

"Thanksgiving Day is a good day to recommit our energies to giving thanks and just giving." – Amy Grant

# Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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

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## WESTFIELD

### Wyben hosts holiday tractor parade

WESTFIELD – On Saturday, Nov. 23, Wyben hosted their first ever light-up tractor parade to kick off the holidays.

Hilltowners lined Montgomery Road to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season featuring 42 tractors ranging from small vintage John Deere's to enormous modern behemoths pulling floats with merry townspeople. A community potluck with a cookie fest organized by Deb Hayden followed.

**"The parade is everything that is good about Wyben and shows off hard working farmers..."**

– Sue Crane

"The parade is everything that is good about Wyben and shows off hard working farmers and how they embrace their neighbors and their community," says Sue Crane from the Wyben Tractor Parade Organizing Committee. "We were looking for ideas because there are so many young families and the suggestion of a lighted tractor parade came up." From the size of the crowd and their cheers as the tractors passed, this is the beginning of a new tradition.



This family bundled up for the weather and brought their dog to watch the tractor parade.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel



A light festooned large tractor complete with reindeer antlers pulls a hay wagon in the first ever holiday tractor parade down Montgomery Road.



This tractor had lights saying Merry Christmas in the bucket loader.

## BLANDFORD

### Water Supt. urges town conservation

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

Long Pond "is down about 16 inches," said Water Superintendent Gordon Avery Wednesday, Nov. 20 touring the town's open water supply reservoir.

Long Pond is in the western part of Blandford and is about one mile long and a quarter-mile at its widest. The surface area measures 81 acres and has a hydraulic grade elevation of 1,544 feet. The latter is an essential tool in figuring out the flow of water to the town.

There are approximately 250 households plus the commercial users at the service plazas on the Mass Pike on the town's water system.

According to Avery, water usage is between 70-80,000 gallons a day at this time of year. Usage increases during tourist time in the summer for the turnpike, as well as home use; think gardens, children's pools, water games etc.

On Wednesday, he was anticipating the rain, "We really need it," he said. It will certainly bolster the water supply.

Right now, the Water Department

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## HILLTOWNS

### Explore Indigenous roots of the Hilltowns and beyond

By Kathryn Koegel  
Correspondent

Not long ago my children were eight and nine.

After all the feasting on Thanksgiving, they asked me what a "door buster sale" was and could they go. I had no interest in standing in line to buy a large TV at 6 a.m. My children needed a re-education about the meaning of this holiday that had nothing to do with shopping malls.

I was visiting relatives on the Cape and decided to create a new family tradition for the day after: taking in a historical site.

Quick research showed that Plymouth was less than an hour away. We set off for a memorable day. The rock itself was, as reputed, a big waste of time. It's whittled down to a size that Hilltown boulders would mock and is in a steel cage to prevent any further slimming. However, what was fascinating was the Plymouth Patuxet Museums, a recreated 17th century colonists village and Native American settlement. My children and I were able to speak with members of the Wampanoag Tribe and get a glimpse of how they had lived in their longhouses.

The big revelation from that village was just about everything I was taught on Thanksgiving was actually based in 19th and 20th century lore. Even the books my children were exposed to about the first Thanksgiving were a highly historically inaccurate picture of that real harvest meal. What's more, in those books, the accomplishments of Indigenous Peoples like Samoset (Abenaki), Tisquantum (aka "Squanto," Patuxet Wampanoag and Massasoit, sachem, or leader of the

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These people explore a Wampanoag longhouse at Plymouth Patuxet Museums.

Submitted photo



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# HILLTOWNS

## RMV announces deadline for RMV Real ID is May 7

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles is reminding residents that beginning May 7, anyone traveling by plane domestically or entering certain federal facilities will need a Registry-issued ReL ID-compliant driver's license or ID or a valid passport. The Registry is strongly encouraging everyone seeking a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card to go online now at [Mass.Gov/REALID](https://Mass.Gov/REALID) to learn what documents are needed for a required in-person appointment. Appointments are available right now. Customers who already have a compliant credential may renew online as long as they have not had a name change.

The fee to obtain or renew a Real ID compliant credential is the same as obtaining or renewing the equivalent non-compliant credential: The fee for renewing a non-commercial standard or a Real ID driver's license is \$50. The fee for renewing a Mass ID is \$25. The amendment fee for upgrading to a standard or Real ID credential before an existing credential's expiration is \$25.

Customers with a less than five-year stay in the U.S. pay a pro-rated fee.

"Do not wait. We are six months away from the Real ID federal requirement going into effect and strongly urge Massachusetts residents who wish to upgrade to a REAL ID-compliant credential to act as soon as possible," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. "For customers who qualify for a REAL ID and want to renew and upgrade, we recommend you schedule your appointment at least three weeks before your birthday so that you can receive your credential in the mail ahead of your expiration. The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, and its partner AAA Northeast, have successfully been issuing REAL ID credentials since 2018 and are prepared for interested residents prior to the May 2025 deadline."

Appointments can be scheduled by visiting the RMV's Online Service Center at [Mass.Gov/myRMV](https://Mass.Gov/myRMV) or if you are a AAA member at <https://northeast.aaa.com/automotive/registry-services/massachusetts.html>.

As part of its aggressive effort to educate residents on Real ID, the RMV is collaborating with Massport in a campaign that is already underway and which uses public messaging on road billboards, in public transit facilities and at Boston Logan International Airport.

"As of May 7, 2025, travelers will need a Real ID or valid passport to fly at all U.S. airports," said Massport Director of Aviation Ed Freni. "Along with our TSA and RMV partners, we are encouraging all passengers to obtain their REAL ID before the deadline next year."

The RMV has posted helpful information on Real ID requirements that customers can use to prepare for their in-person visits, including convenient document checklists to help pre-stage Real ID applications, at [Mass.Gov/REALID](https://Mass.Gov/REALID). Documents required for this transaction include: proof of lawful presence, two proofs of Massachusetts residency and proof of a full Social Security Number (SSN).

Customers who have had a name change since the issuance of a birth certificate, passport, or other lawful presence document, will need to show the reason for the name change by presenting documentation like a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court document. These required documents must be original or certified versions. The RMV recommends customers gather these documents well in advance of appointments to ensure they have the information required by federal law.

Currently, Massachusetts is at 55% Real ID adoption, with over 3 million credentials being Real ID-compliant. Customers are eligible to renew up to one year in advance of the expiration date printed on their license or ID.

Prior to May 7, 2025, customers will not need a federally compliant REAL ID for the purposes of boarding domestic flights or entering certain federal facilities.

For additional information and details on these and other RMV service offerings, please visit [Mass.Gov/RMV](https://Mass.Gov/RMV).

## Berkshire Environmental Action Team to hold virtual meeting

Berkshire Environmental Action Team will hold a virtual gathering via Zoom on Wednesday, Dec. 11 from 6-7:15 p.m. for their final Green Drinks presentation of 2024.

People may visit <https://tinyurl.com/Dec2024-Berks-Green-Drinks> as registration is required to attend this virtual event. Berkshire Green Drinks, formerly Pittsfield Green Drinks, is an informal gathering on the second

Wednesday of the month that is free and open to everyone with any environmental interest.

A guest speaker talks about an environmentally related topic for approximately 30 minutes beginning at 6 p.m. The presentation is followed by a discussion and Question and Answer. The drinks aren't green, but the conversations are. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join and bring along questions.

BEAT staff will talk about the organization's important work of this past year and explore what comes next as the new year approaches.

Be part of the discussion and hear about the ongoing air quality monitoring work BEAT's Breathe Easy Berkshires program is doing, the organization's continued work in improving aquatic and terrestrial wildlife connectivity, progress made on BEAT's Environmental

Leadership and Education Center, the continuing campaign to end fossil-fueled peaker plants, the fight to prevent the expansion of the Enbridge Algonquin pipeline through Project Maple and some of their favorite 2024 highlights from BEAT-organized events.

For more information regarding Berkshire Green Drinks, people may email Chelsey Simmons, [chelsey@the-beatnews.org](mailto:chelsey@the-beatnews.org) or call 413-464-9402.



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**Scarlett Legasey**  
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Grandparents: Donald & MaryAnn Dunbar, Ware  
Thomas & Sharon Legasey, Spencer

Baby's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Deadline for photos and forms is Monday, December 16, 2024**

### INDIGENOUS from page 1

Wampanoag confederacy were reduced to footnotes.

I had always wondered how those magical men had known English. Did they just pick it up on the spot with hand signals? Tisquantum, the key translator, (1580 - 1622) was kidnapped in 1614 by an English explorer and enslaved first in Spain then England. His story is heart-breaking when you realize that upon his return, his Patuxet village was nearly wiped out due to disease. His story is rich and detailed and needs to be told.

I spoke with Dr. Margaret Bruchac, one of the historians who worked on the project of balancing the narrative of what was once called the Plymouth Plantation, which was built in 1947 as a living history museum. They changed the name in 2020 to both be inclusive of the Indigenous village and remove the connotation of "plantation".

Bruchac has researched Indigenous history in the Hilltowns and wrote a seminal article on Rhoda Rhoades (1751-1841), the Indian doctress featured in a October 12th Country Journal article. Born in Indian Hollow in what is now Huntington, Rhoades traveled throughout the region ministering to the sick with herbal remedies. Her gravestone was moved to Norwich Bridge Cemetery in Huntington when the Knightville Dam was created.

Bruchac co-wrote a book for older children – that is equally eye opening to adults – about the first Thanksgiving called: 1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving, published by National Geographic. As the book recounts, it took until 1777 for the first Thanksgiving to be declared by the Continental Congress. In 1863 Abraham Lincoln declared a day of Thanksgiving for the victories of the Union. Since 1970, Native peoples meet at the statue of Massasoit in Plymouth to observe a national day of mourning.

