

Country Journal

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HUNTINGTON

Veterans visit with Littleville students

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Littleville Elementary School students visited with Veterans at a special, in-classroom assembly on Monday, Nov. 10.

Students remained with their classroom teachers while visiting veterans, who included parents, uncles and aunts, community members and even a surprise staff member spoke with students about their military service.

Asher Rotenberg's fifth graders were ready for U. S. Navy Veteran Jim Cortis, who served during the Vietnam War. Impressively, Cortis was wearing his original uniform. A frequent visitor to Gateway schools around Veteran's Day, Cortis always shares the same message, "When you see a veteran, thank them for their service. It means an awful lot. We are proud of what we did." He clarified that even those, who served in peace time, should be thanked because if they



Second graders Madilyn C., Peter R., Clayton L. and Grace K. got to try on various uniforms that had been worn by Sudnick during her military service. Submitted photo

had been called to go, they would have.

Rotenberg's students were ready with questions for him. One student asked what it had been like to serve. "Things were regimented. Every morning we got up at 6 a.m.," Cortis explained. "There was a lot of discipline. I was 19 years

old when I went in and 23 when I came out. It was a very good experience."

In response to other student questions, Cortis said he felt it was his duty to serve, having had a lot of uncles who served in World War II. He admitted to being a little scared at first, not knowing what to

expect. But after a while, he got into the routine and got used to it. Cortis pointed out a student in the class, telling her classmates that she had a great-uncle, who was seriously wounded in Vietnam, losing both of his legs.

Cortis' role was as a

crash firefighter, which required eight weeks of boot camp and eight weeks of fire fighting school. The following week was spent fighting set fires that required differing approaches. He emphasized the many skills learned and

VETERANS, page 2

BLANDFORD

Ferrara meets with MassDOT official

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara met with Massachusetts Department of Transportation Maintenance Foreman Eric Main on Wednesday, Nov. 12.

She said she primarily met with Main to introduce herself and see what, if any, information he could provide regarding renovations to the east and westbound service areas in town.

The two Blandford sites are not having any new construction, just renovations. She learned that the best time frame is possibly a year-and-a-half out to bid and award contracts.

Main gave her a tour of the water supply at both east and westbound service areas.

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CHESTER

Students improve river trail

CHESTER – Fifth graders at Chester Elementary School braved inclement weather on Monday, Nov. 10 to make improvements to a trail to the West Branch of the Westfield River, located behind their school.

This was the fourth day of work for Anne Marie MacDonald's class on the project, funded by a grant from the Westfield Wild and Scenic Committee. The idea for the grant came up after Meredyth Babcock worked with the school's summer camp river exploration



Abbey R. pulls invasive plants down by the River. Fifth graders created impressive bundles of the pulled plants, which will be disposed of but must be re-pulled next spring to keep the plants under control. Turley Publications Photos by Wendy Long

activities in 2022, a year that Babcock also started making school year presentations to the fourth and fifth grade about the river's animal life and Wild and Scenic Federal Designation.

In 2024, then Principal Vanna Maffuccio wrote the application and was funded. According to former teacher Chris Bresnahan, the project was launched in two phases. The planning

TRAIL, page 3



Abby T. and Blake S. worked together on creating a new access trail to the Westfield River behind Chester Elementary School. This new trail will be less steep than the older version, enabling younger grades to take advantage of the outdoor learning space behind the school.

HILLTOWNS



Westhampton Fire Chief David Antosz, from left, Massachusetts Senator Paul Mark, Deputy Fire Chief and Huntington Selectman John McVeigh and Huntington Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger discussed urgent funding needs with the Senator Mark at a Nov. 8 meeting. Turley Publications photo by Wendy Long

Fire departments seek legislative relief

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

On Saturday, Nov. 8, Chiefs from Huntington and Westhampton Fire Departments met with State Senator Paul Mark to share issues that they are facing due to unfunded mandates, an uncertain grant funding outlook, prevailing wage limitations and anticipated equipment needs that arrived two years ahead of schedule.

Huntington Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger, Westhampton Fire Chief David Antosz and Huntington's Deputy Fire Chief John McVeigh made a pitch for funding for a joint cistern project, announced an urgent upcoming communications issue, requested some wording changes to Nero's Law and explained the hardship that the prevail-

ing wage law is having on small towns.

Leading the presentation, McVeigh, who is also a selectman for the town of Huntington, made a case for a shared water cistern to be located near the Huntington-Westhampton line, for the benefit of both fire departments.

A fire department cistern is a large, buried storage tank used to supply water for firefighting in areas that don't have reliable municipal water access. These provide a dedicated water supply that offers faster refill times and would be beneficial for brush fire events that have regularly broken out in that area. A location on Blueberry Hill in Westhampton has been identified for a cistern, which is a cost-effective solution over extending a

municipal water line.

This site would be 15 minutes from both Gateway Regional and Hampshire Regional schools. The cost for a 30,000 gallon fiberglass underground tank with an alarm system would be \$110,000; installation by a private contractor at the state's prevailing wage would add \$140,000 to the cost. Using the local DPWs to install it would cost \$10,000 - \$20,000, reducing the project total from \$250,000 to \$130,000.

As such, the group also proposed removing the prevailing wage requirement for communities with a population of fewer than 5,000 with a median income requirement. This would only apply to municipally-owned assets and proj-

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HUNTINGTON

Jacobs Ladder Business Assoc. names Laurie Martell president

HUNTINGTON – The Jacobs Ladder Business Association met on Thursday, Nov. 13 at Stanton Hall for their annual event Snack and Schmooze.

The event was catered by Classic Pizza/ Blue Note Café in Chester, and gave area businesses an opportunity to network together, as well as JLBA members nominating and voting on the JLBA board for the coming year.

The 2026 President is Laurie Martell, who has previously served as JLBA vice president for several years. Martell is a familiar face to

Hilltowners, as she is the Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager at Westfield Bank in Huntington and has been banking industry for over 25 years. Her vision for JLBA would be for businesses to really connect with each other and the community with more in-person networking events. “We have a lot of knowledge to share! And it’s important we know what services are available from our fellow Hilltown business partners,” says Martell.

Returning to the JLAB board after a few years hiatus is Michele Kenney, who will

serve as Martell’s vice president. Kenney is the Program Director for The Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center, a UMass off Campus program, in Chester, as well as owner of Custom Thermal Shades in Blandford. Kenney had previously served on the JLAB board for many years in a number of capacities, including former JLBA president.

Liz Massa will continue in her role as JLBA treasur-



Laurie Martell

er, a role she has filled for several years. Massa is well known locally as the founder of Western Mass Hilltown Hikers and serves on boards in the town of Chester.

New to the JLBA board is Stephanie Stoudenmire, a Huntington resident and owner of Codeforce Digital Consulting. Stoudenmire will serve JLBA as their Social Media and Marketing Director. In her work

as a digital Consultant, Stoudenmire assists several local businesses, including Clockworks, and Drennan Tax Service. She also teaches computer classes throughout the state and locally for Southern Hills Adult Education Center.

The Jacobs Ladder Business Association has acted as the hilltowns Chamber of Commerce since 1991. JLBA’s mission is to help Hilltown Businesses thrive by supporting established and emerging entrepreneurs through networking, education, events and collaborative marketing throughout

Western Massachusetts.

Western Mass small businesses and organizations are invited to join JLBA and attend their next event on Thursday, Dec. 11 hosted by Classic Pizza/ Blue Note Cafe at 29 Main St. in Chester at 6 pm. Annual membership is \$95 and gets each member on the Business Associations Hilltown Destinations Map, which showcases Hilltown businesses along with hiking trailheads and water recreation.

For more information, people may visit JLBA.org or email JacobsLadderBA@gmail.com

Community Events Committee list activities

HUNTINGTON – The Community Events Committee would like to extend an invitation to everyone to enjoy the Holiday Lights of Huntington.

The Tour of Lights is Thursday, Dec. 18 through Sunday, Dec. 21. People may drive around town at their leisure to see some holiday lights and decorations.

Those who would like to share the lights on deco-

rations at their house are invited to have their address added to the map. The map will be posted on Facebook by Dec 18. The drive around will start Thursday, Dec 18 and run through Sunday, Dec. 21. People should call Vicki at 413-667-0085, email communityevent@huntingtonma.us or visit Facebook messenger Huntington Community Events Committee to be added to the map.

Gingerbread House decorating will be held on Saturday Dec. 20 from 2-3 p.m. at Stanton Hall. Decorating supplies will be provided. Kits are limited, so people should sign up early. By calling Vicki at 413-667-0085 or emailing communityevents@huntingtonma.us and leave name and phone number. One kit will be provided per family. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, Dec. 14.

VETERANS

certain skills can be used in the world after serving, such as air traffic controllers, airplane mechanics and firefighters. He was able to go to college on the GI Bill after serving.

Students seemed especially interested in the Meals Ready to Eat that field units carry for food. Cortis explained that they had real food on board ship; in fact, the crash crew had the head of the line benefit at meal time, in case they were called out, which happened on a couple of occasions.

