

# Country Journal

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## BLANDFORD

### Town passes solar and BESS moratorium

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

The Special Town Meeting held Monday, Nov. 17 started on time with 108 registered voters present.

The first article to amend the Zoning Bylaws by establishing a moratorium on large-scale ground-mounted photovoltaic installations and Battery Energy Storage Systems brought voters to the meeting. The moratorium will run through May 31, 2026.

This will give the town the opportunity to "undertake a planning process to study, review, analyze and address what revisions to the Zoning bylaws...are needed or desirable to allow for and regulate such use...while protecting

the Town's environmental resources and furthering its planning goals."

Planning Board Chair Greg Garfield recommended the town vote in favor of the article. He said that the Planning Board's public hearing on the article had taken place on Thursday, Oct. 30 and that the Planning Board had voted unanimously in favor of the article.

The motion was made and seconded and Moderator David Hopson called for a vote. Hopson called the "aye votes" as a two-thirds majority in favor of the moratorium.

After the vote, Westfield Councilman Dan Allie spoke about Westfield's problems

**MORATORIUM**, page 6



There was a crowd at the Special Town Meeting with 108 registered voters in attendance. Western Mass News Addie Patterson interviewed Lisa Bruno and Westfield Councilor Dan Allie prior to the Special Town Meeting in Blandford on Monday, Nov. 17.

Turley Publications Photos by Mary Kronholm

## BLANDFORD

### Select Board meet before STM

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

The Select Board met Monday, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. immediately prior to the Special Town Meeting to review the meeting warrant.

The board also appointed Susan Racine and Lloyd Martin to the Council on Aging through June 2028.

The board again appointed Michaela Smith as an assessor, but the term is to go to June 30, 2027 as she is filling the term vacated by Paul Martin.

#### Town Administrator

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera told the board she had met with Kelli Pontbriand and prepared a budget calendar. The information will go out to the town's departments Monday, Dec. 1. She also told the board she had received information from Bacon Wilson PC, the attorneys informed the town of the bequest from the estate of Sumner Robbins to the town for the care of the North Blandford Cemetery.

Town Counsel Mark Reich said that "as long as you spend it in accordance" with the gift, the board only had to accept it.

Cemetery Commissioner T.J. Cousineau, also Select Board member, gave the example of the cemetery's Tiffany Trust Fund. "The account stays solvent and we only spend the interest that the account earns."

Ferrera also moved funds in the Assessors' line to allow their administrative assistant Smith to work 19 hours more than the initial ten and an upgrade to their software.

#### Letters on BESS

Letters were received from Springfield Water and Sewer Commission regarding solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems; they have been placed on the town's website on the Proposed Energy Projects page; see townofblandford.gov for the entire letter.

"As a public water supplier, the Commission has a vested interest about any development with

**STM**, page 6

## MONTGOMERY

### Music in Montgomery program announces upcoming events

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

Performers for the Music in Montgomery program have been announced for December.

Co-hosted by the Montgomery Public Library and the Gray Catbird Pottery Studio, Music in Montgomery takes place at Montgomery Town Hall, 161 Main Road, every Thursday, starting at 3 p.m.

Helen Arbour and Joe Nerney (also known as 2 Fold) kick off the month on Thursday, Dec. 4. Singer/songwriter Helen Arbour has performed with bands Arabus, Harmony Arbour and the Bobby Darling Show, and can frequently be seen with her daughter Ursula Elmes in the area. Saxophonist Joe Nerney studied music education at Boston Conservatory at Berklee. In addition to performing with Arbour and her Elmes, he can be seen performing in WMASS with the likes of Seth Glier and as part of the duo the West Hill Two and his larger ensemble, West



Barry Searle and Ravenwood will perform at the Thursday afternoon Music in Montgomery series on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m.

Submitted photo

Hill Groove. He also hosts "Podcast from Joe" on apple podcasts.

Perpetual favorite Barry Searle returns with his band Ravenwood on Thursday, Dec. 11. Ravenwood plays a range of music from classic jazz to bluegrass. It is led by Searle on guitar and includes Don Calsyn on fiddle, John Alphin on man-

dolin, and Sarah Miller on vocals. They can also be seen across many venues including recently at the Hardwick Winery. Searle also performs with the Time Stretches Band, which was seen this fall at the Fort Hill Brewery, Fletchers Farm. Another Searle ensemble, the Wolf Hill Band, per-

**MUSIC**, page 8

## BLANDFORD

### Wild turkeys and Thanksgiving thoughts

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Wild turkeys are the official game bird in the Commonwealth.

According to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the last wild turkey in Massachusetts was killed on Mount Tom in 1851. Then, in the early 1970s, Massachusetts Wildlife in conjunction with the University of Massachusetts, received permission to live-trap turkeys in New York

state and relocate them here.

The state considers the birds "an important natural resource" in the state. Initially, there were only 37 birds released in 1972 and 1973. The population has grown. Now, the Audubon Society estimates there are over 35,000 wild turkeys in the state, and they now range east beyond the Connecticut River even though the first release was in the Berkshires.

**TURKEYS**, page 6



A Tom turkey displays during spring to attract the hen turkeys, who seem indifferent to him.

Turley Publications Photos by Mary Kronholm



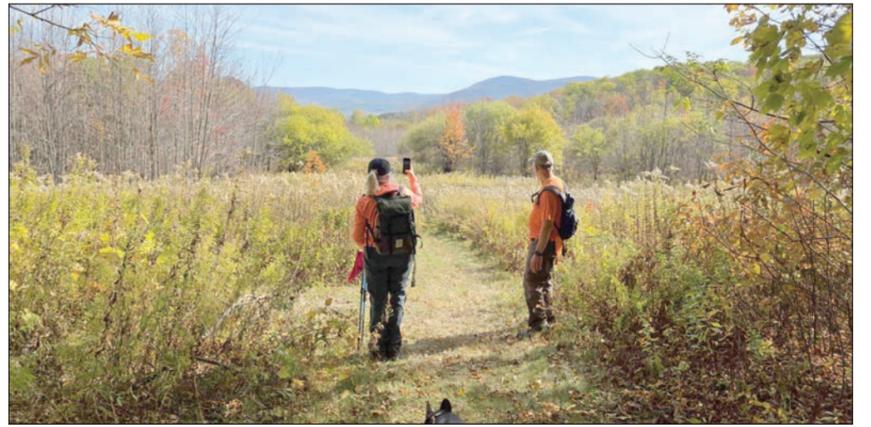
Blandford.....6	Goshen.....5	Otis.....2	Schools & Youth.....3
Business Directory.....3	Huntington.....3	Pittsfield.....2	Stockbridge.....8
Chester.....7	Montgomery.....8	Public Notices.....9	Worthington.....8
Classifieds.....10	Northampton.....9	Puzzle Page.....8	
Easthampton.....7	Opinion.....4	Russell.....7	



# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



A hiker enjoys a wonderful view on a recent hike by the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers in Taconic State Forest.



