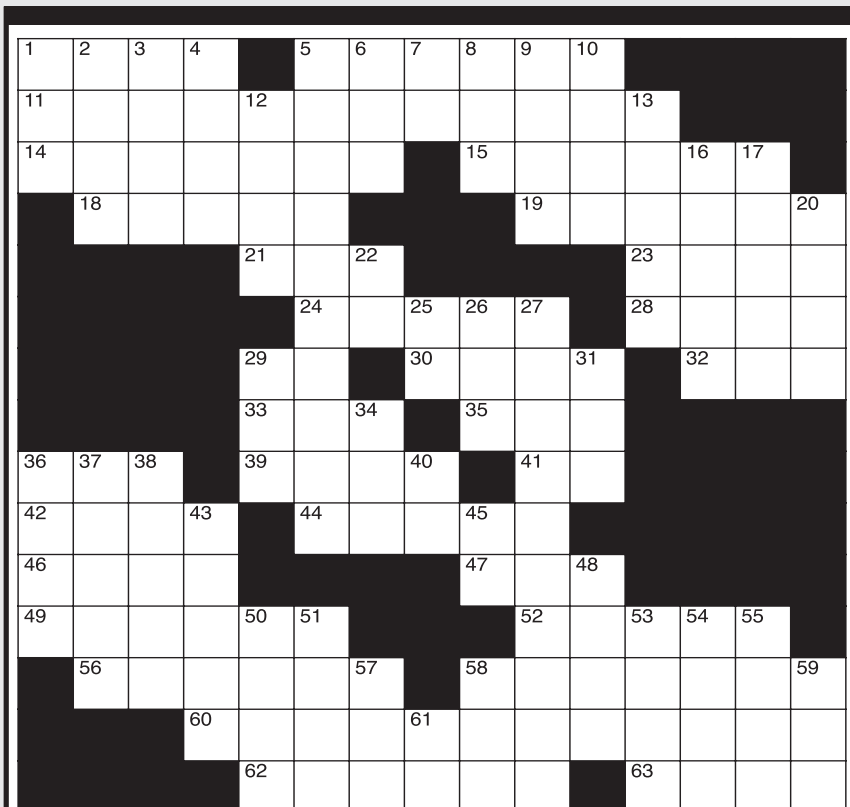




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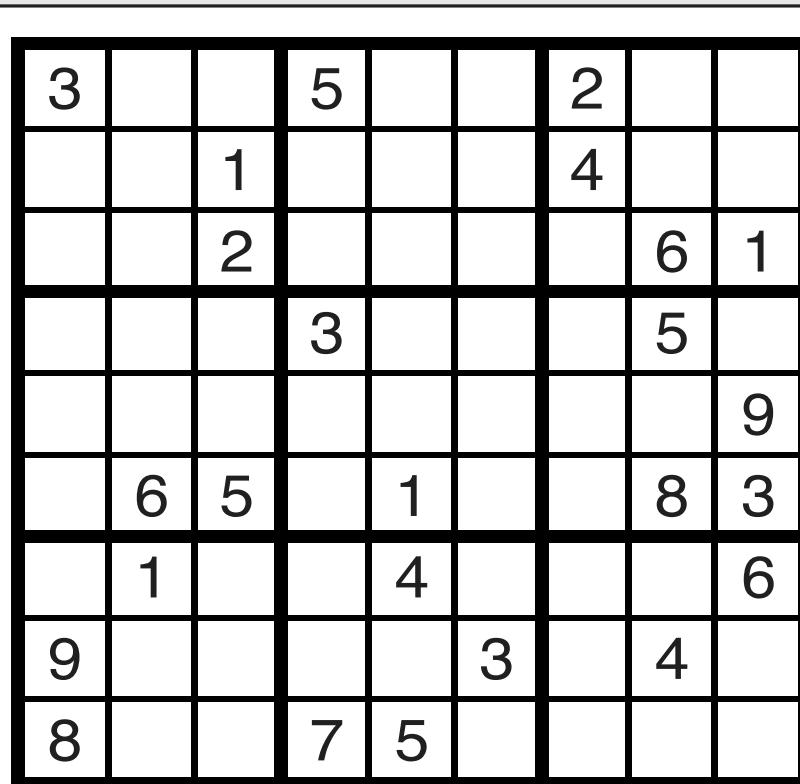