As the class started, they made a list of the risks (injury, being away, fighting) and benefits (college education, skills training). Cortis added that some of his friends, who saw combat, still suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Meanwhile, second graders from Angela Dalton and Linda Hyjek’s classes were treated to a special presentation by Gateway’s own nurse leader Kelly Sudnick, who was on active duty in

the U.S. Navy from 2009-2014 and then an Individual Ready Reserve through 2018. She was deployed for a tour in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom as an Individual Augmentee, which occurs when the Army doesn’t have enough troops and borrows personnel from other military branches. She served on a Medical Embedded Training Team as the medical surgical nurse mentor to the Afghan National Army. She was embedded with Afghan soldiers in Kabul and was also responsible for managing a team of local national interpreters.

Sudnick shared a huge duffel bag of the various uniforms she was issued to wear: dress uniforms, khakis, surgical scrubs and more. She shared photos and postcards from her time in the service, along with medals, scarves, coins, patches, traditional afghan dress and other memorabilia. At the end of her overseas service, she sponsored

one of her interpreters for a special VISA and is still in touch with another, who remained in Afghanistan. “I owe them a debt for their advice and guidance when I worked alongside them day in and day out,” the former Lieutenant explained.

Cortis and Sudnick were joined by area veterans Justin Pinard, Adrienne Johnson, Ruth Kennedy, Anthony Golembeski, Kyle Bienia, Caitlin Martin, Edmund Schram and Michael Matrison in sharing their military backgrounds with Littleville students.

In appreciation for their service and time at the school, students and staff had a surprise up their sleeve. All of the visiting veterans gathered in the school’s entryway, while students lined the main hallway. The veterans were then invited to walk through the children, who were all waving small American flags, in a tribute that was quite moving.

RELIEF

ects and allow state and local funds to go further. This would also allow local businesses to bid on and provide cost-effective quality work in the communities they are already vested in.

Also, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Interoperable Radio System announced the analog radios in use by most emergency departments throughout the state will need to be replaced with digital radios by 2027, in order to work with an upgraded system being rolled out. However, Verizon just informed fire and police departments in Massachusetts that all lines for analog radio communications will no longer be serviced or repaired. By March, 2026, those lines will be terminated leaving no link to dispatch centers for public safety meaning that the towns of Huntington, Russell and Montgomery will lose all communication with Northampton Control (dispatch) via phone line access. And the interoperable radio system that is currently in place between the towns of Huntington, Montgomery, Russell, Chester, Blandford, Westhampton and the Hilltown Community Ambulance, which is vital during mutual aid responses, will no longer work.

The cost estimate to replace all mobile (in vehicles) and portable (carried by personnel) radios for these towns and the ambulance is expected to total \$713,400. According to Ellinger, it is unclear if Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Assistance to Firefighters Grants will continue to

roll out or even be in existence anymore. McVeigh also explained that the state police are expected to maintain these new digital systems, but the initial outlay for the towns is substantial.

In combination, these issues are especially challenging for small town fire departments. As explained by Ellinger, “If I have to replace the station roof, it would be better to have a local guy do the work and keep our taxes down.” And while Westhampton has a new fire station that came in at \$4.3 million with low interest rates because it was secured before Covid, Huntington is now in a position where they cannot purchase a stock fire truck because it is uncertain if it will fit in their older station, built in 1942. And the cost and wait time for custom order trucks to fit older buildings is significant.

Also present was Huntington Fire Department Lieutenant Nicholas Perry and his K-9 dog Luna. According to Perry, it is fairly common for fire departments in other parts of the country to have K-9 units and it is beginning to grow in the Northeast. Nero’s Law is a Massachusetts law that stems from a 2018 shooting incident in Yarmouth that took the life of Sergeant Sean Gannon and severely injured his K-9. This law allows emergency medical care and transport to K-9s who are injured in the line of duty, as long as there are no human patients in need. The final request of the two chiefs was that the law be amended to include K-9s that are working with fire departments.

from page 1

Following the presentation, Mark said the prevailing wage issue could be handled as a home rule petition. Towns would have to vote on asking for special legislation at their annual town meeting; once approved, they would send the vote to Senator Mark to file a home rule petition.

The radio system, Mark said, is too large for a budgetary earmark to handle and he suggested a bigger meeting with the region’s three state representatives and Mark in the future to discuss this further. The \$110,000 for the cistern, he said, could be possible if the funding levels for FY’27 remain stable. This project would be on his “top three” list for next May, Mark said, adding that earmarks from last spring are getting their funding now. He suggested that they touch base again in March.

Mark also said that he just learned at a fire breakfast in Springfield that the Governor’s Fire Safety Grants are expected to resume in 1-2 years, which might also be an option for the radios.

Both chiefs said that funding will always be a challenge for their fire departments. “It costs \$3,500 - \$5,000 to outfit each firefighter,” Antosz said. The turnout gear also has a shelf life and must be replaced over time. Ellinger agreed, adding, “Money is never going to not be an issue. We’re squeezing every red cent that we can out of our budgets and grants.”

Mark also said he would be happy to help on a bill clarifying Nero’s Law to add coverage for fire department K-9s.

CORRECTIONS POLICY: If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393. Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.

HILLTOWNS

I-90 roadwork announced

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces it will be performing daytime bridge work, bridge painting work, guardrail work and drainage repairs on I-90 eastbound and westbound in the towns of Becket, Blandford, Montgomery and Russell.

In Becket, bridge work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 18.4 now through Friday, Nov. 21 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Bridge painting work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound and westbound at mile marker 20.0 now through Friday, Nov. 21 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

In Blandford, guardrail work will be conducted on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 26.0 to mile marker 32.0 now through Friday, Nov. 21 from 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Drainage repairs with shoulder closures will be conducted on I-90 eastbound at the Blandford Service Plazas now through Friday, Nov. 21 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

In Montgomery and Russell, bridge repairs will be conducted on I-90 westbound at mile marker 36.0 on Friday, Nov. 21 from 6-11:30 a.m.

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

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

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CHESTER



Tom Hoffman of Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers built the kiosk.

Tom Hoffman and Elizabeth Massa stand by the new kiosk located at the corner of Route 20 and Main Street in Chester.

Walking maps are available for Blandford, Chester, Huntington and Westhampton.

Chester has new walking map kiosk

CHESTER The new Chester Walking Map kiosk is up at the corner of Route 20 and Main Street thanks to grant funding from Healthy Hampshire and Hilltown CDC and the kiosk donated by the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers and built by Tom Hoffman.

This project was fully funded through the Massachusetts Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds. The Department of Public Health and its implementing partner Health Resources in Action, Inc. has joined 32 organizations across Massachusetts and more than 35 of their community partners, including non-profit community-based organizations,

municipalities and regional planning commissions to offer this funding.

The Hilltown Walks program started about five years ago with its flagship town Chester and a working group of its outdoor recreation leaders. Years later, the Hilltowns have their own printed map.

Together with Healthy Hampshire, the Hilltown CDC has gathered local walking enthusiasts and advocates to facilitate a process of identifying walkable street, sidewalk and trail routes to map and publicize within communities, with a focus on accessibility, connectivity and cultural aspects of the town. The following

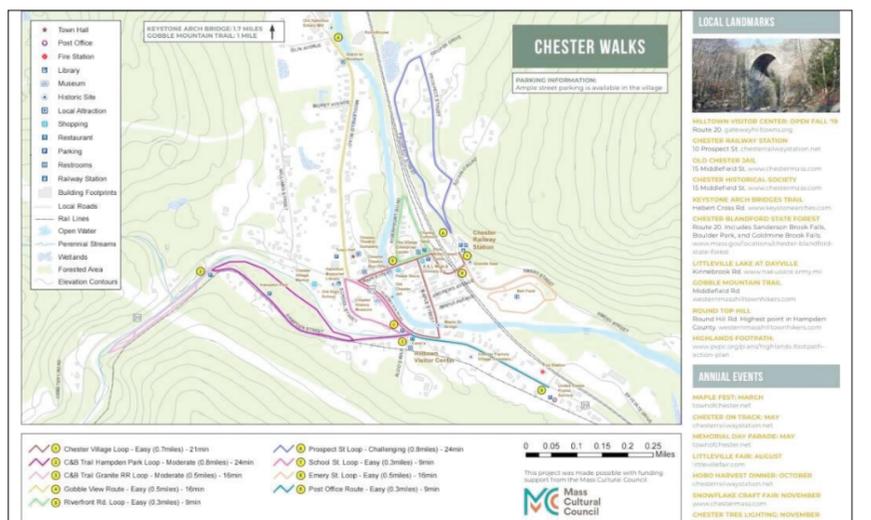
towns have created walk-

ing maps for their residents: Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Huntington, Westhampton, Worthington and Plainfield.

To learn more about the Walking Map project in a town, people may email Joan Griswold at joang@hilltowncdc.org or call 413-296-4536 extension 102. People may get their maps

in person at any Hilltown Hikers property and events, the Hamilton Memorial Library, Chester Railway Museum and many more locations throughout the Hilltowns.

They are digitally available by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com map database and <https://www.hilltowncdc.org/healthyaging> and hilltownwalks.org.



This is the Chester walking map.

Submitted photos

Hamilton Memorial Library lists story time and holiday hours

CHESTER – Hamilton Memorial Library, 195 Route 20, announces Laurel Lenski of Intrinsic movement will be bringing her contagious enthusiasm to the library on

Thursday, Nov. 20 at 11 a.m. This story time for children is followed by lively musical fun.