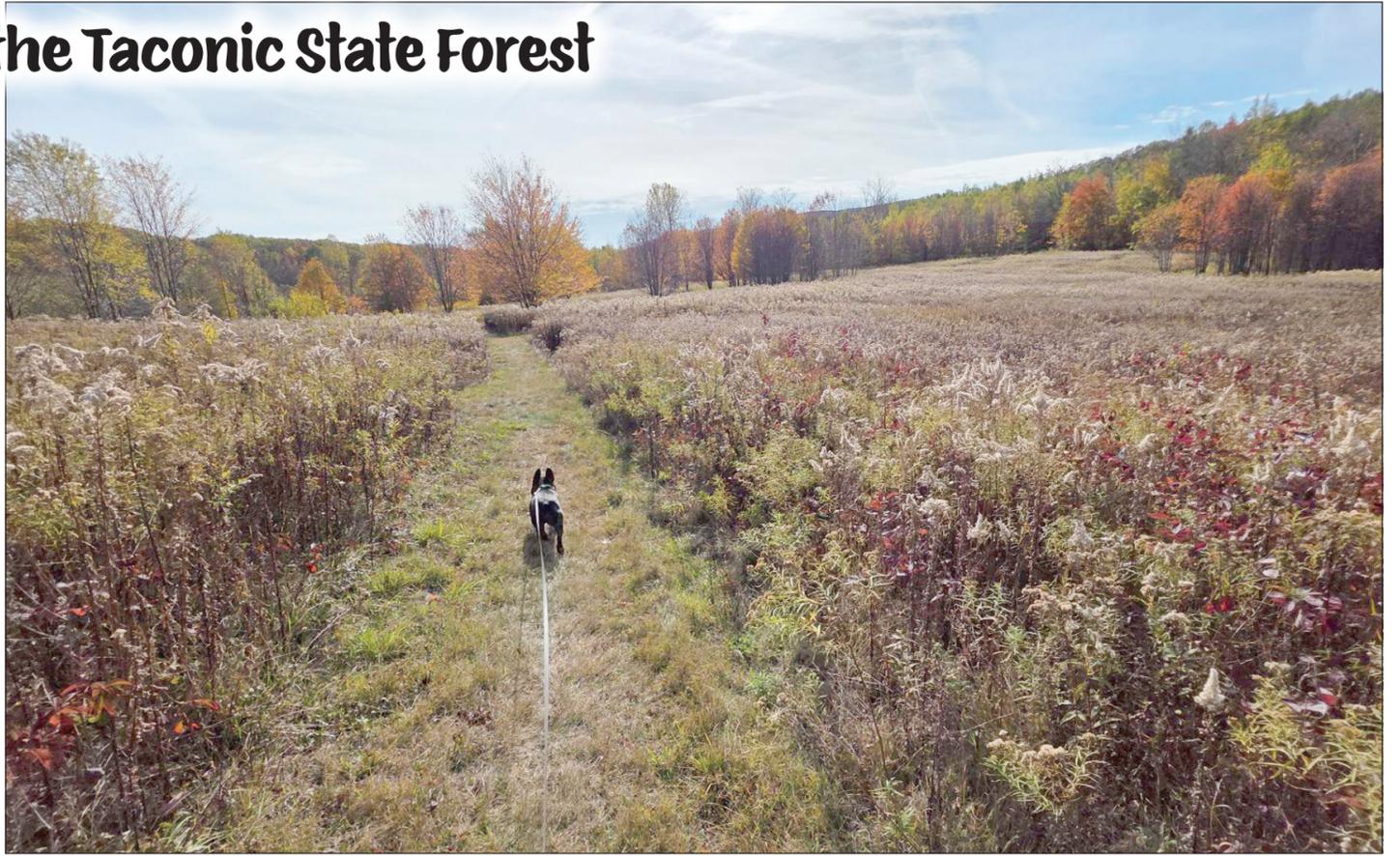
Hikers stop to take some photos of this spectacular view of Mount Greylock.

## Exploring the Taconic State Forest

The snow already fell in Western Massachusetts and it seems like fall lasted only a few short weeks.

Here are some beautiful photos of fall in Williamstown on the lesser known trails in the Taconic State Forest managed by Department of Conservation and Recreation. Taconic Trail State Forest and the Hunter Property in Williamstown with parking at the Route 2 pull off across from the Tenney trailhead welcomes hikers to mowed paths in open fields with views of Mount Greylock.

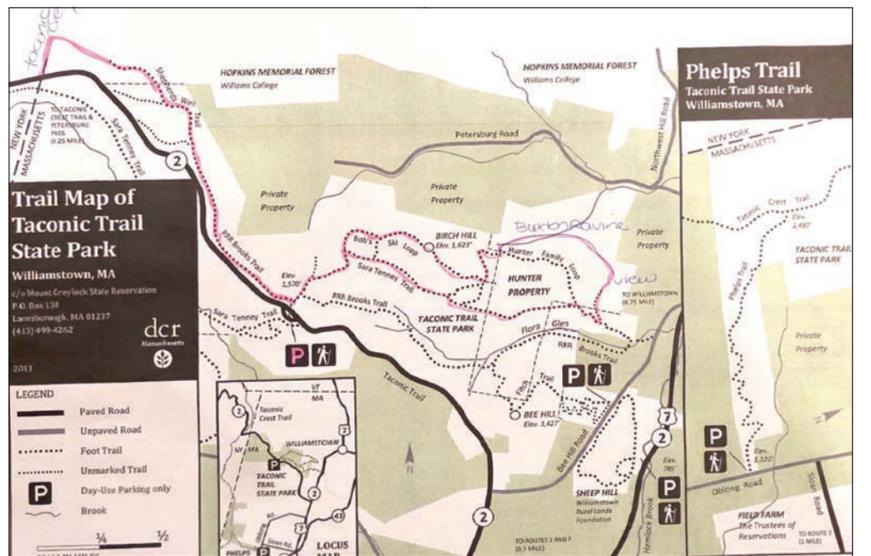
The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers explored most of the north side taking the Sarah Tenney Trail to Bob's Ski Loop over Birch Hill to Buxton Ravine to see the Williamstown view and back on the Sarah Tenney for a four mile loop with 600 feet of elevation of ups and downs through fields and hardwood forest. These trails are great for not just hiking, but for snowshoeing and cross country skiing.



One of the Hilltown Hikers' canine companion leads the way through a mowed path through a meadow.



This meadow offers a great view of Mount Greylock.



This is a map of the Taconic Trail State Park.

Submitted photos

## PITTSFIELD

# Berkshire Lyric to host mulptile holiday concerts in December

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire Lyric presents three separate Christmas concerts this December, each with a slightly different feel, with music designed for the particular setting.

“In Dulci Jubilo” will

take place on Friday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Church on West Street in Pittsfield. Traditional and contemporary a cappella carols by Bach, Rachmaninoff, Lauridsen, Randall Thompson, the Berkshire's

Charlie Fitzhugh and others will take advantage of the marvelous acoustics of this large gothic style church.

The 85 voice Berkshire Lyric most recently performed Haydn's “The Seasons” at Seiji Ozawa Hall Tanglewood.

They will be joined by Lyric's young women's ensemble Melodious Accord and by soloists, Steve Hassmer and John Demler. The concert is under the direction of artistic director and conductor Jack Brown and assisted by Joe

Rose at the pipe organ. Tickets are \$20 and will be sold at the door with children and students 18 and under admitted for free.

A second similar concert will take place on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. at Saint James Place on Main Street in Great Barrington. This popular concert at this festive venue has been sold out the last several years. Tickets are \$35.

On Saturday, Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. in Stockbridge, Lyric presents “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year.” The concert will be at the historic Stockbridge Congregational Church on 4 Main St. The traditional and contemporary carols will be

joined by a number of well known standards from the American holiday songbook, providing many opportunities to sing along with the chorus. Santa will also make an appearance at this old-fashioned holiday event geared for children of all ages.

The Lyric Children's Chorus will be joined by our two ensembles for young singers, Melodious Accord and the Lyric Children's Chorus. Tickets are \$20 with children 18 and under admitted for free thanks to the support of The Red Lion Inn. For further information or to purchase tickets in advance for any of the three concerts, people may visit [www.BerkshireLyric.org](http://www.BerkshireLyric.org).

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## OTIS

### Sand for seniors available

OTIS – The Otis Council on Aging along with the Smile Like Jack Foundation is partnering together to offer Sand for Seniors to Otis residents. Seniors in Otis in need of

a five gallon bucket with sand, not salt just sand, may either email Kendra at [Kendrarybacki@gmail.com](mailto:Kendrarybacki@gmail.com) or call her at 413-717-7927.

# HUNTINGTON

## Huntington Public Library hosts 'Stocking Drive' event

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Partnering with the Hilltown Community Health Center's "Hilltown Holiday Help" drive, the Huntington Public Library is providing seven inch stockings to go with gifts to lower income children during the holidays. They are seeking donations of travel-sized personal care items, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, lip balm, hand cream, hand

sanitizer, deodorant, toy cars or other small items. People should bring items into the library by Saturday, Dec. 6. If they have questions, they may call the library at 413-512-5206.

On Thursday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. come into the library for a "Paint and Take" activity to make a holiday ornament. This is a great activity for children and will be offered while supplies last.

This will be followed on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. by a cookie and

cocoa story hour. The story is Jan Brett's "Gingerbread Friends" with cookie decorating and hot cocoa to follow. Registration required for this one to make sure they have enough cookies and cocoa to go around. To register, people should visit [huntington.cwmars.org](http://huntington.cwmars.org) and browse through upcoming events. Click on the Dec. 13 cocoa and cookie event and register the number attending or call the library at 413-512-5206 to reserve free seats.

