

"Life itself is the most wonderful fairy tale." – Hans Christian Andersen

# 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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## WORTHINGTON

### Special visitor arrives for tree lighting

By Kathryn Koegel  
Correspondent

On a cold and blustery night the Sunday past Thanksgiving, the air of expectation was palpable for children in Worthington.

Their parents gathered them at the town pond and warmed themselves by bonfires. A few inches of snow had recently fallen, completing the holiday picture. The town pond was well on its way to becoming a skating rink.

Suddenly, a fire truck with holiday lights pulled up and the man of the hour descended to be greeted by his adoring fans. "I haven't seen you since last year," said one little girl who rushed to hug him. The man proceeded to sit on a makeshift throne and welcome children to his

lap. They whispered their hopes to him and each received a goodie sack reportedly prepared by his wife.

When interviewed on his way to the ceremonial tree lighting, which was in his job description, the man reported that this year no one had asked for a pony, but one did want a shed. When queried about that unusual request his eyes twinkled and he said, "to put his ATV in." Were the children this year good or bad? "Nice, of course," he said.

The man ambled over to the tall tree, pressed a switch and the crowd cheered. With that, the tree twinkled in all shades of glowing lights. The holiday season had officially begun in the Hilltown of Worthington where as his magic, Santa remembers the hopes and dreams of its children.



Arden, 3 and Odin, 6, Bottum of Worthington reveal their toy wishes to Santa.



A red-suited man arrived on a firetruck truck.



Bonfires lit up the town pond.



Santa lit the town tree for the official kick off the holiday season.

Turley photos by  
Kathryn Koegel

## HUNTINGTON

### Board to gate off 'Pisgah Pit' after fire

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

The Select Board reviewed a range of items at their regular meeting held Wednesday, Nov. 20 at Town Hall, but the hottest topic was not on the agenda.

Chair Roger Booth and members Bill Hathaway and John McVeigh were all present, as was Town Administrator Jennifer Pelouquin. Appointments with Fire Chief Josh Ellinger, Police Chief Robert Garriepy and Highway Superintendent Brad Curry revealed that a "near miss disaster" was

averted during a routine culvert clean out.

A Highway Department staff member was cleaning out a culvert on Pisgah Road last week, when he noticed the smoldering remains of a campfire at the "Pisgah Pit," a former sand and gravel pit owned by the town. This had occurred despite a burning ban currently in place. A picture of the situation was sent to Curry, Ellinger and Garriepy. Ellinger immediately dispatched a fire truck; he reported that logs in the



Highway Superintendent Brad Curry and Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger report to the Huntington Select Board about a near disaster at the 'Pisgah Pit' that was discovered during routine road maintenance.

Turley photo by Wendy Long

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## BLANDFORD

### Historical Society votes to install solar panels

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

At the Select Board's Monday, Nov. 25 meeting Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara told the board that the Historical Society has voted to proceed with the installation of a solar array on the building. The Historical Society will cover all the expenses for installation.

Town Administrator

She is in the process of hiring a new accountant for the town and

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## HILLTOWNS

# Jim Caffrey has 40 years of Trustee of land stewardship

Jim Caffrey has a job with huge impact for anyone loving the beautiful environmental nature of the Hilltowns.

Next year will see his 40th anniversary of land conservation and management working for the Trustees of Reservations. If you have walked on the trail by the Chesterfield Gorge, plunged into the cascades of Chapel Brook Falls, skied at Notchview or been dazzled by the massive drop that is Glendale Falls, you have experienced his work as the senior regional stewardship manager for the Trustees of the Reservations.

No, he didn't create these places, but he is the steward of them and the public is the beneficiary of his work. He makes sure trails are maintained, graffiti and trash removed, signage updated. Most importantly, he advocates for the delicate balance that is protection of natural resources along with enabling humans to experience that world up close.

He is also the treasurer and Windsor town representative for the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee, a group that supports the special environmental designation given by Act of Congress to that river. The Country Journal caught up with him at Notchview where his office is. For years he even lived on the property. An early winter storm on Thanksgiving had led him to open Notchview on Saturday Nov. 30. He was busy making sure that the 40 kilometers of trails on 3,200 acres would be ready for cross country skiers and snowshoers. He begins each day of winter by surveying the land and posting the ski conditions online.

For Caffrey, the love of nature began with his family of five boys growing up in what he refers to as the "the classic milltown of North Adams." He displays a wistful nature as he describes a boyhood in a town where families of his size were the norm and they all headed out on weekends and summer vacations in their station wagons to the Hilltowns.

Windsor Jams was a favorite spot as their family often went to swim where the Civilian Conservation Corp had built a dam in the 1930s. The dam had wood slotted into it during the summer to create a pool. "We went with our neighbors who had seven kids. We played. We picnicked, had a fire."

Inspired in part by these sorts of experiences, after his undergraduate degree at Holy Cross, Caffrey went to

graduate school at the Yale School of Forestry. He took a job with the Trustees of the Reservations in Williamstown and subsequently the job at Notchview opened up. "I've skied my entire life, for 60 years. The idea of being able to run a cross country ski area was attractive."

He describes the Trustees as: "our mission is a public charter. We hold beautiful, historic and ecologically significant lands for public use and enjoyment." For Caffrey, the balance between ecology and public use is a constant but rewarding struggle.

"I've spent my whole career focusing on how you manage public use. How do you make sure everyone has a good time while preserving the resource? We have to make it inclusive. It's not easy. Either it works well or it doesn't," he says.

He cites challenges at Glendale Falls in Middlefield and Chapel Brook Falls in Ashfield.

"Chapel Brook has significant over-use including soil compaction and erosion. I get calls from a neighbor who says all she hears during summer is the beeping of car alarms. She moved there to take advantage of the quiet. The trees are dying due to compaction."

While there is an established trail at Glendale Falls, humans are not abiding by the signage. "As it's gotten more popular. They go right to the water. They do not follow trails. The buffer of vegetation is beaten down. It damages the resource."

For Glendale Falls, Caffrey suggests moving the parking lot so it is not right on top of the falls. For Chapel Brook, Caffrey believes the humans may be best managed by suggesting other areas that are not as popular to manage the crowds.

"I look at stuff. That is my job. I make property visits to see if the signage is good. If people are there, I try to talk to them. I start looking at the amount of erosion due to compaction. It's nearly impossible to reverse without shutting a site down. Our job is to keep it open and try to harden trails. We need to direct people and encourage them to go where you would like them to go." He cites the budget and employment challenges of hiring people to be on site as major issues.

What is a good example of "visitor use management" as he refers to it? The



Jim Caffrey

Chesterfield Gorge. As he tells it, "We have the infrastructure. There's a decent parking lot, and the gorge is bullet proof. Not much happens there now. We have a picnic area. Visitors can achieve what they want and walk on the East Branch Trail. People can experience it without having significant impact."

But the Gorge was not always this way, he says. "In the 1970s it was a major party area with all those Baby Boomers. They were diving off the cliffs. It was named as one of the 'Top 50 nude beaches in the country.' The Trustees had the town of Goshen police on retainer to routinely patrol the area. We hired rangers Chet and Lois LaFond, who stayed there 17 years. They were retired and worked seven days a week. They set up picnic tables, grilled and had their extended family help. They greeted and charged admission. They gave you a hot dog."

"After 17 years it completely changed the way people perceived the Chesterfield Gorge. They helped make it a nice place for a picnic or to take a walk. There's no worry about people throwing beer cans."

How have other sites changed in the Hilltowns in respect to recreational access over the last 40 years? He says access to publicly held lands has decreased, largely due to budget cutbacks. "A big issue is DCR [Department of Conservation and Recreation] has rolled back.. Windsor Jams and Chester Blandford State Forest are largely gone," he says, referring to closed or limited facilities. "More land is posted. More people used to hunt and fish – those are people who care about the resources. You went on your neighbors land and hunted. You knew them, they knew you."

"Accessibility is not where it was. But we do have more trails now and the trails are a little better designed," he continues.

"DCR should bring back Chester Blandford," he says "The Trustees [which is an NGO largely funded by an endowment, usage fees and donations] are a big player but we pale in comparison. In one of the recessions of the 1980s or 1990s, Massachusetts coffers were tight and they cut back staffing across the board. The organization never recovered. Windsor

Jams, Chester Blandford and C. M. Gardner State Park are all under-designed and under-utilized."

What would he do about the pulloff on Rte 20 in Huntington that became such a hot button among residents due to over-use and trash that there is now only "live" (20 minute) parking there? Organizations such as American Whitewater and the Westfield River Wildwater Races (which needs the area as the finishing point of their expert-level races) have been lobbying to change the parking policy so they can once again use it as a put-in/pullout location for kayak and canoe access.

Caffrey says this recreation area is a classic case of right place/wrong activities. He says that day-long picnicking with grills and river wading should be moved to other places.

He cites the potential local economic benefit of tourism to the Hilltowns as one reason why towns should consider their access points. "Visitors come, they swim, they eat in a restaurant and stay at an AirBNB."

But as always, he urges caution. "There is no way to limit numbers. We try to say: 'here, not here' and tell people what activities are encouraged in which place."

Can you model ideal human behavior in respect to public access of natural resources? "You can work toward it, but never achieve it," he says. "There has to be persistent reminders including staff telling people what they can and can't do. We need to be clear about how land is supposed to be used. There's public education involved. We have to go back down to the schools, visit and talk to kids. 'Stop. Look. Listen. You might see a deer, but do not startle it.'"

Where the public use is largely defined and understood is at Notchview. On a cold early winter Monday, the first few skiers of the season carried their skis from their cars to experience a world of white. The wet snow of Thanksgiving had iced the tall pines and the first groomed trails gleamed in the sunlight. Caffrey headed off to lay the track for eager skiers all while protecting the land they glide on.

Notchview is open now through March 15 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. given snow. Trail fees are \$20 per day (\$15 for Trustees members). Lessons and rentals are available. For more information: [trustees.org/content/notchview-skiing](http://trustees.org/content/notchview-skiing).

## BOARD

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area were on fire when they arrived.

"They pretty much emptied the truck on that-about 1,000 gallons," said Ellinger. Discussion at the meeting ensued with agreement that the area needs to be gated off and wireless cameras immediately installed. The three reported that people are dumping on the site. Brush, debris-including a camper and old motorcycles and even a deer carcass were all discovered there. As staff determine gate and camera options, Booth said he would give them two wifi deer cameras to install the next day at the pit.

Ellinger will also put up no burning signs. There have already been no trespassing signs on the site but many get pulled down. The woods are so dry that if the fire had gone undiscovered, it could have been catastrophic to the town and likely to nearby Westhampton, the officials said.

"Thank you guys. We got lucky," Booth concluded.

### Highway garage heat detectors

Garriepy and Ellinger also consulted with the board and Peloquin on building security for Town Hall, and other public buildings. In reviewing the estimate for heat detectors at the highway garage, Ellinger felt that the company had gone far above what was needed, calling for 22 detectors and

likely needing only 8 or 9, Ellinger said. All agreed that the building should be done to prevent a 2017 incident in Sandisfield, in which a fire at their highway department destroyed the town's fleet of trucks, plows and heavy equipment.

### ARPA funds

The town is closing in on its final expenditures through American Rescue Plan Act funds, which must be encumbered by the end of December. A project for heat detectors at the highway garage and the two fire stations will be out for bid soon. Booth said the expenses might get the town a discount on its insurance, as the liability for the equipment housed in those spaces is huge. This is likely to spend out ARPA and require extra funding be approved at the Special Town Meeting in June.

### New locks

The group also discussed new locks in the Town Hall Offices, with a key system that cannot be easily replicated. Over time, previous keys have been copied without authorization. Garriepy said that, at a minimum, any office where cash is kept should be done, as well as doors leading to the server and vault in the basement. A proposal from Rackliffe for \$7,500 was unanimously approved, using ARPA funding.