**CLUES ACROSS**

- |                                      |                                   |                                    |  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Absence of effort                 | passports are two types           | 4. Sea eagle                       | 34. Beer   |
| 5. Preserve a dead body              | 39. Snakelike fish                | 5. A type of subdivision           | 36. Spiritual leader                                     |
| 11. Gratitude                        | 41. Air Force                     | 6. Variety of Chinese              | 37. Indigo bush  |
| 14. The act of coming together again | 42. Popular computers             | 7. Mr. T's name on "The A-Team"    | 38. Burn with a hot liquid                               |
| 15. Simpler                          | 44. Of a withered nature          | 8. Consumed                        | 40. Junior's father                                      |
| 18. Visionaries                      | 46. Wings                         | 9. Chinese dynasty                 | 43. Ray-finned fishes                                    |
| 19. Large, fish-eating bird          | 47. Used in combination           | 10. NFL great Randy                | 45. Morning  |
| 21. Indicates near                   | 49. Laid back                     | 12. Ireland                        | 48. Line passing side to side through the center (abbr.) |
| 23. Former CIA agent and critic      | 52. Jeweled headdress             | 13. Palm trees with creeping roots | 50. Double curve   |
| 24. Icelandic poems                  | 56. In slow tempo                 | 16. Fungal disease                 | 51. A small bundle of straw or hay                       |
| 28. Pop                              | 58. ___ Falls                     | 17. Impressionable persons         | 53. Got older  |
| 29. "Hammer" is one                  | 60. Assertions made again         | 20. Affirmative! (slang)           | 54. Crater on Mars                                       |
| 30. Senses of self-importance        | 62. Periods of history            | 22. Instinctive part of the mind   | 55. Humanities   |
| 32. Thyrotrophic hormone             | 63. Hyphen                        | 25. "The First State"              | 57. Relating to the ears                                 |
| 33. Not around                       | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>                 | 26. A way to develop               | 58. "To the ___ degree..."                               |
| 35. Electronic data processing       | 1. Body part                      | 27. Fraternities                   | 59. Residue of a burned product                          |
| 36. Licenses and                     | 2. Mimics                         | 29. Woman (French)                 | 61. It cools a home                                      |
|                                      | 3. Expel large quantities rapidly | 31. Sunscreen rating               |  |

# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p><b>ARIES</b><br/>                 Mar 21/Apr 20<br/>                 Aries, this week you may find yourself with some extra energy and enthusiasm for new projects. Figure out what you want to get done and think through a plan.</p>                     | <p><b>CANCER</b><br/>                 Jun 22/Jul 22<br/>                 Your focus shifts largely toward home and family, Cancer. Now might be the time to address any conflicts in your home life to reinforce family relationships.</p>                             | <p><b>LIBRA</b><br/>                 Sept 23/Oct 23<br/>                 Relationships and partnerships are priorities for you this week, Libra. Figure out how you can balance your needs with those of others in your inner circle.</p>                      | <p><b>CAPRICORN</b><br/>                 Dec 22/Jan 20<br/>                 Making improvements to your home or living space can give you a fresh perspective, Capricorn. It might just be the change you need to feel revitalized.</p>                      |
| <p><b>TAURUS</b><br/>                 Apr 21/May 21<br/>                 Taurus, you may have a strong desire for stability and security. Now is a good time to focus on financial matters and investigate potentially valuable investment opportunities.</p> | <p><b>LEO</b><br/>                 Jul 23/Aug 23<br/>                 Leo, this could be a week when you find yourself in the spotlight more than usual. You don't shy away from extra attention; in fact, you will thrive this week.</p>                              | <p><b>SCORPIO</b><br/>                 Oct 24/Nov 22<br/>                 Scorpio, it's a good time to implement new habits or make improvements to your work life. Perhaps the balance has been skewed and you need more time for family?</p>                 | <p><b>AQUARIUS</b><br/>                 Jan 21/Feb 18<br/>                 Don't be afraid to share your ideas and connect with others this week, Aquarius. Staying curious and getting your perspective across may lead to some exciting opportunities.</p> |
| <p><b>GEMINI</b><br/>                 May 22/Jun 21<br/>                 Communication will be key for you this month, Gemini. Whether you aim to strengthen existing relationships or start new ones, be clear and honest in all of your interactions.</p>   | <p><b>VIRGO</b><br/>                 Aug 24/Sept 22<br/>                 This is a good week to start organizing and planning, Virgo. The holidays are right around the corner, and you want to be sure that everything you need to get done will be accomplished.</p> | <p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b><br/>                 Nov 23/Dec 21<br/>                 This week could be bursting with creativity for you, Sagittarius. If you've been meaning to pursue hobbies or other interests, now is the time to explore and have some fun.</p> | <p><b>PISCES</b><br/>                 Feb 19/Mar 20<br/>                 Financial matters may come into focus this month, Pisces. It's a good time to look at your budget and make some tweaks, if necessary. Taking on extra work might be an option.</p>  |