"What actually took place in Plymouth in 1621 doesn't fit with the celebration of today," says Bruchac.

As the book recounts, 90 Wampanoag men, likely alarmed at the colonists firing muskets at waterfowl, showed up and stayed for three days. Most of what we know about the first Thanksgiving is described in one single letter sent by colonist Edward Winslow in December of 2021 that was published the following year.

"The modern 'Thanksgiving' is an invented tradition from the 1800s. Traditionally, Indigenous people had multiple moments of giving thanks during the full moons throughout the year, such as the strawberry thanksgiving in summer and harvest thanksgiving in the fall," says Bruchac. "Harvest celebrations varied from region to region, with coastal groups focused on marine resources and the more inland groups focused on hunting."

A holiday like Thanksgiving is a perfect day to pause and reflect on American history as it needs to be retold in a more inclusive manner. In Massachusetts we live with so many Indigenous place names. "Woronoco," "Tekoa", "Connecticut" and of course "Massachusetts." But what do we really know about the Indigenous People and their contribution to our culture?

In the past decade alone, many sites accessible to the Hilltowns have broadened their depiction of colonial history and of history itself. Looking for an outing this weekend with some history in it consider Historic Deerfield, Historic Northampton and Sturbridge Village. They are open and ready to be explored.

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

# HUNTINGTON

## Victim in crash identified

HUNTINGTON – Authorities have identified the woman who died as a result of injuries sustained in a head-on collision Monday, Nov. 18 as Cynthia Jensen, 74, of Becket.

The crash occurred on Pond Brook Road near Old Town Road shortly before 5 p.m. when a cement truck being driven by a 59-year-old Huntington man and a compact car being driven by Jensen collided. Jensen was transported to Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton and then transferred to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, where she died around 11:30 p.m.

The crash remains under investigation by Huntington Police, State Police detectives attached to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office and State Police troopers with the Crime Scene Services Section and the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause of death.

Criminal charges are based on probable cause to believe a person has committed a crime.

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

## JLBA announces next meeting

HUNTINGTON – The Jacob's Ladder Business Association will be hosting the annual Snack n

Schmooze business networking event on Thursday, Dec. 12 from 6-8 p.m. at Comfort Kitchen, located at 4 Main St.

All Hilltown and Westfield businesses are invited to learn more about the JLBA and how to join. Appetizers and opportunities for networking with other businesses is on the agenda to discuss

goals and challenges for the upcoming year. The JLBA is the producer of the Hilltown Destinations business locator and outdoor activities guide which they encourage all to be a part of.

For thirty years, the JLBA has provided free assistance for all businesses in the greater Hilltowns of Western Massachusetts. For more information, people may visit [www.JLBA.org](http://www.JLBA.org) or email [JacobsLadderBA@gmail.com](mailto:JacobsLadderBA@gmail.com).

## CHESTER

## Town Administrator announces winter 2024-2025 road closures

CHESTER – The following roads will be closed to the public from Nov. 15 to April 15 with regard to winter road maintenance: Kinnebrook Road from the last year-round resident to the Worthington line, the end of Smith Road from the last year-round resident to the Worthington line and the middle section of Round Hill.

There will be no salting or sanding and no snow plowing on these roads. This action was voted on and approved unanimously by the Chester Select Board at their meeting on Monday, Nov. 18.

People may call Town Administrator Don Humason in the Select Board office at 413-354-7760 with any questions.

# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

### HELP WANTED

#### Town of Chesterfield – Employment Opportunities

##### Administrative Assistant to Town Boards:

The Town of Chesterfield is seeking an experienced individual to take and then prepare meeting minutes in electronic format (Microsoft Word) for various Town boards (Select Board, Planning Board, and Finance Committee). Irregular weekly hours, typically from zero to ten, to include evening meetings. Hourly compensation TBD on applicant's qualifications. This is a non-benefited position.

Interested individuals should contact the Town Administrator at 413-296-4771 ext. 1 or submit a resume to the Town Administrator at: [townadmin@townofchesterfieldma.com](mailto:townadmin@townofchesterfieldma.com) or PO Box 299, Chesterfield, MA 01012. EOE

##### Buildings Maintenance Person

The Town of Chesterfield seeks to fill a part-time Buildings maintenance position to help maintain the Town buildings. Duties may include changing water filters, winterizing buildings, installing and removing window air-conditioners, painting ramps or picnic tables, installing and removing tennis court nets, moving items, installing sump pump, etc. It is an on-call and as needed position. May require several hours a week at times especially in the spring and late autumn. Various "handyman" skills a must. Pay is \$25.00/hour. This is non-benefited position.

Interested individuals should contact the Town Administrator at 413-296-4771 ext. 1 or submit a resume to the Town Administrator at: [townadmin@townofchesterfieldma.com](mailto:townadmin@townofchesterfieldma.com) or PO Box 299, Chesterfield, MA 01012. EOE

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

### TOM TURKEY DISPLAYS HIS FEATHERS



This Tom turkey lives on a farm in Huntington.

Turley photo by Deborah Daniels

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### When should my wife claim Social Security benefits?

Dear Rusty

I turned 64 in July and my wife turned 62 in August. My wife has not worked for approximately 15 years, but does qualify for Social Security on her prior work record. My wife is having some physical issues and would like to not return to work. Since she is eligible to collect Social Security, that would be an option to provide additional income, so she doesn't have to work. My question is how would it affect her future SS spousal benefits based on my record if she begins collecting her own benefit now? I plan to work until at least my full retirement age, 67 and maybe longer, but plan to start collecting SS at 67 even if I continue working.

**Signed: Working Husband**

Dear Working

If your wife has the required 40 SS quarter credits, she is eligible to collect reduced retirement benefits at 62 for that needed extra income, but her age 62 benefit will be about 70% of what it would be if she waited until her SS Full Retirement Age to claim.

That reduction would, in turn, carry over to her spousal benefit when you eventually claim your SS benefit.

Here's why: Your wife's spousal amount when you claim will be a combination of her own SS retirement benefit, plus an auxiliary amount, a "spousal boost" that she is entitled to as your spouse. At age 62, her own benefit will be cut by 30% and she can collect that reduced amount until you claim, at which point her spousal boost will be added to make her benefit equal her spousal entitlement. So, her total benefit as your spouse when you claim will consist of her reduced age 62 amount, plus an additional amount as your spouse.

If you claim at 67, your wife will be about two years short of her own FRA, which means that her spousal boost amount will also be reduced for early claiming. That reduced spousal boost will be added to her already reduced age 62 SS retirement benefit, which will make her total benefit less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

So, your wife claiming her own reduced SS retirement benefit at 62 also means her spousal benefit amount will be affected and taking her spousal boost before her FRA means that the boost amount will also be reduced for early claiming. The only way your wife can get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement is to wait until she reaches her own FRA, 67, to claim Social Security benefits.

Having said all of that, if your wife's physical issues suggest that she claims her

**SECURITY**, page 5



## GUEST COLUMN

### The last of the autumn questions



Lori, a reader of the column, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "I put my garlic cloves in three weeks ago and they have sprouted! The variety is a German White hardneck. Will they come back in the spring?"

Thank you for your question! It is not uncommon for garlic to send up shoots when fall weather is warmer than normal, much like ours has been.

Typically, the shoots survive the winter just fine, and will resume growth come spring time. To be on the safe side, I would mulch around your plants with straw or chopped up leaves to provide some insulation.

Once spring arrives, pull back the mulch and provide some fertilizer that is nitrogen rich to give the shoots a boost. A sprinkling of blood meal, fish emulsion, or composted manure would all do the trick.

Push the mulch back in place; it will help to keep weeds down. Garlic hates competition in this arena.

Early on, ample water and nutrients make the big fists of garlic we all want to see at harvest.

Hardneck garlic is typically the garlic grown in our area. Unlike softneck garlic, it needs the cold to complete its life cycle. It has fewer, but larger cloves.

Cloves from hardneck garlic are more pungent than softneck, but don't last quite as long in storage. Softneck don't grow stiff scapes as stems but have leaves that at harvest can be braided together to make a nice kitchen decoration.

Often you will see these garlic braids for sale at craft shows or in catalogs.

Michele, who gardens in Ware, has a question about tidying up her hydrangea bushes.

"The flowers at the tips of the branch-

es of my blue hydrangea bushes have all browned and look unappealing. Some of the leaves are hanging on too. Altogether it's not a pretty sight. Can I cut down the branches to the ground? In effect, cleaning up the plant by the easiest way possible? It will sprout again when spring arrives, of that I'm sure."

I know exactly what you are talking about. From where I am writing, I can see my own hydrangea and it looks just as "pretty" as yours sounds!

Rest assured that the leaves will fall off. The flowers, on the other hand, will stick around awhile. Wind and wet weather will eventually cause them to degrade and fall away from the plant.

If you don't want to wait that long, feel free to cut the flower heads, and just the flower heads off. You see, most hydrangeas bloom on old wood.

Newer varieties – those bred in the last 20 years or so, often bloom on both new wood and old wood, so you'd never really want to cut them all the way down because you would be missing out on an opportunity for flowers to form. In case you don't follow my logic, flowers can form on the new growth the plant puts out in the spring, and the old growth from the previous year. Lots of gardeners remarked about what an amazing year it was for hydrangeas. So many flowers!

We attribute that to a mild winter last year and ample rainfall. I'm uncertain what the droughty fall will do, if anything, to next year's show.

I also wonder if hydrangeas put on a banner year one year, if the following year will be sparser because they are in recovery mode? I know it happens that way for fruit trees, my Asian pears for example, but not certain if it works the same way with flowering shrubs.