### Highway Department

Curry gave his highway department update, which included estimates on the highway garage door which will have to go out to bid. They are expecting one more estimate, but the first ones on the project total \$70,000. Peloquin will write up the specs as soon as the third estimate comes in. Booth will be away at the next meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 4 and urged Hathaway, McVeigh and Peloquin to move ahead in his absence.

In other department news, the price of asphalt had gone down at the time the transfer station and highway garage areas were re-paved, so they still have money in the account for road work. His new administrative assistant is working well, and the department has two trucks ready to go if needed for ice or snow; two more are being worked on right now. Tolland donated a sander to the town. It needs a little work, but it will be a good addition to the fleet, Curry said. Salt is arriving soon.

### Tree issue

Steven King stopped in to ask the board for assistance on a tree at his father Gene's home at 92 Searle Road. It is a hard maple and "99% dead" and big pieces keep falling into the road. He had reported this two years ago, but the tree has still not been removed. Peloquin will follow up with the new tree warden and

gave that phone number to King, as well.

### Town Clerk

The final area of business was additional compensation for election work for the Town Clerk and Chief Garriepy, which can come out of the election budget. Town Clerk Michelle Booth requested \$1,500 for additional hours through the election fund; Garriepy worked over 20 hours on election day and was awarded an additional \$1,000 out of the fund. Booth recused himself from the discussion.

Peloquin said that she feels the Town Clerk's position needs more hours than the current 18 hours a week. She proposed looking at increasing her hours and salary at the next meeting and will look at possible sources of funding to cover a mid-year increase.

### Other business

In other business, the board approved a contract with Laroche Construction, Inc. for replacement windows at the town library for \$24,900 and signed Hilltown Firewood for snow removal at Town Hall this winter at the same rate of \$95 per service. The Board approved the return of two seasonal highway workers with a 4% increase in pay. There is still an open seasonal position and a permanent, full time driver/laborer is still in the process of being filled.

# HUNTINGTON

## Applications for tax work off due Jan. 30, 2025

HUNTINGTON – Applications are now available for the Huntington Senior and Veteran Property Tax Work Off Programs for Fiscal Year 2026.

Huntington property owners, who are at least 60 years old and or U.S. military veterans, may work up to 33.33 hours at the rate of \$15 per hour in a town department to receive a maximum \$500 credit

on their real estate tax bill. The tax credit will be applied to the owner's February or May 2026 real estate bill.

Those who are both seniors and veterans may apply for both programs. The application deadline is Jan. 30, 2025. Applications are available at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) and on the inside bulletin board at Town Hall.

## Task force to meet Dec. 11

HUNTINGTON – The Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force will meet at Gateway Regional High School, 12 Littleville Road, on Wednesday, Dec. 11 from 3-4:30 p.m. in the second floor Career Center.

This is an in person meeting. To par-

ticipate on Zoom, people should visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89729465855?pwd=2tjSGbl1bv0jfrs5r-bYctGlnTerKpu.1>

The Meeting ID is 897 2946 5855 and passcode is 165673. The next meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025.

### HILLTOWN ARTS ALLIANCE HELD OPEN STUDIO TOUR



Blooming Table events organized a holiday pop up in an unusual location: the brewing area of Sena Farm Brewery in Worthington on Sunday, Dec. 1. Fletcher Schneeflock of Cummington shows his handcrafted bowls to Kathryn Jensen, who organized this year's Hilltown Arts Alliance Open Studio Tour. *Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel*

### GATEWAY STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT CHRISTMAS TREE SALES



Clem Pin of Rockhouse Ridge Farm in Huntington, from left, works with Gateway Regional students on Christmas tree sales. They opened for the season on Friday, Nov. 29. *Turley photo by Kathryn Koegel*



Vanessa Kirby of Goshen Ocean ceramics, who hand builds her pottery in the Hilltowns, participated at the brewery.

# Giving Tuesday draws volunteers to The Village Closet

By Kathryn Koegel  
*Correspondent*

HUNTINGTON – Basements of historic buildings are not usually described as “magical,” but the spirit of the holiday charity infused the underpinnings of It Takes a Village on Tuesday, Dec. 3, which was Giving Tuesday.

The Village Closet, 2 East Main St., the family resource center that the charity runs in Huntington, was flooded with donations and volunteers as they geared up for the holiday season. The basement was being used as both a sorting center and staging area for the upcoming giveaways. Thirty volunteers were on site prepping the store for expected crush of holiday visitors.

“We’re a Toys for Tots distribution location and also have collection bins around the area for the annual toy giveaway to Hilltowns families which will start on Tuesday, Dec. 17,” says executive director Lisa Goding. “But I also want to remind people that, as always, we take donations of clean, gently-used clothing. They go directly into the hands of those who need them in the Hilltowns. It’s a truly sustainable initiative.”

Trevor Kendrick of the HEC Academy in Northampton was sorting disposable diapers into packs of 20 to be given away. The Village Closet hosts one of the biggest diaper giveaway programs in Western Massachusetts, says Goding. “I didn’t know what a P meant,” said Kendrick holding up a diaper for preemies that seemed impossibly tiny.

For Kailean Hubbard of All Out Adventures in Northampton, this was her third visit and she was sorting baby socks. “I like volunteering here,” she said. “It’s a great charity and every time I come I do



Kailean Hubbard volunteers sorting baby socks. *Turley photo Kathryn Koegel*



It Takes a Village staffer Kenzie Kinsella coordinates Giving Tuesday activities while minding a staff member’s baby: Callie Nowack.



Volunteer Patricia Poteat sorts toddler clothing on Giving Tuesday at the Village Closet.



Trevor Kendrick sorts one of the most in demand items at the Village Closet: disposable diapers.

something different.”

Over at a table, Domenic Jackewich and Michael Hanlon, also of the HEC Academy, were sorting toddler toys by shapes and sizes. Cathy Bruce of Westfield volunteers weekly in the toy area. She is on a mission to find and organize missing pieces to board games and dresses up dolls so they are ready for their next child. She also takes a bag of clothes home a week to wash them for reuse. “I started coming in a few years ago when I was watching one of my grandchildren as it made me realize how valuable the Village Closet is for young families.”

Carol Isenberg volunteers every Tuesday and says: “it’s so satisfying getting the clothes people donate into bins. People ‘shop’ for free. It makes them feel confident and get a sense of independence.” Another clothing sorter, Patricia Poteat, conquered: “people don’t have to be embarrassed getting things they need here. As I sort, my goal is that I wouldn’t put anything out that I wouldn’t have my own kids wear.” She volunteers one day a week.

What do they need more of in terms of clothes? children sizes 7 - 18. “It’s hard to get things for teens in good condition that are current styles,” says Poteat. The organization has a free store that operates out of Gateway Regional High School. She encourages people to donate shoes for adult sizes 9 and up.

For more information on ways to give this holiday, people may visit [hilltownvillage.org/donate](http://hilltownvillage.org/donate). Donations of clothing and infant goods can be made on site at 2 East Main St., during regular opening hours, Sunday and Monday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment. For an appointment, they should email [info@hilltownvillage.org](mailto:info@hilltownvillage.org).

# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### Am I entitled to more Social Security from my ex-husbands?

Dear Rusty:

I am 76 years old and a retired high school counselor/teacher. I was married to my first husband from 1968 until 1981. He is still living and he remarried two more times and, I believe, he is currently divorced. He is 77 years old. His income was always much higher than mine. I was married to my second husband from May 1989 until we divorced in April 2017. My second husband died in June 2023. What I wonder is if I am entitled to receive Social Security benefits based upon the income of either of my ex-husbands?

**Signed: Twice Divorced Spouse**

Dear Twice Divorced:

Divorced spouses are entitled to the same benefits as a current spouse if their marriage lasted at least 10 years which, in both cases, yours did. The other caveat is whether your own SS retirement benefit is less than you are entitled to from either of your ex-husbands. If your own SS retirement benefit is less, then you will get an incremental amount on top of your own SS retirement to bring your total monthly benefit up to your spousal or surviving spouse) entitlement.

Since your first husband is still living, it is likely that your best financial option is to claim a surviving ex-spouse benefit from your deceased second husband. The reason is that survivor benefits from husband # 2 are based on his actual benefit at his death, whereas benefits from a living ex-spouse, husband #1, are based upon his full retirement amount. In other words, it is likely that 100% of deceased husband #2's benefit at his death is more than 50% of living husband #1's current benefit at his Full Retirement Age.

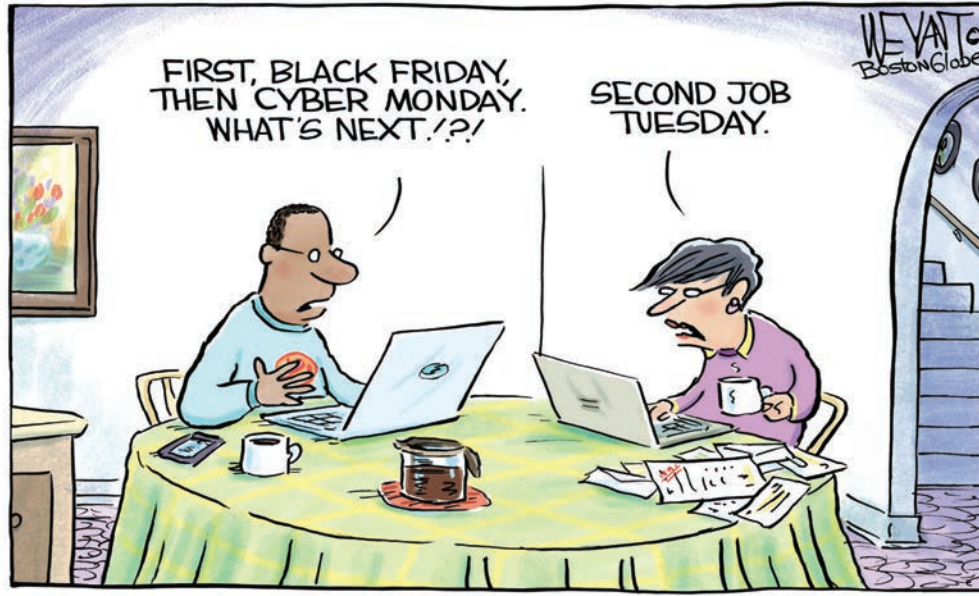
It is, of course, possible that 50% of your first husband's FRA entitlement is more than 100% of your second husband's benefit at death, in which case your ex-spouse benefit from your first husband could be more. The only way to sort this out is to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply for surviving ex-spouse benefits from your deceased second husband. Explain that your first ex-husband is still living and that you are unsure of what your benefits are as your first husband's ex-spouse.

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



## GUEST COLUMN

### Live tabletop Christmas trees become year-round houseplants



Norfolk Island pines are nearly as popular as poinsettias this time of year, gracing chain store and supermarket shelves just after the Thanksgiving holiday, or perhaps soon after Halloween, these days! Not sure exactly what they look like? Think mini Christmas tree.

These cute conifers come table top ready, predecorated with tiny little ornaments and a festive foil sleeve. Most stand less than a foot tall, yet the amount of holiday cheer they bring to someone who otherwise wouldn't have a Christmas tree is immeasurable.

Unlike cut Christmas trees, potted Norfolk Island Pines need not be discarded once the holidays have passed. Simply take their decorations off and they become an easy to maintain houseplant.

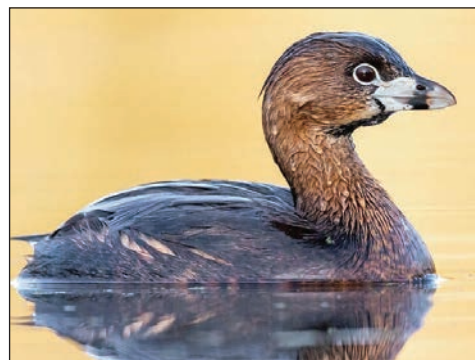
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A Brimfield resident, who frequently emails about bird sighting saw a pied bill grebe in Warren on Nov. 6.