At this writing, there are

still 14 of 24 seats available for the library's second annual cookie swap that will take place on Saturday, Dec. 13 at noon. Again, please pre-register and bring 24 cookies of the same kind and a copy of the recipe used. Library staff can make more copies. At the end of the event, each person goes home with a variety of cookies and recipes.

Ongoing monthly events are scheduled, as follows. Weekly story hours will be held on Mondays

and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Book Swap Club will be on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. This book club works differently: just bring a favorite book to swap with others. Return the next month to discuss the new reads. Crafternoon will be Thursday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m.; people can bring their own craft to work on or take part in the "Paint and Take" ornament activities, described above. Finally, Game Night will be Thursday, Dec. 18 at 4 p.m.

The Book Club pick for next month will be "Colored Television" by Danzy Senna, a book the Harvard Review called "a satire of the entertainment industry, the story of a woman in a midlife crisis, and a commentary on Hollywood's exploitation of racial diversity." Copies may be picked up at the library, while supplies last, ordered through interlibrary loan or borrowed through Libby. The club will meet to discuss this book on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 4 p.m.

## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

### Hampshire Regional High School announces honor roll

WESTHAMPTON – The Hampshire Regional High School announces the honor roll for the first quarter.

#### Ninth grade first honors

Ninth grade students making first honors are: Madison Bannish, Elizabeth Barry, Elaina Bigda, Samantha Black, Jacqueline DuCharme, Talya Eiseman, Jocelyn Fasoli, Trinity Fellows, Jackson Galenski, Ryan Garvey, Lexie Gauger, Samantha Gay, Jaymes Goddard, Willow Gutermuth, Noah Haryasz, Madison Johnson, Saoirse Keane, Natalie Labrie, Sophia Lashway, Anna MacLachlan, Felicity Manganello, Noa Nabut, Ethan Neylon, Teagan Noel, Damian Pasiut, Mason Pedersen, Connor Perkins, Abigail Phelan, Shane Radon, Kacey Reed, Maeve Reynolds, Cyliis Reyor, Hazel Scully-Henry, Sienna Steffenhagen, Emmett

Stith, Addison Thomas, Amaya Torres Mor, Aurelia Tosh, Sadie Wasiuk, Brody Watkins, Ava Westcott, Ethan White, Emely Yunga and Tarlo Zerbach.

#### Ninth grade second honors

Ninth grade students making second honors are: Erin Bernard, Ethan Benard, Eric Berube, Jadon Buell, Gabriel Carrasquillo, Stella Cubi, Leila Doolittle, Jaline Ericson, Isabella Fini, Jacob Fiset, Emersen Florek-Grader, Talia Goddard, Aiden Goyette, Mason Hean, Myah Herrera, Thomas Janik, Elle Marcinek, Kennae O'Connell, Karolina Robak, Avrianna Rodriguez, Austin Sojkowski, Nicholas Theroux, Jack White and Jax Williams.

#### Tenth grade first honors

Tenth grade students making first honors are: Logan Andrades, Declan Butler, Juliette Cerone,

Ace Charette, Issac Clark, Amanda Clemeno, Ada Corner, Brianna Day, Sasha Dengate, Rosemarie Estelle, Gabrielle Falkowski, Alana Hanke, Colleen Hearn, Grant Jennings, Telyn Kelly, Logan LaPointe, Samantha Law, Charlotte Letendre, Grace Malo, Owen Moylan, Charlotte Niswonger, Mason Normandin, William Overtree, Luke Pickard, Caroline Puttick, Torin Rowlett, Maya Rudnitzky, Patrick Schmidt, Grace Scoble, Katelyn Theroux, Malcolm Todd, Joseph Wright and Madelyn Zannotti.

#### Tenth grade second honors

Tenth grade students making second honors are: Kameron Andrades, Percy Bennett, Dexter Bonczek, Nikita Bukhovko, Colby Cabrini, Mallory Christy, Talia Craig, Griffin Darling, Lucas Domina, Kalin Dubay, Calvin Faiella, Alexander

Florek, Brady Geffin, Kylie Grimsley, Wyatt Hunter, Jack Isherwood, Judah Jensen, Elsa Kelly, Kameron Locke, Olivia Lockwood, Moira Long, Penelope Lynn, Micah Marino, Eleanor Miller, Jacob Moran, Hobbes O'Sullivan, Anthony Pacinella, Charlotte Raffetto, Lukasz Robak, Colton Shadrack, Keira Tataro and Valerie West.

#### Eleventh grade first honors

Eleventh grade students making first honors are: Kathleen Barry, Emmett Bastek, Madeline Bresnahan, Kaio Calabretta Rek, Julia Caputo, Emma Chateauf, Lily Connor, Alexa Cortis, Owen Cubi, Raegan Dubai, Ryanne Dubai, Natalie Dunlap, Nadia Easton, Harrison Farrar, Leo Florek, Amelia Gilman, Xavier Greenberg, Cal Gworek, Rachael Hickox, Isiah Isa, Astrid Jensen, Katelyn Krause, Magdeline

Lashway, Krystian Lech, Addison Miklasiewicz, Thomas Moore, Shayne Moynahan, Hailey Paszko, Caroline Payson, Nicholas Roy, Emmett Schatz, Aria Simonelli, Finch Stahl, Brielle Stine, Lisalynn Strong, Eleri Tomsovic, Sophia Tremblay and Benjamin Zajac.

#### Eleventh grade second honors

Eleventh grade students making second honors are: Else Campbell, Travis Carpenter, Francis Dunn, Noah Fellows, Eli Fern, Bella Paige Foster, Holly Kowalczyk, Kyle LeBeau, Hayden Miller, Austin Mullaly, Autumn O'Malley, Catalina Ocampo and Vanessa Reese.

#### Twelfth grade first honors

Twelfth grade students making first honors are: Pom Sonika Ang, Keegan Butler, Colin Cahill, Parker Christy, Abigail Fiset,

Alexandra Henrichon, Eamonn Hilnbrand, Braylon Jarrett, Carlea Manley, Lucy McVey, Joseph Moro, Reese O'Connell, Caitlyn Packey, Evelyn Palmer, Elizabeth Puttick, Oscar Schiff, Corinne Somes, Elisabeth Sturtevant, Rachael Theroux and Avery Tudryn.

#### Twelfth grade second honors

Twelfth grade students making second honors are: Phoebe Bowser, Eliette Cerone, Eleanor Cleary, Gabriel Couture, Cody Gaida, Luke Gardner, Jayden Hamel, Nicholas Jones, Efram Korytoski, Layce Mancuso, Augustus Niswonger, Andrea Paszko, Abigail Provost, Tristan Somes, Bethany Tobiasz, Lila Watkins and Lucia Winters.

Thirteenth grade second honors

Thirteenth grade Jonathan Rodriguez is a second honors student.

### GRHS hosts senior brunch and contest

HUNTINGTON – Gateway Regional High School, 12 Littleville Road, will once again host a senior citizens brunch and concert on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

The doors will open at 9:15 a.m. and brunch is served at 9:30 a.m. The concert will start about 10:30 a.m. The event is supported by the National Honor

Society and the Gateway Band and Choir. RSVPs should be called in to the seniors' town Council on Aging by Wednesday, Nov. 26.

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This offer is available to all babies born in 2025. Pictures will be published the week of December 23-26, 2025.

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Parents' Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 12, 2025**

## GUEST COLUMN



## If we both collect Social Security, will our benefits be affected?

Dear Rusty:

I reached full retirement age back in June, but I have not yet filed to collect Social Security. My husband currently collects SS funds, and he waited until he had reached full retirement age a few years ago. I am considering signing up now to receive my funds, but I am a little confused about whether I will receive my full benefit or is there some kind of adjustment made based on both of us collecting?

We are a simple case. We have been married for 46 years, so there are no other exes involved in this equation. He did everything online when he was ready to start receiving his funds, but we didn't consult with any advisor when my husband claimed. Now I think that adding me as a spouse might trigger some other things I should consider. Thank you for your advice.

Signed: Concerned Wife

Dear Concerned:

Since you and your husband have both reached your respective SS Full Retirement Age, you are both entitled to receive your full benefits without any reduction. And since you haven't yet filed, you are now accumulating Delayed Retirement Credits at the rate of .667% additional benefit for each month you continue to delay. You will get your full SS retirement benefit plus any earned DRCs when you claim. The only question you need to consider is whether either you or your husband will be entitled to a "spousal boost," an increase when you claim.

