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MONSON

School Committee discusses enrollment, upcoming fundraisers

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – Last week, the town's School Committee held its final meeting ahead of the schools opening.

The meeting opened with Superintendent Cheryl Clarke updating the Committee about the New Student Barbecue, as well as the starting dates for different grades. She then announced that school representatives will have a booth at two events this month, including Lights of Hope on Sunday, Sept. 10, and Safety Night Out on Thursday, Sept. 14, to provide information about the schools.

Additionally, Clarke spoke about the annual bus tour.

"It was a beautiful afternoon and evening," she said. "We had 40 of our staff, administrators, counselors, support staff, all different units were there, and we loaded up 250 bags of school supplies onto buses."

Clarke described the three destinations of the tour, stopping at Adams Hometown Market, where she said the parking lot was full, then going to River Hollow, and concluding the tour at Westview Creamery, which Clarke described as "mobbed."

"I want to thank all of the staff members who joined me on the bus tour and all of the families and friends who came out," Clarke said. "It was really a great event."

Clarke also thanked Katherine Watts and the teachers involved in the Summer Acceleration Academy, which concluded on Friday with a celebration.

"It was really a big success," Clarke said. "We're hoping that it'll show some gains for our kids."

Clarke updated the Committee on McCarthy Transportation taking over the van division, saying that—with the exceptions of people retiring or moving out of the district—employees were largely retained, "so it will be the same familiar faces...driving your children for their van transportation."

"So far the vans have netted the town \$74,000," Clarke said, adding that "about \$30,000 worth of equipment went to the Highway Department, and we anticipate another \$100,000 for the additional vans that will be sold that will also go into the town general fund."

Clarke then updated the Committee on this year's enrollment.

"We have enrolled 29 new students over the summer," Clarke said, adding that this is up by three students from last year.

Clarke said that, although numbers are low compared to some previous years, the number of students going out of the district to other schools is nearly equal to the number of students from other districts who come into Monson via school choice.

The president of the Parent Teacher Student Association, Denise Newland, approached the Committee to remind the public of their upcoming elections, and that meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30-7 p.m. at Quarry Hill School and will be streamed for people who cannot attend in person.

"We have some good activi-

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PALMER

Water quality draws a flood of complaints

By Michael Harrison
Correspondent

PALMER — Not everyone in town has complaints about their municipal water, but many do, describing what comes out of their taps as "swampy," "dirty" and "pond scum" — to cite just a few of the adjectives used in various online posts.

Depending on where residents live, water is provided either from private wells or one of four water districts: Palmer, Bondsville, Thorndike and Three Rivers. Each is its own municipality and has a

fire department serving the town and its villages. Complaints over water quality encompass all of them.

"We never get sick of complaints," said Larry Jasak, chairman of the Palmer Water District Board of Commissioners. "We like to hear them so we know there's a problem. We want to address people's concerns. When people call us we address the issues."

Customers will have an opportunity to air their complaints for the record at the next Palmer Water District meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 4:15 p.m.,

at the district's office at 10 Walnut St.

He can't speak for other districts, but Jasak said he believes complaints are few in proportion to the number of customers his district serves, and that most issues are due to normal maintenance like flushing lines and hydrants. Excessive rain can also disrupt the system, causing tap water to run brown with sediment when initially turned on.

Jasak also said required water quality tests show his district's water consistently meets or exceeds standards. The reports are

available on the town's website.

Recently, he said, "we had a perfect storm with excessive rain and then a big fire on Wilbraham Street that took a lot of water out of the hydrants."

Some customers said they think the problem is more complex.

King Street resident Joshua Menard said his water runs brown 24/7, and he has resorted to using a reverse osmosis filter that catches a thick collection of sediment daily.

"I've never called the water department," Menard said, though he did register a complaint with the state.

"I just change the sediment filter often. I know they say it's from flushing the pipes, but this is a fairly new phenomenon that's been happening ever since they dug up the road near CVS," Menard said, referring to repair work that was needed to fix a sinkhole that developed after a water main leak last year.

"That's when I noticed a big change in how often the sediment filter gets completely contaminated," he said. "Without the filter, it's brown almost daily." Menard said

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ALL SMILES FOR FIRST DAY



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon

First-grader Lucas Fontaine waves as he enters the building for his first day back to class.



Fourth-graders Nina Rossetti and best friend, Christabel Tumusiime, hold hands and smile as they reunite at OMP.



Ellie Bergeron smiles as she makes her way into the school. Please see more photos on page 8.

COMMUNITY

Palmer receives \$1.35M CDBG grant

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER —Palmer has received a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$1.35 million and intends to repair and replace infrastructure on Maple Street and create a project design for Maple Terrace.

According to Town Manager Ryan McNutt the grant was achieved through a collaborative effort among town departments such as the Three Rivers' Water District and Palmer's Community Development Department.

"The plan is to use the funds to repair and replace water lines, sewer lines and sidewalks in the Maple Street and Maple Terrace neighborhood of Three Rivers," said McNutt.

Community Development Director John Latour said the grant will fund the selected neighborhood as part of a two-part project, with Maple Street being the first priority, and Maple Terrace being the second.

According to Latour, the Community Development Department is completing a procurement package at this time.

Latour said he believes the procurement package will be completed within the next couple of months, with hopes to have a contractor by spring, and an engineer for the project within the next two months.

"We are in the very early stages. We just received the award notifications and there are a lot of things you have to do to move forward with putting the package together," said Latour.

He said \$1,077,215 of the grant has been budgeted for the design and infrastructure of the Maple

GRANT | page 5

GOVERNMENT

Select Boards and Councils gather for regional meeting

The meeting took place at the Wilbraham Police Department

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- Quorums of five Select Boards and Town Councils came together on Aug. 29 for a regional government meeting discussing varying topics affecting the region.

The quorums included the Wilbraham Select Board, Hampden Select

Board, Longmeadow Select Board, Monson Select Board and the East Longmeadow Town Council.

Additionally, Bruce Adams and Cheryl Spinks from State Rep. Angelo Puppolo's office (D-Springfield) were in attendance.

Other state legislators were unable to attend.

Regional Dispatch

Regional Communications Director at Central Dispatch, Anthony Gentile, explained how Wilbraham and Hampden merged three years ago and

REGIONAL | page 13



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

A wide shot of quorums of the Wilbraham Select Board, Hampden Select Board, East Longmeadow Town Council, Longmeadow Select Board, Monson Select Board and Ludlow Select Board and two representatives from State Rep. Angelo Puppolo's office (D-Springfield) discussing issues affecting the region during the Aug. 29 Regional Government Meeting at the Wilbraham Police Department.



BLUE

This is Blue. He is a Siberian Husky and full of energy. He lives with three little girls, who he loves. His howls deserve a Grammy Award, and he can catch a ball like a Major League player.

"My son was stationed overseas, so we took Blue in to our home," said Blue's family.

Blue lives in Three Rivers, so you may have seen him on one of his great escapes...

We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse... you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

Conservation Commission discusses future of Midura Property

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER – Recreation Director Andrew St. George recently addressed concerns about the state of the Midura Family Conservation Land and plans to improve it before the Conservation Commission.

St. George said he and Conservation Agent Heidi Mannarino have been working collaboratively to determine future goals and improvements for the property.

The Midura property is about 300 acres with trails and conservation features.

Some concerns were raised at the Sept. 5 meeting included trail conditions, accessibility, parking conditions and general safety.

"There are areas of the trail that are in disrepair and need some maintenance, especially some of the further out areas," said St. George.

He added goals for the property to be achieved in the near future include repairing trails as well as renaming them, and identifying entry points for ATVs that should be closed or blocked off.

St. George said another concern is that a large portion of one of the trails is located on private property and is no longer accessible to the public.

Relabeling trails would allow Recreation to resolve this issue by changing the parameter of where trails are.

"We need to rework the White Trail so that it can stay completely on conservation land; in the process of doing that, we would also be looking at relabeling the trails and the trail markers," said St. George.

He suggested using new colors to avoid any confusion regarding trail names and changing the trail layout to be easier for hikers to follow.

A long-term goal for the property is to increase parking capacity.

According to St. George, the property only has enough parking spaces for three to four vehicles.

St. George suggested looking at potentially leveling out a meadow in the future to improve parking capacity.

He said when he and Mannarino visited the trails, they noticed several areas where ATVs are accessing the trail, adding a lot of the access points were from private property.

St. George recommended identifying ATV access points on public/town property and blocking those points off.

He said the use of ATVs on the trails is causing a lot of damage and erosion, which poses safety concerns for hikers and the trails themselves.

For another long-term goal, St. George and Mannarino suggested adding observation points throughout the property for hikers to enjoy conservation.

Mannarino suggested applying for trail grants and using funds to build observation points with the dual function to block off ATV access points, specifically by King's Brook.

St. George mentioned the possibility of adding an educational space on the property, whether it is outdoor informative plaques or a structure.

Pollinator and rain gardens were also suggested as part of a potential long-term project.