The pied-bill grebe is about 12 inches long. It is stocky and brown with a short stout bill. During the summer months, the grebe has a black ring around a white bill with a black chin. In winter the bill either shows a faint ring or no ring at all and the chin is light.

This grebe feeds by diving underwater and catching fish, aquatic insects, frogs and crayfish. The pied-bill grebe is one of the earliest migrant grebes to return and often



Pied-bill grebe

arrives on ponds before the ice is all melted. They summer on lakes and ponds and winter in sheltered saltwater bays.

The female lays six to seven bluish green eggs in a platform nest of decaying vegetation, attached to growing vegetation in shallow water. In territorial skirmishes, males come together and tilt their heads

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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.

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

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## Country Journal TEAM



**EDITOR**  
Ellenor Downer  
[countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

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**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President

**DEANNA SLOAT**  
Graphics Manager



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# OPINION

## HILLTOWN HISTORY

### Lightening apple parer simplifies apple cutting

By Deborah Daniels  
Correspondent

**B**aking season is upon us and those pies aren't going to bake themselves are they?

Consider that symbol of America, the apple pie, it speaks of tradition and enjoying holiday feasts with friends and family. We're not going near pie crusts with all that cutting up lard (shortening), butter and flour mixing and fluting the edges. It is true artistry.

Skip the muss and buy one ready made. But of the apple filling, that is worth some considerable effort. And that it is with peeling, coring and slicing the apples involves a bit of work. David Harvey Goodell (1834 -1915) simplified the apple prep with his apple peeler device. It pared apples by rotating an apple speared on a rod with a sharp blade shaving the peel off in one long continuous snake of apple skin. It also could core the apple. He is credited with inventing his "Lightening Apple Parer" in 1864.

Apples were a staple of our diet since colonial days. Preparing apples for winter storage, early settlers would have had apple bees, like quilting bees where families came together to socialize and prepare apples for baking and preserving. The apples were peeled with a knife to create applesauce, apple butter and apples for vinegar, apple pies and for drying. Thankfully cider making did not require peeling apples.

Fanny Farmer's cookbook of 1896 listed 20 apple recipes requiring peeled apples. Is it any wonder there were over 100 patents applied for and granted for apple parer devices from 1850 to 1890. The tinkerers were at it with a vengeance. Goodell's lathe like model gained popularity and he went to work making it the number one model.

He was an only child of farmers, who grew up in Antrim, New Hampshire. He went to Brown University but left college early. He tried teaching in Massachusetts, but the sedentary life was not for him.

He went into business selling kitchen devices such as cherry stoner machine that removed cherry pits, potato peelers and farm equipment like broadcast seed spreaders. One can see how the apple parer design would have evolved from the products he sold. He made the tool and had a New York firm market the tool. He was unhappy with their efforts and he became a traveling salesman, who sold 24,000 apple parers in month. Persuasive, huh! He manufactured his apple peeler in New Hampshire and eventually owned a large mill complex. By 1875 he had 150 employees with a payroll of \$150,000. His talent didn't end there, he became a New Hampshire state representative from 1876-1879. He was on the State Board of Agriculture from 1876 to 1883 and served as Governor from 1889 to 1891. People have to admire all those iron gears coming together to work in unison to strip an apple of its peel.

How come I'm still peeling my apples with a knife? You can purchase an apple parer very similar to his device today, but most of us don't! We worry more about apple selection and pie crust recipes than the odd nick with a knife peeling apples? We all know cleaning the device is going to be more labor intensive than peeling. Choose your labor of love wisely.

About apple choices, more and more bakers are blending different apples types to achieve the desirable tartness or sweetness and texture they prefer – designer apple pies. Don't overthink it, most of us devour homemade apple pie



David Harvey Goodell invented his apple peeler called the "Lightening apple parer" circa 1880.



This hand cranked apple peeler was a Goodell design.

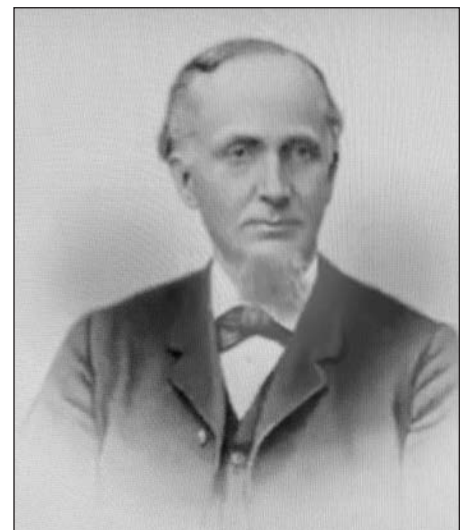
and it isn't until the third slice that you notice the flavor of the pie, make that the nuanced flavor of the apple.

Just a word about another favorite, candied apples. They were originally created by candy maker William Kolb in 1908 to spark up his window display



This is a new model sold today of the Goodell design.

Turley photos by Deborah Daniels



This is a portrait of David Harvey Goodell, apple peeler inventor.

Submitted photo

of holiday chocolates in Newark, New Jersey. He wanted to add red ornaments so he coated apples with red cinnamon coating. People wanted to buy and eat them. Indulge them he did. We just can't seem to stay away from that forbidden fruit can we.

## GARDEN

from page 4

be rewarded with a nice straight stem.

If window space is out of the question, it will do okay in a well-lit room as well, providing the lights are on for most of the day. Temperatures should range between 60-70 degrees during the day; slightly cooler at night.

It is important that the Norfolk Island pine be kept from temps below 50 degrees for any length of time or injury may occur. Therefore, be sure it is in a bag or protective sleeve when you bring it home from the store in chilly winter weather. Keep its soil moist but not soaking wet.

Sometimes lower limbs may brown and then drop. Age, as well as erratic watering can cause this problem. Repot and check watering practices.

Fertilize in the spring, once active growth resumes.

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*), the herb of remembrance. Its needle like leaves and fragrant foliage make it a wonderful candidate for use as a table top Christmas tree!

One of the more common questions when people toured Old Sturbridge Village's greenhouse in the off-season, was "How do you manage to overwinter your rosemaries? They are some of the biggest I've ever seen!"

In a controlled setting such as a greenhouse, it's really not that difficult. Tender plants can be given as much sun as Mother Nature provides, but with the use of thermostats and

vents, temperatures can be kept to a minimum.

We set the thermostat at 55 degree night temperatures, and vents opened when daytime heat reaches seventy. Low temperatures like these won't push the plants into growth when winter day length and daylight can't support it. Because of this the plants are stocky, not lanky.

We watered when the soil is dry to the touch – sometimes this might be as infrequently as twice a week during an overcast stretch, or as often as every day if the sun is out. For home culture, a sunny but cool locale is best.

For me, it's my "mudroom!"

One treat that many gardeners don't get to appreciate is the beautiful blue flowers that are borne on the plant in the short days of winter. Legend ties the plant to the Virgin Mary, saying that flowers that were originally white were turned to blue when she spread her cloak on its branches.

Yet another reason that makes it a great choice for a mini Christmas tree!

With any luck, a Norfolk Island pine and Rosemary can go from being great Christmas decorations to wonderful year round houseplants.

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

## BACKYARD

from page 4

up while calling. Parents may do a distraction display of flapping their wings between dives when their young are in danger. Their white rear feathers may be flashed when alarmed.

During breeding, calls are a "cow cow cow cow," a loud "keck keck" in alarm and a softer "cuk cuk cuk." The grebe generally remains quiet in winter.

### Wild turkeys

I continue to see either one to three Tom turkeys or larger flocks of hens in my travels around Central Massachusetts. Although wild turkeys are now a common site, I never tire of spotting them.

### Low flying geese

A few days a low flying flock of geese flew over my yard just above tree top level. They honked as they went. I assume they landed in one of the beaver ponds near my home.

### Birds at feeders

I put out shelled peanuts and sunflower mix seeds in the morning in my tray feeders. I have black-capped chickadees, tufted titmice, white breasted nuthatches, an occasional downy woodpecker, mourning doves and squawking blue jays.

I have not put out suet cakes yet as I want to be sure the black bears are hibernating. Last year, I bought a new suet holder for this winter. I don't want to put it out to early in case a bear shows up and walks off with it. Somewhere in the woods around my home, there must be a large pile of suet feeders taken by bears. If I was lucky enough to find them, I think most would be smashed and unusable.

### Common raven

I continue to hear the common raven and sometimes see them flying overhead. They are much larger than the crow and make a low gronking sound.

### Mass Audubon bird sightings

Cape Cod weekly wildlife sightings are sponsored by the Bird Watchers General Store in Orleans and Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. The following sightings were reported between Nov. 13 and Nov. 19. Cape Cod's second-ever record of a spotted towhee was found at the Provincetown Airport on Nov. 16. A very rare pine grosbeak, two white-winged crossbills and a late prairie warbler were also seen there. A snowy owl was seen in Provincetown. Along Race Point Road a western tanager and two evening grosbeaks were seen.

Birds from Race Point in Provincetown this week included a pacific loon, 400 long-tailed ducks, 1,300 white-winged scoters, 1,500 red-breasted mergansers, 500 sanderlings, 400 dunlin, five Pomarine jaegers, 1,080 razorbills, a common murre, two dovebies, 85 black-legged kittiwakes, 70 Cory's shearwater, 215 great shearwaters, four sooty shearwaters, two Manx shearwaters, 3,200 northern gannets, two Lapland longspurs and 24 snow buntings.

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

## OTIS

### Cookbook Club holds cookie swap on Dec. 20

OTIS – The December Cookbook Club will meet on Friday, Dec. 20 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Otis Library, 48 North Main St., in the Roosevelt Room.

They will hold a cookie swap. Participants are asked to make four dozen cookies, which they love to make and bring them to share.

### Library hosts story walk

OTIS – The Otis Library features “Snow” by Cynthia Rylant and illustrated by Lauren Stringer throughout the month of December.

The story walk is located behind St. Mary’s of the Lake, 48 North Main St. “Snow” is a book about a young girl, her friend and her grandmother, who enjoy the sights and feelings of a snowy day. This is the perfect book to enjoy on a snowy day.

### Town to hold tree lighting event

OTIS – The second annual community tree lighting event will take place Saturday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. at the Otis Town Hall.

There will be a hot chocolate station, holiday caroling and a visit from Santa. People are invited to bring the entire family.

### Kathi Casey workshop available

OTIS – The Otis Library, 48 North Main Road, will hold a workshop with best selling author, Kathi Casey, on Friday, Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room.

Her book, “Age with Grace and Strength” helps improve sleep quality, reduce the symptoms of osteoarthritis, exercise to increase bone density, enhance balance, nurture emotional wellness, keep the dementia demon

away through proven ways to build more neurons, re-build muscle loss with targeted exercise and more. A chocolate treat from Casey’s favorite anti-inflammatory recipes will be served.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase for \$20m and can be personalized by Casey. Space is limited so people should either stop in the library or call 413-269-0109 to reserve a spot.

### Otis burn ban continues Jan. 15

OTIS – Due to the continued drought conditions in the county as well as the statewide red flag

warning, it has been the decision of Otis Fire Chief Phair that outdoor burning is shut off until

Jan. 15 when the official burning season begins.

There is to be no outdoor burning of brush, anything in barrels, no fire pits and no open

outdoor flames of any kind. If people are disposing of wood stove ashes, they should wet them down well before dumping them out.

There are zero exceptions to any of this and anyone found to be in violation

of this is subject to a \$500 fine each time emergency services are called to their residence for illegal burning.