If the SS retirement benefit you were entitled to at your FRA is less than 50% the amount your husband was entitled to at his FRA, then you will get a "spousal boost" on top of your own SS retirement amount (the "boost" amount would be the difference between your FRA amount and half of his FRA amount). But if your SS amount at your FRA is more than 50% of your husband's FRA entitlement, then you will only get your own SS

retirement benefit based on your own lifetime earnings record. Spouse benefits are always determined from each partner's FRA entitlement and if one partner's FRA amount is less than 50% of the other partner's FRA amount, then a spousal boost will be given. And that also works if your FRA entitlement is higher than your husband's, if your FRA amount is more than twice your husband's FRA amount, then he will get a spousal boost from you. Otherwise, each of you will get only your personally earned SS retirement amount and both of you collecting SS will not negatively affect each other's individual SS benefit.

FYI, the spousal boost amount stops growing at full retirement age, so if you are eligible for a spousal boost from your husband then you should claim your SS benefits now and ask for benefits retroactive to June (your FRA month). However, if you will not get a spousal boost from your husband, you have the option of delaying even further and earning more DRCs (thus a higher monthly benefit). You can earn DRCs up to age 70, at which time you will get the maximum possible Social Security benefit about 127% of your personal FRA amount if you delay that long.

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

## Corrections policy

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

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

## OPINION

# THANKS for GIVING



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## GUEST COLUMN

## "Cough CPR" is a social media myth



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

A popular social media post that first surfaced in the '90s is popping up again. It says that regular and vigorous coughing can keep you alive if you have a heart attack while you're by yourself.

The theory is that the coughing can change the pressure on your heart to keep it beating until you can get to help. Sounds reasonable, right? There's one little problem, though: It's not true. It may even be dangerous. More on that later.

I can see why there may be some confusion.

A patient may be told to cough when there's a sudden abnormal heartbeat (arrhythmia) during a medical procedure, such as in a cardiac catheterization lab, Dr. Manash Patel of the Duke University School of Medicine told the American Heart Association. "I think people believe that coughing is changing, somehow, the heart's squeeze. But coughing has not been shown to do that," he said.

It seems to me that people are also confused about what a heart attack is and what cardiac arrest is. A heart attack is the result of a build-up of plaque in the coronary arteries, disrupting the blood flow to the heart and potentially damaging it. Johns Hopkins details the symptoms:

- A feeling of heaviness, tightness, pressure, aching, burning, numbness, fullness, or squeezing. The pain can either last for several minutes, go away, or come back repeatedly.

- Pains in the torso/upper body, including the arms, left shoulder, back, neck, jaw, or stomach

- Difficulty breathing/

feeling out of breath

- Sweating or "cold sweats"

- A sense of fullness, indigestion or choking

- Nausea or vomiting

- Lightheadedness, dizziness, feeling like you might faint

- Unexplained tiredness, weakness, extreme weakness (like you can't do easy tasks), or severe anxiety reacting to symptoms

- Rapid or irregular heartbeat

To those I would add feelings of indigestion (especially in women) or just a general feeling that "something's not right."

In cardiac arrest, the heart suddenly stops beating, and the patient won't be conscious to cough – or do anything else. It's a major medical emergency. If you're lucky, bystanders will start hands-only CPR or use an AED (automatic external defibrillator) after calling 911. Someone who has cardiac arrest when there's no help nearby has a poor chance of survival.

So the question remains: What should you do if you feel a heart attack coming on and you're alone, or, say, driving home from work?

First, because a heart attack can be a prelude to cardiac arrest, immediately call 911 before you call anyone else. Don't attempt to drive if heart attack symptoms arise. Pull off the road and call 911.

You might be told to stay on the line with the emergency dispatcher, but if you have a second line, call someone to be with you in case your heart attack turns into cardiac arrest.

Next, unlock the door

so first responders can get to you. If you're able to take aspirin, chew two 81-milligram children's aspirin or one regular aspirin. Aspirin will help keep your platelets from clotting, and chewing them will get the medication into your bloodstream faster.

People with cardiac issues often are prescribed nitroglycerin. If you have some around, place one under your tongue.

Then, and this is a tough one, do your best to stay calm and quiet. Avoid exertion. Take deep, steady breaths. Count slowly to 100 (one Mississippi, two Mississippi...). Sit upright with your back supported, or you can lie on the floor or bed with your legs elevated.

Don't eat or drink anything. You don't want to risk aspiration if you lose consciousness, and if you need an immediate procedure, such as a catheterization, your stomach should be as empty as possible.

And don't cough. Johns Hopkins advises: "This probably won't work, and worse still, attempting this technique may put you in more danger. Attempting this procedure on your own can cause you to accidentally work against the rhythm of your heart and make it harder to get oxygen into your blood rather than easier."

I've said it before and I'll say it again: Dr. Facebook is not the best source of medical advice. Stick with authoritative sources like WebMD, university hospitals and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)). And don't believe everything you read.

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.

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

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## Country Journal welcomes Election letters to the editor

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

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

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

### Campaign news

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

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

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

# GOSHEN

## Williams Boltwood House named as endangered

GOSHEN – The Williams-Boltwood House (1779) was named one of Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources.

Since 1993, this list has been compiled and published by Preservation Massachusetts, the statewide nonprofit historic preservation advocacy organization. Built by John Williams in 1779 as a small building on one of the Boston-Albany post roads, this house served as the first town meeting space and school for the fledgling town of Goshen.

The structure grew significantly with future additions including a tavern, inn, general store, post office and stagecoach stop. Williams physically moved the entire structure circa 1822 when plans were announced that the route of the post road would be changed. Williams' descendants remained the sole owners of the property throughout its existence, with the last descendant in residence passing in 2001. Much of the store, post office, and tavern remain untouched since the time of the Civil War.

The Williams family is significant for their role in establishing the town of Goshen and serving in myriads of capacities as part of its government. They are known for their involvement in the Revolutionary War and developed close connections with the families of Emily Dickinson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Lucious Boltwood, who was instrumental in establishing Amherst College.

The Williams-Boltwood structure is at risk due to decades of neglect and vacancy. There is concern regarding the loss of structural integrity from water infiltration due to climate change and water runoff exacerbated after alterations to Route 112 that is immediately east of the house. Significant fundraising needs to be done to rehabilitate the house to restore it to active community use. The UMass Isenberg School of Management is

assisting with a feasibility study to investigate potential cultural, retail, and educational use of the space.

The house is now under the care of the Williams Boltwood House Trust, a non-profit corporation whose primary mission is to preserve the site. This 501(c)3 took ownership in 2022, after the property was purchased by community members at auction and subsequently donated to the non-profit.

The town of Goshen added a deed restriction to the property which protects the house from being demolished or relocated.

There has been significant community support for the project with over 100 volunteers since 2021, frequent local media coverage, successful fundraising events and programs, numerous local and regional donors and a Community Preservation Act grant that launched the initial historical assessment of the site. The group faces significant funding challenges to meet the steep costs of preserving a 245-year-old structure. This year, the WBHT won three moderate-sized grants from the 1772 Foundation via Preservation Massachusetts, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

"This place continues to amaze me," states Kam Osborne, Project Director. "It is a well-preserved time capsule, full of original log books, letters and personal belongings that tell the story of how small towns came into existence during the Revolutionary era and how they struggled to survive. The Williams-Boltwood house is likely the last remaining site of its kind still standing in the U.S., but we are still relatively unknown. Being identified as one of Massachusetts' Most Endangered is such an honor. This designation gives us legitimacy and visibility to connect with the resources that can help us save this treasure."

"Breathing new life into historic places requires



This is a photo of the Williams Boltwood House in Goshen.

Submitted photos



The Williams Boltwood House recently was named as one of Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources.

both vision and commitment," said Jessica Rudden-Dube, Executive Director of Preservation Massachusetts. "Each of this year's listed properties holds tremendous potential to serve its community through thoughtful preservation and rehabilitation. Across Massachusetts, we've seen how creative partnerships can transform even the most challenging buildings and we look forward to working collaboratively to achieve similar success stories with this year's selections."

Other properties included on the 2025 Massachusetts Most Endangered Resources List include:

The William Russell Allen House (1886) in Pittsfield; Percy Browne House (1881) in Marion; Buddy's Diner (1929) in Somerville; The Campanile (1913) in Springfield; Donald T. Clark House (1947) in Lexington; General John Glover Farmhouse (1750) in Swampscott; Hudson Armory (1910) in Hudson; Smith Baker Center (1884)

in Lowell and the Ellen Stone Building (1833) in Lexington.