The latest on the Red Bridge Hydro Plant building collapse

The collapse happened on Aug. 22.

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The Red Bridge Hydro Plant on Red Bridge Road experienced a building collapse and fire on Aug. 22 that is now under investigation.

The power plant, located over the Chicopee River, is owned by Patriot Hydro, an affiliate of LS Power and private entity. The building is not owned by the town.

Building Inspector John Walsh explained that "a good size portion" of the building collapsed and fell into the riverbed, with the cause undetermined. No one was inside the building at the time.

"The fire department got the call first because there was smoke in the area and at that point, they didn't know what it was so they responded, and that's when they found out about the collapse and then they called me," Walsh said. "So police, fire, conservation were all called and responded. (The Department of Environmental Protection) was also there."

In addition to debris, oil drums had also fallen into the river.

Walsh explained how much fell in would be part of the investigation.

"We don't know what kind of oil it was," Walsh said.

In a statement to the Times, Patriot Hydro explained the collapse took place around 9 a.m. on Aug. 22 when a section of the building collapsed and there was no danger to residents.

"The site, comprised of historic wooden and brick structures, is not accessible to the public, limiting any immediate danger to the community. The 4.5 megawatt power generation plant was offline at the time of the incident and the gates that control water flow to the powerhouse have since been closed. There was no impact on local power supply. The powerhouse is the building where the power generation equipment is located," they said.

The statement said the situation is being assessed by "plant personnel, structural engineering experts, local and state public safety and environmental agencies."

"Plant personnel promptly notified state and federal agencies of the incident and will be coordinating stabilization and assessment efforts," they said.

Walsh did receive updates since the collapse, explaining he attended an Aug. 31 meeting with representatives from the hydro plant, their insurance company, the fire department and Associated Building Wreckers.

Since the meeting, the river around the building is being pumped out, with a temporary dam approximately 600 feet from the building set up.

"So they're pumping the water from the building so that they can make an access wing down to the building and get some heavy equip-



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmao

A close-up of the damage after the collapse and fire at the Red Bridge Hydro Plant on Red Bridge Road on Aug. 22. The investigation into the cause of the collapse and fire is ongoing.



A full shot of the Red Bridge Hydro Plant on 5 Red Bridge Rd. which experienced a building collapse and small fire on Aug. 22.

ment down there from Associated Building Wreckers, so that they can clear the riverbed, first of all, and they're going to start working on the rest of the building to remove any parts of the building that are unsafe," Walsh said.

Walsh added there was also a setback due to "water coming back to the building" even with the temporary dam in place.

"So at this point, they're talking about making a steel-type dam closer to the building to keep the water away from them and then be able to get down there with the machines and remove all the debris from the riverbed," Walsh said.

After the debris is removed, Walsh said the engineers can conduct their evaluation.

The town of Palmer also responded to the collapse as the plant is located between the two towns.

Town Manager Ryan McNutt said the town is not directly involved with the reconstruction. As the road hasn't been closed, the impact to local traffic will be minimal, but McNutt said he hopes it will be reconstructed quickly.

"This is a location that I think a lot of folks use for recreation, a lot of folks fish down there," McNutt said.

McNutt added it's important for aged infrastructure in the state to be addressed and properly funded.

"We have a lot of aged infrastructure in this commonwealth, and we really need to focus on fixing it, because as you can see, sometimes

it fails," McNutt said.

Patriot Hydro also provided us with the following update on Sept. 1.

"We continue to work closely with state and local public safety and environmental agencies, as well as external experts, to determine the source and fully assess the impact of this incident. Clean-up is already underway, and we have taken steps to protect against downstream impacts, including with the placement of booms across the canal. Patriot Hydro is committed to safety and the integrity of our facilities. We will continue to provide updates as the evaluation progresses," they said.

Walsh asked for patience "to let the experts do their job" as they conduct their evaluations because "it will take some time."

The access points, he added, are closed at this time.

"I expect them in the next couple of weeks to have it secured," Walsh said.

More on this story as the investigation continues.

CAMPUS NOTES

Simmons University dean's list

Cassie Dagenais was named to the 2023 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

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Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.



PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com

Staff Writer
Dallas Gagnon
dgagnon@turley.com

Marcello Gusmao
mgusmao@turley.com

Subscriptions
cgriswold@turley.com

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

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

9/11 Remembrance hosted by the American Legion

PALMER— The American Legion, Palmer Post 130 would like to invite the town to our next 9/11 Remembrance/ Dedication to be held, Monday, Sept. 11 at the Fire Service Group location Thorn-dike St. at 6 p.m. At this time The American Legion will remember and highlight the bravery of the 9/11 First Responders, and the dedication of our newest memorial stone received and honor our fallen heroes from Western MA since 9/11.

Town of Monson September meeting schedule

Select Board

Tuesday, Sept. 12; 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26; 7 p.m.
Town Office Building

School Committee

Thursday, Sept. 21; 7 p.m.
Quarry Hill Elementary School

Planning Board

Thursday, Sept. 19; 7 p.m.
own Office Building

Board of Health

Wednesday, Sept. 13; 5:30 p.m.
Town Office Building

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, Sept. 13; 7 p.m.
Town Office Building

Zoning Board of Appeals

Thursday, Sept. 28; 7 p.m.
Town Office Building

Town of Palmer September meeting schedule

Town Council

Monday, Sept. 12; 6:30 p.m.
Town Administration Building

School Committee (PHS)

Wednesday, Sept. 27; 6:30 p.m.
Palmer High School

Conservation Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 19; 6:30 p.m.
Town Administration Building

NOTICE

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



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Monson Schools to implement new cell phone policy

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

MONSON – At the recent School Committee meeting, a new cell phone policy was discussed.

As school officials and various national studies have indicated, cell phone use in the classroom can have a direct negative impact on a student's ability to absorb information. Principal Art Murphy described the school's policy on cell phones as "off and away."

"Off and away means that they're turned off and not visible," Murphy said. "They cannot be on desks, in hands, or on the floor. They cannot be accessed through your smart watch and you cannot have the air pods in during class time."

For grades seven through 12, there is an exception that allows students to use their phones during lunch. For grades nine to 12, they are allowed to use their phones between classes as well.

"There, obviously, are exceptions to the rule, when you have kids that have accommodations," said Committee Member Emily Graves-Harrison, "Whether it's a medical accommodation [where] they're tracking their diabetes or

blood pressure, but there's also times and places for that to be used as well."

"What that leads to, sometimes, is ambiguity for other students," Murphy said, stressing that it would be important to make sure students and teachers understand why there are exceptions and how they are observed.

Murphy described the discipline process for this new policy, which goes through several progressive steps based on patterns of violations.

It starts with a warning, followed by being called to the principal's office and receiving a detention. If the behavior continues, the cell phone would be confiscated by the principal's office.

Murphy said that the school is taking measures to reduce the amount of class time missed by students traveling to administrative offices for discipline, and so instead, the administrators would meet the student in the hall.

"The student would be called out into the hallway," Murphy said. "We would go there, have that conversation with them, and then reinsert them in the classroom so they don't lose too much time on learning between the transition."

Though these violations can add up across a quarter, Murphy said that they would not carry over to the next quarter



in the interest of building trust with the students.

Teachers will share this information with each other through a School-wide Information System, which denotes when students are disciplined by teachers and administrators.

"We actually contacted the company to have them add cell phone use as a sub-division of technology violations in the

system," Murphy said.

Murphy also spoke about the harmful effects that cell phone use has on the mental health of children and teenagers, citing a statement from the Department of Early and Secondary Education from May 23.

"School is a place that nurtures, and a place that is for education," Murphy said. "Cell phone use does not help that."

Palmer School District establishes cell phone policy

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER – In light of the 2023-2024 school year, the Palmer Public School District established a cell phone and electronic device policy for students, effective immediately.

The Palmer School Committee voted unanimously in favor of approving the cell phone and electronic device policy as presented by the Committee during the School Committee meeting on Aug. 23.

School Committee Chairperson Bonny Rathbone said "the purpose of this policy is to ensure that students' use of cell phones and other electronic device-

The policy states the "use and possession of cell phones or electronic devices at school or on school property is a privilege, not a right," and the "use of a cell phone or electronic device with camera, video or voice recording function in a way or under circumstances which infringe the privacy rights of others... is strictly prohibited."

This rule applies to the non-consensual recording or taking of photos of any other student and individual.

The policy also states cell phone and electronic device searches permitted by the school or local law enforcement are allowable "if necessary," and only after "going through the legal aspect of it."

If a search or an electronic device is found to contain evidence related to an investigation, the school administration has the sole discretion to confiscate the device, contact the police or give the device to law enforcement officials.

"I think we are long overdue, this is my personal opinion of this policy," said Rathbone.

School Committee Vice-Chairperson Sandra Noonan said "this is pretty much what it's been, depending on the individual teacher."

She added the policy will "only be as effective as the people enforcing it".