# 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**

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

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**SEEKING: Old Collectables.** We are looking to pay cash for pipe holders, tobacco tins, advertising tins, beer trays, beer taps, beer signs, brass figures, etc. Please don't hesitate to reach out. **Teestresures413@gmail.com**. Call or text: **413-374-7388** Marty. Located in Western Mass.

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

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## STUMP GRINDING

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

**HOUSEKEEPER:** Monday and Friday, 5 hours a day. Duties: cleaning, washing clothes, ironing. Three references from prior experience with names/phone. Send to **PO Box 8, Hampden, MA 01036**.

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

**QVDC IS LOOKING** for a part-time facilities person to attend to three properties in downtown Ware. Duties include minor repairs, scheduling necessary inspections and serving as a liaison with outside contractors. Previous maintenance experience preferred. Please visit **www.qvdc.org** for information.

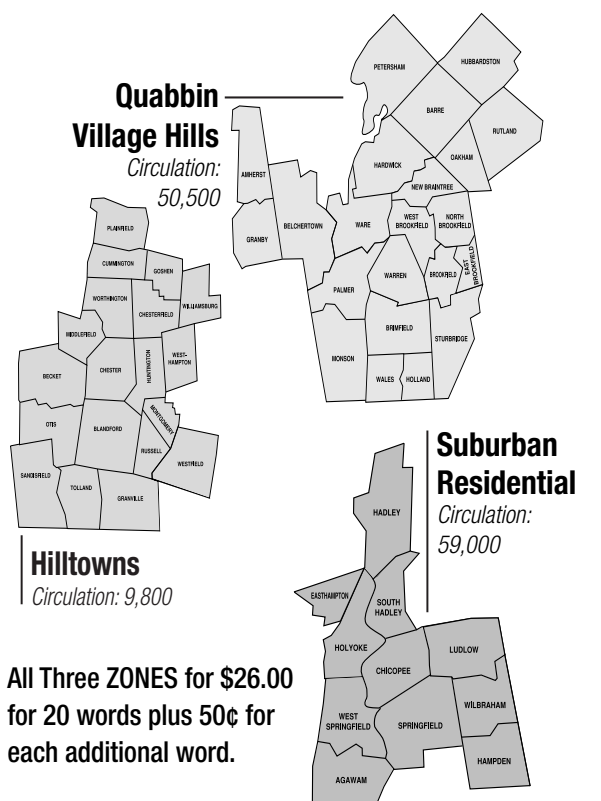
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29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
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## HELP WANTED

**THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON** is hiring for the following seasonal on call Highway Department positions: **Sidewalk Machine Operator**, **Pickup Truck Driver** for Plowing and Sanding, and **Dump Truck Driver** for Plowing and Sanding. For more information, please visit [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us), email [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us), or call **413-512-5200**. Positions are open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

*Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

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

## HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

## HELP WANTED

**TOWN OF WORTHINGTON**  
**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT OPENING**  
**Highway Department**

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

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

This is a benefited position which requires a thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of highway department maintenance, construction and procurement. Salary rate range: \$62,941.00 - \$91,707.00, with potential for winter overtime.