Since 1993, the Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources Program has been key in identifying endangered historic resources from across the Commonwealth and discovering ways in which to work collaboratively with partners toward positive preservation outcomes. It is one of the first steps in focusing statewide attention on the resources, their challenges, and their community importance, and can serve as a catalyst for preservation opportunities.

Preservation Massachusetts is proud to highlight resources that are historically significant and emphasize continued importance and possibility for their communities. Founded in 1985, Preservation Massachusetts is the statewide non-profit organization that actively promotes the preservation of historic buildings and landscapes as a positive force for economic development and the retention of community character.

More than 224 historic resources have been designated as endangered since the

list's inception, and of those, 92 have been classified as saved, 31 have been lost and many more are either progressing or continue to face threats.

This year's list was chosen by a committee from nominations submitted by groups and individuals concerned with local preservation issues throughout the Commonwealth. Submissions are researched and are judged by several criteria, including their historic significance, the extent of the threat and the community's commitment to preserving the resource.

The 2025 Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources List properties will be featured throughout the month of November during Preservation Massachusetts' Most Endangered Historic Resources Month. For more information on the Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources Program, people may visit [www.preservationmass.org](http://www.preservationmass.org) or call 617-723-3383. More information about the Williams-Boltwood Project can be found by visiting [www.williamsboltwood.com](http://www.williamsboltwood.com).

## Children's Fund hosts craft sale

GOSHEN – The Chesterfield-Goshen Children's Fund is hosting a vendor/craft at the Goshen Town Hall, 42 Main St., on Sunday Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Many local crafters and vendors will be selling items and a there will be a

huge raffle with all proceeds going to the Chesterfield-Goshen Children's fund. The Children's fund mission is to ensure all school-age children in Chesterfield and Goshen experience a magical holiday. People are invited to stop by to help support their community and do some holiday shopping.

**\$12.50 Each**

**Digital Photos**

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to [newspapers.turley.com/photo-request](http://newspapers.turley.com/photo-request)

## 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.**



### First Congregational Church of Blandford

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

### First Congregational Church of Chester

334 Skyline Trail, Chester, MA 01011  
Pastor Susan Borsella  
Service with Live Music: 10 a.m. - Sunday  
Coffee and Sweets Social:  
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

### First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

Rev. Jack Kraaz  
4 North Main St., Williamsburg, MA 01096  
413-268-7557  
[burgychurch@gmail.com](mailto:burgychurch@gmail.com) • [burgychurch.org](http://burgychurch.org)  
Facebook:  
First Congregational Church of Williamsburg  
YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCdyH1EA-fduamqHYeekxw5w](http://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.

### Hilltown Community Church

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

### Holy Family Parish

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

## CHURCH DIRECTORY



## Your Community Church

### New Boston Congregational Church

4 Sandisfield Rd., PO Box 81  
Sandisfield, MA 01255  
Services held twice monthly, check website:  
[www.newbostoncongregationalchurch.org](http://www.newbostoncongregationalchurch.org)

### Pioneer Valley Assembly of God

Pastor Javier Melendez  
63 Old Chester Rd., Huntington MA 01050  
413-667-3196  
[pvagliffe@gmail.com](mailto:pvaglife@gmail.com)  
[www.pioneervalleyag.org](http://www.pioneervalleyag.org)  
Facebook: Pioneer Valley Assembly of God  
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m.

### Pioneer Valley Mennonite Fellowship

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

# BLANDFORD

## Energy Projects Siting Committee met Nov. 19

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – The Energy Projects Siting Committee met Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 6- 7:20 p.m. at the town hall to continue refining Section XVI – Battery Energy Storage Systems of the Town’s Zoning Bylaws.

Representation from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Zoning Board, residents and the Select Board were present.

Prior to the meeting, committee members reviewed the current bylaws and submitted feedback with recommendations for potential improvements. Additional research was conducted using bylaws from

other municipalities, state requirements and the collective experience of the committee.

During this session, Sections 16.1 through 16.5 were reviewed and updated with relevant contributions from members. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the committee will reconvene on Wednesday, Dec. 3, to continue work on the remaining

sections, with a goal of completing revisions prior to the Christmas holiday season.

It is important to note that the current bylaws remain fundamentally solid, according to Jackie Coury. The updates underway are intended to strengthen and modernize them in response to the recent increase in Solar and BESS project applications.

## Town has new Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector

BLANDFORD – Jordana Gonzalez Mora started her duties as the new Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector for the town on Monday, Nov. 17.

She worked with Treasurer/Collector Sara Hunter all day Wednesday. Mora is an accounting and tax professional with over ten years of diverse experience across



Jordana Gonzalez Mora

healthcare, construction and small business sectors.

She most recently worked as an accounting assistant at Western Massachusetts Hospital in Westfield and started her own business, JGM Tax Services and prepares individual and small business tax returns.

## Food for pets drive taking donations

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – This is not just a human thing, this food insecurity.

This also has an effect on pets. People, who are not able to sustain themselves, cannot always provide for their pets. As a result, many animals are just dropped by the side of the road, miles from anywhere and left to fend for themselves.

To help out, the Blandford Animal Hospital is accepting donations of non-perishable pet food items for dogs and cats. These will go to the Huntington Food Pantry for pets.

Anyone may take items, no raw or refrigerated foods. People may also make a check out to the Huntington Food Pantry noted as a “pet food donation” and the animal hospital will see that all gets to

Huntington.

According to Veterinarian Dr. Hazel Holman at the Blandford Animal Hospital, the SPCA has a record number of neglected animals up for adoption now. The Blandford Animal Hospital hasn’t seen people give up their pets. “Our clients are wonderful pet owners.

However, she added that stray cats are plentiful and had three feral kittens dropped off at her home Saturday night. Shelters are full of cats and kittens. With global warming kitten season has become year round,” she said.

“The Blandford Animal Hospital will make sure your gift is delivered,” is on their flyer.

They have just received a huge donation from the Gateway Farm and Pet Store, which the Animal Hospital sent to the food pantry, where Laura Gavioli



Huntington Food Pantry manager Laura Gavioli stands outside the food pantry with the Gateway Feed Store donation for pets. Submitted photo

is in charge.

Gavioli is the Director of the Huntington Food Pantry as well as the Office Administrator for Pioneer

Valley Assembly of God, which houses the Food Pantry in its lower level at 63 Old Chester Road in Huntington.

STM

from page 1

the watershed to Borden Brook Reservoir and Cobble Mountain Reservoir. Each specific development project in the watershed is unique and has a variety of benefits and risks depending on the type of development, its size, and location,” the letter reads in part. SWSC will keep watching the projects.

**Unlicensed cars**

At the end of the meeting member Jackie Coury asked about the unlicensed cars on George Millard Road. A letter informing the property owner of the problem and accruing fines first was sent in 2023.

Cousineau said that the town’s bylaws state a fine of \$25 per week per car.

Apparently nothing was done to ameliorate the unlicensed problem vehicles on the property.

Coury asked about the process and pursuing the problem. Since, according to Atty. Reich, “this is not a select board matter yet,” and there are details that need to be discussed, “some not in public meeting,” he cut off further discussion as it was not on the agenda for consideration.

“This is not a select board matter yet,”

–Town Counsel Mark Reich

from page 1

## MORATORIUM



Post adjournment, Town Counsel Mark Reich explained the effect the moratorium article will have.

Turley Publications Photos by Mary Kronholm

with the potential installation of a BESS facility there. The proposed installation would have been “directly over the aquifer.”

The next five articles dealt with paying bills from prior fiscal years, including Eversource, Verizon, Palmer Paving, Berkshire Springs, among others. All passed unanimously.

The sixth article required a transfer from the

Reserve Account to cover \$14,750 for extraordinary repairs to the bathroom at the Highway Department. With the lack of a full Finance Committee, that vote had to be taken up by the town. The article passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned after about 12 minutes. There were 108 registered voters in attendance.

Following adjournment, a resident asked for an

explanation of the moratorium article. Town Counsel Mark Reich took the microphone and told the audience that the moratorium “seeks a pause in the process” before any projects could proceed. According to Reich, this will give the town time to examine existing solar bylaws.