Old Mill Pond Elementary School Principal Holly-Beth Riopel said the concern with cellular and electronic devices interrupting classroom learning is noticeable in grades as young as third.

Both OMP and PHS shared the newly-established policy with the student body during first-day-of-school assemblies, with PHS Principal Sue North also including the information in a weekly newsletter.

While the policy does not address procedures, Supt. Matthew Francis said the progressive disciplinary actions will be addressed by PHS Principal North and OMP Principal Riopel.

"We recognize it is not the property of the school (and) unless it is being used (as) an evidence piece, it is the property of the family," said Francis.



es does not interfere with the education program or school activities within the Palmer Public Schools."

The policy states the Palmer Public Schools are not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged cell phones, and students who chose to bring cell phones or electronic devices to school do so at their own risk.

Going forward, students who bring their devices to school assume agreement with the policy.

According to the new policy, students are allowed to use devices before and after school hours and at school sports activities with the permission of the coach or advisor.

The use of cell phones must not violate any school policies including policies relating to bullying, intimidating, harassment and other acts that may interfere with the learning opportunities of other students, academic honesty and orderly operation of the school.

Prudential Committee appoints Interim-Chief

THREE RIVERS

— On Aug. 31, long-time Fire Chief Scott Turner ended his tenure at the Three Rivers Fire Department.

Stephen Nodurf, previously the Department's Captain, was appointed to serve as Interim-Chief. A trusted figure by TRFD firefighters and the public, Nodurf represents stability and security that is needed during a transition.

Call-Vol departments face many challenges, from funding to personnel. Under Chief Turner's leadership, the Department has made great strides to modernize, raise standards, and ensure that the village has a well trained emergency service it can rely on and be proud of," Nodurf said when asked about assuming the role as Chief of the Department, "I look forward to being a voice for the men and women of the Department, and championing fire safety issues for Three Rivers."



Submitted photo
Interim-Chief Stephen Nodurf with the Department's new Rescue apparatus, A-1.

Nodurf, previously served in the United States Marine Corp., and is a certified EMT. His leadership will ensure a continuity of operations for the Department and the Village.



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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm 64. When should I claim my Social Security?

Dear Rusty

I am 64 years old and still working full time.

My question is - when should I start my Social Security? I would like to start it in January 2024 and go part time at work, but would I be losing much Social Security by not waiting until full retirement age?

Signed: Trying to Plan Ahead

Dear Trying, to Plan:

You are smart to evaluate the impact of claiming your Social Security benefits early. First, be aware that your full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 8 months and that is when you get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

It appears you already know that if you start benefits before your FRA, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn from working before they take away some of your benefits. But if you go part time at work you can mitigate the earnings test and claim your benefits early - just understand that your payment will be permanently reduced by doing so.

If you claim your benefits to start in January 2024, you'll be taking your Social Security about 18 months early, which means that instead of 100% of your FRA entitlement you'll get about 90% (a reduction of 10%).

The earnings test will still apply and we don't yet know what the 2024 earnings limit will be, but it will be something more than the 2023 limit of \$21,240. If your 2024 earnings exceed the annual limit, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They "take away" benefits by withholding future payments until they recover what you owe for exceeding the limit.

If you work part time and don't exceed the 2024 annual earnings limit, there will be no penalty and you will get every month's SS payment. If you find you will exceed the annual 2024 earnings limit, you can call Social Security and inform them of that and by how much, and they will suspend your benefits for the number of months necessary to avoid over-paying you.

If you don't inform them and you exceed the annual 2024 limit, they will catch up in 2025 when they get your 2024 earnings information from the IRS and issue an Overpayment Notice requiring you to pay back the amount owed, half of what you exceeded the 2024 annual limit by. As you likely know, the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

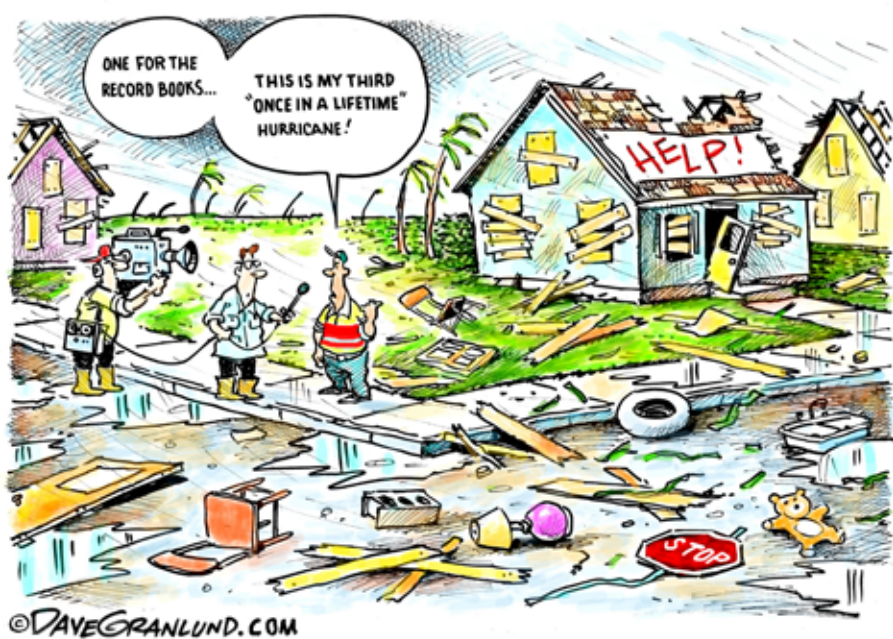
So, the decision on when to claim your Social Security benefit is yours to make, and you are smart to consider your work plans - but should also consider your life expectancy and marital status. If you are married and eventually die before your lower earning spouse, your spouse's benefit as your survivor will be based on your benefit amount at the time of your death.

Thus, your age when you claim your benefit may also affect your spouse's benefit as your survivor; the longer you wait up to age 70 the more your spouse's survivor benefit would be. And if you enjoy at least average longevity, which is about 84 for a man your current age, then by waiting until your FRA or later to claim you'll not only get a higher monthly payment but also get more in cumulative lifetime benefits.

If, however, your financial circumstances are such that you need the SS money sooner, then claiming earlier may be the right decision, provided you don't substantially exceed the annual earnings limit prior to reaching your full retirement age. I hope the above provides what you need to make an informed decision.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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Fall plants extend the season

Over the last few days, I have heard the same sorry statement again and again: "I can't believe summer is over."

I am not sure if this is because school has started, or if honestly, folks feel cheated out of summer because of all the rain and overcast skies we had. Probably it's a little of both!

There have been a few coldish mornings, enough to make me get excited about all that is fall. Pumpkins, crisp apples, beautiful foliage and you guessed it, autumn plants!

Read on for a column from the archives, one that will inspire you to add some late season color to your landscape.

It is always fun to freshen up the garden with new plants. I think of adding a splash of color at this point in the season as a last hurrah before old man winter sets in.

There are all types of mums, and flowering cabbage and kale available for sale right now. Unfortunately, they command higher prices than summer annuals do.

This article will teach you how to get the most out of your investment.

Choose mums carefully. Daisy and other decorative flower types will generally not last as long in the garden as "cushions" will. These have petals straight through to the center of the flower- no yellow center is visible.

Because the flower head is dense it tends to hold up after a heavy rain and as well as after the first few frosty nights. Although mums are pretty in their pots, they will do better if planted in the ground or at least repotted into a larger container.

The poor things have been growing in the pots you bought them in for quite a while and are usually root-bound. Because of this it is important to slice the roots in a few places just as you would annuals or perennials at planting time.

This way they will have a chance to expand into the new soil you have provided. Mums tend to dry out quickly and require water often.

If you notice that your plant has wilted before you have had a chance to plant it, submerge the pot in a bucket of water- the shrunken soil ball will soak up water like a sponge!

Although mums can stand temperatures a few degrees below freezing, it is still a good idea to cover them if an ear-

ly hard frost is in the forecast. Try using bushel baskets, old sheets or blankets, etc.

It is a nuisance, but so many times I have been grateful that I went through a bit of work to be able to enjoy my mums for weeks longer than if I hadn't.

If you are hoping that your mums will return for another season, cut them back to "fist height" in November, and provide them with a loose mulch after the ground freezes. The term "hardy mum" doesn't always prove true, but planting them properly, providing ample water and mulching for the winter will increase your odds of a repeat performance.

Remove the winter mulch around the time forsythias bloom.

Prevent gangly growth by pinching them back to a manageable height two or three times prior to mid-July.

Expect blooms this time next year.

Flowering kale and cabbage can add nice texture to the fall garden. The same planting instructions apply here, but I have found that they can be finicky about water.

Consistent overwatering and they rot; giving them too little and they wilt. The best advice: test them before you get out the hose by inserting your finger into the top couple inches of soil.

Kale and cabbage need little in the way of grooming other than an occasional bottom leaf removed. Slugs do tend to enjoy the foliage, however, so set up some traps or barriers nearby.