Chief Phair stated “We understand it is inconvenient however our firefighters have spent

several days at the Butternut fire in Great Barrington and we do not wish to have a similar

incident here in town so please adhere to this ban”

Despite the rain that has fallen it was not enough to saturate the underbrush and everything is still very dry, so conditions are still ideal for brush fires. Burning season begins Jan. 15, 2025 in Massachusetts and runs through May 1.

## WORTHINGTON

### R.H. Conwell Elementary School holds Holiday Bazaar

WORTHINGTON – R.H. Conwell Elementary School, 147 Huntington Road, will hold its annual Holiday Bazaar on Thursday, Dec. 12 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

The bazaar provides students with a chance to enjoy some holiday shopping and to raise funds for enriching experiences like field trips, presentations and classroom supplies. All items cost \$2 and each class will have an assigned time to shop.

Donations of gift items such as knick-knacks, toys, puzzles, jewelry,

ties, etc. are appreciated. Donations of wrapping supplies are also appreciated. All donations may be dropped off at the school Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Last day for donations is Wednesday, Dec. 11.

Volunteers are needed to set up on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 3:30 p.m. or for one hour shifts or more to assist shoppers, wrap presents and help clean up on Thursday, Dec. 12.

If interested in volunteering, people should email [worthington.ma@gmail.com](mailto:worthington.ma@gmail.com).

### Outdoor burning ban cancelled

WORTHINGTON – Due to the recent rain, snow and upcoming weather forecast, the ban on any outdoor burning has been canceled for the town.

Town residents’ are asked to follow continued cooperation and request that any outdoor cooking or warming/ recreational or camp fires be kept appropriately small in size and properly managed in a fire pit or fire ring. They should ensure any coals or embers are properly extinguished and completely out.

Residents are also reminded that open air brush burning, no leaves or stumps is not allowed until Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025 and as in previous years, is also dependent on weather conditions and requires a permit.

The Open Burning Season in Massachusetts starts Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025 and ends May 1. In many communities, residents may burn tree limbs, brush and other organic debris, remnants of storms and winter winds in order to clean up their yards. What can be burned, when, and under what conditions is regulated, because of the health and safety risks associated with the burning. Open Burning is addressed by the Department of Fire Services as a public safety issue, and by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental

Affairs because of air quality issues. The Department of Environmental Protection offers “Guidance for Adopting Municipal Regulation to Control Air Pollution under M.G.L. chapter 111, section 31C.” Cities and Towns adopting regulations to control air pollution need to comply with the statute. If allowed, the open burning must be a minimum of 75 feet from all buildings and must be conducted between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., according to DEP Regulations at 310 CMR 7.07, according to Fire Chief Michael J. Dondiego.

People may email [worthingtonfireandrescue@worthington-ma.us](mailto:worthingtonfireandrescue@worthington-ma.us) or call 413-238-4445/



## CHESTER

### Chester Railway Christmas party to be held on Dec. 8



The Chester Railway Station decks the hall for their annual holiday party, a thank you to Chester residents for their support. *Turley photos by Wendy Long*

CHESTER – The Chester Railway Station President David Pierce announced that the Station’s annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 1-4 p.m.

Admission is free-although donations are always welcome and the party includes refreshments, live music and a special visit for children. “It’s our annual gift to the town,” Pierce said. “The town supports us all year and we are reciprocating.”

Pierce said that both Santa and Mrs. Claus will be returning to the station this year. Weather permitting, they will arrive in Ro McClaffin’s tricked out ATV “sleigh.” “It’s really quite a sight,” Pierce

said. They should arrive at around 2:30 p.m. and there will be a story time in the Children’s Boxcar while kids wait.

Pierce said this event has been going on for a long time. Originally, it started out as an evening event, mostly geared toward adults. About 20 years ago, they changed it to an afternoon occasion with great success. They see a couple of hundred people on a good year, and even a slow year is 150 people, Pierce said.

Local favorites, the Pitoniak Brothers Band will provide musical entertainment. This acoustic trio performs regularly in the area including at schools, community events, pubs and local fairs.



Santa arriving for the Chester Railway Station’s annual Christmas Party on Ro McClaffin’s tricked out ATV “sleigh.” *Submitted photos*



#### PHONE

413.283.8393

Fax: 413.283.7017

Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

#### EMAIL

Advertising Sales

Wendy Delcamp

[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

#### Editor

Ellenor Downer

[countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)

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## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

# Hampshire Regional Middle School lists honor rolls

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional Middle School, 19 Stage Road, announces the first quarter honor roll.

### Grade 7 Academic Excellence

Grade 7 students making Academic Excellence are: Mala Adams-Rivera, Ava Boissonneault, Max Bonham, Ivy Cardoza, Ruder Cefalo, James Clemeno, Sunali Driver, Stephen Estelle, Caleb Falkowski, Aoife Farrell, Joseph Gagne, Patricia Gagne, Lorelei Gilman, Jacoby Hodges, Reygan Horstmann, Anna Huard, Aubrielle Jarrett, Megan Johnson, Sienna Kalmakis, Abrahm Kellogg, Spencer LaPointe, Madelyn LaValley, Morgan Lawler, Aurora Loud, Isabella Masi, Brigid McArdle, Samuel Monette, Samantha Moreau, Camilo Ocampo, Mariah Pacinella, Scarlett Parent, Gianluca Pica-Smith,

Claire Pickard, Olivia Pignatara, Payson Quackenbush, Madeline Soares, Ashtyn St. Martin, Georgia Sugrue, Thomas Sullivan, Phoebe Todd, Cyrus Tomsovic, Lucy Trombley, Addyson White and Bradley Woods.

### Grade 8 Academic Excellence

Grade 8 students making Academic Excellence are: Elizabeth Barry, Elaina Bigda, Samantha Black, Hazel Chute, Gabriella Dybacki, Talya Eisman, Trinity Fellows, Jackson Galenski, Ryan Garvey, Lexie Gauger, Samantha Gay, Jaymes Goddard, Talia Goddard, Willow Guteruth, Hayden Johnson, Madison Johnson, Savannah Judd, Saoirse Keane, Margaret Kugler, Natalie Labrie, Sophia Lashway, Anna MacLachlan, Felicity Manganelli, Noa Nabut, Teagan Noel, Damian Pasuit, Katelyn Perry, Abigail Phelan,

Mackensie Provost, Maeve Reynolds, Karolina Robak, Holly Sampson, Hazel Scully-Henry, Emmett Stith, Addison Thomas, Anna Tompkins, Sadie Wasiuk, Ava Westcott, Jack White and Tarlo Zerbach.

### Grade 7 Academic Achievement

Grade 7 students making Academic Achievement are: Garrett Bak, Emila Berrena, Quinn Bonham, Valentina Bresnahan, Coleton Duda, Lovena Durazo, Ayva Eldred, James Farrar, Jonah Gumaer, Dylan-Joy Hocking, Camryn Jasinski, Dorothy Li, Brody Malinowski, Lukas Manley, Benjamin Mathews, Molly McColgan, Tyler Menard, Bibi Nabut, Magnolia Overtree, Dillon Peterson, Jackson Ricci, Lily Robak, Ashlyn Rose, Emily Sampson, Jaxon Sherman, Kazmir Wachtel, Aken Walkowiak, Blake White

and Eli Willard.

### Grade 8 Academic Achievement

Grade 8 students making Academic Achievement are: Madison Bannish, Carson Bisbee, Victoria Bond, Gabriel Carrasquillo, Stella Cubi, Raquelle Denoroha, Sabella Donatelli, Jocelyn Fasoli, Isabella Fini, Emersen Florek-Grader, Savannah Fredette, Anthony Giannetti, Aiden Goyette, Mackenzie Harrison, Noah Haryasz, Thomas Janik, Emma McDonald Colton McVeigh, Ethan Neylon, Deryk Nuttelman, Mason Pedersen, Connor Perkins, Elka Pruzynski, Shane Radon, Kacey Reed, Avrianna Rodriguez, James Scott, Austin Sojkowski, Garrett Spencer-Bartlett, Sienna Steffenhagen, Nicholas Theroux, Aurelia Tosh, Brody Watkins, Ethan White, Danielle Wolf and Amelia Woz.

# Hampshire Regional High School announces honor roll

WESTHAMPTON – Hampshire Regional High School, 19 Stage Road, announces the first quarter honor roll.

### Grade 9 First Honors

Grade 9 students making First Honors are: Kameron Andrades, Juliette Cerone, Ace Charette, Isaac Clark, Amanda Clemeno, Weston Crawford, Griffin Darling, Madeline Desilets, Rosemarie Estelle, Gabrielle Falkowski, Alana Hanke, Colleen Hearn, Brooke Hockenberry, Telyn Kelly, Samantha Law, Charlotte Letendre, Moira Long, Isabella Matthew, Jacob Moran, Owen Moyian, Charlotte Niswonger, Anthony Pacinella, Jeyden Padilla, Luke Pickard, Caroline Puttick, Fiona Reynolds, Lukasz Robak, Torin Rowlett, Maya Rudnitzky, Grace Scoble, Keira Tataro, Katelyn Theroux, Valerie West and Madelyn Zannotti

### Grade 10 First Honors

Grade 10 students making First Honors are: Kathleen Barry, Emmett Bastek, Elan Bonham, Ka Calabretta Rek, Julia Caputo, Travis Carpenter, Emma Chateaufeuf, Lily Connor, Alexa Cortis, Owen Cubi, Ryanne Dubay, Natalie Dunlap, Nadia Easton, Harrison Farrar, Leo Florek, Amelia Gilman, Xavier Greenberg, Rachael Hickox,

Astrid Jensen, Leo Ketcherside, Katelyn Krause, Addison Miklasiewicz, Thomas Moore, Shayne Moynahan, Catalina Ocampo, Theodore Overtree, Hailey Paszko, Caroline Payson, Vanessa Reese, Nicholas Roy, Rylie Simmons, Arai Simonelli, Allison St. Pierre, Finch Stahl, Brielle Stine, Sophia Tremblay, Brian Wallace and Benjamin Zajac.

### Grade 11 First Honors

Grade 11 students making First Honors are: Phoebe Bowser, Tessa Burke, Parker Christy, Eleanor Cleary, Luke Gardner, Madelyn Layman, Indie Lewis, Layce Mancuso, Kiersten McKay, Lucy McVey, Augustus Niswonger, Rachel O'Connell, Caitlyn Packey, Lauren Pellegrini, Amelia Perry, Abigail Provost, Oscar Schiff, Corinne Somes, Elisabeth Sturtevant, Rachel Theroux, Avery Tudryn, Paige Walsh and Lila Watkins.

### Grade 12 First Honors

Grade 12 students making First Honors are: Fadhil Al Baghadli, Sabah Alshmlh, Matthew Cesare, Alyssa Colon-Garcia, Eleanor Donohue, Camden Jarosz, Emma Kelly, Robin Ketcherside, Koleton Kolodziej, Ashton Lashway, Olivia Manganelli, Benji Marconi, Riley Marney, Isabelle Mondschein, Madeline

Oravec, Elijah Picard, Emmett Quinn, Ava Senecal, Anna Shadrack, Jacob Sicard, Julia Sicard, Molly Smith, Brendan Stevenson and Dana Warren.

### Grade 9 Second Honors

Grade 9 students making Second Honors are: Linus Anderson, Logan Andrades, Jonathan Angers, Ella Brunelle, Decian Butler, Colby Cabrini, Elliot Chaplin, Talia Craig, Lucas Domina, Kalin Dubay, Brady Geffin, Kyle Grimsley, Wyatt Hunter, Grant Jennings, Elsa Kelly, Logan Lapointe, Olivia Lockwood, Grace Malo, Olivia McAvoy, Shawn McCarthy, Eleanor Miller, Mason Normandin, Jamison Parrish, Jackson Provost, Charlotte Raffetto, Karaghan Rogalski, Leela Rudnitzky, Patrick Schmidt, Estella Steffenhagen, Malcolm Todd, Olivia Whittaker and Ava Zieler.