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

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## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

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

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

# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

### Hilltown solar customers speak: Do your homework but go for it

*Note: This is the fourth in a series about the future of energy and solar power in the Hilltowns.*

For the Hilltown residents concerned about rising electricity costs, solar has been a godsend, reducing monthly bills of hundreds of dollars to in some cases, zero.

But, solar is not without its challenges, mostly related to the customer service of the solar installers and the complexity of the process. All but one person interviewed for this series had complaints about the companies they worked with and their customer service. In contrast, the actual energy produced was an entirely different story. Here are a few guidelines I gleaned from the six Hilltowns solar customers I spoke to.

#### Be Aware of Scams

There is no such thing as “free solar” despite what companies may be telling you. When you enter your information into an online website, you will be besieged with phone calls. After I met with reps from Sunrun, Trinity and Valley Solar, I was still getting the calls. Unless they are from a company you have spoken with or recognize, block the numbers.

#### Leasing works but you will still get a bill

Don't want to or don't have the funds available to buy the panels? Leasing is your option. But know that leasing indeed means that the solar company own the devices that sit on your property and that you are locked into a contract with them. You do not personally take advantage of the tax incentives and you still have a monthly bill. My system, which the three companies said would cost between \$23,000 and \$30,000, the higher number if I was planning to increase output as I would switch from propane to an electric heat pump and get an electric vehicle. My 12 month averaged bill is about \$160 and the lease amount would lock me in at a minimum of \$130 per month. But, that amount was by no means fixed. The solar supplier could increase it.

Becky Brisbois of Chesterfield is

delighted with the leased system she contracted with Trinity Solar for. She started the process last October and the panels were installed in March of 2024. She showed me a current bill of \$0 given that she had overproduced over the summer. Her bills had been averaging around \$340 a month and Trinity had literally “bought” the rights to her tax credits. “I'm very happy. Trinity talked us through the process. They came out separate times to assess structure and joists and presented three different scenarios. We picked the lesser option and put them only on the garage.” They didn't want the panels on the main house as they had purchased a new rubber roof and were worried the roof was too flat.

She signed a 20 year lease and her monthly cost will average out at \$160. “We're currently making more power than we use giving us a credit. But this is the first winter so we don't know what to expect. I am thrilled with the system,” she says. “It cut our electric bill in half. It's amazing how much it can be when you have two kids in college.”

#### If you can, go big and reap the rewards

Karon Hathway of Huntington installed solar back in 2016. “As we got older, we wanted to do more traveling,” she says. They use an outdoor boiler to heat when they are in town but wanted to be able to use electric heat in the house when gone which was cost prohibitive.

“We bought it outright for \$3,000 she says. “The UMass Credit Union had a solar loan for 18 month with 0% financing,” she says. “Based on incentives and money we got back on taxes it paid for itself.” The Hathways may be unusual solar customers, as they are retired but they see this as a long-term investment.

They have one of the larger systems. They have enough land that they could install a tracking unit of 24 panels on a pedestal that follows the sun. They have app on their phones to monitor the system and the maintenance has been minimal. The circuit box got shorted and they replaced it. They had an Inverter issue and it was also covered. “They supplied everything from digging the hole to

cementing the unit in. Before they decided to construct the system they came out and worked to give it full sun 90 percent of the day.” For them “the money we got back from SRECS (state credits) paid for a mini split,” she says referring to heat pump technology. “It's one of the best things we ever did knowing that electrical prices would go crazy. If we sell, it goes with the house. It probably adds another \$50K in value due to it being a solar array.”

Lisa Goding, also of Huntington, went solar in December of 2015 after receiving summer bills that ranged from \$700 - \$900. She financed them through a home equity line of credit for \$89,000. She has 67 ground-mounted panels in a field below her house as her roof didn't get enough sun. She worked with Trinity Solar after getting three estimates. “One was a flake. Valley Solar bowed out as they thought the installation was too complex. For her ownership brought challenges. “If you lease with them they monitor the system. With me they have no skin in the game. Our system went down four times in one year. We had to back up to Eversource. At one point I noticed it not producing. We lost two -three weeks of power.

Despite the challenges, she says it's worth it. “I haven't had a bill in over a year and I now have a credit with Eversource of \$2,500.” For her, it took 10 years to break even from her initial investment..

She has also made money off of the SRECS system. “They are basically green energy credits traded like a stock. Companies can buy them and you get money for what you produce quarterly. You get to pick the company. For her, she gets \$1,500 per quarter. So far she's made \$30,000 in SREC credits.

#### Modest systems also pay out

Adam Bryant of Chester is a more recent solar convert, having installed in November of last year. He is a very informed energy consumer who is the youngest of any of the solar customers we talked to. With a “wife into permaculture, self sustainability,” was his major impetus. He went with Team Sunshine, which he characterizes as a “small com-

pany, an upstart, more lenient with the loans they were willing to work with.” He took out a 30 year loan of \$35,000 for panels supporting a 2355 square foot house.

He is getting batteries so he does not have an electric bill and “can detach completely from the grid.” He warns that the tax rebate goes by income. “We are not wealthy. Our first rebate was \$1,500. But it's a pool. Continue to get back from the pool until it gets exhausted.” He uses the rebates to pay the system off sooner.

#### Some are on solar round two

Mark Shapiro of South Worthington installed his own panels on the historic Russell Conwell property where he lives and creates pottery. This was not his first solar experience. He had a system that paid out in five years, but was upgrading with new panels as some failed. With his contracting experience he was able to do it himself with hiring a local engineer. With SRECS credits over 10 years he netted out \$20,000 and effectively wiped out his power bill. His current plan is to get mini-split, heat pump technology, the next article in this series and be able to charge a car as well as his electric pottery kiln.

Worthington resident artist David Marshal had a more problematic story. “I did not have a lot of cash so I leased with an outlay of \$3,000 and a guaranteed bill of \$30 a month. The panels all failed after 13 years as well as the inverter. I had to write to the president of SunRun and had a year of no power from the panels.”

The overall experience of customers with solar? Most had challenges of varying degree and complexity. But what was the commonality among them all? They would never go back and looked forward to getting much smaller bills or wiping them entirely. An interesting fact of solar: when you install on your house you technically become a power plant in the eyes of the state. Town filings have to be made and this is not a quick project. But despite it all, Hilltowners with solar all share the pride that they are not yoked to out-of-control electric bills and are actually producing it themselves one kilowatt hour at a time.

## SECURITY

from page 4

benefits early and she is comfortable with the smaller benefit she will get, then that may be the right choice. For reference, the reduction to your wife's spousal boost amount, if you claim at your FRA, will be about 17%, and that reduced spousal boost will be added to her reduced age 62 SS retirement amount. The end benefit for your wife, if you claim at age 67, will likely be about 42% of your FRA entitlement instead of 50%.

FYI, you can further delay your own SS retirement benefit, up to age 70, for a higher benefit yourself, but that would also mean your wife would

need to wait longer to get her spousal boost. You could also wait to claim your SS until your wife reaches age 67, her FRA, which would give you a higher personal amount and also ensure your wife gets her maximum spousal boost (but her total will still be less than 50% of yours because she claimed her own SS retirement benefit at 62). When to claim Social Security depends on financial need and life expectancy. If a long life expectancy is anticipated, waiting longer to claim is often the best move. But financial need always trumps waiting longer.

*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.*

## Correction

In the General Knox Road story, the last paragraph did not mention Tighe and Bond, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Rifenburg Contracting Corporation of New York.

## 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.

# FLORENCE

## Florence Bank hires Christopher Fager as Vice President/Commercial Loan Officer

FLORENCE – Florence Bank has hired Christopher Fager of West Springfield to serve as vice president / commercial loan officer in the Commercial Lending department.

With 15 years of experience at banks in the region, he is skilled at commercial loan origination and analysis, portfolio management and customer service. Over his career, he has worked with companies across all industries and has extensive knowledge with those in construction,

manufacturing, nonprofits, auto dealership, logistics, dental, veterinarian and wholesale distribution.

Fager holds a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. He is active in the community, serving on the Board of Directors for the West Springfield Boys & Girls Club and Helix Human



Christopher Fager

Services. He is a Distribution Committee member for the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and is so well known as a youth coach in West Springfield that many people call him Coach Fager.

“We are proud to welcome Christopher to our commercial lending team and know that his skills, experi-

ence and local network will serve him well in originating and managing loans for our customers,” said President and CEO Matt Garrity.

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield and Springfield.

## RUSSELL

# Woronoco Road likely closed for six months after mill collapse

By Kathryn Koegel  
Correspondent

RUSSELL – Woronoco residents Megan and Jacob Ellinger were on their way home on Rte 20 coming from Westfield on Monday, Nov 11 at 3 p.m.

They planned a quick stop at the mailboxes on Woronoco Rd. before heading across the river to where they lived near Mill #2. What they saw at Mill #1 horrified, but it did not surprise them. They had been concerned for weeks about haphazard crews without safety gear working on the mill. Now, the historic Strathmore Mill #1, once the lifeblood and largest employer in the town of Russell, had collapsed with injuries to men working on salvage.

“I saw a young Hispanic man lying in the road. Another worker pulled him as far as he could, almost to the sidewalk. He was being talked to keep him calm. There were no ambulances at that point.” The Ellingers slowly passed the scene and drove over the bridge, but stopped to take a picture of the collapsed mill.

Another person who saw what was unfolding and ran down from his house just above the mill was Russell Select Board chairman Tom Kulig. “I heard two very loud cracks. A whole third of the mill fell,” said Kulig. “At that point I called Police Chief Hennessey and said, ‘we need an ambulance.’”