The moratorium is in place, but still needs to be approved by the Attorney General’s office.

from page 1

## TURKEYS

And believe it or not, those birds know instinctively when Thanksgiving is nigh. Not a bird in sight, but earlier in the year they are abundant, especially during their mating season in the spring.

Hen turkeys will lay as many as a dozen eggs or more. It’s only 28 days to hatch the brood, which will then stay with their mother for several months.

There was a flock that actually strutted down Glasgow Road from the Cooley home and took a left as they got closer to Main Street. They would peck and peck at the ground, eating who knows what.

The late Bob Lucas had mastered the call of the wild turkey. He and Andy Taylor used to hunt the birds and were more often than not, successful. The side effect of dining on a locally hunted creature is the buckshot one is apt to find in a bite of bird.

Rayette and Tom McMahan used to raise turkeys and the birds would respond to visiting vocalists. The McMahans had frequently hosted performers for the Bel Canto Opera held at The White Church. According to the story, one morning a soprano was outside vocalizing, and brought the flock to her knees. That was later demonstrated for the disbelievers.

Interestingly enough, the wild turkeys do fly. If you’re lucky just about dusk they will seek a roosting place off the ground and they actually do fly into the trees.

Some residents in and near the center of town put

out feed for the fowls. They seem to enjoy cracked corn,

and especially regular bird seed and will become back-

yard regulars, just maybe not at Thanksgiving time.



Female are dark brown overall with even darker barring.



Juveniles can leave the nest upon hatching, but mothers care for their young into the first fall.



Displaying males look almost spherical with a fanned tail.



Females and males typically form separate flocks.

## CHESTER

## Tree Lighting to be held on Nov. 28

CHESTER – All for the children and local photographer Kim Fox will be on hand to take Christmas backdrop photos; photos are available for a fee. This annual event is held rain, snow, or shine and is free and sponsored by the Chester Recreation Committee, Chester Municipal Electric Light Department and Mel's Kitchen, with a special thanks to Chester Fire Department and Chester Blandford Police Department, who will both be on hand at the lighting.

There is ample parking at the former Chester Elementary School. There will be carol singing after the tree lighting and then hot cocoa, coffee and cookies will be served at the Chester Town Hall.

In addition to refreshments, there will be crafts

## Chester Hill Assoc. hosting quilted star ornament class

CHESTER – The Chester Hill Association is sponsoring a no sew quilted star ornament class on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. in the basement social room of the First Congregational Church, 344 Skyline Trail.

Cost of the class is \$12, which covers all materials needed. To sign up, people may call President

Lee Myers at 413-667-0231 by Friday, Nov. 28 to reserve a spot and materials.

## Hamilton Memorial Library lists events

CHESTER – The Hamilton Memorial Library, will be closed for the holidays on the

Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, 2026

Story and fun time meet every Thursday at 11 a.m. This is a great opportunity for little ones to socialize, learn new skills and have some fun.

A holiday movie, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," the animated version, version will be shown on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. There will be popcorn, cookies and some holiday spirit. Library Book Club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. This month they will meet Dec. 17. In December, they will be discussing the novel, "The Titanic Survivors Book Club" by Timothy Schaffert. There will be snacks and lively discussion. Extra book copies are available. Intrinsic Movement-Let's Play, Learn and Dance welcome back special guest, Laurel Lenski on Thursday Dec. 18 at 11 a.m. during the regular story and fun time. She always gets the fun going with her contagious enthusiasm and energy. This is perfect for younger patrons.



Laurel Lenski offers Intrinsic Movement Let's Play, Learn and Dance at the Hamilton Memorial Library, Submitted photography

## Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center offers free workshops

CHESTER – The Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center is offering a free workshop at their 26 Main St. classroom in Making Holiday Cards using the online design platform Canva.

The class is Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m., taught by Stephanie Stoudenmire. Canva is a free online design platform that allows users to create unique and personal cards, fliers and more -even a holiday letter. Participants can print cards themselves or Steph will teach them how to send them digitally.

Stoudenmire is teaching two additional classes in December: Facebook Safety Basics: Connecting without

Compromising your Safety on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. in the SHAEC classroom. The following Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m., she is teaching Facebook for Business: Buy, Sell, Promote. To sign up for any of these or other SHAEC classes, people may call SHAEC at 413-354-1055 to preregister, email Southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com or visit the SHAEC's website at www.Umass.edu/shaec

Kay Judge is presenting a workshop on Making Fire Cider at 6pm on Friday, Dec. 5 at her Blue Skye Wellness studio, adjacent to SHAEC's 26 Main St. classroom. Fire cider is a traditional herbal tonic used to

fight colds and support the immune system. Participants will make their own fire cider to take home. They should bring their favorite knife and a cutting board. There is a \$10 materials fee for this class.

People may call SHAEC at 413-354-1055 to preregister, email Southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com or visit the SHAEC's website at www.Umass.edu/shaec.

UMass PHD candidate Katy Dieber is leading up SHAEC's GED Test prep classes and tutoring for the fall, with math for 11 a.m.-12:30 pm. Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Dec. 17 at the SHAEC classroom.

Dieber, a creative teacher that focuses on hand-on teaching methods to enhance understanding, will start at whatever level her students are at, building up to GED math concepts. Those interested in exploring GED topics are encouraged to reach out to SHAEC Program Director Michele Kenney at 413-354-1055 to discuss their academic goals.

SHAEC also offers free computer/tech help at the area's local Senior Centers. SHAEC Computer Teacher Heather Morgan is at the Huntington Senior Center at Stanton Hall on the first Wednesday of every month from 1-2 p.m. She is at the Chester Senior Center,

located in the basement of the Chester Town Hall, on the second Wednesday of the month from 10:30 a.m.-noon. She is at the Russell Senior Center, located on the second floor of the Russell Town Hall, on the third Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The fourth Wednesday of the month she is at the Middlefield Senior Center, from 12:45-1:30 p.m. People can also call or email SHAEC to request individual computer assistance, either at the SHAEC classroom, or virtually.

SHAEC's classes are free and open to residents of Chester, Huntington, Russell, and Middlefield,

as they are funded by a Community Development Block Grant serving these four Hilltowns.

SHAEC is an off-campus program of the University of Massachusetts Partnership for Worker Education program, serving the Southern Hilltowns since 1999. Pre-registration for classes can be made by calling SHAEC at 413-354-1055 or emailing Southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com with name, class(es) interested in and contact information (phone number and email address). Pre-registration can also be done on SHAEC's website by visiting www.Umass.edu/shaec.

## RUSSELL

## Library announces events

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library, 162 Main St., is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3-7 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The library will be closed on Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 26, Dec. 27, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, 2026. The adult monthly Book Club meets on Tuesday, Dec. 2 from 6-8 p.m.. The book is "The Lost Man" by Jane Harper. Books are available at the library.

People may register by email rpldirector162@gmail.com, on the website, calling 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Monday, Dec. 1. The Book Club will meet on Jan. 6 from 6-8 p.m. The book is "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett. Books will be available by mid-December. Children may join Miss

Dawne for "Let Your Light Shine." They will get ready for the Winter Solstice by decorating lanterns and reading a story celebrating the dark on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10:30 a.m.-noon. There is no fee. They may register by email rpldirector@townof-russell.us, on the website, calling 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Friday, Dec. 12.

Families are invited to the library for a magical music experience with Tim Van Egmond on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. at the Town Hall before the Parade of Lights. He will captivate folks of all ages with songs and stories to celebrate the evening and season of illumination. There will be a sing along to welcome Santa. This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Russell Cultural Council,

a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

On Thursday, Dec. 18 from 6-8 p.m. adults can participate in "It's a Wrap," a night of creating wrapping paper, wrapping gifts and decorating holiday packages. The library will provide tape, ribbon and materials to make wrapping paper. People may bring their presents and wrapping paper and enjoy for snacks, warm drinks and holiday cheer. They should register by email rpldirector@townof-russell.us, on the website, calling 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Friday, Dec. 12.

People are invited to bring non-perishable food items to the library during December to support the local food pantry.

## Holy Parish list Mass schedule

RUSSELL – Holy Family Parish, 5 Main St., announces their holiday Mass schedule.

A Thanksgiving Day Mass will be held on Thursday, Nov. 27 at 9 a.m. Christmas eve Mass will be held at 4 p.m. There will be only one Mass on Christmas Day Thursday, Dec. 25 at 9 a.m.

Regular weekly Masses are Saturdays at 5 p.m., Sundays at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Everyone is always welcome.