The color on cabbage and kale will intensify as the weather gets colder, and the plants will continue to look good well into December, provided we don't get an early long standing snow- it will eventually make the leaves mushy. While it's tempting to leave them in your containers and add greenery and such for the holidays, it's not recommended unless the planters are in a protected spot.

Plant now for your garden's last hurrah of the season- you'll be glad you did!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.



by Roberta McQuaid

Letters to the Editor

Food Truck Festival a Success

Letter to the Editor

The Monson Food Truck Festival was created as a project by the Monson Rotary Club. This worldwide, International Organization unfortunately aged out and had to dissolve its charitable endeavors in Monson after more than 80 years of service. Rotary's last Fund Raiser in 2019, named Food Truck Festival, was the Club's most successful project. All proceeds from the event went to Dana Farber Cancer Research and the Jimmy Fund. Wanting to continue this charitable event, three long time members of the Rotary Club established the Monson Food Truck and Music Festival Committee.

Other Rotary fund-raising projects over the last few years were proudly given to the active Monson Lions Club, knowing that they would continue these worthwhile endeavors. One of those events, "The Lucky Duck Race", will be held again this year by the Monson Lions Club during the Food Truck festivities at Veteran's Field, Saturday, Sept. 16. Please support the Monson Lions Club. Buy your duck or ducks and watch the "Back the Duck Race" as Yellow Ducks dive into the Chicopee Brook and swim to the Finish Line on that Saturday afternoon, Post Time is 3 p.m.

The Food Truck and Music Festival Committee is extremely grateful to the Lions Club for their ongoing assistance, support and dedication. Also, heartfelt appreciation definitely goes to Monson's own Nancy Bryant, for her Professional Photography, Drone and Graphical Art Designs. The Food Truck and Music Festival has become known as Monson's Fall Homecoming. Thank you very much to those volunteers who unselfishly serve this community.

Respectfully,
Jean Bailey
Founder/Chairperson
Ken Bailey, Brenda Binczewski,
Dot Jenkins
Members
Monson Food Truck and
Music Festival Committee

Local news flourishing with Turley Publications

It's great to see local news flourishing in Western Massachusetts because of the many Turley publications distributed there.

On a recent visit to Indian Orchard, I picked up a copy of *The Register* which gave me pleasant flashbacks to my bygone days as a reporter and editor at the Middlesex News in Framingham, Massachusetts. Like your publications, the Middlesex News placed an unwavering focus on local news.

I noted *The Register* published an editorial cartoon in its Aug. edition that was drawn by Dave Granlund. Dave and I worked alongside each other in the newsroom at the Middlesex News.

Thanks for the memories
Ken Tokarz
Ludlow



By Ellenor Downer



Black-crowned night heron

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sighting of a black-crowned night heron in Pittsfield.

The black-crowned night heron is about 25 inches long and is gray and white. It is a stocky heron with pale yellow legs, which turn reddish in the breeding season.

The immature is brown with white streaks below and large, buff white spots on its back and wings. It keeps its immature plumage for two years. The immature black-crowned night heron is distinguished from the yellow crowned night heron by its greenish-yellow lower bill. The yellow-crowned has a dark bill.

Although the night heron will feed by day, as its name implies this species feeds mostly at night or at dusk. They roost in trees.

It feeds on fish, amphibians, insects and small mammals. It also will eat the young of other bird species such as terns, herons and ibises. They inhabit freshwater streams, lakes, rice field, dry grassland and salt marshes.

These herons nest either in colonies or singly. The female lays three to five pale blue green eggs in a nest of twigs, reeds and finer material placed against a tussock or in the reeds, shrub or trees up to 160 feet.

When greeting other black-crowned night herons, they stretch their necks horizontally with breed-

Types of animal shelters

Editor's Note: The following information was acquired over the course of my career as a journalist, through my work as an animal advocate, and through common knowledge.

Did you know there are different types of animal shelters? Years ago, when I first started volunteering in the world of animal rescue, I learned the difference between open admission shelters, limited admission shelters, and local animal rescues.

All three serve a vital role, requiring equal amounts of care and support from us.

departments, and more. These shelters work as part of a city or county's animal control division, and are most often funded with taxpayer monies, aiming to assist animals within the shelter's authority while also protecting humans from the potential hazards posed by animals. As per certain regulations, municipal shelters are often contractually required to take in any animal, regardless of health, disposition, or age—including every single dog that's surrendered, every stray cat, animals that are sick, kittens too young for adoption, animals taken from hoarding situations, and so much more. Because of this, municipal shelters are considered "open admission" and risk becoming overstrained. As part of a governmental body, the requirement that falls on these shelters is to serve the public as a whole.

Private Shelters

While some privately-run shelters do contract with one or more municipalities, most are independently-operated nonprofit facilities—not run by a gov-



By Kimberly Palmucci

Municipal Shelters

Municipal animal shelters are run by a government, operating on a budget just like police departments, public health

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The Journal Register

TEAM

EDITORIAL

journalregister@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Dallas Gagnon
dgagnon@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Marcelo Gusmao
mgusmao@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Journal Register (USPS 418-940) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone: (413) 283-8393, Fax: (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



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www.journalregister.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
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Please send opinions to:
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or by e-mail to:
mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register 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 Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@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 Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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

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Journal Register

BACKYARD | page 2

200 Club Dinner raffling cash prize this Saturday

By **Marcelo Gusmão**
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The Swift River Sportsman Club is selling tickets to a 200 Club Dinner this Saturday, with the option to earn prizes of up to \$500.

Laura Lavallee is a long-time Palmer resident who works as the Publicity Chairperson of the Sportsman Club. In addition to her day job as manager of corporate contracts and product data-

base for Valley Communication Systems in Chicopee, Lavallee has been a member and supporter of the club for many years.

"I help run our ham and turkey shoots, I volunteer for different events," Lavallee said. "I shoot rifle and pistol and archery, I'm just kind of an outdoor person."

Lavallee said that the club used to do these dinners years ago, but this is the second time the club, as she's been involved with it, has put one on. After success

this year, the Club decided to give it another go.

"The dinner is limited to 200 tickets at \$20 apiece," Lavallee said. "One ticket gets you 21 chances to win cash prizes. The grand prize is \$500, and then there's 20 additional drawings ranging from \$25 to \$250."

Attendees are not limited to only one prize, either, as Lavallee said that names that have been pulled go back into the pool to be drawn again.

"Last year, a couple people

won as many as three times," Lavallee said. "It's a win-win!"

There will be other raffles in addition to the \$500 cash competition, such as a lottery raffle and a 50/50 raffle. Swift River's doors will open at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9, serving appetizers until 6 p.m.

"Your ticket gets you a roast pork dinner at 6 p.m., and then the drawing starts at 7 p.m.," Lavallee said, though she added that winners don't need to be present for the drawing.

The dinner also presents an opportunity to visit the club and see its facilities, of which Lavallee spoke highly.

"It's a beautiful club," she said. "We've got 400 acres, it's a gorgeous facility."

All the profits from the event will be funneled back into helping to maintain and improve the club.

"We're a licensed 'pheasant reserve' of theirs, so sometimes we use the money to help with the upkeep of the pheasants," Lavallee said. "I'll be up there with the

raffles on Saturday night, and my husband will be helping cook."

Though the number of tickets is limited to 200, the club is still far from that goal, meaning entrants right now have a better chance than ever to win prizes.

The club is located at 350 Cold Spring Road in Belcher town, and tickets will be available until Friday, Sept. 8, at noon.

To buy tickets, call 413-626-9068 and ask for Eric.

FUR-EVER | from page 4

ernment. Private shelters often have a Board of Directors establishing policies, procedures, operations, and bylaws within the shelter, and while private shelters can be open admission (if they're contracted with a municipality) they're most often considered "limited admission." This means that private shelters can choose which animals they take in, and they are able to turn animals away. Private shelters are typically funded through donations, as opposed to an operating budget.

Rescue Organizations

Nonprofit rescue groups are another alternative to consider when adopting a pet; these groups can have a physical location, but often do not and are "foster-based," relying on a network of foster homes instead. These organizations often take in animals from overcrowded open admission shelters, and many function exclusively on donations and the efforts of volunteers.

Limited Admission vs. Open Admission Shelters

Open admission shelters will not, or cannot as per certain regulations, turn away an animal. This creates a problem when intake rates are high and resources are strained.

Limited admission shelters, on the other hand, are not obligated to accept every animal; they can say, "we're at capacity," or they can also accept only a specific group of animals, such as special needs pets or very young kittens, concentrating their resources and offering services that otherwise may not be available. These facilities are often considered "no-kill" as they will not euthanize animals regarded as healthy or adoptable.

Opinion: The Writer's Take

It's our duty to look beyond these labels to become part of the solution. I believe it's a mistake to criticize or vilify the open admission shelters that so urgently need our support. Without these facilities, the animals would have no place to go—these shelters must exist, and it's our job to help them, not decry them.