Hamilton Memorial Library will be closed on

Wednesday, Nov. 26 and Thursday, Nov. 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday. They will resume their regular hours on Saturday, Nov. 29 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

from page 1

TRAIL

phase involved going before the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as well as the Chester Conservation Commission for approval. Conservation Works was paid to prepare a trail improvement and invasive plant control plan that could be enacted by students with their support.

Bresnahan said additional funding was given by the Westfield River Watershed Association and funds have been held by the Gateway Education Founding, which is paying the bills on the project.

According to the grant narrative, the West Branch of the Westfield River provides “expanded engaging, relevant learning experiences grounded in agriculture and the plentiful natural resources that surround our school.”

Interim Principal Todd Gazda was enthusiastic about moving ahead with the project. Earlier this fall, MacDonald’s students researched the invasive species that existed along the trail: Barberry, Burning Bush, Knot Weed, Multi Flora Rose and Oriental Bittersweet. Armed with their research, they tagged the invasives by tying them with pieces of red yarn. On Nov. 10, the students returned with Pete Westover

and Andy Vecchio from Conservation Works, who provided tools and instruction on not only removing the invasives, but also creating a new, easier trail to the river that, when finished, can now be used by the younger grades in the spring and fall.

Students from Second to fifth grades were also involved with the project, but the previous trail has been too steep for students in PreKindergarten and first grade to safely maneuver. Once the new trail is in place, they will also be able to access the river as a learning laboratory.

During the project, Westover and Vecchio had an unexpected finding: Oriental Cyprus Spurge, which is not usually found in this region. That, too, was pulled. MacDonald’s husband told their teacher that this project “was the best gift we can give to the area.”

In the spring, the fifth graders will return to cut back any invasives that have started to grow back. Under the school’s curriculum, fourth graders do a learning unit by the river on water health and animals. This year, they will also learn more about why the river banks are important. Prior to that lesson, the fifth graders will teach the fourth graders to identify and work with them to remove the inva-

sive plants next spring. This cycle will repeat itself each year to sustain the project.

Westover said that teachers Jenna Kakimoto and Anne Marie MacDonald had done a wonderful job working with the students to conduct their research and tag the plants. The plan to continue to keep the weeds under control and maintain the trail should keep the area in good shape. He added that, until the root systems are removed, the plants will not be fully eradicated.

He is hoping to acquire some college students from Westfield State University that can begin removing the root systems. The large bundles of plants that students pulled on this day will be disposed of with Knot Weed and Bittersweet going into the dumpster and the remaining plants either composted or burned.

Westover noted that, “Here along the Westfield River, valuable native species like winterberry, holly, ostrich fern, spicebush, purple trillium, sensitive fern, silky dogwood and others are constantly outcompeted by invasives, which tend to have longer growing seasons and use extremely successful methods of spreading and reproducing.” A trail opening celebration for the entire school will be scheduled in the spring.

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OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader looks at pros and cons of solar arrays

It's painful to be at odds with your neighbors on solar installations placed on agricultural land.

Home owners abutting have long enjoyed the pastoral views with little thought to the plight of the landowner, who because of age or the poor economics of crop production faces a tax burden with no return from his land. So the income from solar comes at the expense of depreciation to the homes of abutters.

The extent of this loss of value is difficult to quantify but safe to say most looking to relocate to a rural landscape will be to some extent put off. A study by Louisiana State University found an average 5.6% depreciation on rural holdings abutting large solar installations.

This loss of value to the abuttor is made much worse by inflating the dangers of solar to the environment. The solar panels themselves are benign and are not fire prone or toxic. The new arrival of battery storage comes with danger of fire and toxic release. To ease at least my mind on this issue, I have to believe there is much to lose by the solar industry and battery dangers can and will be addressed and at least confined.

Another negative to

solar is decommissioning at the end of productivity. Solar collectors have somewhere around 20 years of production and are easily replaced.

The frames on which they sit are forever valuable and certainly recyclable. The anticipated cost of decommissioning is bonded and backed by insurers independent of whoever might be the end owner of the facility.

Following the money is very difficult. Corporate Colonization is a catchy tag describing corporations with often obscure origins preying on simple country folk. Unfortunately these businesses are the only ones with the deep pockets necessary to sponsor a large solar installation. They deserve strict oversight by the state and the utilities.

Only those who deny the reality of the dangers to our climate of carbon and methane release by burning fossil fuels, have the luxury to simply oppose solar energy. The rest of us, a large majority, need honesty to face the fact that solar fields produce crucial clean energy, which must be ground mounted on South facing land. These solar farms cannot always be "somewhere else."

Richard Mansfield
Worthington

GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor



Did the Obama-era Social Security tax cuts hurt the program?

Dear Rusty:

I will be retiring early next year, but my question to you is: During the Obama administration, payroll taxes that employees pay were cut in half from 6.2% to 3.1%, while the employer's part stayed the same at 6.2%. This continued for around a year I think. This was an attempt at giving people a tax cut, which I think was a bad idea or maybe the wrong way to have done it. How much damage do you think this may have caused to Social Security?

Signed: Soon to Retire

Dear Soon to Retire:

FYI, the Obama-era cut in the employee portion of FICA payroll taxes and SECA (self-employment tax) was a temporary measure, which has long since expired. However, the legislation which enabled that cut in employee FICA/SECA taxes also included a provision to replenish the Social Security Trust Funds from the General U.S. Treasury in an amount equal to the estimated loss

of tax revenue to the Trust Funds. So, in effect, there was little or no impact on the Social Security Trust Funds.

FYI, the Trustees of Social Security have been projecting for many years that the Social Security reserves would be fully depleted in the mid-2030s, unless Congress takes action to reform the SS program. Unfortunately, Congress has not yet taken any meaningful action to accomplish that reform and the current projection from the Trustees is that all Social Security reserves will be depleted in about 2033, necessitating an across the board cut of about 21% in everyone's benefit. Time is running short and we see signs that Congress is finally starting to seriously discuss Social Security reform.

At AMAC, we have developed and submitted to various Congressional Representatives a reform plan, which would restore Social Security to full solvency. People can see

SECURITY, page 5



GUEST COLUMN

Thanksgiving questions for the Garden Lady

Eva, who has a big vegetable garden in Ware, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "We are supposed to have a low of 27 degrees one night this week. With that said, are my Brussels sprouts going to be OK? I was hoping to harvest them just in time for Thanksgiving." It has been a few years since I have grown Brussels sprouts, but I do remember that they do thrive well into late fall and early winter. A few frosty mornings won't hurt them!

For readers not familiar with Brussel sprout culture, I will elaborate. Brussels sprout seeds are started indoors, around the same

time you would start their cousins, broccoli, cabbage or kale. For me, seeds are sown off heat the first week of April through tax day. They are grown cool but under supplemental light to prevent stretching, and are transplanted once the first set of "true leaves" unfold. I transplant mine into the cells of a six pack, although individual two or

three inch pots are also a good option. Brussels sprouts can be moved into the garden a couple of weeks prior to Memorial Day, where fertile soil and eight-10 hours of direct sun are preferred.

They need to be given a lot more room than their cousins, about nine square feet of growing space per plant! It will pay off!

Placing transplants under floating row covers is smart, and will protect young plants from flea beetles and swede midge, then from various "cabbage" worms. The plants will grow tall over the

GARDEN, page 5

In October, Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a black-billed cuckoo at Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary and another was seen at a different location in Wellfleet.

The black-billed cuckoo is often heard more than seen. They spend a lot of time in densely wooded eastern forests and thickets. It is slender, brown bird with white belly, long tail and as its name implies a black bill. It has a red ring around the eyes and white tips on the underside of its tail. They also have a hunch backed look. It is about the size of a mourning dove 11 to 12 inches without the plump body.

Cuckoos eat lots of spiny caterpillars and can make quick work of tent



Black-billed cuckoo



By Ellenor Downer

caterpillars and webworms. The spines of the caterpillars stick to the lining of their stomachs. To rid themselves of the spines they periodically shed the stomach lining and coughing it up in one giant pellet, similar to an owl.

They sing especially at night in midsummer. Their song is a staccato with less of a knocking sound than the yellow-billed cuckoo. They also perch motionless for long periods of time so they

can be tricky to find. A good location to look for them are areas with tent caterpillars or fall webworms, a favorite food of these birds.

Audubon bird sightings

On Nov. 9, Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the following sightings at Wachusett Reservoir.

Sightings included: nine common loon, two horned grebe, one double-crested cormorant, two great blue heron, 135 Canada geese, four mute swan, one immature gadwall, two black ducks, 63 mallard, five ring-necked duck, 95 greater scaup, eight lesser scaup, 41 bufflehead, 11 hooded merganser, seven common merganser, one ruddy duck, one red-tailed hawk, three wild turkey, 11 ring-billed gull, one belted kingfisher, one northern flicker and one pileated woodpecker. Other birds included on common raven, one winter wren, one Carolina wren, 46 eastern

BACKYARD, page 5

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Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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

OPINION

Advice from a patient advocate: Should you challenge a medical bill?