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

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

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

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

## HELP WANTED

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

**FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER**  
The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for **Full-time Police Officer**.

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

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

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

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

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

*The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

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

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised 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.



Post your job openings in our classifieds section. **WE GET RESULTS!** Call **1-413-283-8393**

# 3

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**1** Use our website to securely subscribe online at [COUNTRYJOURNAL.TURLEY.COM](http://COUNTRYJOURNAL.TURLEY.COM)

**2** **1-413-283-8393**

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

GIFT TO:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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



# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

## Hikers man Sinister Sawmill Haunted Trail



The volunteer crew pose by the sign before heading to their places along the Sinister Sawmill Haunted Trail in Chester.

Over 100 kids and big kids came out to the first Sinister Sawmill Haunted Trail in Chester by the Hilltown Hikers at their historic Granite Sawmill property in Chester Factory Village on Saturday.

Cookies and brownies for treats and plenty of tricks. The loop walking path, soon to be an all persons trail, was lined on both sides with white string lights to guide folks through the ghoulish forest path lined with spooky animatronics including a five foot tall talking clown, witch and werewolf, even a crawling baby. Humans dressed as scarecrows, scary old men and more were spotted along the path

trick string, masked men with chainsaws jumped out from behind granite blocks and crawled on the dirt.

Volunteer Frank Kennedy sat quietly on a granite bench that he built along with his living room lamp with his gag “a bucket of kittens,” which enticed onlookers until they found out it was a bucket of screaming evil.

The granite saw was completely lit with red lights and the sound show included lifelike saw blade noises...fake blood trickled from it. The sound show included a non-stop heartbeat, slithering snakes and more all put on by Hilltown Hikers volunteers. If you missed it, next year will be bigger, louder and even more haunted.

Ghosts dropped from the trees on



Volunteers Dayna from Huntington and Jim from New York stand at their post.



Board member Adam from Lenox was a scare crow.

*Submitted photos*



Volunteer Valerie from Lenox and Board Member Russ from Blandford wait along the haunted trail to scare people.



Volunteer Heather from Westfield was a mystical juggling witch.



Volunteer Frank Kennedy sat on a granite bench that he built along with his living room lamp with his gag “bucket of kittens.”

## GOSHEN

### Goshen Free Library lists events

GOSHEN – The Goshen Free Library, 42 Main St., is open Wednesday from 2-6 pm. and Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Story time is held at every open Saturday at 10:45 a.m. and includes a book and activity. The Lego build is held the first Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Council on Aging holds needle felting on Wednesday, Nov. 13, second Wednesday at 3 p.m. Trivia takes place upstairs on Wednesday, Nov. 20, third

Wednesday, at 6 p.m.

Tech help with the Council on Aging takes place from noon- 2 p.m. and is open to all patrons. Book Discussion meets the second Wednesday at 2 p.m. A volunteer thank you will take place Thursday, Nov. 21 at 6 p.m.

The library is holding a handmade hat fundraiser to benefit the library. Tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. The library will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 27 and Thursday, Nov. 28 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

### Chesterfield-Goshen Children’s Fund hosting vendor craft fair

GOSHEN – The Chesterfield-Goshen Children’s Fund is hosting a vendor/craft fair behind the Goshen Town Office buildings at 42 Main St., on Sunday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Many local crafters and vendors will be selling items. There will also be a raffle with all proceeds going to the Chesterfield-Goshen Children’s fund. The children’s fund’s mission is

to ensure all school-age children in the towns of Chesterfield and Goshen have a special holiday and aims to provide winter gear, clothing and/or a special toy for the children on the list during the holidays.

People, who would like to donate a raffle prize or to ask questions, they may email Amy Wickland at amyw55@hotmail.com.