“I was not about to go rummaging through that building,” he continues. “It was unstable. Workers in another part of the building got their fellow workers out. Two had head lacerations. The third one was not that bad.” The most severely injured of the men was life-flighted from Strathmore Park just up Route 20, which was the only suitable place for a helicopter to land.

When asked about their status at a Special Town Meeting that was held on Friday, Nov. 22, mill owner Don Voudren, Sr. of Huntington, said, “One had a severe laceration and concussion. The other was worse. He had several broken bones and will be laid up for months. I have no idea what happened to the other people.”

Over the past month local residents heard workers using chainsaws and though Voudren promised to the Select Board on Oct. 29 that the only work being done was to remove wood trim and floor



Woronoco Road looking north will be closed for at least 6 months. The warehouse for Mill #1 was at left and burned in 2022. Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel

boards, workers were clearly removing much more. A local resident noted beams piled near the entrance to the worksite. As Russell building inspector Jason Forgue says, “There was no permit in place for what they were doing.”

The salvage operation at Strathmore Mill #1 was always somewhat covert, says Kulig. “There was no signage,” he says. “It was odd. Usually a construction company has a sign out there. There was not even a magnetic sign on a pick up truck.”

At the Select Board meeting in October, Voudren blamed any infractions of town building codes on his salvage subcontractor, which he listed as Complete Property Solutions, LLC out of Batavia, OH lead by Jeff Wendel.

Kulig expresses frustration about what happened but says that the town could not have done much to prevent it. “The sticky part is that it’s private property. Our only recourse is the building inspector. He is our enforcement guy. I had spoken with him and had sent him emails saying that he needed to take a look to see if everything was on the up and up. He did. But he can’t be there every day, all day. You would think they [the subcontractor] would be professional enough to monitor.” According to police personnel there just after the collapse, Wendel was not on site when it happened. He did not respond when emailed for comment.

In addition to the danger of a large mill complex that needs to be demolished. “Eagle Creek is right behind there,” says Kulig, referring to a hydroelectric plant that sits just below the mill.

Mark Damon, president of the Westfield River Watershed Association, a local NGO focused on the health of the river in post-industrial times, acknowledged the dangers and noted additional ones. “That dam is very old. Sediments are built up behind it. They may have toxic stuff in them from when they would make paper and dump dye in river. When people remove dams one of the most challenging things is dealing with the sediments removed that then flow downstream.” Damon contacting Mass DEP about the issue and were told that the Russell Police had said that “the contaminants were contained within the footprint of the building and no further involvement from DEP was needed.”

Occupation Safety Health Administration were on site Friday, Nov.16. “They did their inspection with a drone,” says Kulig, noting that the building was too unstable for anyone to go inside.

“The building has to come down, but it has to be done correctly,” says Kulig. “You need a lot of water. It has to be wet coming down and wet when loaded to keep the dust down. That dust is toxic. They had asbestos, cement and mortar mix. That’s a lot floating around.”

At the special meeting held on Nov. 22 Voudren said he did not believe the building next to the collapsed one was in danger of falling down and that he was having trouble finding a contractor for the demolition. Building inspector Forgue noted that the entire structure was condemned and unsafe. Voudren said that by Monday, Dec 2 he would have the insurance necessary to begin demolition.

As Forgue detailed, demolishing a building of this size is an involved process involving a structural engineer, a building inspector, six weeks to get the DEP permit, the entire site being surveyed and then a demolition plan created that has to go before the town conservation commission given its proximity to the river.

Forgue said anyone working on site needs to have liability and workman’s compensation insurance and that all workers on site need to be listed as well as provided to the building inspector.

The Russell Police confirmed that Voudren was working on the catwalk between Mill #1 and the warehouse across Woronoco Road with an acetylene torch and had accidentally set the warehouse on fire which leveled it. That warehouse is now a large pile of charred bricks and steel. The Russell highway foreman, John Hoppe confirmed that Woronoco Road will once again likely be closed, this time for at least six months. Some residents will have to drive two miles up and around on Rte 20 to get their mail.

## EASTHAMPTON

### Drowning occurs at Lower Mill Pond

EASTHAMPTON – A 25-year-old Blandford man died Saturday after he fell into the Lower Mill Pond while kayaking, despite bystander efforts to rescue him.

Emergency responders received a 911 call at 2:45 p.m. from witnesses reporting that a man was in distress in the water. Two people had entered the water attempting to save him but were unable to rescue him.

The kayaker was subsequently recovered by police dive team members and he was declared deceased at 5:15 p.m. Another person kayaking with him was not injured.

The Easthampton Fire and Police departments, members of the Hampden County Regional Dive Team, Massachusetts State Police Dive Team, and the Massachusetts Environmental Police Boat and Recreational Vehicle Safety Bureau, as well as detectives with the Northwestern District Attorney’s State Police and the State Police Crime Scene Services Unit all were on the scene.

No foul play is suspected. The investigation is ongoing. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause of death.

## HAYDENVILLE

### BrassWorks Mill hold pop-up show

HAYDENVILLE – During the weekend of Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 8, artists at the historic BrassWorks Mill in Haydenville will be opening their studios for a holiday-themed pop-up show and sale from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each day.

Other artists and crafters from the area will be joining to sell their handmade products. “Shoppers will find an array of one-of-a-kind holiday gifts,”

says participating quilter, Denise Myers LeDuc. “There will be whimsical décor, unique pottery, quilted, handwoven and embroidered heirlooms, original watercolors and art prints, greeting cards, silver jewelry, hand-sewn totes and bags, wooden items, unique painted ornaments, upcycled textile accessories, decorated bottles, locally produced honey and more.” Admission is free.

## WORTHINGTON

### Town to hold STM Dec. 9

WORTHINGTON – The town of Worthington will hold a Special Town Meeting on Monday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

There are five article on the warrant. The first is to appropriate and transfer \$1,327 from the Vocational Education Expense Account to fund the Group Insurance Account. The second article asks voters to appropriate and transfer \$6,500 from the Vocational Education Expense Account to fund the Insurance and Bonds Account.

Article 3 asks votes to rescind/reduce the Vocational Education Expense Account by the sum of \$23,866. Article 4 asks to appropriate and transfer \$112,606 from General Stabilization Fund to reduce the tax rate. The final article asks voters to accept the provisions of Chapter 653, Section 40, the New Growth Provision, of the Acts of 1989, to commence with Fiscal Year 2026.

The Finance Committee recommended all five articles.

### COA set for luncheon Dec. 10

WORTHINGTON – The Worthington Council on Aging will hold a holiday luncheon on Tuesday Dec. 10 at 11:30 a.m. at Comfort Kitchen, 4 Main St., Huntington.

In keeping with the holiday spirit, people are encouraged to wear or bring an ugly Christmas sweater. Menu choices are chicken paremsan with pasta or baked cod fillet with parsley bread

crumbs and roasted lemon butter. Dessert will be hot apple crisp a la mode.

Reservations are necessary as there will be limited seating. People should RSVP by Monday, Dec. 2. by calling 413-238-1999. They should state their name, phone number, meal choice and name of other person ordering with meal choice. This is underwritten by the Rolland Fund.

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# BLANDFORD



Judy MacKinnon right foreground served breakfast while Anne Southworth, left, proceeds through the buffet line at the Friday, Nov. 22 Council on Aging breakfast held Friday, Nov. 24.

## COA SERVES FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST



T.J. Cousineau stopped to speak with Mary Mangini at the COA breakfast last Friday morning.



Margit Mikuski COA Director serves breakfast salad to Randy Gilman.



These handmade bags and book mark with owl prints are just one of the craft items available at the Annual Craft Show on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Historical Society Building, Main Street, Blandford.

*Turley photo by Mary Kronholm*

## Craft Fair takes place Dec. 7

BLANDFORD – There will be two additional crafters at the Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Historical Society Building at the top of Main Street.

Blandford's Wendy Morse from Bags of a Feather will participate and bring her selection of handmade bags;

think cosmetic-size or smaller, some with handles, some without. The second addition is Kay Judge, clinical Aromatherapist from Blue Skye Wellness in Middlefield. Blue Sky offers aromatherapy, consultations, custom blending, educational and self-care programs.



The level of water has dropped as indicated by the lines on the rocks in the water.



Water Superintendent Gordon Avery points to a sandbar, which is near the surface of the water and not normally visible until now.



The spillway has not had a flow for several months, according to Water Superintendent Gordon Avery.



Seventeen registered voters attended an organization meeting to form a Democratic Town Committee in Blandford.

*Turley photo by Mary Kronholm*

## Democratic Town Committee elects officers

BLANDFORD – Seventeen registered voters attended an organizational meeting to form a Democratic Town Committee for Blandford.

There has not been an active political town committee in Blandford for at least 40 years.

The purpose as stated in the bylaws accepted by the group is, "to work and organize for the success of the Democratic candidates of the District, County, State and Nation to do all things necessary and incidental to the building and strengthening of the Democratic Party on Massachusetts and within the town of Blandford."

Following a round of introductions and purposeful statements, the group elected officers. The elected officers of the committee are: Chair, Lloyd

Martin; Vice Chair Kristina Wales; Secretary, Kate Goodrich; Treasurer Deb Lundgren and Affirmative Action and Outreach Advisor is Pam Dirschka.

Eventually the members must be elected by popular vote. This will happen in four years at the next Presidential Primary in 2028. Membership requires a person to be registered as a Democrat and the Committee must be constituted according to Mass General Laws. Dirschka was active in a similar capacity when living in Florida and saw the need for a Blandford Democratic Committee here.

The Committee will meet again on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025 at 11 a.m. at the Town Hall. Martin has asked members to invite neighbors and friends of like interest to come to the January meeting.