### Grade 10 Second Honors

Grade 10 students making second honors are: Madeline Bresnahan, Elyse Campbell, Aidan Conklin, Cameron Dextraze, Raegan Dubay, Kason Fellows, Noah Fellows, Riley Florek, Bella Paige Foster, Isiah Isa, Nicholas Johnson, Holly Kowalzyk, Krystian Lech, Hayden Miller, Austin Mullaly, Autumn O'Malley, Emmett Schatz,

Tobias Stearns and Isaac Stith.

### Grade 11 Second Honors

Grade 11 students making second honors are: Joseph Breguet, Keegan Butler, Isabelle Coon-Drawe, Gabriel Couture, Finn DeWitt, Ian Felty, Cody Gaida, Ezra Gilman, Alexandra Henrichon, Colin Hogan, Sarah Hultman, Braylon Jarrett, Emily Jendrysik, Rylee Joseph, Efreem Korytoski, Ethan Kudelka, Lacy Kuehner, Makayla Labrie, Carlea Manley, Owen Miller, Reese O'Connell, Evelyn Palmer, Andrea Paszko, Elizabeth Puttick, Logan Rourke, Kiera Shea-Smith, Tristan Somes, Bridget Sullivan and Bethany Tobiasz.

### Grade 12 Second Honors

Grade 12 students making Second Honors are: Ryan Brooks, Grace Brouillard, Cassidy Clark, Breanna Dale, Harman Dhaliwal, Emma Erickson, Georgiana Frazier, Layla Gauger, Ava Gougeon, Beatrice Hamilton, Robert Herman, Madelynn Hollister, Addison Hufnagle, Jack Laliberte, Kayla LeBeau, Philip Morin, Julianne Moro, Payton, Norris, Angelena Osiecki, Zachary Phakos, Coman Radowicz, Kailee Roncone, Destiny Saltis, Katherine Simmons, Zola Simonelli, Mary Thibault and Jack Wresien.

# Gateway Regional High School lists first quarter honor roll

HUNTINGTON – Principal William Sullivan announces the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

In accordance with the student handbook, honor roll status is granted to students with high academic achievement for a marking quarter.

### First honors

First honors are awarded to students, who receive As in all courses taken. Students earning first honors for this term are seniors: Jesse Balboni, Ivan Chepurenko, Amy Fisk, Ashley Fisk, Evan Fogue, Olivia MacIver and Abigail Robbins; juniors: Locan Cox, Theodore DeAngelis-Page, Kathryn Harding, Jake Marchbanks, William Paterson, Desmond St. Martin, Ashley Tacke and Michael Whitaker; sophomores: Landon Chaffee, Elle DeMoss, Addison Green, Charlotte Hansen, Dylan Hepburn, Zachary Hess, David Kibe, Anna Niles, Levi Savoy, Ashley Scheinost and Amelia Steward-Frey and freshmen Katelyn McMillan, Sofia Nikitchuk and Zoe Serotkin.

### Second honor

Second honors are awarded to students who receive a minimum of two As and receive Bs in all other courses taken. Students earning second honors in this marking period are: seniors Aden Carroll and Skyler Radwich; juniors: Jeffrey Antonellis, Liam Hourihan, Shelby Jackman, Lilliana Mitchell, Isabella Verz-Ortiz and Cameron Wade; sophomores: Roan Boeri, Andre Fasci, Makayla Femengel, Cameron Hepburn, Oliver Jensen, Jacob Maynard, Cailin Mckellick, Bella Moulton and Leonard Stetz and freshmen Ella Barsalou, Boone Briggs, Adam Fogue, Felina Knachel, Thomas Noe, Josiah Novik and Tricia Thieme.

### Third honors

Third honors are granted to students who receive a minimum of one A, with Bs and no more than one C in all courses taken. Students receiving third honors are juniors: Kate Lewis, Rylan McCaul, and Grace Renault; sophomores: Dustin Clark, Brandin Kulig, and Emilee Silvagni and freshman Shane Plant.

## News, photo publication policy

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

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

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



## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

# School grows greens for lunch

By Wendy Long  
Correspondent

CHESTER – “We are definitely going hydroponics to table this year,” said Chester Elementary School Principal Vanna Maffuccio.

“Students are really excited to eat their vegetables, so why wouldn’t we?” she said. Lunch on Friday, Nov. 22 was an array of enchilada fixings that included lettuce grown by students in their hydroponics lab, which is part of Science, Technology, English, Art and Mathematics teacher Rebecca Nicholson’s curriculum.

The hydroponics lab started last year with assistance from the Community Food Engine Homestead in Easthampton. With hydroponics, plants are grown in water instead of soil. This year, the school is running it on their own and their first crop of lettuce, bok choy and Swiss chard was harvested in time for Friday’s lunch. Every student in kindergarten through grade 5 plants a seed. All students keep journals describing and drawing the growth of their plant.

Students in grades 3 – 5 are responsible for the higher science skills that lead to a successful crop. Nicholson said they monitor the pH in the water and clean algae from the system, when needed. They also measure the electrical conductivity of the water, which indicates whether or not they need to add plant food. They measure it again after feeding, to determine if they added enough food.

At harvest, the fifth graders also measure the roots of each plant. “They’re loving it,” said Nicholson, adding that even PreK students visit the lab. “Every kid is so involved and so proud.”

Nicholson, who has been increased from three to five days a week at the school this year, is also responsible for some extra-curricular activities. She leads a third grade media club and students selected hydroponics as their first film topic. To date, students have written a script and completed their filming. The school has a high school intern, who will work with them on editing. When finished, the film will be shown on the school’s social media page.

New cafeteria staff members Shay Main and Jess Hart said the children who delivered the lettuce were so proud of their work. “It’s awesome,” said Main with Hart adding that their kids attend school here and they were aware of the project as it was underway.

The bok choy and Swiss chard needed a little more growing time. Nicholson is already looking at their seeds and the older students will get to choose an experimental crop through winter. Last



Isaiah King and Gwen Comlee enjoying the student-grown lettuce during their chicken fajita lunch on Friday, Nov. 21. *Turley photos by Wendy Long*



Cafeteria staff Shay Main and Jess Hart display the student-grown lettuce that they washed and chopped for the fajita lunch.

year, they successfully grew miniature cucumbers that were also served in the cafeteria. Last year’s spring crop was marigolds, which was also very successful and they will consider trying different flowers this spring.

# Girl Scouts kick off Girl Scout cookie season

SPRINGFIELD – Four hundred plus Girl Scouts and their families will gather at the Mass Mutual Center on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 4-6 p.m. to kick off “Embrace Possibility,” which reflects the Girl Scout Cookie Program theme for the 2024/2025 season.

Activity stations set up around the concourse reflect the cookie season theme and are designed to build business savvy skills to help girls run and manage their Girl Scout Cookie businesses online and in person. The “cookie rally” begins at 4 p.m. and then at 6 p.m. Girl Scouts and their families join Boomer and the Springfield Thunderbirds for an action-packed hockey game.

During Girl Scout Cookie season, each girl sets out to sell delicious cookies while also building entrepreneurial and business skills that are imperative for leadership and future success. Girl Scout Cookie order taking begins Wednesday, Dec. 11. Community cookie booth sales begin Friday, Jan. 17 and continue through Sunday, March 16.

Girl Scouts and cookies share a rich history. While recipes and box designs have changed, selling cookies remains an important part of today’s Girl Scout leadership program. The annual Girl Scout Cookie Program takes place January-March each year. With nine varieties of tasty treats, these iconic favorites help to fund Girl Scout troop programs for the entire year.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves over 5,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of over 3,000 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities.



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USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS..... **\$2.49** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.. **\$2.55** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN ROAST RIB END or LOIN END ..... **\$1.99** lb

SLICED IN OUR DELI HORMEL SMOKED HAM..... **\$2.99** lb

SLICED IN OUR DELI PROVOLONE CHEESE..... **\$4.44** lb

USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN..... **\$2.99** lb

USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS ..... **\$3.35** lb

**PRICE BUSTERS**

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE **\$9.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS **\$7.99** lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF **\$4.99** 5 LB BAG

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND ROAST or STEAKS..... **\$4.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOIN 10 LB BAG **\$1.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK ..... **\$1.33** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN EDWARDS TURTLE CREAM PIE 25.1 OZ..... **\$5.99** ea

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN 31/40 COUNT COOKED SHRIMP 2 LB BAG..... **\$14.99** ea

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**Country Journal**



## BLANDFORD

## Highway Department salt shed has lighting issues

By Mary Kronholm  
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Reporting for Highway Superintendent Rene Senecal Monday, Dec. 2, Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara told the board that there have been lighting issues at the salt shed on Chester Road according to Senecal.

He has a quote from Zanetti Electric of Hampden for \$5,089 to make necessary repairs and the cost would be covered under the winter and snow budget. The board approved the cost and asked that a switch rather than a motion detector be placed outside the shed so as to be away from the salt.

Ferrara said that everything “went fine” during the recent snowfall. There were no issues, according to what Senecal told her. A car did go off the road Sunday on Chester Road and the department did go out and sand the area again.

**Highway laborer**

There are four applications for the opening for laborer on the department. Senecal will review them and interview applicants and then will forward recommendations to the board.

**Highway Superintendent**

The job for Highway Superintendent has been posted and will run through Jan. 27. There are two people interested in serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**Town Accountant**

A contract has been provided for services of a potential new town accountant. Kelly Pontbriand is a Certified Public Accountant and could begin Jan. 1. Located in Florida, she would work remotely but meet physically with the board quarterly. The town’s auditor and the treasurer/collector have worked with her and recommend her. Ferrara said that

all the CPA services she looked into all work remotely.

There will be an increase in compensation. Town Counsel has reviewed and approved a contract and Pontbriand is now reviewing it. The board will wait for any feedback before signing.

Regarding the new generator switch for Town Hall, Ferrara has had difficulty in getting a response from Elm Electric. Ferrara has attempted several times to provide additional information, but has not been able to connect. The town’s new electrical inspector Matt Ripley works for Elm Electric and will try to contact him to see about moving forward.

George Reichert asked about plumbing at the Fire Department Training Center and was told it’s not on a timetable. There is other plumbing work to be done there first and the board is seeking a quote.

The board asked for an all-depart-

ment expense report for next week’s meeting.

**Library**

Library Trustee Byam Stevens asked that the board approve the Library Trustee’s recommendation for a Library Building Consultant to comply with requirements of the Mass Board of Library Commissioners who provided funds to the library’s expansion.

Stevens told the board that Patricia Basler was the unanimous choice and can do the job in 20 to 30 hours at \$100 an hour. The grant will cover the cost.

Basler has worked as a building consultant for other projects and provided a detailed report of her work for the Berkley Public Library.

The board will act on this at next week’s meeting so they can review the request for proposal, which replicates the contract.

## ANIMAL HOSPITAL HOLDS PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA



These two cats had their photo taken with Santa several years ago at the Blandford Animal Hospital photos for pet owners. Pet owners are welcome to stop by the Blandford Animal Hospital on Route 23 on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-noon to be photographed with their favorite animal. There is no charge for the photos. *File photo*

## Blandford holds holiday events

BLANDFORD – The town bustles every year at Christmas and this year is no different.

Starting Saturday, Dec. 7 with the annual Fire Association Pancake Breakfast; doors open at 8:30 a.m. followed by a walk up the hill to the Historical Society for a craft fair. The Porter Memorial Library holds a drop-in gingerbread party. Pet pictures at the Blandford Animal Hospital take place on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-noon.

Sunday, Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. is the annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Blandford Historical Society. There will be caroling outside as the tree is lit and hot cocoa and cookies inside afterward.

The following weekend, Dec. 14

after the book club discussion on “Small Things Like These” then join in a holiday cookie social, just bring cookies to share, not to exchange.

The cookie exchange is at the First Congregational Church of Blandford that same afternoon at the Chapel at 2 p.m. Those participating should bring four dozen cookies and be prepared to take home four different dozen cookies.