To be considered "no-kill," an organization must reach a 90 percent placement rate for the animals in their care, which can include adoption, rescue transfers, and more. This is simply a more achievable standard for the limited admission shelters that can turn animals away, but the good news is that open admission shelters can also reach that "no-kill" status, although it requires a tremendous level of support from us, the community.

To help every open admission shelter get to this status, we must get involved. We must use our voices to spread truth and light, and we must contribute to the programming offered by these facilities. The goal of every animal shelter reaching this benchmark requires us to dig deep within ourselves, to identify where our help is needed, and to contribute our skills and efforts.

The employees and volunteers working in the world of animal rescue are some of the most compassionate and courageous souls I've met; they choose to do what they do because they love animals, and they often put every aspect of their own health on the line. Together, we can help.

It's important that we focus our efforts not on labels but rather on what matters—the animals and the people working to help them.

WATER | from page 1

he and his family use the filtered water for bathing and cleaning, but rely on bottled water for drinking.

Jasak and other town officials also cited the problem of aging infrastructure. It's up to each of the water districts to budget and plan for any upgrades within their systems, and since voters have rejected the idea of combining them, and the fire departments, into a single, town-run department, there's no synergy to leverage.

"That's the bed you've made and you have to sleep in it," Town Councilman Phil Hebert said.

"We want residents to have good water, but why do we have to have four water districts? The infrastructure is probably older than you and me combined. There's not a lot the town can do to help. Maybe we can help with grants. The one main concern I have is people having good water," Hebert said.

According to Jasak, the town's infrastructure needs to be addressed across the board.

"The pipes going into peoples' homes are older, too," he said. "There's a lot of old infrastructure. Look at the bridges and roads in town and around the country. Those are things this country needs, not just Palmer or Massachusetts. Sooner or later, you have to do something."

He said he hopes some of the \$1 trillion made available when President Joe Biden signed the Infrastructure and Jobs Act into law nearly two years ago will help local municipalities finance needed projects. More information about the fund is available at Build.gov.

In the meantime: "If you have a problem with dirty water, call the water department so we can log it and try to fix it," Jasak said.

MONSON | from page 1

ties coming up in the fall," Newland said. "We have a Tavern Night Fundraiser already booked for Oct. 5, so mark your calendars for that."

Newland also mentioned plans to schedule Thunderbirds games as passive fundraisers, and said that the school's Trunk-or-Treat event is looking for volunteers.

After an update on the year's sports enrollments, the Committee discussed a proposal for a policy pertaining to disposing of items, such as furniture and equipment that the school is no longer using. The Committee voted unanimously to accept this proposal.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, two men urged the school to ignore the Department of Early and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines concerning sexual education, claiming that the professionals were part of a "master plan where historical science and knowledge is replaced by activist dogma."

On DESE's web page outlining the regulation, it states that "all students need a safe and supportive school environment to progress academically and developmentally."

"This guidance is intended to help school and district administrators take steps to create a culture in which transgender and gender nonconforming students feel safe, supported, and fully included, and to meet each school's obligation to provide equal educational opportunities for all students," DESE released.

BACKYARD | from page 4

ing plumes on the head raised and they touch bills. They make a low, hoarse "quok" sound often heard at dusk. During nesting, they make a "rokok."

Red-winged blackbirds

I received an email this week from someone who lives in the West Springfield Agawam area. She said, "Red-winged blackbirds are one of my favorite birds, but I always wondered why they leave the areas so early?" She also said, "I go to areas where I know they nest, but never see them after mid-July or so."

Red-winged blackbirds are one of the first to arrive in early spring with the males coming first, then the females. They migrate anytime from late August to early October and gather in flocks for the trip south.

Audubon Society sightings

Other Audubon Society sightings reported for August in Berkshire include an alder flycatcher in Washington and a yellow-bellied flycatcher at the Jug End State Reservation in Egremont. In Hampshire County, four sandhill cranes were at East Meadows in Northampton and four more sandhill cranes at the Arcadia Sanctuary.

Migrants tallied at Quabbin Park in Ware included four common nighthawks, two yellow-bellied flycatchers and four Cape May warblers. In Worcester County 14 Common Mergansers were seen near fishing area #3 at Quabbin Reservoir in Petersham and four Bonaparte's Gulls were tallied along the Dana shoreline in Petersham.

Two black vultures were seen soaring over Mt. Wachusett in Princeton and in Paxton there was a Cerulean warbler. Mount Wachusett is a popular spot for birders to view hawk migrations during September and October. Two Cape May warblers were seen at the Moose Hill Wildlife Area.

Wild turkeys

It seems wild turkeys are everywhere. I have seen groups of three or four Tom turkeys and much larger groups of hens and their poults. Several times I stopped while a large flock of hens and youngsters crossed the road.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing my-backyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

GRANT | from page 1

St. project, with a portion allocated for designing the Maple Terrace project.

"It's like designing two houses but you can only afford to build one," said Latour.

The Maple Street project was chosen as a priority after a series of surveys and public hearings.

"In the public hearing we had all the water departments in Palmer attended and gave input and information," said Latour.

The public hearing allowed the departments to determine "what level of comment and direction the general public will give you to lean toward and the most viable recommendation is what you tailor your grant to," he said.

CDBG grants are awarded to low-income areas, requiring a 51% low-income household concentration for that neighborhood to be eligible.

"We have to be able to document that. We did door-to-door surveys. Residents did the survey and they were very helpful. We hope to do that in other locations," Latour said.

Questions on the survey included residents' approximate income and concerns regarding the neighborhood infrastructure.

He added the Three Rivers' Fire Department also assisted in compiling data for the grant application by providing information such as maps, age of existing piping and general support.

The decision to replace piping was due to aging lines and infrastructure that date back to when the town's economy was largely supported by mills.

"Old water piping corrodes. It deteriorates and they get blocked by roots and other types of material," said Latour.

The design consultant and engineers will complete more in-depth surveys to discover the current conditions of what is under the "hard-top," including age, acidity of the soil and water conditions.

"Hopefully this will start the beginning of infrastructure projects of this nature for all the water supplies," said Latour.

The CDBG grant is a two-year grant that also supports public social services.

The grant will also provide \$134,516 will also help pay for a domestic violence advocate and an outreach coordinator.

It will also provide additional \$138,369 to support general administration for the grant to be carried out.

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Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

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Business

Holistic healing shop joins Schoolhouse Common Shops

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER — A new holistic and spiritual healing shop is open in town, offering a space for locals to relax, meditate and purchase all things promoting overall health and well-being.

The Moonlit Forrest, located at 1085 Park St., offers a series of guided meditations, intuitive astrology readings, angel readings, ascension massages and energy healing practices including Reiki.

“There was a period of uncertainty in my life, and I found help in spiritual healing. It helped more than medical care ever could,” said co-owner, Jenny Aleksy. “I know pain and I got out, I found this path.”

She has traveled and studied to learn a variety of spiritual healing practices, including flower essences, angel therapy and spiritual cleansing using herbs and crystals.

“This has grounded me for 15 years. When we find balance, we can help,” said Aleksy.

Aleksy offers ascension massages which promote spiritual healing through energy transference and release.

Massages include very light to no physical touching and are done in a spacious room with an abundance of natural light.

The massage bed is situated under a large copper pyramid which has a globe of locally-sourced water fixed in



Shown is Kenyon's reading table, where she completes astrological and angel readings.



Magnetic rings are also for sale, offering an accessory that assists in reducing pain and inflammation of the fingers while promoting circulation, balance, sleep and positive energy.



Many crystals are available for sale at The Moonlit Forrest.



Co-owners, Jenny Aleksy and Danni Kenyon are all smiles in their new healing space.



Shown is a copper charging pyramid, which helps recycle stagnant, negative energy and promotes positive energy and healing.



Danni Kenyon and her daughter, Ariya, share a smile and a hug.

the center, and a healing crystal under the bed.

The copper pyramid is designed to promote a natural flow of energy and believed to increase the power of anything placed underneath them, while water is believed to hold all memories.

Co-owner Danni Kenyon said she took to spiritual healing and holistic practices when she discovered healing through grounding and astrology practices.

“I got into medical astrology and fixed so many things doctors couldn't,” said Kenyon.

Kenyon offers astrology snap shots, guided meditations and angel readings.

Astrological readings include a natal chart, origins of the zodiac signs, astrotheology and instilling a greater understanding of the self as it relates to the planets.

“Community is important. We're community building through mindfulness and consciousness,” said Kenyon.

Guided meditations are offered in an open space within the shop.

The designated space offers natural

light, a large rug with pillows for comfort and sheer drapes hanging from the ceiling.

With guided meditation, participants are given a crystal to enhance focus and direct consciousness.

“We give you a crystal and you're allowed to take it home,” said Kenyon. “We also show you how to program a crystal for the journey you took.”

In addition to providing healing services, Kenyon and Aleksy perform “land clearings” or spiritual cleansing of spaces.

This requires the burning of sage and a cleansing ritual to target negative energy in a given area.