Estimates suggest that up to 80 percent of medical bills contain at least one error. That's why I always recommend to my clients that they not pay a medical or hospital bill until they have received an itemized bill and carefully reviewed it.

There are a lot of reasons for mistakes in medical billings, which can cause you to incur a bigger-than-expected bill or your insurance to be denied, as I wrote recently.

Some common types of medical billing errors include:

- **Incorrect diagnostic codes:** For example, an administrator might enter the wrong code, indicating that a patient had an X-ray on both legs when only one leg was imaged.

- **Typos:** A typo can cause a single saline drip to be registered as many more.

- **Incomplete or incorrect information:** Information for a patient or provider might be entered incorrectly or incompletely.

- **Duplicate billing:** The same service might be billed for more than once.

When you receive an

unexpectedly large medical bill, the first thing to do is take a deep breath, ask for an itemized bill (which you are legally entitled to), and review it for errors. If you think there are errors – or the bill is just too big for you to handle – the worst thing to do is to ignore it.

Instead, challenge it. A study just published in JAMA Health Forum found that it's worthwhile.

Erin Duffy, a research scientist at the University of Southern California's Shaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, surveyed a cross-section of health consumers and found that one in five – fully 20 percent – reported that their household had received a medical bill that they could not afford or didn't agree with.

Most of them didn't reach out to the health-care provider because they didn't think it would make a difference. But, she wrote, "the experiences of those who did reach out provide evidence to the contrary."

"Most respondents who reached out reported at least one form of financial relief, bill corrections, or better



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

understanding of the bill," she wrote. "These findings suggest that patients benefit from reaching out to the billing office on receiving a problematic bill, and those who do not reach out may be missing financially advantageous opportunities."

The study found few differences in the households reporting problem bills – the residents had different levels of income and education. But these factors did affect a person's willingness to call about their medical bill.

"Those who were uninsured, Medicare insured, and less educated were less likely to reach out to the bill-

your health



Americans are carrying more than \$200 billion in medical debt, the majority of it by people who owe \$10,000 or more. While the three major credit agencies no longer include medical debts under \$500 on credit reports, it can still impact credit scores if the health organization reports it to the credit agencies.

Tellingly, only 3.5 percent of the respondents sought help from an advocacy organization to contact the billing office, Duffy said. The time burden plus the fact that many of the people surveyed didn't reach out at all indicates "there may be an unmet need for formal assistance navigating bills," she wrote.

Patient advocates are one source of such formal assistance. They navigate the intricacies of the health-care system itself and its mind-boggling billing systems, too. A medically trained patient advocate can look at an itemized medical bill and spot duplications and inconsistencies that a lay advocate may miss.

To avoid mistakes and misunderstandings, understand your health insurance

coverage; ask questions when you don't. Know what your deductibles, coinsurance, copays and out-of-pocket maximums are. Ask why your doctor is ordering certain tests or procedures. Call your insurer in advance to find out how much you'll be asked to pay. Always document the answers you receive, who you spoke to, and when. Get promises in writing. And if you're uninsured, be upfront about it.

After all that, if you still receive a bill you think has errors, advocate for yourself and you may save yourself some money.

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

BACKYARD

from page 4

bluebird, five cedar waxwings, 90 dark-eyed junco and 30 red-winged blackbird.

Black vulture

I received an email from a Palmer resident on Nov. 4. She said, "When I came home, I noticed two birds across from the house. I thought they might be vultures because of their face, but were not turkey vultures." She googled vultures

and said, "It was easy to recognize them because of their face white feet and legs. Plus the head appeared to be gray and like a helmet. They were definitely black vultures. They stayed in that one spot for quite awhile. They didn't appear to be scared of anything. Cars going by did not phase them." Since then she has not seen them again. She said, "They are really a beautiful bird."

Helping birds

Bird feeders and feeding platforms are also hotspots for disease. Many wildlife diseases, like mange and avian pox, are spread by physical contact between healthy and sick animals. It is important to clean bird feeders frequently and remove any molding seeds and debris from them especially during the rainy weather. Moving the loca-

tion of feeders to different locations also helps prevent the spread of disease.

Flocking birds

Birds are migrating. Last week I saw a large flock of blackbirds flying overhead. I also have seen flocks of about a dozen Canada geese flying overhead. Last week, my granddaughter, Lizzie and I saw a flock of geese flying low

over her house. We could hear their wings beating. The robins that head south have also been flocking in my field and along the roads. Some robins over winter living in the swamps.

Winter berries

Every year a flock of robins come and make short order of the winterberries on a bush in my yard. I've spotted the bright red winterber-

ries in several spots during my travels. I will keep an eye out for birds at those bushes.

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

GARDEN

from page 4

course of their long growing season and will form buds along the stem.

It is the buds that we harvest, known as the "sprouts" we so enjoy. Experts recommend "topping" the plants in September, or cutting off the first couple of inches of top growth, so that the plant puts all of its energy into the sprouts it already has, making them bigger.

When I grew Brussels sprouts many years ago, aphid were a big problem. There are a number of varieties that have a spaced branching habit that seem to reduce the population of these pests. "Divino," "Speedia," and "Nautic" are all good choices.

Harvest the half-dollar sized sprouts after the first few frosts and you will be in for a great, sweet treat. Like

carrots who endure a little cold, starches turn to sugars and yum!

Personally, I like to roast them for heightened crunch and a little more caramelization. I hope they will be a wonderful part of your family meal, Eva!

Melissa, who gardens in Palmer, just moved to a house that has a few "highbush cranberries" on her property.

"I was curious if this shrub is a tall version of the Thanksgiving cranberry and if so, if it is edible? The word 'highbush' reminds me of blueberries, so I thought maybe it worked out the same," she asked.

The American cranberry is not to be confused with Viburnum trilobum, an eight-12 foot multistemmed shrub sometimes called highbush cranberry, cramp-

bark, or even cranberry viburnum.

The berries of this native shrub hang in clusters and are orangey-red in color. Although they are edible, birds generally find them a whole lot more appealing than we do, and will typically "gobble" them up before winter hits.

The shrub typically has great fall interest, too, with foliage that varies in hues of

orange, red and purplish red.

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

SECURITY

from page 4

AMAC's suggested plan by visiting www.amac.us/social-security-guarantee. And AMAC is working every day in Washington, D.C. to promote Social Security reform to avoid future cuts in benefits. We believe and hope that Congress will eventually reform the Social Security program to avoid future benefit cuts but, unfortunately, not until they can muster sufficient bipartisan support to make the hard choic-

es needed. To this end, contacting your Congressional Representative to demand Social Security reform now would be a good thing to do. The longer Congress delays reform, the harder the choices will be.

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

News, photo publication policy

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

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

Deadline is Friday at NOON.



Pioneer Valley Assembly of God

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

Hilltown Community Church

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

First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

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

Holy Family Parish

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

Pioneer Valley Mennonite Fellowship

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

First Congregational Church of Blandford

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

BLANDFORD



Library Director Nicole Daviau helps with dishing up tastes of Honeydew Honey. *Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm*



Poop Museum Curator Susie Maguire demonstrates Queen Bee telling her worker bees they must remain in their hive all winter, and hold their poop until spring.



Poop Museum Curator Susie Maguire offers tastes of Honeydew Honey to the audience.

Poop Museum curator educates children and adults

BLANDFORD – The Hilltown Community Health Center’s Family Support Program sponsored the Poop Museum through a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant from the Department of Early

Education and Care. Museum Curator Susie Maguire is traveling throughout the United States visiting schools and libraries with the Poop Museum and has presented fascinating facts in many communities across the

Commonwealth this year. There were 50 people, of all ages, at the Town Hall gymnasium Saturday afternoon, who learned just about all there is to know about animal and insect poop. Parents and children

alike all enjoyed the segment on bees and learned that honey from honey bees is actually edible poop. Everyone was invited to sample a taste of Honeydew Honey, a New Zealand product; rich, dark and full of flavor. Bees have to hold

their poop in all winter when they are protected in their hives.

Maguire had with her all kinds of toy animals to show when speaking about their poop and facts such as a Sloth poops once a week. Resident Michaela Smith

attended with her two children. “We really liked it, it was not only educational but also fun,” she said. When asked what interesting fact they learned, the very prompt response was, “Butterflies do not have butts.”

Highway crew responds to first ‘winter’ weather

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The Highway Department was out and about Wednesday night into Thursday morning.

Superintendent Ray Hultay said as soon as snow began to accumulate Wednesday evening, he notified his employees to come to work. “Which they all did, responding very promptly,” he said.

The department treated the major hills which included Beech Hill, Russell Stage, North Blandford, Sunset, and Crooks Roads and their intersections to assure safety overnight and into Thursday morning, as the accumulated snow “flashed into ice.”

The department was out again on Thursday night to “lightly dust the whole town” with the warnings of freezing temperatures by Friday morning, concerned especially for school bus

safety.

Again, according to Hultay, the hills and intersections were getting the primary attention, but he said that there should be some “grit on the roads,” for safety.

“Usually, temperatures drop out on Curtis Hall and Moreau Roads near Otis, so the department did preventive maintenance on those roads also so there would be no issues,” according to Hultay.