## CONSERVATION

*from page 1*

has an on-going rate study and water users will be charged "for every drip," said Avery. "This is the time to be proactive, before you're charged." He encouraged water users to fix dripping faucets, leaky toilets, anywhere water is accidentally or unexpectedly and needlessly flowing.

While Avery said the water supply was "in good shape," he said, "It wouldn't hurt to work at conserving water use in the home."

The Water Department is also in the process of updating outmoded equipment, a necessary requirement, according to Avery, since some of the equipment in place is no longer manufactured and replacement parts are "just not available."

Water Commission Chair Michael Keier said, "The costs involved with delivering safe drinking water continue to rise. Conservation is the best thing we all can do to combat these costs."

There are lots of steps that can be taken to decrease water use. Turn off the water while brushing teeth. Take a shorter shower, the average shower uses 2.1 gallons of water a minute. Scrape dishes before they go in the dishwasher. Soak pots and pans before scrubbing so stuck on residue has a

chance to slough off rather than running water in the sink while cleaning.

The list is long and myriad examples for water conservation in the home can be found on numerous websites online.



A newt swims in the shallow water at the spillway. Water Superintendent Gordon Avery said this indicates the excellent quality of the water supply.

*Turley photos by Mary Kronholm*

# HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES

## Hikers travel Finnerly Trail



Finnerly Pond is located at a high elevation.

*Submitted photos*

The Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers traveled the Finnerly Trail on the Becket/Lee town line at October Mountain State Forest.

This trail starts on Tyne Road with a big parking lot shared by ORV parking. It is 1.3 miles at a gradual incline and was built by the Civilian Conservation

Corps during the great depression to provide access to Finnerly Pond for recreation.

At the pond the trail intersects with the Appalachian Trail and the Schoolhouse Trail. Large silver and grey birch are here in this beautiful hardwood forest with wonderful hiking with dogs.



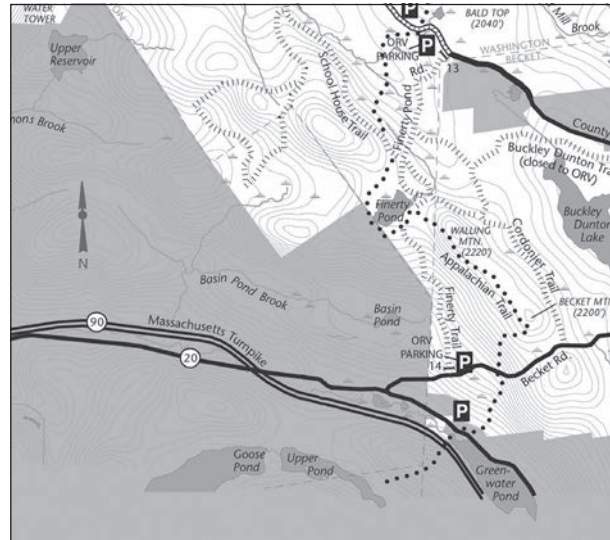
The Finnerly Trail offers some grand view when the leaves are down.



This stone laid culvert on the trail was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression for the road to the pond.



Dayna and Sadie enjoy the bright sunshine among the hardwoods.



This is a map of Finnerly Trail.



Shagbark hickory trees are found in this high elevation.

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SLICED IN OUR DELI SWISS CHEESE..... <b>\$4.44</b> lb			USDA INSP. STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES ITALIAN SAUSAGE..... <b>\$2.77</b> lb
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# SCHOOLS & YOUTH

## LITTLEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOLDS CRAFT SHOW FUNDRAISER



Karen Lucas with her husband Barre shows off her jewelry and ornaments made with sea glass she collects.



The Shultz family show off dad Kevin's wood creations. Kevin is a Gateway grad from 2005 and participated in the Littleville Elementary School in Huntington holiday craft show and fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 23.



Cailin McKellick, Addison Green and Anya Niles organized a bake sale for the Gateway class of 2027.

## Gateway Education Foundation awards funds for learning grants

HUNTINGTON – Gateway Education Foundation recently reviewed and approved several Funds for Learning Grants to teachers/staff of the Gateway Regional School District.

They awarded over \$5300 in grants for teachers to engage in out-of-the-box learning opportunities with their students in grades K – 12. Grant recipients are: Karne Lies, Abbey Keller and Cheryl Harper Middle School Later Gators program \$1,000; Margaret Petzold Littleville Elementary for author visit and literary assembles \$500; Jennifer Bak Littleville Elementary for Scholastic News \$262; Vanna Maffuccio Chester Elementary for family science night \$1,282; Jessie Baker Chester/Littleville Elementary for sensory rich environment \$332; Chris Mosler Middle School for Boston trip \$1084 and

Beth Guertin Middle/High School for Germany student project \$500.

Unfortunately, they were not able to fund a few projects based on financial limitations or the need for more information from applicants. However, they hope these applicants will apply again for our next round of grants in 2025. Additionally, upon reviewing the grant applications, they were able to find several alternate funding sources to pay for over \$1,000 worth of additional requests.


They are planning their 4th Annual Trivia Night, the Gateway Education Foundations largest fundraiser of the year in March 2025. Donations to the organization is always welcome via paypal, people may visit their website: [GatewayEducationFoundation.org](http://GatewayEducationFoundation.org) to donate.

## CHESTER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS LEARNING RAILROAD HISTORY



Dave Pierce of the Chester Railway Station and Museum is working with children from Chester Elementary school to teach them about local railroad history. The world's first mountain railway was completed in 1840 and runs through the Hilltowns on its way from Boston to Albany. He's loaning one of his model trains to the school and the students are working to create a village around it.

Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel



# Unwrap

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## PITTSFIELD

# Downtown Pittsfield hosts the Festive Frolic Dec. 6 and 7

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. will host the Downtown Festive Frolic on Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7.

Activities on Friday include the City of Pittsfield's Park Square Tree Lighting Ceremony free hot chocolate and photo ops with the Grinch at Otto's Kitchen and Comfort; free admission to the Festival of Trees at the Berkshire Museum on Dec. 6 from 5:30-8 p.m.; Witch Slapped, 8 North St. all ages free photo frame decorating on Friday, Dec. 6 from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 7 from noon-3 p.m. and the Wreath Art Auction. Activities on Saturday include an outdoor European Holiday Market, the Berkshire Holiday Bazaar, Photo Ops with Santa, a Free Kids' Paint & Sip, and other free children's activities as part of the Festive Frolic Junior.

The City of Pittsfield's Park Square Tree Lighting Ceremony will be on Friday, Dec. 6 starting at 6 p.m. People may join Santa, Mrs. Claus and the City of Pittsfield's Recreation Department for this festive holiday tradition and meet Santa and Mrs. Claus after the tree is lit.

Otto's Kitchen & Comfort, 95 East St., will be providing free hot chocolate and photo ops with the Grinch from 5-7 pm on Friday, Dec. 6.

Witch Slapped, 78 North St., will host an all-ages free photo frame decorating drop-in on Friday, Dec. 6 from 5-8 pm, and also on Saturday, Dec. 7, from noon-3 p.m.

Pittsfield's Office of Cultural Development and the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, 28 Renne Avenue, will host their annual Wreath Art Auction to benefit the South Community Food Pantry on Friday, December 6. Talented local artists have graciously donated their talent, time, and hearts to create beautiful holiday wreaths, centerpieces, and much more that will be sold and auctioned off to benefit the South Community Food Pantry. This year, there will also be a raffle to get a chance to win some amazing gifts. All of the proceeds from this event will benefit the South Community Food Pantry which serves 1200 families a week in Pittsfield.

Grab and go wreaths will be available starting at 5 p.m. and the top items will be auctioned off at 6:30 p.m. following the Tree Lighting Ceremony at Park Square. \$10 suggested donation at the door.

The Berkshire Museum, 39 South St., will offer free admission to the "Festival of Trees: Aquatica" on Friday, Dec. 6 from 5:30-8 p.m. as part of the Festive Frolic. This year's theme is all about the sea, river and wetland critters that we know and love. See trees decorated by community members, businesses, and institutions with ties to the community.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. will host a European Holiday Market outside on Dunham Mall, 100 North St. from noon-3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. Vendors include Baked Pastries & More, Birdseye Woodcrafts, Holmes Candle Co., Maria Ortiz, MasonAiry Craft Co., Mountain Girl Farm, Inc. and St. Eithne Rd. Shop baked goods, handmade earrings and winter hats, hand-crafted goat milk soap, small batch candles, fine custom wood cutting boards and pre-Columbian art and jewelry.

There will be a Holiday Bazaar hosted by Thistle 'n Thorn Floral on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Holiday Inn & Suites, 1 West St., featuring about 50 local vendors selling an array of holiday gifts, plus special events including a DIY Candle Class with Berkshire Candle; 20-minute sessions with Psychic Medium, Jenna Reid and caricatures with artist Matt Bernson. Thistle 'n Thorn Floral will be sponsoring free caricatures for the first two hours of the event.

On Saturday, Dec. 7 from 1-5 p.m., the Clock Tower Artists will host a Tinsel and Bling Holiday Art Opening at the Clock Tower Business Center, 75 South Church St., featuring a festive showcase of unique local art. Discover a dazzling variety of works, including watercolors, oil paintings, abstract art, paint pouring, sculptures and even one-of-a-kind repurposed clothing. There will be meet the artists and light refreshments.