Christina Lucardi of Russell is shown with Bishop Byrne and her sponsor, Sheila Greene. Submitted photo

## Christina Lucardi confirmed at St. Mary's Church Church

RUSSELL – Christina Lucardi of Russell was confirmed in her faith on Oct. 28 at St. Mary's Church in Westfield.

Lucardi is a parishio-

ner of Holy Family Parish in Russell and is a student at St. Mary's High School. Her parish family along with her parents, Bill and Carol, are very proud of her.

## EASTHAMPTON

## Daniel Carey receives 2025 Ascending Alumni Award from WNE School of Law Alumni Association

EASTHAMPTON – Daniel R. Carey (D-Easthampton) was recognized for his leadership in the legal field and in the community when he received the 2025 Ascending Alumni Award from the Western New England University School of Law Alumni Association on Friday, Nov. 14.

Carey currently serves as Hampshire County Clerk of

Courts and previously served as State Representative. The Ascending Alumni Award annually spotlights the achievements of alumni who graduated from WNE School of Law within the past ten years. Honorees are chosen based on outstanding leadership in their chosen field and in the community, standing out among their peers with a great deal of drive and potential.

Carey's "remarkable career reflects both leadership in the legal field and unwavering dedication to public service," noted Nicole Mule, President of the WNE Law Alumni Association. "Since earning his law degree, Dan's professional journey has been defined by both purpose and impact."

Carey was elected Hampshire County Clerk of

Courts in November 2024 after serving three consecutive two-year terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He previously served as an Assistant District Attorney and Director of the Drug Diversion and Treatment Program for Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan.

Carey was recognized as the 2023 Legislator of the

Year by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. He is a former member of the Easthampton City Council and School Committee and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Riverside Industries, Inc. Carey lives in Easthampton with his wife, Melissa, son Michael and daughter, Mairead.

The event was emceed

by Mule. Also honored were Kathleen Dion, partner at Robinson & Cole, who received the Dean's Alumni Excellence Award and Judge Tina Cafaro, First Justice of the Westfield District Court, who received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Speakers included Michael B. Alexander, Interim President of WNE and Zelda Harris, Dean of the WNE School of Law.



## NORTHAMPTON

# Forbes Library hosts Rhythm and Rails

NORTHAMPTON – The Red Skies Music Ensemble presents Rhythm & Rails Northampton and the Iron Horse: A Social History in Tales and Tunes on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 2:30 p.m. at the Forbes Library, 20 West St.

Doors open at 2 p.m. This is the premiere of Rhythm & Rails, a multi-media performance featuring railroad-themed tunes that explore the complex history and impact of railroads on the lives, livelihood, landscape and culture of Northampton and the region from the 19th century until the present.

Drawing on research in local archives, and in collaboration with Jim Armenti and Jerry Bryant on music selections, writer/director Trudy Williams has created a show that weaves together a blend of narrative, live music, theatrical vignettes and projected archival images from the collections of Forbes Library, Historic Northampton and other local institutions.

Tunes are drawn from American roots, folk, ragtime, blues, jazz, pop, and rock, and will be performed by some of the area's most talented musicians. The cast includes Jim Armenti, Jerry Bryant, Joe Blumenthal, Tracy

Grammer, Rose Jackson, Cindy Naughton, Mark Roberts, Dan Scott, Tom Scott, Adrienne Wade, Rebecca Weiss, with Bill Cutler and Shirly Van Kanin, as well as special appearance by Maryliz Maldonado and Will Messier from the Corn Stalk Fiddle Choir directed by Cindy Naughton. Many of the songs are toe-tapping, others expressive and poignant. Some are familiar, others rarely heard today.

This timely program coincides with the East-West railway initiative, the renewed interest in rail travel to and from Northampton and the Mass Central Rail Trail.

Rhythm & Rails was created by Trudy Williams, Artistic Director of The Red Skies Music Ensemble, co-founded with George Boziwick to bring American public history to the stage.

Partners and/or research resources for this show include Forbes Library, Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum, Historic Northampton, as well as the American Antiquarian Society, Greenfield Historical Society and Hadley Historical Society.

The show is free. Reservations not required. Donations are appreciated.

## REGION

# MassDOT announces 'Name A Snowplow' contest

BOSTON – Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces their fourth annual "Name A Snowplow" contest for statewide elementary school and middle school students in Massachusetts.

Application deadline is Friday, Dec. 5 at 5 p.m. The contest seeks to solicit names for 12 MassDOT snowplows that will be in service for the upcoming 2025/2026 winter season.

The purpose of the contest is to celebrate the snow and ice season, recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors and raise awareness about the vital role they play in keeping our roads safe during winter weather events. Winning selections will be announced by Friday, Dec. 19.

"Winter is coming and the Name A Snowplow contest is a fun way to engage with students and the communities we serve. It gives our future leaders a chance to show their appreciation for the vital role our workforce plays as we plan and prepare for potential snow and ice events," said Interim Secretary and MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng. "I'm proud of the dedication our crews show year-round and especially during the winter months. Operating a snowplow during winter storms is no easy task, so join us in celebrating their hard work by helping name the snowplows that keep the roads safe for everyone."

"I'm excited to announce the fourth annual Name a Snowplow Contest officially opens today and is

accepting submissions," said Undersecretary and State Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "To all Massachusetts students in kindergarten through eighth grade: we hope you will help us make this year's contest the best one yet by sending us your most creative suggestions."

Applications for the Snowplow Naming Contest can be submitted by using an online portal: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/name-a-snowplow-contest-submission>. There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted per school. The contest winners will be invited to participate in a scheduled snowplow unveiling event.

A selection panel composed of MassDOT employees will choose two elementary school class-

room winners that are located within each of the six Highway Division districts. The winning submissions will be evaluated based on two grade-level categories: kindergarten through fourth grade and fifth through eighth grade.

During the third annual snowplow naming contest last winter, the winning names were: Snowana, Control-Salt-Delete, Taylor Drift, Ice S'now More, Ice Ice Baby, It's Snow Problem, Mac N'Freeze, Blizzard Buster, C 3 P Snow, Snow Force One, Abominable Plowman, and Meltin' John. These names, which were placed on the sides of plow trucks a year ago, remain on those vehicles. People may visit <https://www.mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2025-26> for more information.

# Clark Art Institute offers free admission Dec. 7

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., continues its First Sunday free series on Sunday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

In celebration of Hugh Hayden's sculpture, the End, December's First Sunday free theme is "Beasts and Bones." Admission is free from 10

am-5 pm and there are free special activities from 1-4 pm.

Hayden's massive artwork evokes the ribcage of a long-gone giant. From 1-4 p.m., visitors can draw "x-rays" and sketch skeletons, watch a recording of the artist discussing his artwork, and view the outdoor sculpture up close, guided

by the activity card.

A special Print Room Pop-Up featuring prints, drawings and photographs related to the theme will be on view in the Manton Study Center for Works on Paper from 1-3 p.m. Each First Sunday Free visitors are welcome to make a mini sculpture inspired by one of the six sculptures in the

exhibition and add it to the Clark's growing Ground/work 2025-inspired mural.

Admission and activities are free. For accessibility questions, people may call 413-458-0524. For more information, people may visit [clarkart.edu](http://clarkart.edu)/events. Family programs are generously supported by Allen and Company.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice

At its regularly scheduled public meeting on **Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) received from Gail and Thomas Szatrowski as the Applicants. The RDA is related to a proposed seasonal dock installation and thinning/pruning of vegetation to create access paths to the dock. The project location is 17 Brookman Drive, Otis Reservoir Waterfront in the Town of Blandford. The Conservation Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended).

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

Richard Gates, Chair  
Town of Blandford  
Conservation Commission  
11/27/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD25P2396EA  
Estate of:  
Helen T Foden  
Date of Death: 10/12/2023  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael D Foden of North Miami, FL** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Michael D Foden of North Miami, FL** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **un-supervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/15/2025**. This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written

appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 17, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
11/27/2025

### 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 recorded 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 Mortgagors 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. 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

### Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice

At its regularly scheduled public meeting on **Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM** at

the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) received from NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Service Company as the Applicant. The RDA is related to the proposed replacement of 47 existing utility poles, removal of 3 existing utility poles, and installation of 5 new midspan poles within or near areas subject to protection under the MA Wetlands Protection Act in the roadway right of way of North Street in the Town of Blandford as part of the larger Blandford DER project. The Conservation Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended).