On Saturday, Dec. 14, drop in at the library for holiday card crafting, open for all ages.

Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m. the First Congregational Church presents Carols by Candlelight and the Dec. 25 Christmas Morning Sunrise Service is at 7 a.m. at the Chapel on Main Street.

## Fallen tree causes power outage

BLANDFORD – The Fire Department had a few calls between Wednesday, Nov. 27 and Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28.

Some were medical calls and accidents on the Mass Pike, but there was one call Thursday morning that was concerning. There was a transformer that had been taken down as a tree fell, which started a fire in the woods part way down North Blandford Road. There was no

accident, according to Fire Chief Adam Dolby, only that a tree was the culprit and the fire extinguished itself.

However, power was off from near the beginning of North Blandford Road on down. In all, there were over 600 residents without power, not just in Blandford. Eversource had power restored in about three hours. Power went off at 6:40 a.m. and was restored sometime after 9 a.m. Turkey cooking could resume.

## VOTES

from page 1

planned to meet with Town Counsel to discuss this. The assessors will be setting a date soon to set the tax rate.

There are costs associated with repair/replacement of fire hydrants for about \$3,000 and the funding is to be determined.

**Water break**

The loss of water/water pressure on Chester Road was cause for concern for “who does what” according to Chair Cara Letendre. “We maybe just need to pull that back out,” she said.

The break, as it turned out, was actually on the Mass Turnpike which dropped the pressure causing the loss of water to residents. There are also charges for bottled water, not only for water, but for deposits on the bottles and the Water Department will be responsible for this.

Paperwork has been completed for the Water Department loan.

**Board of Health**

Board of Health member Jennifer Girard looked at the area on Main Street where the fire was over the weekend. She told the board there were three

refrigerators in the garage along with what looked like “children’s” toys” and junk trash. The refrigerators need to be secured. This house is owned by the Nichols family.

There are concerns regarding the white house as well, especially with reference to Title V and the open pool. This house is also owned by the Nichols and will soon be listed for sale, according to Ferrara.

The Board of Health is seeing “a lot of Title V” come through, several new families, according to Girard. The Job Hazard Analysis has been completed.

**Vacancies and appointments**

The board approved part-time interim Highway Department position for the winter. The Highway Department Superintendent job posting has been done.

There is a need for people to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals, anyone interested should contact Ferrara. There are two vacancies. The board appointed Deb Lundgren to the Council on Aging, and Robert Holmes as the interim part time Highway Department employee.

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR RECEIVES BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Tuesday morning, Town Hall colleagues surprised Blandford Town Administrator Cristina Ferrara with a very chocolate birthday cake crafted by Jennifer Girard.

*Turley photo by Mary Kronholm*



## NORTHAMPTON

# Forbes Library announces upcoming news, events

NORTHAMPTON – The Forbes Library, 20 West St., will host Fire Cider Workshop with Mxed Greens on Wednesday, Dec. 11 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

Tasha and Devon from Mxed Greens community apothecary will hold the a workshop on fire cider a delicious immune system supporting herbal remedy for the colder months, which people can make in their own kitchen. The group will prepare ingredients and each participant takes home their own jar of fire cider.

Registration is requested and people should bring their own glass jar. The library will provide a few if needed. People may call 413-587-1011 to register.

The Forbes Library will be closed

Friday, Dec. 13 for an all-day staff training. Regular hours will resume on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m.

On Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 6:30-8 p.m. the third public forum and panel discussion on the future of the war in

Ukraine will take place. It will be held in the Coolidge Museum and will be live streamed on the Forbes YouTube channel. Previous forum recordings can also be found there.

Kid's Gaming Club meets Friday, Dec. 6 from 4-5 p.m. for children ages 7 to 12. They will play the library's Nintendo Switch.

Toddler Story Time meets Friday, Dec. 6 from 10:30-11 a.m. They sing songs, read stories and have fun. The event is best suited for 1.5-3 year olds and their caregivers.

In the Hosmer Gallery, printmaking and paper arts by Doris W. Madsen, Tony(a) Lemos and Whendy Carter will be on display now through Saturday, Dec. 28. An artist gallery reception will be held Saturday, Dec. 7 from 3-5 p.m.



## SANDISFIELD

# Western Mass Hilltown Hikers to host group hike

SANDISFIELD – On Sunday, Dec. 15 at 11:30 a.m. the Western Mass Hilltown Hikers will hold a York Lake hike at 11:30 a.m. and a Civilian Conservation Corps Ceremony with the Department of Conservation and Recreation at 2:30 p.m.

Parking is at the Sandisfield State Forest in the parking lot by York Lake at the intersection Route 183/New Marlborough-Sandisfield Road, and East Hill Road. Look for the York Lake sign on the right on Route 57 just over the Sandisfield line.

Directions: from Northampton take Route 66 to Route 112 Huntington, take a left on Route 20 East to Russell take a right on Route 23 to Blandford after Otis Reservoir take a left on Route 8 and take Route 57 to Sandisfield.

The hike rating is easy to moderate on a 2.2 mile loop around York Lake. They will then hike less than a quarter of a mile to the CCC Camp to take part in the DCR CCC Ceremony at 2:30 p.m.. People can come for the hike at 11:30 a.m. or come for the ceremony at 2:30 p.m. or stay for both.

The Sandisfield State Forest has 9,500 total acres of forest including York Lake a shallow 35-acre man-made lake. Elevation of the lake is 1,544 feet and is named after Samuel A. York, a farmer from Cummington who was DCR Commissioner in 1933. The trail is 2.2 miles long around the lake with bridges, wildlife, Norway Spruce and Scotch Pine plantations. Once flat

farmland of Township Number three, Sandisfield was incorporated in 1762.

On Dec. 16, 1934 five young men from 196 Company, Civilian Conservation Corps (this state forest) were killed in a truck accident on their way to church in Great Barrington. At 2 pm, DCR staff dressed in era uniforms, will hold a ceremony here including a wreath laying and taps as a 48-star flag is retired. CCC artifacts will be available for viewing. They will also visit the site of the old camp S-71 and its relics and learn about the Sandisfield "Beavers" who built York Lake. Registration not required for the DCR CCC Ceremony

People should register per car load on <https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com> for the hike. Maps and bottled water are provided. Well behaved dogs are allowed. This event is volunteer lead. Suggested donation is \$15. More details are available by visiting [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com). People may email [westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com](mailto:westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com) or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions. As always be prepared for rocks, mud and roots and bring trekking poles.

For those who want to hike every weekend year-round, they may become a Hilltown Hiker Member. They can sign up by visiting [www.HilltownHikers.com](http://www.HilltownHikers.com).

Tees, hoodies, hats, patches and photos will be for sale by donation at the event.

## BECKET

# Becket Arts Center list events

BECKET – The Becket Art Center, 7 Brooker Hill Road, will hold its first ever Hanukkah celebration on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 5-7 p.m.

This event is free for members and \$10 for non-members. All are welcome to attend and learn about this tradition.

On Friday, Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. there will be a special reading of "A Christmas Memory" and "The Thanksgiving Visitor" by Truman Capote in the Becket Arts Center. The two stories will be read by Paul Langton, Jim Petosa and Ryan Wrinkles. This event is free for members and \$10 for non-members. The two stories recall the deep connection between the young Capote, a misfit

boy and his closest friend, his eccentric spinster aunt, who he names Sook.

A holiday sing-a-long will take place Saturday, Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. Dave Bacon, Jeff Forgot and Kaite Grey will lead this 35 year old tradition. People should bring a dish to share and an instrument of choice. The Art Center will supply songbooks. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be provided. People may email [susie@becketartscenter.org](mailto:susie@becketartscenter.org) for more information.

Yoga with Rima Sala will be held Thursdays, Dec. 12, Dec. 19 and Jan. 2. The class is \$10 for non-members and members pay what they can. Woven textiles and a working loom are on display in the Art Lounge now through Wednesday, Jan. 15.

## MIDDLEFIELD

# Town hosts holiday tree lighting

MIDDLEFIELD – On Saturday, Dec. 7, Middlefield will be kicking off the holiday season with a Holiday Tree Lighting in the new Town Park at 6 p.m., followed by refreshments of hot chocolate and baked treats in the Middlefield Church.

Gift bags will also be handed out to children attending. Following the

refreshments, the Middlefield Days Committee, through a grant from the Mass Cultural Council, will be sponsoring the Eagles Brass Ensemble. This will be held in the Church Sanctuary at 7 p.m. The ensemble will be playing a medley of holiday favorites, along with a Sing-Along. All are welcome to join in the festivities.

# Christmas Eve service at MCC

MIDDLEFIELD – On Tuesday, Dec. 24, the Middlefield Congregational Church, 167 Skyline Trail, will be holding their Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m.

Susan Borsella, Pastor will be leading the service along with Laurie Mikalunas, pianist. All are welcome to attend.

## GOSHEN

# Town seeks Hazard Mitigation Plan and Unpaved Roads Project input

GOSHEN – Residents, businesses, and surrounding community members are invited to provide input on the town of Goshen Hazard Mitigation Plan and Unpaved Roads Project at a public listening session on Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 5-7 p.m. at the Goshen Town Hall, 42 Main St.

Dinner will be provided. Attendees will learn about what the town is doing to prepare for natural hazards and the impacts of climate change, including improving the resiliency of dirt roads. They will have an opportunity to provide feedback on their experiences with hazards in Goshen and in particular where there are unpaved road issues. Municipal officials and staff from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will be available to answer questions and respond to input about these projects.

The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to assess Goshen's risks from natural hazards and climate change impacts and to provide an action plan to reduce the Town's vulnerabilities. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is being completed by the town with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Upon completion, the plan will be submitted to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and FEMA for review and approval. A FEMA-approved HMP makes the community eligible for federal and state mitigation grant funding.

The Western Massachusetts

Unpaved Roads Project is a collaborative effort between the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments as well as the towns of Lanesborough, Goshen, Blandford and Shutesbury.

With climate change, municipalities are experiencing more unpaved road failures due to the increased intensity of precipitation events. This project will further develop FRCOG's new Dirt Road Toolkit, which allows municipal staff to assess their vulnerable unpaved roads, determine which best practices are recommended to increase their climate resiliency and how to install these best practices using existing resources. The Toolkit will be field tested in the partnering municipalities. This project is funded by the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program.

For more information about this event, people may email PVPC's Mimi Kaplan at [mkaplan@pvpc.org](mailto:mkaplan@pvpc.org) or call 413-781-6045.

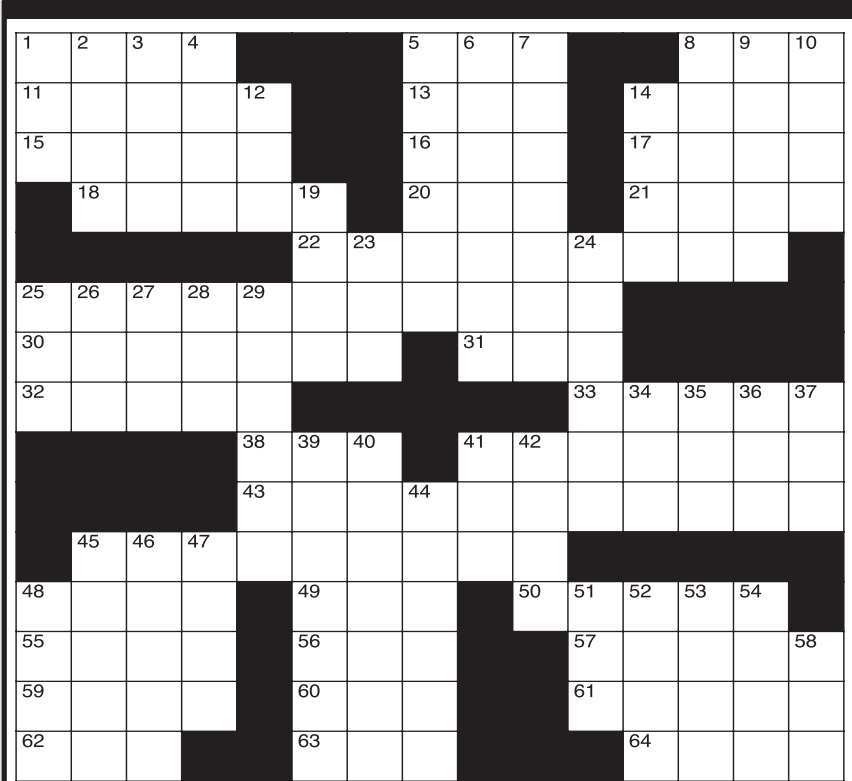
Since 1962, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has been the designated regional planning body for the Pioneer Valley region, which encompasses 43 cities and towns in Hampden and Hampshire Counties. PVPC is the primary agency responsible for increasing communication, cooperation and coordination among all levels of government as well as the private business and civic sectors to benefit the Pioneer Valley region and to improve its residents' quality of life.