The Festive Frolic Junior sponsored by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. on Saturday, Dec. 7 from noon-3 p.m. will feature a variety of free kids' activities including Photo Ops with Santa, a Free Kids' Paint & Sip, Free Drop-In Art Making at Berkshire Art Center and much more.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will host a Free Kids' Paint & Sip for ages 5 to 12 (younger and older children welcome) on Saturday, Dec. 7 from noon-2:30 pm, in the auditorium at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 67 East St. There will also be a bonus painting craft on wooden ornaments sponsored by St. Stephen's. The auditorium is on the second floor of the parish house and the entrance is on Allen Street.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. will host Photo Ops with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 7 from noon-3 p.m. on Dunham Mall, 100 North St.. Santa will be outside on Dunham Mall near City Hall welcoming children and families to visit with him and take photos. People should bring their own camera or cell phone to capture photos of this special moment.

Join Berkshire Art Center for a Free Drop-In Art Making event at their Brotherhood Building location, 141 North St., as part of the Festive Frolic Junior on Saturday, Dec. 7 from noon-3 p.m. A BAC Faculty Artist will be leading a creative snowflake wall hanging project, appropriate for a multigenerational audience.

The Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Avenue, will host a Holiday Card Making Drop-in on Saturday, Dec. 7 from noon-3 p.m. in the Children's Library. Children can make holiday cards for nursing home residents as well as holiday cards for them to take home, while supplies last.

The Berkshire Athenaeum in partnership with the Berkshire County Historical Society (BCHS) will also present a free Oral History Event on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the publication of Herman Melville's Billy Budd, the Berkshire

Athenaeum and BCHS will collect and record stories of grandparents and grandchildren. This program is funded in part by Mass Humanities, which receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Berkshire Athenaeum's Adult Services Department will host a Festive Bookmark Making Drop-in for Adults on Saturday, Dec. 7 from noon-3 p.m. in the Blake Room on the main floor back by the Reference Desk.

Peace Train Tees, 2 South St., will host a free "Create your own star ornament" drop-in event on Saturday, Dec. 7 from noon-3 p.m. Coloring sheets with special markers will be provided and finished designs will be used to create a completed ornament. This event is free and best suited for ages 4 to 12. Parent participation is encouraged, and refreshments will be provided.

Marie's North Street Eatery and Gallery, 146 North St., will host a free "Build your own Cotton Ball Snowman" drop-in activity on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Nene's Deco, 144 South Street, will host a free "Balloon twist for beginners" class on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 1-2 p.m.

The Plant Connector, 46 West St. will host a free holiday pot decorating drop-in on Saturday, Dec. 7 from noon-3 p.m. and will offer kids' mini winter-themed terrariums for \$12.

Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.'s Where's Winston? Scavenger Hunt will kick off on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. To play, go to the Children's Library at the Berkshire Athenaeum to pick up a Game Card. Then go to the locations on the Game Card, find the Winston posters and write down the words. Bring your Game Card back to the Children's Library to claim your prizes. The Where's Winston? Scavenger Hunt will run through Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, while supplies last.

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

## GOSHEN

### Light Up Goshen takes place Dec. 8

GOSHEN – On Sunday, Dec. 8 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in Goshen Center the town tree will be aglow, luminaries will line the street and cookies and cocoa will be free at the Town Hall.

The participant in Let's light up Goshen for the holiday season contest whose home gets the most votes will receive a \$50 cash prize. Anyone wishing to participate in Light Up Goshen should email [lightupgoshen@gmail.com](mailto:lightupgoshen@gmail.com) or text Jess at 413-570-6130 with their name and address to be added to the map of homes taking part in the contest.



### Council on Aging announces upcoming events

GOSHEN – The festive Holiday Council on Aging luncheon will be held downstairs in the Goshen Town Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at noon.

Lunch will be a choice of prime rib or vegetable lasagna by Jerry Bird from Spruce Corner Restaurant. There will be sides of potatoes, vegetables, salad and rolls. And, as always, they will serve a delicious holiday dessert. The COA hopes Santa will make an appearance too. People should call Kerry at 413-268-9354 by Monday, Dec. 2 to let her know their choice of dinner. Donations to the COA are appreciated, but not mandatory.

On Wednesday, Dec. 4 crafts group meets from 2-4 p.m. in the Goshen Library or upstairs dining room. People may bring a craft and the COA will also have materials to create a holiday bird feeder and to create popcorn and cranberry garland if they want to try something different. Sign-ups are appreciated by emailing Pat Wheeler at [patwheeler0825@gmail.com](mailto:patwheeler0825@gmail.com). All are welcome.

On Friday, Dec 6 Community Connections Group will be held in the Goshen Town Hall upstairs dining room from 10-11 a.m. This is the two-year anniversary of this great group. This month, they will have a Holiday Name

That Tune and other fun activities and some tasty treats.

On Tuesdays, Dec. 17 and 24 Highland Valley Elder Services grab and go lunches. Participants pick up their hot lunch at the Goshen Town Hall from 12:30-1 p.m. The lunch for Dec. 17 is a choice of macaroni and cheese or Tuscan white bean soup and on Dec. 24 the choice is honey glazed ham or baked ziti. The meals also include milk, vegetables, and dessert. There is a suggested \$4 donation given to Highland Valley to offset the cost of the meal. People should call Kerry at 413-268-9354 if they would like to sign up to get these nutritious and delicious meals.

On Wednesday, Dec 18 Games Group will meet in the Goshen Library from 2-4 p.m. This is a fun way to spend an afternoon. Games are available or people may bring their favorite game. The group is always open to learning new games, as well as playing old favorites.

On Friday, Dec 19. Technology Help is held in the Goshen Library with Goshen resident Stephen Morley, who volunteers through the Tech Connect Program. He will be there from noon-2 p.m. People may bring any and all questions regarding their computer, phone, tablet to Stephen and he

will help problem solve with them

If seniors would like a bucket of sand delivered to them from the TRIAD program, they should call Henrietta Munroe at 413-268-7465. She is also the one people can call to borrow medical equipment free of charge. They have items such as tub seats, commodes, walkers and even a knee scooter.

The Goshen Council on Aging invites people to a three part discussion group based on the book "Let's Talk About Death Over Dinner" by Michael Herb on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2025 from 4-5 p.m. People will receive a copy of the book. On Tuesday Feb. 18, 2025 from 4-6:30 p.m. a catered dinner and a prompted discussion facilitated by Stacey Mackowiak, End of Life Doula will take place. On TuesdayFeb. 25, 2025 from 4-5 p.m. there will be an optional follow up conversation.

This important and engaging program is free and limited to 15 participants; older adults from all Hilltowns are welcome. People may contact Kerry Normandin, Goshen COA Director, by Jan. 3 to sign up at 413-268-9354 or email [coa@goshen-ma.us](mailto:coa@goshen-ma.us) All three parts will take place in the John James Memorial Hall, 42 Main St. Goshen. This is funded by a grant from the MCOA.

# OBITUARY

## Edwin L. Carrington, 92

Edwin L. Carrington, 92, passed away peacefully at home on Nov. 19, 2024 surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Westfield to the late Edwin G. and Helen F. (Williams) Carrington. Edwin proudly served his country during the Korean War from 1952-1956. He was a member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Chester Historical Society. He loved history, reading, hunting, fishing and gardening and was happiest working on his farm.

"Eddie" can be remembered for his picture perfect garden at his home, managing it in those blue coveralls and straw hat, volunteering for each and every church supper in town, always with a smile, riding his bike to work every day at the emery plant, lunchbox attached.

Ed was very knowledgeable about local history and one of his most favorite things was for people to stop by, say hello, and trade stories about the way "it used to be." He knew everything about the history of the town of Chester and loved to tell you about it.

Even if you couldn't see him in crowds, you could hear him telling stories, with his voice surpassing



many around him. In lieu of thank you, his famous words when gifted food were "best I ever had." He much enjoyed assisting the historical society with literature and knowledge of Chester's history, as he spent all of his adult life there.

Edwin is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Lora J. (Sanderson) Carrington; a sister, Roberta Small of Huntington; his children, Guy F. Carrington and wife Brenda of Guilford, Vermont and grandchildren Ashley Poirier and Chase Carrington; Janie L. Cortis and husband Philip of Westfield and granddaughters Hope and Lora Cortis and Steven J. Carrington of Tolland and grandsons Brian and John Carrington and seven cherished great-grandchildren.

A private burial was held with Military Honors in Pine Hill Cemetery, Chester on Nov. 25. Donations in Edwin's name may be directed to the Chester Historical Society, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester or to the charity of one's choice. Arrangements are under the direction of the Firtion Adams Funeral Service, 76 Broad St., Westfield, MA 01085. [www.firtionadams.com](http://www.firtionadams.com)

## DEATH NOTICE

**CARRINGTON, EDWIN G.**

Died Nov. 19, 2024  
Private burial with military honors

## 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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## WESTFIELD

# Air Force and National Guard to offer new aircraft

WESTFIELD – The Department of the Air Force and the National Guard Bureau have prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement that analyzes the potential environmental consequences of replacing legacy aircraft, F-15C/D, with new generation aircraft, F-15EX or F-35A, at select fighter wings.

The NGB has considered the following three fighter wings to receive the new aircraft:

The 104th Fighter Wing, located at Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport, Westfield, Massachusetts (F-15EX or F-35A)

The 144th Fighter Wing, located at Fresno Yosemite International Airport, Fresno, California (F-15EX only)

The 159th Fighter Wing, located at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, Belle Chasse, Louisiana (F-15EX or F-35A)

The NGB proposes to replace one squadron of F-15C/D aircraft with one squadron of F-15EX aircraft at two of the three fighter wings listed above and one squadron of F-35A aircraft at either the 104th Fighter Wing or the 159th Fighter Wing. No fighter wing would receive both aircraft. The NGB is acquiring the F-15EX and F-35A aircraft in support of the Air National Guard mission.