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

Richard Gates, Chair  
Town of Blandford  
Conservation Commission  
11/27/2025

### Town of Huntington Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

The Huntington Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **December 3, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Huntington Town Hall to review a **Notice of Intent** submitted by Paul and Sandra Saner. The proposed activity is to redevelop the property by demolishing the existing house and rebuilding a new house on the same approximate footprint near Norwich Lake. This hearing is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40 of the Wetland Protection Act.

Huntington Conservation Commission  
11/27/2025

## Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



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### 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 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.  
*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 backlot 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.*

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## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



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## REGION

# Jewish Federation joins community food drive

SPRINGFIELD – The Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts joins with Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts and Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts in leading a community-wide food drive to support local families who may face food insecurity as a result of the federal government shutdown.

Due to the shutdown, millions of Americans including families, seniors, and people with disabilities—are at risk of not receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in November. This includes many here in Western Massachusetts.

Together with Jewish Family Service, Rachel's Table, area synagogues, and partners across the lower Pioneer Valley Jewish community, the Federation is working to help meet urgent local needs by coordinating the collection and distribution of essential food items. People can contribute by donating at designated drop-

off sites; the Jewish Family Service, Springfield Jewish Community Center, Sinai Temple, and Temple Beth El or by sending items directly through an Amazon Wish List.

"The Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts is committed to standing with our neighbors during times of uncertainty," said Adam Solender, Interim Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts. "When families are faced with the impossible choice between paying

for households that depend on them to feed their families. "Hungry families can't wait," Solender added. "Every donation, and every act of generosity helps strengthen the safety net that sustains our community. Together, we can ensure that no one is left behind."

Community members are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food items at any of the following locations: Jewish Family Service, 15 Lenox St., Springfield; Springfield Jewish

Community Center, 1160 Dickinson St., Springfield; Sinai Temple, 1100 Dickinson St., Springfield and Temple Beth El, 979 Dickinson St., Springfield.

Donations may also be made through the Amazon Wish List by visiting [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wish-list/1s/2W7Z1RTM4DSDS/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wish-list/1s/2W7Z1RTM4DSDS/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex). To learn more about the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, they may visit <https://jewishwesternmass.org/>.

## Clark Art Institute offers free gallery tours

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Saturday, Dec. 6 at 10:15 a.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., continues a series of free gallery tours designed specifically for new parents/caregivers and their infants.

Participants should meet at the Clark Art Institute's main admissions desk. On the first Saturday of the month, from September to June, a Clark educator leads an informal, baby-friendly tour of the permanent collection.

The program aims to provide a stress-free experience

for new parents and caregivers, as well as the chance to socialize with others caring for young infants. Works by a variety of artists are featured. This program is best suited for adults with pre-toddlers. Strollers and front-carrying baby carriers are welcome.

For more information, people may visit [clarkart.edu/events](http://clarkart.edu/events). For accessibility questions, people may call 413-458-0524. The next new parents gallery tour takes place on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026 at 10:15 a.m.

## Collage Club returns

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., monthly Collage Club returns on Wednesday, Dec. 17 between 6-8 p.m.

Visitors are welcome to drop on the third Wednesday of the colder months of the year to make a creative collage. This free art-making program takes place in the Manton Research Center reading room. Participants will create a vibrant collage with exciting materials and join a community

of fellow collage-makers. Open to beginners, experienced artists and everyone in between.

Upcoming 2025-26 Collage Club dates include Wednesday, Jan. 21; Wednesday, Feb. 18 and Wednesday, March 18. All materials are provided and it is recommended for ages 16 plus. For accessibility questions, people may call 413-458-0524. For more information, people may visit [clarkart.edu/events](http://clarkart.edu/events).

## Josh Soper named Scouting executive

HOLYOKE – Scouting of Western Massachusetts named Josh Soper, membership growth executive.

Born in the United Kingdom and raised in the United States, his scouting journey began like most with the Tiger Cubs. With my family split between the UK and the USA, scouting would become my moral compass and father figure, culminating in the achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout.

Beyond Eagle, he spent a summer guiding scouts both in canoes and on foot at the high adventure base at Owasippe Scout Reservation in Muskegon, Michigan. My professional career is more circuitous, starting with my degree in geology, which is another passion he carried throughout my life. He worked as an associate and

then project geologist for a large multinational geotechnical engineering corporation for four years on the central California coast, investigating and remediating historical contamination. After this, he was persuaded to emigrate back to the U.K. and take a position in my family's textile manufacturing firm. Eventually, He took charge of sales and marketing for our high-end upholstery-grade fabric printing mill, a period during which he married and had three children.

After a 10-year hiatus and a six-month COVID-19 delay, he and his family eventually moved back to

the USA. He held a few positions during the first 18 months here, but ultimately became the de facto sales manager at a small, family-run food manufacturer in Vermont. Finding himself back in the fold of Scouting, it feels like he found his life's calling by what seems like divine providence.

While nothing worth doing is without its challenges, so far his time at the Council has brought him an immense sense of fulfillment and satisfaction. He looks forward to being part of something truly special as they forge ahead with the future of Scouting in Western Massachusetts.



Josh Soper

## MassTrails Grants support local trail projects

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration announce \$7.5 million will be awarded through the MassTrails grant program to support 50 trail projects that will improve and expand the trail network across Massachusetts.

This funding will create 60 miles of new recreational trails, making it easier for

residents to access and enjoy outdoor spaces. This year's grant recipients are working on projects in the following municipalities: Monterey, Northampton, Savoy, Southampton, Spencer and Williamstown.

The MassTrails program provides matching grants to communities, public entities, individuals, Native nations

and non-profit organizations. These grants help fund the planning, creation, and maintenance of trails suitable for a variety of outdoor activities, including walking, running, hiking, cycling, skiing, horseback riding and off-road vehicle use. This year's projects also focus on making trails more accessible for everyone.

## Massachusetts lists MOTT grant recipients

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$6.34 million in grants to 65 tourism and cultural development projects through the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism's Destination Development Capital Grant Program.

The program supports projects that expand, construct, restore, or renovate tourism destinations and attractions across the state, strengthening regional economies and improving the visitor experience.

The FY26 Destination Development Capital grants are part of the Administration's broader strategy to grow the state's visitor economy through long-term capital investments. These projects expand the state's tourism infrastructure, enhance accessibility and sustainability, and preserve the cultural, historic, and natural assets that make

Massachusetts a world-class destination. Funded initiatives this year include upgrades to museums and performing arts venues, revitalization of historic sites and visitor centers, energy-efficiency improvements, and the creation of new public spaces and outdoor recreation amenities that support year-round tourism and local economic growth.

Tourism is a critical pillar of Massachusetts' economy. In 2024, the Commonwealth welcomed more than 31 million domestic and international visitors, generating an estimated \$27.6 billion in direct spending, supporting more than 130,000 jobs, and contributing \$2.3 billion in state and local tax revenue.

Investments in visitor-facing infrastructure generate jobs in hospitality, construction, transportation, and the cultural sector; boost state and local tax revenue; and support

small businesses across every region. By enabling enhanced destinations and elevated visitor experiences, the FY26 grants aim to help regions, from Boston to the Berkshires, realize a greater share of the visitor economy while preserving and enhancing the state's unique assets.

Westfield Amelia Park Children's Museum received \$100,000 for outdoor learning environment and infrastructure update project. Stockbridge Berkshire Botanical Garden received \$90,000 for a glass house.

Lenox and Stockbridge Boston Symphony Orchestra received \$100,000 for solar energy installation at Tanglewood. Great Barrington DuBois Freedom Center got \$155,000 for the DuBois Freedom Center Museum at the historic Clinton AME Zion Church.

Northampton Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce got \$38,000 for

Visitor Center renovations. Hancock and Pittsfield Hancock Shaker Village \$190,000 Hancock Shaker Village visitor center.

Lee Chamber of Commerce got \$7,000 for the Lee Chamber of Commerce website revamp.

Williamstown New England Mountain Bike Association - Purple Valley Chapter received \$55,000 for Purple Valley Trails.

Williamstown Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute received \$125,000 for Clark Art security video surveillance and recording system.

Lenox The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home received \$125,000 for the Mount Facilities Building.

Lenox Ventfort Hall Association got \$48,000 for the Ventfort Hall Salon restoration and Williamstown Rural Lands received \$155,000 for Sheep Hill campus renovation.

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# 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

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