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**CLUES ACROSS**

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1. Bar bills                             | 38. Rocker's tool of the trade                | 2. Genus of clams                                   | 29. Shawl                               |
| 5. Recipe measurement (abbr.)            | 41. Dearth                                    | 3. Remark   | 34. S. American wood sorrel relative    |
| 8. Swiss river                           | 43. 2024 Olympics host (abbr.)                | 4. Actor LaBeouf                                    | 35. The end                             |
| 11. Czech Republic capital               | 45. Excess blood in the vessels               | 5. Ohio town  | 36. Supervises interstate commerce      |
| 13. "Officially known as"                | 48. Afrikaans                                 | 6. Olympic sport                                    | 37. Yes vote                            |
| 14. A French abbot                       | 49. Agreement between provider and customer   | 7. Cure   | 39. Officer of high rank                |
| 15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste | 50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation | 8. Behave in a way that belittles                   | 40. Church office                       |
| 16. Local area network                   | 55. Ancient Syrian city                       | 9. Shares a boundary with                           | 41. Tire pressure measurement           |
| 17. Data transmission speed measure      | 56. Witch                                     | 10. Give advice                                     | 42. From a distance                     |
| 18. Embarrass                            | 57. Celebrations                              | 12. Promotional materials                           | 44. Photographs                         |
| 20. When you hope to get there           | 59. Long period of time                       | 14. Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing | 45. Industrial process                  |
| 21. This (Spanish)                       | 60. A team's best pitcher                     | 19. "Agatha All Along" actress Kathryn              | 46. Nobel Prize-winning physicist       |
| 22. Gives up                             | 61. Current unit                              | 23. Small piece                                     | 47. Map out                             |
| 25. Churchgoer                           | 62. One-time aerospace company                | 24. King of Camelot                                 | 48. Mammary gland part of female mammal |
| 30. Current                              | 63. French/Belgian river                      | 25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)                      | 51. Honorable title (Turkish)           |
| 31. Slang for gun                        | 64. Swedish rock group                        | 26. Small Milky Way constellation                   | 52. Spongelike cake leavened with yeast |
| 32. Small drum                           |   | 27. One who challenges authority (abbr.)            | 53. Speak incessantly                   |
| 33. Vanished union bigwig                |   | 28. Equal (prefix)                                  | 54. Poetry term                         |
|  |   |   | 58. Relaxing space                      |

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

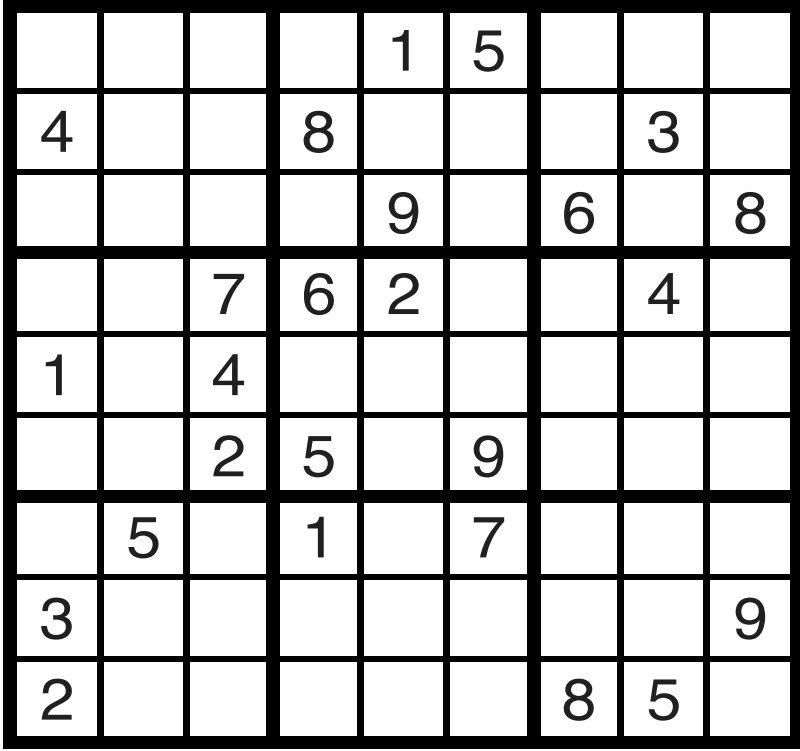
**answers**

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

**THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES**

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



**SUDOKU**

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

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## FLORENCE

# Florence Bank supports Mass Humanities

FLORENCE – The Florence Bank provided a gift of \$10,000 to Mass Humanities to help the organization make history and culture more accessible to residents across the state.

The private foundation is in its 50th year, serves all of Massachusetts and is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Launched on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in 1994, Mass Humanities has been in Northampton for 20 years and recently announced a move to Holyoke.

“We have a mission to bring people together to embrace different perspectives, inspire civic engagement, spark conversation and build community,” said Brian Boyles, executive director of Mass Humanities.

Boyles notes that the bank’s gift will be used to help fund two of four key initiatives, the Clemente Course in the Humanities and Reading Frederick

Douglass Together. “We’ve seen those programs really grow and have been trying to keep up with all the interest there is in the humanities programs,” he added.

The Clemente Course is an adult education program offered in partnership with Bard College in six cities across the state: in Western Mass, at the Holyoke Care Center and Martin Luther King Family Services in Springfield. The program provides access to those in economically disadvantaged households so they can study history, philosophy and literature, critical thinking and writing and public speaking.

Reading Frederick Douglass Together is offered annually in 60 towns across the commonwealth, where Douglass’ Fourth of July address is read aloud publicly. “It’s a way for people to come together around a historical text and listen to each other and talk about what they are learning,” Boyles said,

noting attendance at these gatherings has tripled in recent years.

Mass Humanities also offers Expand Massachusetts Stories, which helps local people reckoning with history by encouraging them to visit museums and libraries and launch storytelling projects in their communities.

A fourth initiative in partnership with the Smithsonian Institute is called Museum on Main Street. This traveling exhibition is brought to six small towns each year, each time offering a different focus on rural life.

Florence Bank is the financial partner for Mass Humanities and Boyles said the organization appreciates the staff and customer service as much as the community support it receives. “We see how Florence Bank shows up. Any time we’ve needed them to think creatively, they’ve been effective. They’ve been amazing when it comes to our investments and helped us during

COVID,” he said.

Florence Bank President and CEO Matt Garrity said it’s an honor for the bank to support Mass Humanities. “We are not only helping to shine a light on history and culture in Western Massachusetts but all across the state. We like knowing that we are helping people connect to history, to their roots.”

Mass Humanities celebrated its 50th anniversary at an awards fundraising gala Sept. 26 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum in Boston. To learn more or donate, people may visit [masshumanities.org/](http://masshumanities.org/).

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.

## PITTSFIELD

# Hancock Shaker Village holds Radiant Nights

PITTSFIELD – Hancock Shaker Village, 1843 Housatonic St., is back with its unique, multisensory holiday experience with the opening of Radiant Nights on Saturday, Dec. 7.

The Village will once again sparkle with more lights, music, farm animals, festive spirits, crafts, and holiday fun for the entire family.

“We are thrilled to once again partner with artist Joe Wheaton to create Radiant Nights. The Village serves as a unique canvas for Joe’s limitless creativity and he delivers the most stunning video projections and audio experiences that illuminate several historic buildings, including the iconic Round Stone Barn. The element of whimsical surprise is always part of the experience as our guests stroll through the Village and soak up the immersive and festive energy. This has become a unique winter holiday tra-

dition and we look forward to welcoming the community to experience the spectacle that is Radiant Nights,” said Carrie Holland, Director of Hancock Shaker Village.

After taking in the approximate 1-mile route of light installations, sound, exhibits, and images, guests are invited to visit the farm animals, relax by the fire pit, and enjoy a drink and specialty fare from a pop-up bar in the Village, as well as the café operated by Woodlife Farm Market. The Shaker Mercantile will also be open for shopping, holiday gifts, and unique artisanal products for purchase.

Radiant Nights runs Dec. 7-8, Dec. 13 to 15 and Dec. 20-22 Dec 27-31 from 5-8 p.m. Admission is free for members and children twelve and under. For schedule information and to purchase tickets, people may visit [HancockShakerVillage.org](http://HancockShakerVillage.org).

# Berkshire Athenaeum to host scavenger hunt

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. announces their Where’s Winston? Scavenger Hunt to take place throughout downtown Pittsfield on Saturday, Dec. 7 through Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

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 the Game Card back to the Children’s Library to claim a prize. The Berkshire Athenaeum is open Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Children, who find any two words will win a Winston Sticker. Children who find any six words will win a Winter Winston Pin. All children who turn in their Game Card to the Children’s Library will be entered to win a Winston plushie. Each word found counts as a chance to win a Winston.

Stickers and pins will be available while supplies last and no purchase is required. Be sure to review the business hours of participating locations before beginning the search

Game cards will be available starting Saturday, Dec. 7

Preview the locations now at [downtownpittsfield.com/2024/11/play-wheres-winston-dec-7-jan-3](http://downtownpittsfield.com/2024/11/play-wheres-winston-dec-7-jan-3).

Winston Art was created by Jay Miller.

For more information, people may visit [DowntownPittsfield.com](http://DowntownPittsfield.com) or call Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. at 413-443-6501.



Find more on Where’s Winston? Scavenger Hunt online at [DowntownPittsfield.com](http://DowntownPittsfield.com).

[DowntownPittsfield.com](http://DowntownPittsfield.com)

# Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. to host Memories in Watercolor

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and Framework will feature Memories in Watercolor by Marguerite Bride, Sunday, Dec. 8 through Monday, Dec. 23 at Framework by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. (437 North Street).

Memories in Watercolor is comprised of favorite scenes, both originals and fine art reproductions, that Marguerite Bride has painted over the years of the Berkshires and nearby regions. In the spring of 2025, after 30 years of living in the paradise that is the Berkshires, Bride will be taking on a new adventure and moving to Plymouth, New Hampshire. This show is a reflection by Bride on her memories since 1995, when she moved here from the Boston burbs and started painting the idyllic Berkshires.

The cornerstone of Bride’s art career has been “Christmas on Park Square, 1912,” which was painted in 2009. For the first time ever, the original three paintings that comprise this scene will be on display. Most people thought this scene was one single painting, but in reality, it was created as three separate pieces, with the edges carefully crafted so they could over-

lap into one. In addition to the three framed originals, a very large reproduction of them combined on stretched canvas will also be on display.

There will be an opening reception open to the public on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m.- noon and the show will be on view Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through Dec. 23 by visiting the Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. offices at 431 North St.

For more information, on Marguerite Bride visit [Margebride-Paintings.com](http://Margebride-Paintings.com); and for more information on Memories in Watercolor presented by Framework by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., people may call Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. at 413-443-6501.