### Public Meetings

The NGB held an in-person public meeting at Westfield Intermediate School, 350 Southhampton Road in Westfield on

March 19 and virtually on March 6. These meetings included an informational session to answer questions regarding the proposal, alternatives, and environmental resources that were evaluated, and a formal hearing. The formal hearing was an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments orally for the record. The public was also able to submit comments in writing. All comments have been reviewed and incorporated into the Final EIS, as appropriate.

The Final EIS is available at the Westfield Athenaeum Library, Westfield City Hall (Mayor's Office), Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport (Airport Manager's Office) and online at [www.ANGF15EX-F35A-EIS.com](http://www.ANGF15EX-F35A-EIS.com). For more information visit the website.



## PUBLIC NOTICES

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

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Worthington Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing in response to a Request for Determination of Applicability regarding the proposed work associated with the installation of an upgraded septic system at 239 Huntington Road.

The Hearing will be held **Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 7 PM** in the Selectboard meeting room at Town Hall.  
11/28/2024

### MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Edward C. Bruneau and Katherine E. Bruneau to Household Finance Corporation II, dated May 7, 2007 and recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 9124, Page 157, subsequently assigned to MTGLQ Investors, L.P. by Household Finance Corporation II by assignment recorded in said Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 12631, Page 105, subsequently assigned to

Loan Acquisition Trust 2017-RPL1 by MTGLQ Investors, L.P. by assignment recorded in said Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 12857, Page 142, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for Loan Acquisition Trust 2017-RPL1 by Loan Acquisition Trust 2017-RPL1 by assignment recorded in said Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 14629, Page 88, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for REO Trust 2017-RPL1 by U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for Loan Acquisition Trust 2017-RPL1 by assignment recorded in said Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 14904, Page 281 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 AM on December 12, 2024** at 104 Pond Brook Road, Huntington, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

ALL THAT CERTAIN REAL ESTATE SITUATE

IN HUNTINGTON, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, BEING ON THE NORTHEASTERLY SIDE OF A HIGHWAY KNOWN AS ROUTE #66, AND COMPRISING THE FOLLOWING TWO PARCELS:

**TRACT 1:**  
BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIPE ON SAID NORTHEASTERLY SIDE OF ROUTE #66;

THENCE RUNNING SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID HIGHWAY A DISTANCE OF 300 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE AT A STONE WALL AND TRACT 2 HEREIN DESCRIBED;

THENCE RUNNING NORTHERLY 300 FEET ALONG SAID TRACT 2 TO A 3 INCH IRON PIPE;

THENCE RUNNING SOUTHWESTERLY 260 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 35,152 SQUARE FEET OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.

**TRACT 2:**  
BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN ON THE NORTHEASTERLY SIDE OF ROUTE #66, WHICH IRON PIN IS ALSO THE SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER OF TRACT 1 DESCRIBED ABOVE;

THENCE RUNNING NORTHWESTERLY ALONG SAID TRACT 1 A DISTANCE OF 300 FEET TO A 3 INCH IRON PIPE;

THENCE AT A RIGHT ANGLE EASTERLY ALONG LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF ELMER R. JOHNSON ET UX, A DISTANCE OF 320 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE AT A RIGHT ANGLE SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID JOHNSON LAND A DISTANCE OF 300 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE AT SAID HIGHWAY;

THENCE RUNNING WESTERLY ALONG SAID HIGHWAY A DISTANCE OF 50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED FROM EDWARD C. BRUNEAU TO EDWARD C. BRUNEAU AND KATHERINE E. BRUNEAU, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS T/B/E, BY DEED RECORDED 03/03/95, IN BOOK 4633, AT PAGE 130, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles,

water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

**TERMS OF SALE:**  
A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage

shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

**TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.**

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association,  
not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for REO Trust 2017-RPL1 Present Holder of said Mortgage,

By Its Attorneys,  
ORLANDS PC PO  
Box 540540  
Waltham, MA 02454  
Phone: (781) 790-7800  
23-007632

11/21, 11/28, 12/05/2024

### Montgomery Planning Board Legal Notice

In accordance with Mass. Gov Chapter 40A the town of Montgomery, MA will hold an Open Hearing **December 10, 2024 at 7:30 PM** at the Montgomery Town Hall concerning a change to the Right to Farm By-Law concerning swine, and an amendment to the Zoning By-laws concerning 'Outbuildings' definition and setbacks.

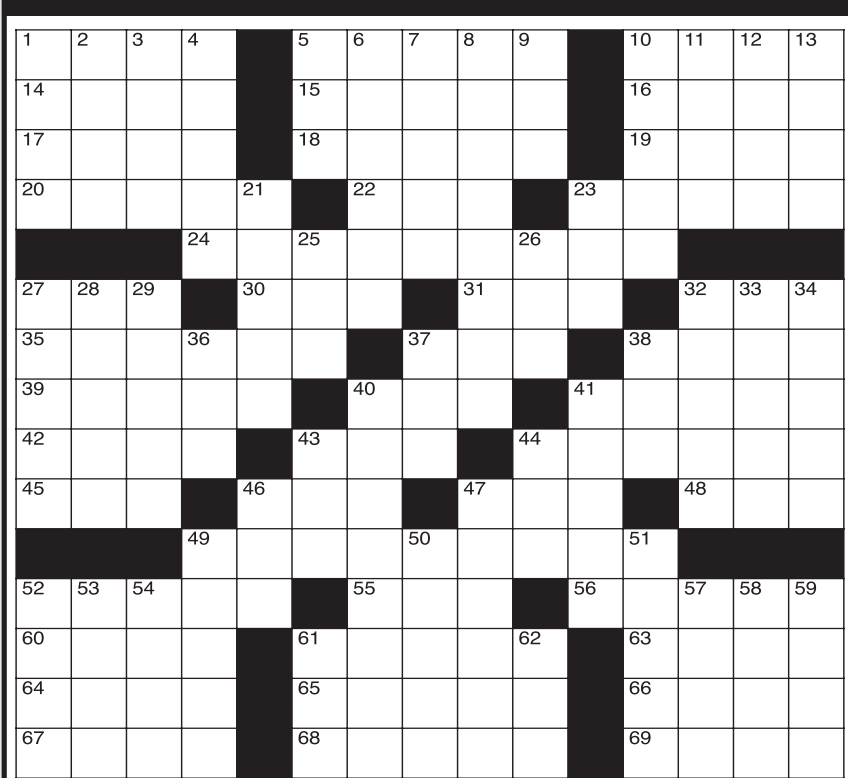
Christina Pierce, Secretary  
11/21, 11/28/2024



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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Long piece of squared timber
- 5. Emaciation
- 10. "Bewitched" boss Larry
- 14. Combining form meaning "different"
- 15. Current unit equal to 10 amperes
- 16. Older
- 17. Large, stocky lizard
- 18. Ringworm
- 19. Actor Pitt
- 20. Indian hand clash cymbals
- 22. Data at rest
- 23. Jeweled headdress
- 24. Indicators of when stories were written
- 27. Check
- 30. Cigarette (slang)
- 31. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- 32. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 35. Delivered a speech
- 37. A place to bathe
- 38. Postmen deliver it
- 39. Surface in geometry

- 40. More (Spanish)
- 41. \_\_\_ and Venzetti
- 42. Exclamation at the end of a prayer
- 43. Hawaiian dish
- 44. Aggressively proud men
- 45. Fellow
- 46. Mark Wahlberg comedy
- 47. Mock
- 48. When you expect to get somewhere
- 49. Songs
- 52. Pair of small hand drums
- 55. Play
- 56. Sword
- 60. Evergreens and shrubs genus
- 61. Filmed
- 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 65. Pores in a leaf
- 66. U. of Miami mascot is one
- 67. Snake-like fishes
- 68. Pretended to be
- 69. Body part

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Piece of felted material
- 2. Ancient Greek City
- 3. Aquatic plant
- 4. Potentially harmful fungus (Brit. sp.)
- 5. Body art (slang)
- 6. One who follows the rules
- 7. Ordinary
- 8. Honorably retired from assigned duties and retaining one's title
- 9. Relaxing space
- 10. Japanese socks
- 11. Indian city
- 12. Rip
- 13. Icelandic book
- 21. Satisfies
- 23. Where golfers begin
- 25. Small amount
- 26. Snag
- 27. Determine the sum of
- 28. A distinctive smell
- 29. Exposed to view
- 32. Stain or blemish
- 33. Small loop in embroidery
- 34. River herring genus

- 36. Large beer
- 37. Deep, red-brown sea bream
- 38. Partner to cheese
- 40. At a deliberate pace
- 41. Gurus
- 43. Of each
- 44. Angry
- 46. Popular beverage
- 47. Flower cluster
- 49. Blocks
- 50. Those who benefitted from efforts of relatives (slang)
- 51. Polio vaccine developer
- 52. A (usually) large and scholarly book
- 53. Popular soap ingredient
- 54. NBAer Bradley
- 57. Popular movie about a pig
- 58. Musician Clapton
- 59. Not a sure thing
- 61. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- 62. Father

# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**

**Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, be careful what you ask for, as things have a funny way of coming true for you this week. Censor your thoughts for now, and perhaps hold your cards closer to the vest.

**CANCER**

**Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Thoughts of love and relationships are on your mind, Cancer. However, you will have trouble expressing just how you feel to others. Think through your words before saying them.

**LIBRA**

**Sept 23/Oct 23**  
It's time to plan and prepare, Libra. Take out a pen and paper and start making lists or use a digital planner. It's the only way to remain organized with so much going on.

**CAPRICORN**

**Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, things turn out to be calm this week, and it is surprising how much you can accomplish. This slow pace is just the reprieve you've needed.

**TAURUS**

**Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, you may have a lot of anxious thoughts right now. Friends provide a welcome diversion later in the week, and you also may want to put in more hours at work to stay distracted.