For those interested in purchasing healing and metaphysical tools of their own, The Moonlit Forrest sells crystals, sage, incense, books, herbs, tarot cards and other materials to promote spiritual well being.

Other items available for purchase include jewelry, trinkets and handcrafted art.

To stop by the shop, hours of oper-

ation are Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.



Submitted Photo
Country Bank's Executive Vice President, Mary C. McGovern graduates from American Bankers Association Wharton Leadership Lab.

Mary C. McGovern graduates from American Bankers Assoc. Wharton Leadership Lab

PALMER— Country Bank announced that Mary C. McGovern, executive vice president, chief financial and operating officer, successfully completed the inaugural American Bankers Association Wharton Leadership Lab at the University of Pennsylvania. McGovern earned an ABA Wharton Executive Leadership Certificate, a prestigious credential that demonstrates her excellence in leadership and strategic planning.

The ABA Wharton Leadership Lab is a rigorous, immersive program that challenges executive bankers on the reality of leadership in today's world at an Ivy League level. The program, which included 42 students, covers topics such as creating and sharing a vision, goal setting, managing talent, driving innovation, and sustaining meaningful relationships.

McGovern is an influential executive leader with more than 30 years' experience in the financial services industry. McGovern's leadership has contributed to the bank's continued success for the past 12 years. McGovern's participation in the ABA Wharton Leadership Lab reflects her commitment to continuous learning and professional development at a critical time in the industry as regulations, technologies and the work force continues to rapidly evolve.

“Mary's commitment to Country Bank is admirable, with oversight of operations, finance, facilities, retail banking delivery and technology, she has continued to drive strategic change throughout the Bank,” said Paul Scully, President and CEO. “On behalf of the entire team and the Board of Directors, we would like to congratulate Mary for this achievement and look forward to her continued leadership as we navigate the next few years in a challenging economy.”

Moonlit Forrest
Upcoming programs and notes

Sept. 13
Snapshot Astrology for October;
What to expect and how to navigate

Sept. 14
New Moon Virgo: 9:37 p.m.

Sept. 16
Igniting personal power meditation:
9 a.m., \$33 cost

Sept. 20
Astrology and origins of the zodiac

Sept. 23
Grounding and shielding meditation:
9 a.m., \$33 cost

Sept. 29
Full Moon Aries: 6:01 a.m.

Sept. 30
Transitioning meditation:
9 a.m., \$33 cost

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CLUES ACROSS

- Second sight
- Standard electrode potential
- Type of gibbon
- John Joseph _____; American industrialist
- Manning and Whitney are two
- Abrupt
- Baroque musical instrument
- Post-burning residue
- When you hope to arrive
- Sign up (Brit. Eng.)
- Sun up in New York
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Where people live
- Method to record
- an electrogram
- Angry
- No longer living
- Simple
- Swiss river
- Portion of a play
- It's under the tree
- Wood sorrels
- No (Scottish)
- Dialect of English
- Former Steelers' QB
- Popular beer
- It can make you sick
- Tropical tree and fruit
- Company officer
- Contact lens term
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- "Ghetto Superstar" singer
- Piece of turf

CLUES DOWN

- Number of players on each side in a football game
- Containing salt
- Reasoning or knowledge; a _____
- Car mechanics group
- Leave a place
- Southern Colombian capital
- Old English letter
- Tide
- Walk heavily
- Chemical compound (abbr.)
- Artificial openings
- Luteinizing hormone
- Unit of energy
- Circular movement of
- water
- A way of holding
- Popular book of words (abbr.)
- States' group
- Dashes
- Body part
- Electronic countermeasures
- Consumed
- Small bird
- Unhappy
- Football's big game (abbr.)
- Valued object offered in good faith
- Wild goats
- Precede in place
- Small edible fish
- Notice of death
- Body cavity of a metazoan
- Partner to cheese
- Not around

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HWBSL hosts second annual Fall Fest

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

HOLLAND – The Holland Wales Baseball Softball League will host a day filled with live music, games, face painting, a beer garden and other family fun festivities, on Saturday, Sept. 30, at Hitchcock Field in Holland.

The event will begin at 4 p.m., featuring entertainment from local musicians Michael Kae and The John Wayne Experience, followed by an outdoor movie screening.

The event is free and will offer attendees an opportunity to support local businesses, vendors and the league through many optional activities.

“Youth athletics provide a positive impact on a player’s life both on and off the field. The coaches in our program, all volunteers, are dedicated to making sure our players have a fun and rewarding experience,” said League President Michael Breor.

“Fun is our number one goal; if a player doesn’t have a great experience, we’ve failed,” said Breor.

The Fall Fest initiative aims to engage the entire community by offering an event that is open with free admission to the public.

Many free activities will be offered, including a bonfire, bounce houses and cornhole.

“Everyone plays a role in making sure these programs continue to exist for our children, the town of Holland, town of Wales, leadership at our elementary schools, local businesses, and ultimately, the volunteers who dedicate countless hours during the season and behind the scenes preparing for each season,” said Breor.

He added the league is hoping to continue growing the program, as they experienced a decline in participation following the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We rebuilt the program in

2022 (and) increased the number of players by 30%,” said Breor of the 2023 season.

While the league continues to strive for growth, costs increase in the process.

“When you add more players, you add more teams, more uniforms, more equipment and more coaches,” said Breor.

The league tries to keep the costs the same every year, and the money raised goes back into the community by providing opportunities for youth athletes.

“The community supports our players and our players support the community,” said Breor.

The values taught in sports can be applied to life and support youth development into productive members of society, he said.

“Providing the opportunity for our players to play for their hometown is a reason we all volunteer and support these programs. It’s how we grew up, and we want to provide those same opportunities for future generations,” said Breor.

During the baseball/softball season, Breor said the league “tend[s] to focus on the league families and teams,” whereas the Fall Fest “gets the whole community involved.”

Breor said HWBSL “provides an opportunity for children to learn the game, understand the value of teamwork and establish childhood memories that will last a lifetime.”

To support the youth baseball/softball athletes of Holland and Wales while participating in a community gathering, stop by Fall Fest Saturday, Sept. 30, at 4 p.m.

For those interested in making donations or a sponsorship for the 2024 season, contact the league at Holland.Wales.Baseball@gmail.com or mail checks made payable to Holland Softball League at 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA, 01521.



Kelcie Greebe and Landon Breor enjoy slushies after playing ball.



Young players are in position as they wait for the batter to knock the ball out of the park.

Palmer Fire Department welcomes new firefighter

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The town’s fire department has announced the hiring of Renee Forgues, who recently graduated from the Fire Academy of Massachusetts in Springfield.

“We’re excited to have Firefighter Forgues join our ranks as a full-time member of the Palmer Fire Department,” said Chief William Bernat.

At the time of her first shift on August 28, Forgues was the sixth addition the department has made to its full-time staff. She was originally hired as an on-call firefighter, but according to the department, she completed both the call/volunteer fire academy and Emergency Medical Technicians school in under a year, and is expected to continue on to Career Academy in November.

“It’s been great. A lot of opportunity, a lot of new things, it’s really exciting,” Forgues said. “The new job is opening up a lot of new doors.”

Forgues lives in town with her daughter.

“I live in town, very close to the department,” Forgues said. “I moved here when I was 13 and bought a house about five years ago. It’s nice to be able to be a part of the community where I’m raising my daughter, and to be close to home if anything happens.”

Though juggling the intense training and studying required to be a firefighter with providing for her daughter has been difficult, Forgues said it was worth it to enter into a career that she’s passionate about.

“None of my family is in the fire service. I guess I’m first gen,” Forgues said. “I wanted to find a career that was more physical and more hands-on,



Courtesy photos

Renee Forgues receives her certificate, accompanied by her father, Thomas Forgues (left) and Chief William Bernat of the Palmer Fire Department.



Renee Forgues celebrates her accomplishment with her daughter, Raven.

something that would be a passion for me. [Fire service] had always been on the radar, but was never something I thought was achievable.”

“I decided to just take the risk and go for it, and it’s paying off, it’s become quite a passion for me,” Forgues said. “I’m doing something that’ll help my community, and it’s different every day.”

“I became a call/volunteer for Palmer in August of last year,” Forgues said. “I went to Roberges EMS in Palmer for my EMT to get certified, and then I went immediately to the Fire Academy of Mass. in Springfield and went there for

my Firefighter One and Two certifications, and my [Hazardous Materials] certification.”

“Since her hire as an on-call firefighter, Forgues has proven her commitment and dedication to achieving her goals,” Bernat said. “Her work ethic, and her ability to balance a full-time job, raising her daughter, studying, and completing the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Academy and EMT school were a huge factor in the department’s decision to hire her.”

“We are confident Firefighter Forgues will be an exceptional addition to our full-time staff,” Bernat said. “Approximately five percent of our nation’s career firefighters are female, and the department is proud to be a driving force of change.”

Forgues’s accomplishment may very well help to raise that percentage, as Forgues said that her daughter is already talking about following in her footsteps.