BOH receives grant funds

BLANDFORD – The Department of Environmental Protection awarded grants to the Board of Health, for which the board is very grateful.

There is a \$10,000 award towards new compactor equipment and a \$5,000 award for a Paint Shed, a

place where residents can dispose of their unused old paint. This is coming in the spring of 2026 according to the board.

There is also \$840 for points for participating in the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program of the Materials Recycling Facility, aka MRF, in Springfield.

According to the award letter from DEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple, “Recycling programs play a vital role in limiting our dependence on landfills and incinerators, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting economic activity in the Commonwealth.”

Pancake breakfast on Dec. 6

BLANDFORD – Volunteer First Responder firefighter Pat Lombardo said, “There is still time to donate items for the raffle at the annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 6.”

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 6:30-7:30 p.m. They may also call Lombardo at 413-454-5336 to have him pick up a

raffle donation.

The breakfast is from 8:30-11:30 a.m. in the Town Hall and there will be a visit from Santa. The cost is \$10 for adults, children ages 5-12-years-old \$5 and children under 5 get breakfast free.



Library staff member Michele Crane, from left, Beth Lanzoni, Carol Charla, Barb Davenport, Library Director Nicole Daviau, Vicki Soler, Joann Martin, Amy Hagstrom, Lucia Sullivan, Terri Garfield and Mary Powers sit around a table during the Porter Memorial Library’s adult book club. *Turley Publications Photo by Mary Kronholm*

Adult Book Club discuss ‘James’ by Percival Everett

BLANDFORD The Porter Memorial Library, 87 Main St., adult book club discussed the 2024 novel “James” by Percival Everett on Saturday morn-

ing, Nov. 15.

“James” was the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for fiction winner. Fashioned after Mark Twain’s “Huckleberry Finn,” the story is told from

the perspective of the slave, Jim, rather than by Huck. The re-telling of the tale from a different point of view kept the discussion lively.

FERRARA

from page 1

Main noted that when there is a water break that affects the service plazas, the restaurants must be closed, but the gas stations can remain open. This is because gas pumps have their own separate fire suppression devices, which do not use water, but foam and chemicals. And that the interior of the eastbound service plaza does not have a fire suppression system, however the westbound service plaza does have fire suppression equipment throughout.

Then they made a visit to the MassDOT Maintenance Center which is just off Old Chester Road.

The Maintenance Center is not connected to the town’s water sup-

ply, but has artesian wells. They joke that the wells are contaminated with salt, but the water from their wells is only used to hose down equipment. They have a supply of bottled water for drinking at all times.

The complete tour included discussion of the town’s water infrastructure and the need for strategic shutoffs to enable repairs. The water main on Old Chester Road supplies water for four homes there as well as one across the turnpike on Chester Road.

The line that goes down Old Chester Road is an older asbestos pipe and requires maintenance.

All in all, Main is aware of the town’s water system and told Ferrara that he has a good work-

ing relationship with the Water Department’s Steve Grondon.

Ferrera said she is also awaiting guidance from the state Office of Economic Development on whether a portion of the original \$350,000 grant, allocated for an engineering study on the water tank, can be repurposed to help cover costs associated with other priorities outlined in the State’s previously issued consent order for the Water Department.

Ferrera added that she appreciates Main’s depth of knowledge and the open communication between them, emphasizing that such collaboration is essential to keeping the community fully informed about all aspects of town business.



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WESTHAMPTON

Westhampton Public Library announces upcoming news, events

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

The library will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24; Thursday, Dec. 25 and Thursday, Jan. 1. To place a request for curbside pickup, people may email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386.

Holidays may impact recurring holidays. Programs include: computer help with

Bob Miller second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon, knitting group Mondays at 6 p.m., yoga Mondays at 6 p.m., Scrabble group Tuesdays at 2 p.m., book group fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m., walk-in wellness clinics with Westhampton's public health nurse first and third Wednesdays from 10 11:30 a.m. (Dec. 3 and Dec. 17), energy advocate office hours third Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. (Dec. 17), coffee and chat Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon. Yoga is drop-in, first-come, first-served and registration is not required.

Programs for children and teens include: Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Playgroup on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., story time with Emily on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and music with Naomi three Wednesdays at 3 p.m. (Dec. 3, 10 and 17). A special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library and Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring this program series for preschool aged children and their families.

The Westhampton Public Library offers after school programs on a rotating sched-

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

Programs include: LEGO Club first Thursdays Dec. 4 at 3:30 p.m., open crafting second Thursdays Dec. 11 at 3:30 p.m., Switch Happy Hour second Thursdays Dec. 18 at 3:30 p.m. and teen craft nights third Thursdays Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. This month's craft will be a needle felted mushroom house; people should email Emily at ewayne@cwmar.org to sign up.

Tech connect devices are available for checkout. Thanks to a grant from the Northern Hilltown Council on Agings and Tech Connect: Success for Older Adults, the following devices are now available for a three-week loan: Android Galaxy Tablet, Casio Keyboard, Kindle Paperwhite Ereader and HP Chromebook Laptops. For more information, people may visit <https://tinyurl.com/439y6p3d>.

On Thursday, Dec. 4 from 6-7:30 p.m. there will be a craft to make handmade ornaments using old greeting cards. Participants should bring their greeting cards from

home to recycle. All other materials will be provided by the library. This program is recommended for ages 12 to adult. People should register by calling 413-527-5386 or emailing westhampton@cwmar.org.

Westhampton Public Library will hold its first ever Holiday Small Works Show. An artists' reception will be held Thursday, Dec. 11 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Artwork by local artists of all ages will be on display and for sale. Twenty percent of proceeds benefit the Friends of Westhampton Public Library.

HAYDENVILLE

Church hosts soup and bake sale

HAYDENVILLE – The annual autumn soup and bake sale will be Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Haydenville Congregational Church, 143 Main St., Rte. 9.

On sale will be soups, stews, chili and mac and cheese. They are packaged in Earth-friendly containers that are suitable for

freezing. There will also be a wide range of baked goods including world-class pies, cakes, breads, cookies, quickbreads and muffins. The church will also sell T-shirts, handmade aprons, a variety of artwork and books and paintings by local authors and artists.

A portion of the proceeds will go to support the

MANNA Soup Kitchen in Northampton. According to sale organizer Megan Jewett, "The HCC autumn soup and bake sale is always popular as people stock up on pies and treats for Thanksgiving guests and cozy soups and stews for these chilly nights when they just don't feel like cooking."

NORTHAMPTON

Forbes Library list upcoming events

NORTHAMPTON – The Forbes Library, 20 West St., will close early on Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 2 p.m. and remain closed on Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

They will reopen for regular service on Saturday, Nov. 29 at 10 a.m. An Art and Craft Supply Swap will take place Saturday, Nov. 22

from 1-4 p.m. The library is excited to host the fall Arts and Crafts Supply Swaps for sharing the joy of creativity. No registration is required and all ages are welcome. There is no need to bring something to take something.

Middle Grade Book Club will meet Tuesday, Nov. 25 from 4-4:45 p.m. in the Watson Room at the library. The book is "The

Trouble with Heroes" by Kate Messner. It is a deeply moving novel-in-verse about a boy, a dog and the healing power of nature."

A Food and Toiletries Drive will take place at Forbes Library now through Saturday, Nov. 29. Collection boxes are located in the Forbes Library Children's Department and in the first floor lobby.

PITTSFIELD

Berkshire Art Association to hold Real Art Party

PITTSFIELD – The Berkshire Art Association seeks donations of original artwork for their annual 10x10 Real Art Party show and fundraiser drawing.

In collaboration with the Clock Tower Artists and the City of Pittsfield's 10x10 Festival in February, the BAA welcomes submissions from artists from the Berkshires and beyond. All artwork will be included in an event to benefit art students of Berkshire County. The drawing for art and RAP will be a live in-person event hosted by the Clock Tower Business Center on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026.

Art specs are: 10 x 10 inches; any medium, 2D or 3D and each artist may sub-

mit up to three pieces.

All artwork must measure 10 inches by 10 inches prepared with a wire or hooks for hanging. Artwork may be in any medium and should reflect the quality of the artist's usual work. Artists may submit up to three pieces. Attach an Art ID to the back of each piece they donate. Artists and websites will be added to the Artists Registry at berkshireartassociation.org.

Online registration is required. Submissions will be accepted from now through Feb. 9, 2026. Late entries cannot be accepted. Drop off all art at the Clock Tower Business Center, 75 South Church St.

Artists may drop off

entries to the Clock Tower Business Center, 75 South Church St. on

Saturday, Feb 7 from 1-4 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 8 from 1-4 p.m. and Monday, Feb. 9 from 2-5 p.m. the event takes place by Thursday, Feb. 19 The Berkshire Art Association drawing and RAP is hosted by Clocktower Artists and takes place Thursday, Feb. 19 with 6 p.m. social sneak peak and at 7 p.m. art raffle begins.

Proceeds will benefit Berkshire County: BAA Fellowship awards for college art majors, art field trips and project grants for high school art classes. People may email 10x10@berkshireartassociation.org for more information.