**LEO**

**Jul 23/Aug 23**  
You are a whirlwind of activity, and this causes a bit of disruption. Others may remark on how you seem to be all over the place, but you know your limits.

**SCORPIO**

**Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Matters at home are a priority. Focus your attention on tackling things around the house and you'll have more time to devote to fun down the road.

**AQUARIUS**

**Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, there's not much you can do about a particular problem, so it may be better to stop thinking about a solution. Put your attention toward something you can control.

**GEMINI**

**May 22/June 21**  
Plans aren't panning out as you'd hoped, so consider other opportunities. Stop and consider all the possibilities as soon as possible and then make a decision.

**VIRGO**

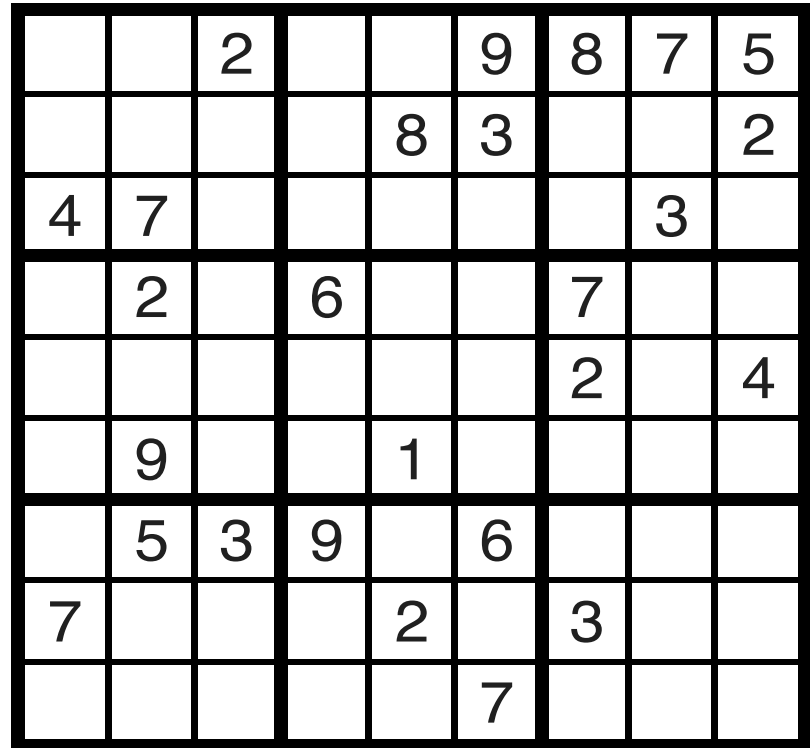
**Aug 24/Sept 22**  
It's hard to imagine fitting anything else into your packed schedule, Virgo. Somehow you manage to do it. But the effects could prove stressful. Try lightening your load this week.

**SAGITTARIUS**

**Nov 23/Dec 21**  
It might be time to pinch some pennies, Sagittarius. This week you could come up a bit short, and it doesn't bode well for the rest of the month. Consider new revenue streams.

**PISCES**

**Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, a few minor tweaks to your schedule and you could be able to tackle a number of tasks this week. Enjoy the productivity.



# SUDOKU

**Fun By The Numbers**

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

**Here's How It Works:**

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

**answers**

K	O	E	N	D	S	O	P	S	T	L	E	E
S	I	B	I	A	W	O	T	S	B	V	O	W
I	R	A	V	D	E	F	V	T	V	E	L	O
R	E	R	S	A	C	R	E	V	A	T	A	R
S	E	S	D	E	V	N	S	E	S	E	S	E
V	T	E	G	V	R	A	D	E	T	L	A	V
S	O	H	O	W	I	O	P	N	E	W	A	V
O	C	C	S	I	V	W	S	U	N	O	T	
T	I	V	W	B	U	N	D	E	T	V	R	O
P	A	T	C	H	E	R	T	A	V	T	A	R
S	E	S	N	I	L	E	V	D	S	T	L	E
V	R	V	I	T	D	E	S	T	L	V	V	T
D	V	R	B	A	N	I	T	U	G	E	T	
D	E	G	V	F	M	A	V	O	L	T	A	R
T	A	T	E	S	T	A	B	E	S	T	A	R

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

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### FOR RENT



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## REGION

## Clark Art Institute hosts Williams College chamber music gala

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Saturday, Dec. 14 at 4:30 p.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., hosts a free concert by the Williams College Music Department in the Clark's auditorium, located in the Manton Research Center.

The Chamber Music Gala presents an afternoon of exceptional chamber

music. The program of piano, string and wind chamber music showcases students performing selections from their fall semester chamber music collaborations.

Accessible seats available and for information, people may call 413 458 0524. For more information, they may visit [clarkart.edu/events](http://clarkart.edu/events).

## Mall partners with Salvation Army

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Mall is proud to partner with The Salvation Army for their annual Red Kettle Campaign Kick Off event. This event signals the start of an initiative which funds programs and services for thousands of families, youth, and senior citizens in our community and across Massachusetts each year.

Bell ringers will be accepting donations at various exterior entrances and interior locations across the shopping center until Dec. 24. The event will also feature a performance from the Holyoke High School Madrigal Choir.

To complement the Red Kettle

Campaign, The Salvation Army is set to host another annual tradition, the Angel Tree. This program provides clothing and toys for children in need. According to The Salvation Army, each Angel Tree is decorated with numbered paper angel tags with the first name, age, and gender of a child who is in need of a gift. Contributors remove one, or more, tags from the tree and purchase appropriate gifts for the child or children described on the tags. Guests are encouraged to visit the Angel Tree Thursday through Saturday from 3 to 6 p.m. beginning on Friday, Nov. 15 and until Tuesday, Dec. 24.

## Festival Chorus presents Christmas

STOCKBRIDGE – Stockbridge Festival Chorus presents its annual Christmas Concert on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 pm at the First Congregational Church of Stockbridge.

Featured works by the 45 voice community choir include "Fantasia on Christmas Carols" by Vaughan Williams for baritone soloist and chorus and

"Magnificat" by Vaughan Williams for contralto soloist and women's chorus. Recommended donation at the door is \$20 for adults; \$10 for members of local community choruses and free for people 18 and under. The sanctuary is fully accessible.

For more information, people may call 413-298-3137.



## Wistariahurst Museum to hold holiday open house

HOLYOKE – You better watch out, you better not cry. Better not pout, Wistariahurst is telling you why: our Holiday Open House and Festive Market is comin' to town! On Dec. 7 and 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the mood will be right and the spirits up during this captivating weekend of jubilation. Our beloved museum will be decorated with the splendor of the holiday season and filled with cheer as we welcome guests back into our halls. Visitors will be able to explore the first floor of the museum, listen to holiday-themed music, and discover the fun of our Wisty Railroad train set on display. But wait, there's myrrh! Our winter wonderland will feature our Festive Market with local vendors selling a variety of products such as art, jewelry, and other amazing items perfect for your gift exchanges this year. Our Holiday Open House is guaranteed to bring joy to your world with historical fun and holiday cheer.

"There is nothing better than feeling the magic of the holiday season inside of the museum," Rachel Powell, office assistant, muses. "The greatest gift we see at the museum is seeing people of all ages come together to celebrate the museum and community in the warmth of our halls."

Wistariahurst Museum's 4th Annual Holiday Open House and Festival Market truly offers something for everyone, and we're so excited to welcome the entire community to join us and share in the joy of the season. Our event is a time for celebration and a time to make cherished memories, so we've made sure to make admission to this event free and open to the public.

## Christophe Koné to speak at Clark Art Institute Feb. 4

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Tuesday, Dec. 10, the Clark Art Institute's Research and Academic Program presents a talk by Christophe Koné, associate professor of German and director of the Oakley Center for Humanities and Social Sciences at Williams College, on his new book, "Uncanny Creatures: Doll Thinking in Modern German Culture" (University of Michigan, 2024).

In it he examines dolls' omnipresence in the material, visual and literary culture of the modern German-speaking world. Because dolls occupy a liminal space-not quite things and more than mere objects-they appear as uncanny creatures, which have held a fascination for writers, thinkers and artists alike, including Rainer Maria Rilke, Oscar Kokoschka and Hans Bellmer, among others.

Uncanny Creatures moves past the Freudian discourse of fetishism to propose a new reading of doll artifacts in German culture centered on their ability to evoke a feeling of uncertainty and unsettlement in the viewer.

This talk is free. Accessible seats are available; for information, people may call 413-458-0524. A reception at 5 p.m. in the Manton Research Center, 35 South St., reading room precedes the event. For more information, people may visit [clarkart.edu/events](http://clarkart.edu/events).

The next Research and Academic Program lecture is presented by Darius Bost, Associate Professor of Black Studies and Gender & Women's Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Clark/Oakley Fellow. Bost will explore the work of black gay photographer Alvin Baltrop. This event takes place on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 5:30 p.m.

## Clark offers free gallery tours

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Saturday, Dec. 7 at 10:15 a.m., the Clark Art Institute, 225 South St., hosts the next in its series of free tours of its permanent collection galleries designed specifically to meet the interests of new parents/caregivers and their infants.

Participants should meet at the Clark's main admissions desk. The program is specially designed to provide new parents and caregivers with a stress-free experience that offers chances to socialize with others who

are caring for young infants. The guided gallery tour offers an informal visit to the Clark's permanent collection free from any concerns about short attention spans or fussy babies. Works by a variety of artists are featured during the casual tour of the collection.

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).



We hope this holiday finds you surrounded by those you love and hold dear. Thank you for giving us so much to be grateful for this holiday season and all year; we appreciate your loyal support.

# Country Journal

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