“She’s really excited about it, she keeps saying that she wants to do it,” Forgues said. “My chief and my captains and my coworkers are so great to her and so supportive.”





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Front row (from left to right)- Susan Piche, Dr. Michael Hakim, Caitlyn Garceau, RMA, Practice Manager, Back row (from left to right)- Charlene Gryszowka, Dawn Greene, RMA, Crystal Best, RMA, Faith Przybycie

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OMP welcome students back to school



Fifth-grader Tristan Riel looks determined to get to class on time for his first day back.



Third-grader Juleirys Feliciano and ELA teacher, Karyn Perry share a photo on the first day.



William Brown III is ready to return to class.



Second-grader Arielle Warren is shown walking into school for her first day back.



First-grader Ruhan Waqas is all smiles while visiting friends and teachers.



Students, teachers and staff reunite in the hallway before making their way to class.



One student smiles as she jumps off the bus for her first day back.



Students carry their bags and seek guidance from teachers greeting them on their first day back. Some teachers help redirect students or hold hands to guide them to class.

PALMER – As students transitioned from summer mode into back-to-school mode, teachers volunteered to assist new and returning students to their classrooms.

Though some Old Mill Pond students wore their best smiles, others shed a tear in light of summer vacation officially coming to an end.

For Palmer School District students in grades one through 12, the beginning of the year kicked off Tuesday, Aug. 29.

For the youngsters, kindergarten kicked off Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Some students started their school year walking hand-in-hand with a friend, hugging a favorite teacher, high-fiving the school mascot, Cubby, or frantically looking for their homeroom.

Teachers stood by to aid students in need, and even cheered them on with pom-poms and smiles in support of the new school year.

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Students pour into the school by the dozen. Shown are Hailey Partridge, Matthew Bergeron and Wesley Lombardi.



Second-grader Gavin Turrene is one of many students making their way through the halls.



Dimetrios Kalogeras smiles as he passes the school mascot, Cubby, on his way in.

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SOCCKER

Panthers get first victory in Labor Day match



Gianna Perry receives a pass and guides the ball.



Fallon Lynch tries to clear the ball away.



Vanessa Baer changes directions to grab the loose ball.



Ava Przybycien heads up the field with the ball.

SOUTHWICK – On a hot Monday afternoon, Palmer girls soccer was one of the first teams in the region to have a regular season soccer match as they traveled to Southwick Regional. Palmer scored early into the matchup and then added a goal about 20 minutes to take a 2-0 lead. They tacked on two more for a 4-1 win. Charlotte Theriault had two goals for the Panthers while Ava Przybycien and Gianna Perry added single tallies for Palmer, which has been a playoff and state tournament contender during the past two seasons.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Loretta Petraszewicz gets a throw-in.



Charlotte Theriault tries to get around an opponent.

FOOTBALL

Pioneers test their mettle



Cecil Burgess-Bruso tries to avoid a tackle as he runs toward the sideline.



Hunter Griswold looks to make a decision with the ball in traffic.



Jarrett Skowrya jumps to make the catch.



Nicholas Pfisher makes a throw.



WILBRAHAM – Last Saturday morning, Pathfinder Regional football traveled a short way to Wilbraham & Monson Academy and had their final scrimmage action before the regular season is supposed to begin. The Pioneers are scheduled to open the season right nearby, taking on neighbor Palmer High School on Friday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ethan Nompleggi makes a reception and stays inbounds.

SOCCKER



Alex Young focuses on the ball after receiving a pass.

Mustangs boys prepare for opener



Ben Pignone dribbles into traffic.



Ethan Thurston makes a throw-in.

MONSON – Last week, Monson boys soccer was in scrimmage action. The Mustangs hosted Hampden Charter in an exhibition match as both teams get ready for the regular campaign. Monson's got started with a home game against Northampton on Wednesday. The Mustangs are then set to play on Friday, Sept. 8 against SICS.



Jake Beaupre tries to play a ball in the air.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Anthony Tulloch starts up the field.

Pioneers cap season with Festa match



Monson's Connor Hicks receives a pass and makes his way up the field.



Max Robbins looks to catch up with the ball.



Noah Rivera stops the ball.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Kyle Tomas winds up for a long kick.

LUDLOW – After another season with a playoff appearance in the USL-2 League, many members of the Western Mass. Pioneers got together one last time for the annual Friendly Festa game on Sunday afternoon. The entire team was put together by the Lusitano Club of Ludlow. The exhibition has been happening for the past several years during the town's Festa celebration.



Goalie Al Albano sends the ball up the field.

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Athlete of the Week

Ava Przybycien
Palmer High School

Ava Przybycien was one of the goal-scorers for Palmer High School in their season-opening victory at Southwick on Monday, Sept. 4.
To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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Submitted photo
Palmer's 5/6 girls team smile proudly as they ended their season with the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League undefeated with a 9-0-1 record this year.

Railers name new VP

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) is pleased to welcome David Aitken to the front office staff as the Vice President of Tickets & Corporate Partnerships.

“David has a proven track record of driving revenue in minor league sports,” said Railers HC President, Stephanie Ramey. “He has been a direct contributor of significant AHL ticket sales growth in both Rochester and Cleveland and will bring new ideas to enhance the Railers experience for fans and sponsors.”

Aitken will oversee all revenue channels for the Railers and will help further develop the ticket sales and corporate sponsorships departments. Most recently, Aitken spent nearly five years as the Director of Ticket Sales with the Rochester Americans (AHL) and Rochester Knighthawks (NLL), as part of Pegula Sports and Entertainment, the parent company of the Buffalo Sabres and Buffalo Bills. His responsibilities included

strategy, budgeting, and personnel. Under Aitken's leadership, the Amerks achieved their highest season ticket numbers and ticket sales revenue in the franchise's 67-year history. The Amerks concluded the 2023 Calder Cup Playoffs with the highest attendance for the AHL clubs playing more than one home playoff game, which featured three of six home games with a sell-out crowd of 10,662 at their venue.

Prior to his time in Rochester, Aitken spent eight seasons with the Cleveland Monsters (AHL) as part of the Cleveland Cavaliers (NBA) organization. His position with the team was Sr. Manager of Business Development where he led all new business ticket sales efforts, as well as managed a senior level team of ticket representatives. During this time, Aitken was also responsible for youth hockey game-day programming and community outreach efforts for six seasons and was instrumental in the founding of the Monsters' "Grow the Game" and Learn to Play initiatives in Northeast Ohio.

Aitken's tenure in Cleveland

was highlighted by placing among the AHL's top 10 in group sales for five seasons and generated the most group sales in franchise history at that time in the 2015-16 season. He was also part of the 2016 Calder Cup champion Lake Erie Monsters staff which won the AHL's President's Award for Business Team of the Year.

Aitken is originally from Chester, NY in the Lake George region, and is relocating to Worcester with his wife Colleen, and their three daughters, Leah, Emma, and Olivia. His start date with the Railers is Monday, July 24.

The Worcester Railers HC 2023-24 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Saturday, Oct. 21 and Sunday, Oct. 22 vs. the Adirondack Thunder & Trois-Rivieres Lions. Season memberships, mini-plans, and group packages for the 2023-24 season are on sale now by calling the Railers front office at 508-365-1750 or by visiting RailersHC.com.

Paul, Hall team up to host tip-off event

SPRINGFIELD – The Chris Paul Family Foundation and Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the third annual circuit of two Historically Black College and University (HBCU) events, the HBCU Tip-Off and Challenge, presented by the AEA Foundation.

The HBCU Tip-Off will take place Nov. 18-19 at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut, and the HBCU Challenge will be held Dec. 16-17 at Michelob ULTRA Arena at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

“As an HBCU graduate himself, Chris Paul has long been a prominent

voice for the empowerment of HBCU athletes,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “The Hall of Fame is honored to work alongside Chris to create opportunities for these student-athletes, and we look forward to watching them play in two competitive weekends of basketball.”

Paul, an active philanthropist and entrepreneur, has actively supported HBCUs for years. He currently serves on President Joe Biden's advisory board on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Paul executive produced Why Not Us: North Carolina Central Basketball, Why Not Us:

FAMU Football, and Why Not Us: Southern Dance on ESPN+. In addition, Paul partnered with Harvard Business School to bring its Entertainment, Media and Sports program to select HBCUs to develop a pipeline for students pursuing careers in those industries. He launched HBCU voting initiatives to encourage students to vote during the past election and partnered with Sour Patch Kids and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund to create The Mischief for Change Scholarship, a college scholarship fund with a \$1 million commitment over the next five years for students attending HBCUs. In 2022, Paul graduated with a degree from Winston-Salem State University.

“We are looking forward to the third year of our HBCU events,” said Paul. “These events present a unique opportunity for student athletes to play on a national stage. I'm excited to collaborate with the Basketball Hall of Fame, Mohegan Sun, and MGM Resorts and am grateful to all of our partners for their commitment to HBCU schools and athletes in partnership with this event.”