Watercolor by Marguerite Bride.

[Margebride-Paintings.com](http://Margebride-Paintings.com)

# Downtown Pittsfield holds passport promotion

PITTSFIELD – Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. will be facilitating a Holiday Downtown Pittsfield Passport giving shoppers a chance to win one of three prize packages made up of donations from the 35 participating local businesses.

The prize packages are valued at \$500, \$300 and \$200. The promotion will run now through Tuesday, Dec. 24. A person can collect one sticker from every business/location where they make a purchase.

The more stickers a person collects, the greater their chance of winning one of the Downtown Pittsfield Prize Packages. Each sticker equals one entry to win the prize packages.

The Downtown Pittsfield Passport will be available at participating businesses and locations starting Friday, Nov. 29. Bonus locations will only

have them available during their event.

Passports must be turned in to the Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. mailbox at 431 North Street by Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025 to be eligible to win a prize. People may mail their passport or drop it in the mailbox. If mailing, please have it postmarked by Jan. 2, 2025.

Valid passports must have at least one sticker under the “made a purchase” section in the center of the passport. Purchases include: dine in/take out, gift card purchases, fitness classes, passes, memberships, movie and theatre tickets – anything money is spent on.

For more information on these events and the Holiday Downtown Pittsfield Passport, people may visit [DowntownPittsfield.com](http://DowntownPittsfield.com) or call Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. at 413-443-6501.

## REGION

# Gas prices increases a penny over last week

WESTWOOD – Much like the lethargy experienced after downing a heaping plate of turkey and stuffing, Northeast gasoline prices are barely moving as markets enter the post-Thanksgiving winter driving period known for soft demand in the weeks leading up to the end of the calendar year.

Prices across most of the Northeast are flat or up or down by just a penny from last week after a notable, but not concerning, 1.2-million-barrel drop in regional gasoline inventories. The rest of the country, on the other hand, saw inventories increase by 3.3 mil-

lion barrels, according to the Energy Information Administration.

With domestic oil production reaching a record-breaking 13.5 million barrels last week, supply and demand expectations for the rest of the year could suggest more inventory builds in the coming weeks. Another factor that could push prices lower is an apparent cooling of tensions in the Middle East after a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah took effect last week. Oil prices are lower on hopes that the pause in fighting leads to a long-term end to the conflict.

The average gas price in

Massachusetts is up a penny over last week (\$3.02), averaging \$3.03 per gallon. Today's price is one cent lower than a month ago (\$3.04) and 34 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.37). Massachusetts's average gas price is one cent lower than the national average.

"Much like the weather, gasoline demand tends to cool dramatically this time of year and pump prices typically reach seasonal lows around mid-December," said Mark Schieldrop, Senior Spokesperson, AAA Northeast. "Time will tell if prices in the Northeast dip much lower over the next few weeks as markets monitor the recent tightening in

regional inventories."

AAA Northeast's Dec. 2 survey of fuel prices found the current national average down one cent from last week (\$3.05), averaging \$3.04 gallon. Today's national average price is seven cents cheaper than a month ago (\$3.11) and 20 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.24).

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

# MassDOT announces upcoming I-90 night roadwork

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announces nighttime construction operations on I-90 eastbound and westbound for bridge painting, bridge repair work and guardrail work.

The work will take place now through Friday, Dec. 6, during the following scheduled hours.

Becket bridge painting will be conducted on I-90 westbound at mile marker 18.4, utilizing lane closures, from now

through Thursday night, Dec. 5, ending Friday morning, Dec. 6 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m.

West Stockbridge and Stockbridge guardrail work will be conducted on I-90 westbound from mile marker 1.0 to mile marker 3.0, utilizing lane closures, now through Thursday night, Dec. 5, ending Friday morning, Dec. 6 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m.

West Stockbridge and Stockbridge

repair work will occur on I-90 eastbound from mile marker 0.8 to mile marker 3.0, utilizing lane closures now through Thursday night, Dec. 5, ending Friday morning, Dec. 6 from 7 p.m.-5:30 a.m.

Drivers traveling through these areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. Appropriate signage and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work areas.

All scheduled work is weather depen-

dent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to:

Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.

Visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com), a website that provides real-time traffic and incident advisory information.

Follow MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, @MassDOT for regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

## 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

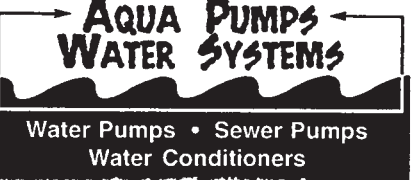
The Town of Chesterfield seeks to fill a part-time Buildings maintenance position to help maintain the Town buildings. Duties may include changing water filters, winterizing buildings, installing and removing window air-conditioners, painting ramps or picnic tables, installing and removing tennis court 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

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<b>All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 19 at Noon for Publication Dec. 23 - 27</b>	•••••	<b>All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 27 at Noon for Publication Dec. 30 - Jan. 3</b>
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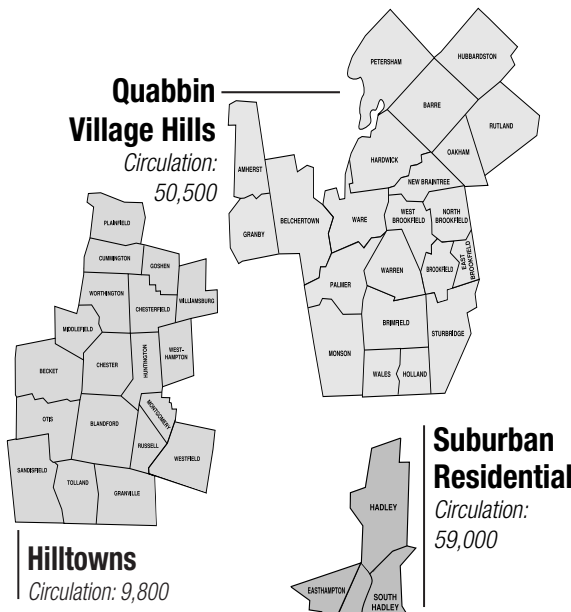


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# OBITUARY

## Robert William Wright, Jr., 69

WEST SPRINGFIELD – William Wright, Jr., “Bobby” or “Rob,” 69, born Dec. 27, 1954 and formerly of Blandford, died peacefully on Nov. 21, 2024 at his current residence in West Springfield.

Bobby, son of Robert W. Wright Sr. and Lillian Elaine (nee: Johnson) Wright (deceased), had long roots in the community. His great-great grandparents emigrated in the early 1900s from Quincy to a farmstead on the old Blandford/Chester Road.

Robert was dealt a bad hand in adolescence, but stayed in the game and beat the odds. His quirky sense of humor, intelligence and empathy for all living things brought him dignity. His passion for discovery gave him hours of fun as he rummaged around second hand stores, thrift shops and garage sales for “treasured” finds.

His love of the outdoors had him clearing a family plot for a dreamed homestead, working in



gardens and grounds, maybe fishing. His appreciation of handcrafting led him to collecting and restoring old wooden trunks, hammering and polishing metal objects into shape, gathering tree branches to carve and finish into unique animalistic walking canes,

He was smart, creative, loving. He will be missed by everyone touched by his determined embrace of life.

He is survived by his adult children, Selena and Coby of Michigan; his sisters, Gail (Thomas Olson) of Vista, California and Linda (Roger Mooney) of New York City; one niece, Christina; one nephew, Terence and several grandchildren.

A private burial will be arranged by Robert’s family. Meanwhile care and services are being provided by Graham Hilltown Community Funeral Home, 27 Russell Road, Huntington, MA 01050. [www.hilltownfuneralhome.com](http://www.hilltownfuneralhome.com)

## DEATH NOTICE

**WRIGHT, JR., ROBERT WILLIAM**

Died Nov. 21, 2024  
Burial private

## 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.*

## SEND US YOUR EVENT PHOTOS

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As a free service for our readers we accept and will print when space allows community event photos and announcements. Just scan the QR code above and send us your photos and any information.

## OPINION

### SECURITY

from page 4

Social Security will be able to determine from their records, which one provides you with a higher benefit amount, provide each husband’s Social Security number when you call. As I said, your best financial option will likely be to take your survivor benefit from your deceased second ex-husband note, however, if your first ex-husband also dies before you, you can subsequently file for a survivor benefit from him, if that is more than you are getting from your second husband’s record.

*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.*

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### 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 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 14629, Page 88, 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 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

**Town of Worthington Highway Garage Assessment Request for Proposals**  
The Town of Worthington invites proposals from qualified vendors to conduct and provide a comprehensive Assessment of our Highway

Garage and its associated systems and site. Request for Proposals may be obtained upon request via email at [selectboard@worthington-ma.us](mailto:selectboard@worthington-ma.us) or by calling Peggy at 413-961-9187.  
12/05/2024

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## Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers  
Will Deadline  
Thursday, Dec. 19  
at Noon for  
Publication  
Dec. 23-27

Happy New Year!

All Papers  
Will Deadline  
Friday, Dec. 27  
at Noon for  
Publication  
Dec. 30-Jan. 3

Happy Holidays!

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

# CHESTERFIELD

## Nearly 250 runners participate in Chesterfield Gorge race/walk

By Kathryn Koegel  
Correspondent

CHESTERFIELD – For the 20th year, Hilltowners and their holiday guests took a trot down the East Branch Trail of the Chesterfield Gorge at the annual 5K and fun walk.

The weather was a brisk 30 degrees and some bundled up, but a few showed off runners legs in shorts. Silly hats were the order of the day. “It’s a quirky Hilltowns tradition,” said the sponsor Hilltown Land Trust executive director Sally Loomis. “We love that people are getting out at a time of year when they often retreat.” The event was managed

by the land trust with Beast Coast Trail Running.

Nearly 250 registered for the race. The fastest male runner was Oscar Schiff at 18:16, while Frances Duncan was the fastest female at 21:44. The fastest runner in the non-binary category was Kris Larosa at 24:12.

Rather than “awards that get thrown away” as one volunteer characterized it, the runners received a cookie medal baked by the Chesterfield General Store as well as a hand knit cap created by locals. Alice Kane of Northampton is credited as one of the most prolific knitters. The 5K followed a free family run/walk event, which many children participated in.



Liam Hayden, 14, of Buckland, did the run with his uncle Stephen Kelley, of Washington, DC, who was here for the holidays.



The runners were eager to take on the East Branch Trail at the Chesterfields Gorge.



The fastest male 5K runner was Oscar Schiff. He takes a bite out of his cookie medal.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel



**BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS**



**Scarlett Legasey**  
January 25, 2023  
Parents: Thomas & Jessica Legasey, Rutland  
Grandparents: Donald & MaryAnn Dunbar, Ware  
Thomas & Sharon Legasey, Spencer

**Turley Publications, Inc.**

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

Mail to:  
Turley Publications  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Attn: Jamie Joslyn  
Include a self addressed/ stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: jamie@turley.com with subject line: BABY'S FIRST.  
This offer is available to all babies born in 2024. Pictures will be published the week of December 23-27, 2024.

Baby's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parents' Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Please check the newspaper you would like your announcement to appear.*

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

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



Runners received hand-knit hats shown here and organized by volunteers.



Frances Duncan was the fastest female 5K runner.

### Church to hold breakfast Dec. 8

CHESTERFIELD – The best breakfast in the Hilltowns can be found at the Chesterfield Congregational Church, 43 Main Road, which will be having its monthly breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 8-10 a.m.

The cost is a voluntary donation. The menu features pancakes with or without blueberries and French toast, with pure Chesterfield maple syrup; free range, organic, farm-fresh eggs any style including eggs Benedict; breakfast sandwiches; sausage; home fries and excellent homemade corned beef hash, juice, tea and coffee.

In addition, the special item for this breakfast will be cranberry upside-down coffee cake.