WORTHINGTON



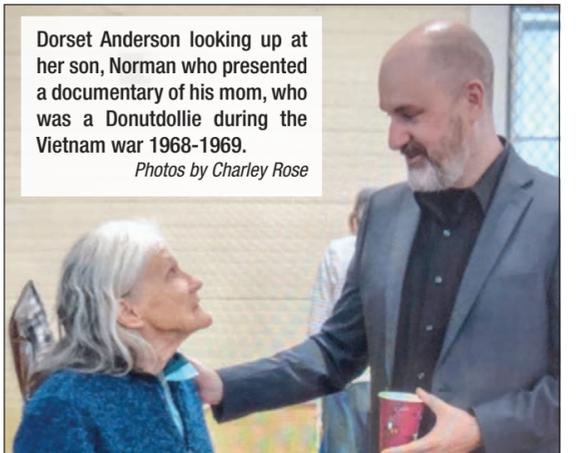
The Worthington veterans attended a potluck luncheon in recognition of veterans.

COA hosts veterans lunch

WORTHINGTON – On Monday, Nov 10 the Worthington Council on Aging hosted a potluck luncheon in recognition of local veteran heroes.

Students from R.H Conwell recited a poem of thanks. Dan Nye from veteran services also was available for support.

For more inspiring information, people may visit donutdollies.com.



Dorset Anderson looking up at her son, Norman who presented a documentary of his mom, who was a Donutdolie during the Vietnam war 1968-1969.
Photos by Charley Rose

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

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.

• Salary rate range: \$26.49 - \$38.59 per hour

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

www.worthington-ma.us

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; (413) 238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: highway@worthington-ma.us or to

Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098.

This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON - INVITATION TO BID

SNOW PLOWING SERVICES

The Town of Worthington Highway Department is soliciting bids for **seasonal plowing services** for the 2025–2026 winter season.

Work will include plowing backroads and selected blacktop sections throughout the Town of Worthington.

Minimum equipment requirements:

• ¾-ton truck or larger

• 8-foot plow (minimum)

Please contact the Worthington Highway Department for bid specifications and route details:

Worthington Highway Department

64 Huntington Road, Worthington, MA 01098

Phone: **413-238-5830**

Email: highway@worthington-ma.us

The Town of Worthington reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

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

Friday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue

- Sentinel • Quaboag Current

Monday, November 24 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue

- The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Tuesday, November 25 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue

- Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS

24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069

413-283-8393 • www.turley.com



SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Hampshire Regional Middle School announces first quarter honor roll

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional Middle High School announces students, who made the honor roll for the first quarter.

Seventh grade Academic Excellence

Seventh grade making Academic Excellence are: Emma Assan, Brennan Bigda, Zoe Buell, Julian Carrasquillo, Savannah Chicoine, Hannah Chilson, Trevor Christenson, Gretta Darling, Brooklyn Desrochers, Emma Dybacki, Jaice Ellinger, Gavin Emmonds, Adriana Fini, Leanna Francis, Mason

Galenski, Connor Gribi, Benjamin Haughey, Alice Hearn, Harley Hilt, Ryleigh Hurley, Eli Hutchison, Ishmael Jeffords, Carey Jillson, Charlie Johndrow, Michael Kraus, Brooke Labrie, Miya Lambert, Aubrey Leary, Violet Letendre, Jesse Locke, Lucas Maak, Maisie Mahoney, Tula Marino, Eleanor Maynard, Nolan Merriam, Zachary Moylan, Kennedy Mulvaney, Claire Musa, Tessa Neill, David Nuttelman, Olivia Patruno, Avery Proulx, Addison Reyor, Kaleigh Rida, Liam Schnell, Elliot Scully-Henry, Luisiana Sinopoli, Rory Snape, Taylor St.

Pierre, Augustus Taylor, John Tisdell, Stella Tremblay, Nora White, Audrina Whittaker, Allison Woz and Ryan Zononi.

Eighth grade Academic Excellence

Eighth grade students making Academic Excellence are: Ava Boissonneault, Rose Bothwell, James Clemeno, Sunali Driver, Stephen Estelle, Caleb Falkowski, Aoife Farrell, Riley Fisher, Patricia Gagne, Lorelei Gilman, Dylan-Joy Hocking, Anna Huard, Aubrielle Jarrett, Sienna Kalmakis, Morgan Lawler, Corbin Liitainen, Aurora Loud,

Samantha Moreau, Bibi Nabut, Camilo Ocampo, Mariah Pacinella, Dillon Peterson, Claire Pickard, Olivia Pignatare, Madison Rida, Madeline Soares, Ashtyn St. Martin, Georgia Sugrue, Thomas Sullivan, Phoebe Todd, Cyrus Tomsovic, Lucy Trombley, Addyson White and Meghan Wood.

Seventh grade Academic Achievement

Seventh grade students making academic Achievement are: Robert Avery-Cote, Bella Borrego, Quinn Dunphy, Keegan Farrell, Hayden Gamache,

Drew Geffin, Riley Hogan, Kendall Jarosz, Adalyn Johnson, Mason Leblanc, Isabella LeCours, Levi Liimatainen, Josephine Lynn, Lilly Malo, Julia Meehan, Diango Mor, Penelope Murray, Jacob Nadolski, Hunter Noel, Desmond O'Sullivan, Avery Palpini, Rosalie Punska, Saige Reynolds, Wada Rida, Trey Santiago, Ryan Short, Brycen Tylek, Ashlynn Ulrich and Sage Zimora.

Eighth grade Academic Achievement

Eight grade students making Academic Achievement are: Mala

Adams-Rivera, Quinn Bonham, Max Bonham, Valentina Bresnahan, Ivy Cardoza, Liam Dahill, Lovena Durazo, James Farrar, Lana Gomes-Parsons, Reygan Horstmann, Camryn Jasinski, Megan Johnson, Abraham Kellogg, Summer Kohl, Madison Kuehner, Dorothy Li, Lillian Loven, Lukas Manley, Isabella Masi, Brigid McArdle, Molly McColgan, Tyler Menard, Samuel Monette, Noah Moran, Blake Nowak, Scarlett Parent, Emilee Peart, Emily Sampson, Jackson Smalley, Blake White, Noah Wilke-McGrail, Eli Willard, Cooper Williams and Colin Wilson.

Phi Kappa Phi elects members

BATON ROUGE, LA – The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines, recently elected new members.

Local students included **Rylee Dooney** of Westfield and **Shane McCarthy** of Westfield, both students at Westfield State University.

They are among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10% of seniors

and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10% of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni, who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann, who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and its territories.

Lasell University announces new students

NEWTON – Lasell University announces the students, who began their first semester in the fall of 2025.

Local students include **Kate Brough** of Easthampton and **Jacob Hanselman** of Westfield.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Horace Smith Fund offers scholarships

WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund, located in Westfield, has scholarship and fellowship money available for residents of Hampden County.

Graduating high school seniors and students already in college may apply for scholarships of up to \$12,000. Those in their final year of college and previous college graduates pursuing advanced degrees may apply for Fellowships of \$15,000. Applicants must maintain at least a B average in college and be enrolled as full-time students.

Awards are made based on both academic achievement and merit. Of great importance is a personal writ-

ten account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance and their goals in pursuing higher education.

Last year, \$297,000 was awarded to 24 individuals. Scholarships were given to 18 graduating seniors from 11 Hampden County high schools. Three scholarships were also awarded to current college students to assist them in completing their undergraduate degrees and three fellowships were given to college graduates pursuing advanced degrees, who had graduated from Hampden County high schools.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace

Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, established in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950.

Completed applications must be received either electronically or by mail to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15, 2026. Applications will also be available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online by visiting www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by calling 413-739-4222.



This is one of the works on display for the "Hyper Color" exhibit at the Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College in Holyoke now through Dec. 18.

Taber Art Gallery displays 'Hyper Color' exhibit at HCC

HOLYOKE – Five artists from western Massachusetts use brilliant colors to explore spirituality, memory, intuition, time, and rebellious joy in the latest exhibit at the Holyoke Community College Taber Art Gallery.

"HyperColor" opened Monday, Nov. 3 and runs until Thursday, Dec. 18. The show features the work by Andrae Green, Donnabelle Casis, Kim Carlino, Sharon Leshner, and Sunny Allis.

"On its face 'HyperColor' is an exhibition about color, but it's also about the ways people explore and express themselves without shame or hesitation," said Taber director Rachel Rushing. "The artists in this exhibition are fearless in their use of color to explore the internal worlds of dreams, memory, and intuition as

well as the ways we connect to the world around us with curiosity and play."

All five artists are active in community and education. Carlino and Leshner are local muralists. Leshner's most recent mural is located at 787 Dwight St. in Holyoke and made in partnership with The Children's Museum at Holyoke. Carlino's latest project is located at 23 Laurel St. in Northampton and was commissioned by Valley Community Development for a set of newly renovated affordable apartments.

Green maintains studio space in Holyoke, teaches at the Hartford Art School and has work on view at the Boston Center for the Arts. Casis hosts "Art Beat Report" on WHMP 101.5 FM, a segment about art news in the Pioneer Valley, and has work on

view through 2026 at both the Albany International Airport and the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle, Washington.

Allis has worked for years as an educator with schools and communities of all ages and backgrounds on topics like sculptural storytelling, world building, kinetic sculpture art and puppetry. The most recent positions include Clark Art Institute and Hampshire College.

"I hope visitors connect with the passion of these artists and the joy and curiosity their work inspires," Rushing said.

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, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. during regular school sessions.

REGION

DEP awards micro grants to local projects

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection announced \$162,375 in Reduce, Reuse, Repair micro grants to 24 organizations, municipalities and academic institutions.

These projects will enhance the state's circular economy by reducing waste generation and prolonging the lifespan of products through donation, rescue, reuse and repair services.

"From schools to local nonprofits, organizations are finding ways to keep good reusable items out of our landfills," said MassDEP

Commissioner Bonnie Heiple. "Funding these projects helps expand infrastructure to tackle waste reduction by reusing, repairing, rescuing and donating what we already have."

The funding will support innovative and impactful ways to minimize waste and keep products in use through donation, rescue, reuse and repair. It can help to cover costs associated with developing and implementing reuse, and repair projects that lead to waste reduction including equipment, tracking software and training. Some examples of past micro grant awardees

include funding to support a community-focused electronics repair store, to improve reusable takeout container services and to refurbish a bulk furniture collection dock.

Local recipients include: Franklin County Agricultural Society (Franklin County) – \$5,230; Berkshire Bounty (Great Barrington) – \$7,400 and First Congregational Church Williamstown (Williamstown) – \$9,000.

People may visit the MassDEP Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant Program online for more information on the application process and guidelines.



Turley Publications, Inc.



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

Baby's Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Parents' Town of Residence: _____

Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: _____

Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

Please check the newspaper you would like your announcement to appear.

<input type="checkbox"/> Agawam Advertiser News	<input type="checkbox"/> Quaboag Current
<input type="checkbox"/> Barre Gazette	<input type="checkbox"/> The Register
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicopee Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Sentinel
<input type="checkbox"/> Country Journal	<input type="checkbox"/> Town Reminder
<input type="checkbox"/> The Holyoke Sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Ware River News
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal Register	<input type="checkbox"/> The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

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

Turley Publications would like to help you show off the newest member of your family this Christmas, FOR FREE!

Mail to:
Turley Publications
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Attn: Jamie Joslyn
Include a self addressed/stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: jamie@turley.com with subject line: **BABY'S FIRST.**
This offer is available to all babies born in 2025. Pictures will be published the week of December 23-26, 2025.

OBITUARIES

Claire Lagoy Edenborg

Claire was born in Westfield, a daughter of the late Clara Coash and Gilbert Lagoy. She had been a resident of Aiken, South Carolina since 2015. She was a parishioner of St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church.



er, Edward (Barbara) Lagoy of Ashfield; and sister-in-law, Linda Lagoy of Worthington along with many nieces and nephews. She is preceded

in death by her husband Edwin Edenborg; siblings Leonard Lagoy, Lillian Lagoy, Jean Lagoy, Mary Lagoy, Anna Mae Lagoy, James Lagoy, John Lagoy and Rita Lagoy. Services were held in Aiken, South Carolina.

Claire was an avid horse lover winning many awards for her participation and in horse shows. Claire is survived by a sister, Theresa Lagoy of Worthington; a broth-

Susan J. (Squires) Garland

1952–2025

Susan J. (Squires) Garland, 73, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025 at home. She was born in Westfield, to the late Albert and Dorothy (Crockwell) Squires. She is survived by her three children Toni Garland of Becket, Peter Garland of North Carolina and Randy Garland of Russell; her significant other of 30 years, Dwight Morin of Russell; her sisters, Margaret Tebo of North Carolina and



Marion Vancor of Chester and her grandchildren, Susan, Carol Ann, Zachary, Carrie and Regan and several great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

All services for Susan are private and at the convenience of her family. Arrangements are under the direction of the Firtion Adams Funeral Service, 76 Broad St., Westfield, MA 01085. www.firtionadams.com.

Nancy Evelyn Smith

1944-2025

On Nov. 13, Alzheimer's Disease ended the life journey of Nancy Evelyn Smith. Two weeks earlier she celebrated her 60th Anniversary with her husband, Steve, her sons, residents, and staff gathering in the memory unit of the Arbors at Amherst where she had received such wonderful care for just over 3 years. Wearing a new red dress so thoughtfully provided by a young caregiver, she also wore her usual full smile as she enjoyed some cake and, most of all, the company of others. The following day she transitioned to Hospice of the Fisher Home where she ended her journey in their gentle, thoughtful care.

Nancy was born in Manchester, CT on Aug. 8, 1944. Her parents, Herbert E. Johnson and Selma (Sorola) Johnson raised a bright, optimistic, cheerful, adventure-some girl. They taught her the importance of family and community, values she lived throughout her life. In 1963 she met her future husband at a summer job in Hartford. Two years later she married the lucky guy on a week's notice and quick planning on Halloween Eve. Their honeymoon consisted of an overnight stay at a motor inn on the way back to her college in Western New York in order to finish her Senior student teaching requirement, followed by a night on a dairy farm as guests of her teaching supervisor and farmer spouse. After witnessing a late-night calf birth and eating a hearty farm-to-table breakfast, Steve headed back to Boston to fin-

ish his first semester of law school and ready their apartment while Nancy remained in New York to finish student teaching. They were young, broke, very much in love, and couldn't wait any longer to get married. As one unexpected consequence of doing so, Nancy would spend the next few years completing her degree in Boston due to the unbending rules of her college that were intended to discourage such rash, youthful life decisions.

After she and Steve graduated in 1968, Steve 'avoided' the draft and bought time to take the bar exam by enlisting for officer training in the Army. After basic training, Nancy moved with Steve and their two cats to Alexandria, VA so that she would be nearby as he attended Officer training. On the day he reported for training and a six month separation from Nancy, she returned to her newly leased apartment with \$5.00 in her wallet and enough gas to get to one more job interview. She got the job, supported Steve and his platoon with contraband night-time mega food runs, designed and sewed their company parade flag, and when Steve earned his commission and got his orders, shared his relief that he wasn't sent to Vietnam.

In 1970, while Steve was stationed in Baltimore and they lived nearby, their first son, Ben, was born. Three years later, with military service over and living in Pittsfield, their family was



completed with the arrival of Adam.

There is an early photo that is emblematic of Nancy's personality and maternal dexterity. It pictures Nancy and her boys, then 4 and 1. Ben is seated on his tricycle, sporting his toy motor cycle goggles and helmet. Nancy is crouched with her arms around him as though seated behind, and Adam in a backpack is bringing up the rear. All are looking at the camera and smiling. In this manner her sons were raised in Pittsfield with large doses of love, lots of pets, and much outdoor adventure. Nancy supported her family in practical ways as well, spending hours in their modest basement doing paid piecemeal sewing while watching and caring for her brood, as Steve worked to become active in their community and grow his law practice. When the boys got older, she returned to school to become a dental hygienist, a profession she mastered and worked at for almost thirty years. Her patients – over as many as 3 generations – loved her for her gentle yet thorough touch and her recall of their family's names and life events.

After 25 years in Pittsfield, Nancy and Steve moved to Worthington, where they lived for 30 years, until advancing Alzheimer's and Covid isolation made rural life untenable. While there, Nancy returned to sewing, this time for fun. She made many, many quilts, includ-

ing personalized, magical folk art quilts for each of their five grandchildren and a Baltimore Album family quilt that will hopefully serve to connect her family for generations. She also continued her love for gardening, long dog walks, and Yoga which she relied upon daily for maintaining her strength and peace of mind. She connected with her community through the Worthington Gardeners, as a town election worker and, as age and dementia were slowly added to the mix, with Chair Yoga at Town Hall.

Nancy is survived by her husband, her sons, Benjamin Smith and his wife Anna Rudnicki, of Southborough, and Adam Smith of Hatfield. She is also survived by her granddaughters: twins Josie and Lizzy Smith of Southborough; and her grandsons: Noah (Shrewsbury), Elliot, and Oliver Smith, both of Hatfield. She is also survived by her sister, Carol Zaglio (Peter) of Eastham and her brother, Robert E. Johnson (Carole) of Lexington, VA., together with their children. She is also survived by her aunt, Phyllis Galambos (nee Johnson) of La Jolla, CA and her uncle, Milton Johnson, of Oldsmar, FL.

Nancy will be remembered at a memorial service at the Worthington Congregational Church on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 11 a.m. Reception to follow at the Goldenrod Inn. In lieu of flowers contributions to the Hospice of the Fisher Home, 1160 N. Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01002 are encouraged.

DEATH NOTICES

EDENBORG, CLAIRE LAGOY
Services held in Aiken, South Carolina

GARLAND, SUSAN J. (SQUIRES)
Died Nov. 11, 2025

All services are private and at the convenience of her family
Firtion Adams Funeral Home, Westfield

SMITH, NANCY EVELYN
Died Nov. 13, 2025

Memorial service Dec. 6 at 11 a.m.
Worthington Congregational Church

Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

NOTICE

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



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Country Journal
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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD LEGAL NOTICE

A Public Hearing will be held starting at **6:30 PM on Monday, December 8, 2025** in the Chesterfield Community Center, 400 Main Road to consider a Special Permit Application for Hilltown Anonymous Theatre, represented by Erica Tarpensing-Romeo, for a 2-day per year use of the horse barn located on 92 North Road (Assessor's Map 14, parcel 14-25-0), under Use 3.025 Commercial and Non-Profit Recreation Development. Special permit is required by Section 7.2 pages 102-7 of the Chesterfield Zoning Bylaw.

Sarah Hamilton, Acting Chair
Chesterfield Planning Board
11/13, 11/20/2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Matthew F. Montague and Happy Montague to Peter E. Montague and Mary P. Montague, Trustees of the Peter and Mary Montague Living Trust, said mortgage being dated June 6, 2014, and re-

corded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 11659, Page 145, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 9, 2025**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely 61 Chesterfield Road, Westhampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land in Westhampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, with the improvements thereon, located on the easterly side of Chesterfield Road, and being shown as Lot A on a plan of land entitled, "Plan of Land in Westhampton, Massachusetts Prepared for Peter E. Montague," prepared by Holmberg & Howe, Inc. dated May 17, 2013 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 229, Page 121, to which plan reference may be made for a more particular description.

Containing 6.50 acres of land, more or less

Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagees by deed from Peter E. Montague and Mary P. Montague, Trustees of the Peter and Mary Montague Living Trust, Dated July 2, 2009, recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds immediately prior hereto, and subject to the right of first refusal in said deed.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

No representations, express or implied, are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold "as is".

The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing

costs and all recording fees.

TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder in the sale shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer's check or certified check in the amount of **TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000.00)** at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The successful bidder will also be required to deposit an additional sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid less the \$25,000.00 deposit (but no less than \$25,000) with the Mortgagee's auctioneer, Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc., 31 Capital Drive, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089 or the Mortgagee's attorney as may be directed within five (5) days of the date of the sale to be held by the Mortgagee, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer's check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder at the sale

will also be required to pay a buyer's premium of 5% and shall sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee's Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel or any portion thereof separately, or in any order that

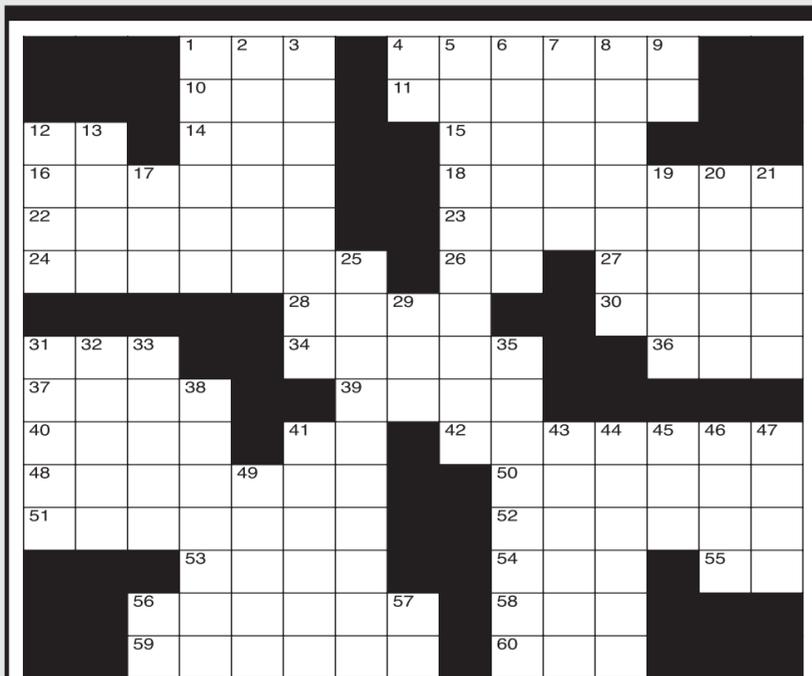
Mortgagee may choose and/or to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Peter E. Montague and Mary P. Montague, Trustees of the Peter and Mary Montague Living Trust
Present Holder of said Mortgage

By: Francis R. Mirkin,
Its Attorney
BACON WILSON, P.C.
33 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
413-781-0560
11/13, 11/20, 11/27/2025



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Popular broadcast network
- 4. Train line
- 10. Go quickly
- 11. Straightforward
- 12. Canadian province
- 14. Swiss river
- 15. It can be straight or curved
- 16. Edit
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Gotten up
- 23. Sea vessel
- 24. Agents of one's demise
- 26. Not out
- 27. Something to scratch
- 28. A round water pot
- 30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit
- 31. Promotions

- 34. Masses of matter
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 37. Nightstand item
- 39. The content of cognition
- 40. Arab ruler
- 41. Northern U.S. state
- 42. Chewed in small bites
- 48. Hawaiian island
- 50. More thin
- 51. Of one
- 52. Rigid bracelet or anklet
- 53. Barbary sheep
- 54. Not even
- 55. Atomic #106
- 56. Haggle
- 58. Boxing's GOAT
- 59. Division of a group into opposing factions

- 60. Vietnamese offensive

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Horse-drawn carriage
- 2. Prejudices
- 3. Peacefully
- 4. University athletic official
- 5. Soldiers
- 6. Large mollusk
- 7. Take out again
- 8. Sour or bitter in taste
- 9. Songwriter Tunstall
- 12. Husk of wheat
- 13. Flexible covering in some birds
- 17. Energy
- 19. Night monkey genus
- 20. Small nails
- 21. Colorless volatile liquid
- 25. In a way, changes integrity

- 29. Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal
- 31. Remember it
- 32. "Good Will Hunting" lead man
- 33. Pleasant facial expression
- 35. Sea vessel
- 38. Lacking poetic beauty
- 41. Tall, swift and slender dog
- 43. Sports personality Michelle
- 44. Robber
- 45. Liquefied natural gas
- 46. Snakelike fish
- 47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid
- 49. Crimean seaport
- 56. Bad grades
- 57. Popular S. Korean rapper

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you understand that when you're working hard toward a goal, the process isn't always straightforward. You may tolerate a fair amount of challenges along the path this week.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Keeping an open mind is one of your strong suits, Cancer. Your willingness to see all sides has benefited you in numerous ways, and that outlook will continue to bear fruit.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, even though you generally do not like dealing with uncertainty, this week you're stuck operating without a lot of advanced information. Trust your instincts.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Real life requires compromise. Lately it's been your way or the highway, and those around you are taking notice. Don't risk alienating them.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, it may seem like others around you do not get your sense of humor. While you're confident at telling stories, it takes others a bit of time to appreciate your funny side.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Dramatic occasions and grand gestures draw your attention this week, Leo. But don't forget to focus on some of the little things that make up most of your days.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Sometimes you are hesitant to share your opinions until you feel certain that they are correct, Scorpio. But this week you may miss out if you're being too cautious.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, try not to linger on others' innocent mistakes. People make little missteps all the time. Be gracious in letting those close to you get another shot at your good graces.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, when you've already made up your mind about something, it can be hard to dissuade you. Do not overlook other people's concerns. There is value in seeing things through others' eyes.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21

Gemini, you may be tempted to look past a recent challenge. But reflecting on that adversity and your ability to overcome it will soon pay dividends.

VIRGO

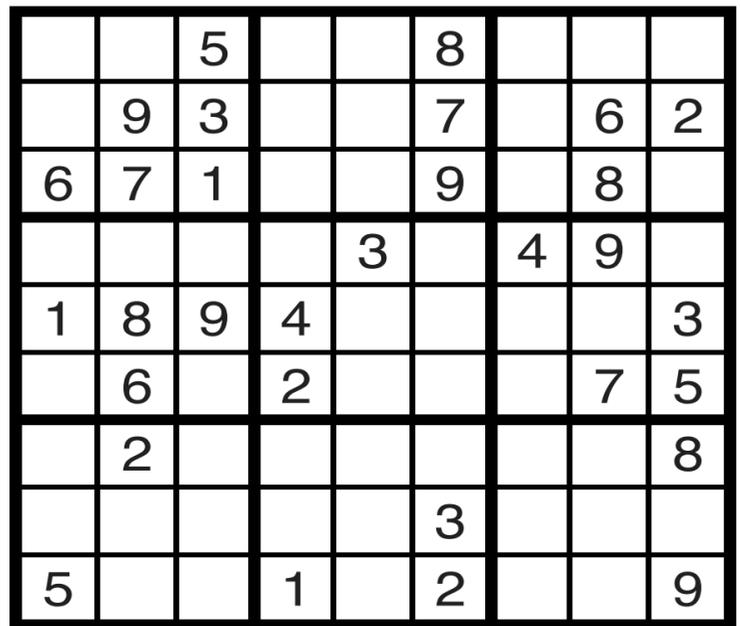
Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you notice everything that goes on around you, and you're aware of your own moods, too. That self-awareness serves you well in your relationships.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

You're impressed when others carry themselves with confidence, Sagittarius. Learn from their behavior and emulate what you see. You will like the results.



SUDOKU

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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!

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answers

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

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Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.
• salary rate range: \$26.49 - \$38.59 per hour
Further information can be found on the Town's website:
www.worthington-ma.us

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: highway@worthington-ma.us or to **Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098.** This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.
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• ¾-ton truck or larger
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Worthington, MA 01098
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The Town of Worthington reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

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