Tickets for the 2023 Chris Paul HBCU Tip-Off and HBCU Challenge will both go on sale on Friday, Sept. 8.

Coby among hungry contenders for Monadnock Race

MOORESVILLE, N.C. – After two races off, Tommy Baldwin Racing announced today that the team will field a Mayhew Tools No. 7NY entry for Doug Coby in this Saturday's NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour 150 at Monadnock Speedway.

Coby and Baldwin enter the event leading the point standings for the Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup, which will conclude Saturday night.

The Cup awards a bonus of \$5,000 to the team that captures the most points over three events. Coby picked up the win in round one of the Cup at Monadnock back in May and finished sixth in the second race at Lee USA Speedway to enter this weekend in the lead.

The team is also eligible for additional bonuses from the Cup, including a lap leader bonus from all three events combined and the best average finish over the three races. The team has the opportunity to collect over \$6,400 in bonus money, plus any winnings collected for finishing position on Saturday. It made the decision to attend a no-brainer.

Last month, Tommy Bald-

win Jr. announced a diagnosis of cancer and is currently undergoing treatments. The team is not returning full-time on the Whelen Modified Tour for the remainder of the season, but will come together to chase the Cup crown at Monadnock.

Baldwin is selling Baldwin Strong stickers on his website, TommyBaldwinRacing.com, and donating final proceeds to the Matheny School. His goal is to share awareness and have everyone know they are all in it together when fighting through health issues.

“After winning at Monadnock in May and leading the Cup standings heading into Saturday, we really wanted to make this event happen,” team owner Tommy Baldwin Jr. said. “I'm thankful for everyone's support through my announcement and treatments - it's been incredible and our entire family couldn't be more grateful. The team will be ready to roll into Monadnock to chase the Cup title, but also another win for Mayhew Tools and everyone involved with Doug and our team.”

Coby has one goal in mind

for Saturday: win.

“We had a great car last time at Monadnock, it was dominant all day,” Coby said. “This will be a little bit of a different race being at night compared to the day time back in May. As far as Tommy wanting to have a car prepared and go to the track, it's good for him to be able to have something different to focus on and he said he feels good enough to make it happen, which is great to hear. With the race now 150 laps, you will probably be able to go harder and really battle for spots earlier in the race. There will likely be some serious battling on restarts to keep or gain track position.”

Saturday's event schedule at Monadnock Speedway includes NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour practice from 2:55-3:55 p.m., followed by qualifying at 5:30 p.m. The estimated green flag time for the Winchester Fair 150 is set for 8 p.m. Tickets for the race are available in advance at JDVProductions.com. The event will air live on FloRacing.TV for those who can't make it to New Hampshire.

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DEATH NOTICES

Richard B Smith
Died August 27, 2023
Lombard Funeral Home

Strange, Grant E.
Died August 25, 2023

The Journal Register
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.

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

O B I T U A R I E S

Richard B. Smith, 1929-2023



MONSON—Richard Bradway Smith, 94, passed away at home on August 27, 2023. Richard was born in Southbridge on August 10, 1929 to the late Perley and Dorothy (Bradway) Smith. After graduating from Charlton High School, Richard enlisted in the U.S. Airforce where he served during both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Richard later retired from the Military in 1968.

Richard lived in Monson for 52 years where he worked at the C.F. Church Co. as well as the Monson Developmental Center. Richard was also a proud member and Past Master of the Day Spring Lodge of Masons. He

was also a member of the Scottish Rites and a past Commander of the Legion of Honor for the Melha Shriners. Richard was a devoted member of the American Legion post 241 in Monson, Post 2596 of Wales, Vietnam Veterans of America Post 405 in Ware, and a past Commander of the VFW Post 9093 in Gilbertville.

Richard leaves his daughter, Julie Schofield of Dublin Ohio; his long-time companion Rose; four grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, many cousins and friends.

Lombard Funeral Home has been entrusted with Richard's arrangements. Visiting hours for

Richard will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. A Masonic Evergreen service will be held during visitation. A Graveside service with Military Honors will take place on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:00am at Hillcrest Cemetery, 32 Wilbraham Rd. Monson MA. Friends and family are asked to gather directly at the cemetery. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation to the Shriners Hospitals for Children 516 Carew Street Springfield, MA 01104. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

Grant E. Strange

BONDSVILLE—Grant E. Strange, 74, passed away August 25, 2023 at Baystate Medical Center. Born November 17, 1948 in Boston, he was the son of Charles E. and Nancy (Mellen) Strange. Grant grew up in Amherst and has lived in the Bondsville section of Palmer for 44 years. Grant graduated from Amherst Regional High School in 1967 and attended the School of Practical Arts in Boston for a year and then continued his artistry as a sculptor assistant. Following in his father's footsteps as an artist, he continued to share his talents of painting, sketching, stain glass and woodworking with many family and friends. Nature scenes were brought to life with oil paintings, and he shared his talents among art shows throughout the art community as well as with classes that were hosted at the Palmer Senior Center. Hundreds of

winter hats were also shared with family and friends with Grants creativity and talent. Along with being an artist, the years spent in caring for others as a certified nurse's aide and certified home health aide in the setting of nursing homes, private homes and hospice, blessed many lives of his dear patients. His warm heart and caring soul and love for people was evident in all those who he came in contact with both professionally and personally. In his younger years, Grant enjoyed his time singing in the choir, sharing with others his magnificent voice. His musical talent spread to strumming the guitar, a past time that he shared with Sue and the gathering of fellow guitarists, the Pickers. Grant was looking forward to picking



up his guitar again after the years of not playing. He will be greatly missed by his wife of 45 years, Lillian "Sue" S. (Ridz) along with his sister, Susan Morissette of Ware, and brothers, David Strange of Chicopee and Philip

Strange of Athol. His memory will also forever remain with his in-laws, George and Vija Ridz of Monson, Patricia and Don Ferrell of Bondsville, Donald and Kathy Ridz of Monson, and David Ridz of Palmer along with several nieces and nephews. Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. Services are not being scheduled at this time. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Palmer Senior Center. Please visit www.beersandstory.com

Police/Fire

Police Logs

Palmer

The Palmer Police Department reported 446 incidents on its logs for Aug. 22 – Aug. 28 including:

August 23

At 1:13 p.m. Antonio Jose Serrano, 29, of 14 Maple Terr. in Three Rivers was involved in an accident on Maple Terrace. Serrano received a summons for negligent operation of motor vehicle and speeding in violation of special regulation.

August 24

At 5:15 p.m. Timothy Joseph Denson, 38, of 1624 Park St. in Palmer was pulled over on Converse Street. Denson received a summons for operating a vehicle after suspended or revoked registration and uninsured motor vehicle.

At 7:04 p.m. David B. Gagnon Jr., 49, was involved in an accident on Park Street. Gagnon was arrested on OUI liquor second offense, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

August 25

At 12:30 p.m. at the Palmer Police Department, officers arrested Matthew Stearns, 45, 7 Hidden Acres in Wales on charges of operating a motor vehicle without a license and OUI liquor second offense. Michelle Hale, 50, of 26 Union St. in Westfield was received a charge of OUI liquor and taken into protective custody. No other details were provided.

August 26

At 12:02 a.m. Elizabeth Taylor Chrusciel, 31, of 48 Meadowbrook Lane in Palmer received a summons for assault and battery.

At the same time and location Jessalyn Eva Marie Hughes-Ungerland, 30 of 110 Pleasant St. in Ware was taken into protective custody.

At 5:06 p.m. Kim A. Kloc, 62, of 1 Berkshire St. in Palmer was involved in an accident on Central Street. Kloc was arrested on charges of OUI liquor and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

At 6:25 p.m. Dave E. Dorian,

18, of 120 Mechanic St. in Marlborough was pulled over in the vicinity of Park Street and Breckenridge Street. Dorian received a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, marked lanes violation, speeding rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper and uninsured motor vehicle.

At 8:17 p.m. Victor Perez Ortiz, 67, of 18 Snow St. in Southbridge was pulled over on N. Main Street. Perez Ortiz was arrested on charges of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, marked lane violations, speeding at a rate of speed that was greater than reasonable and proper and uninsured motor vehicle.

August 28

At 7:44 p.m. Nathan Alexander Bruneau, 22, of 44 Lakeshore Drive in Monson was pulled over on N. Main Street. Bruneau received a summons for operating a motor vehicle after a suspended or revoked registration, uninsured motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

Fire Logs

Bondsville

For the period Aug. 22 to Aug. 28, Bondsville fire responded to 2 calls.

On Thursday, Aug. 24 at 9:24 a.m., the department responded to Palmer St. for a fluid spill. The department returned to service at 10:25 a.m.

On Thursday Aug. 24 at 4:06 p.m., the department was dispatched mutual aid to Park St. in Palmer for a grill fire. The call was cancelled enroute and the department returned

to service at 4:10 p.m.

Three Rivers

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to four calls for the week of Aug. 28-Sept. 4.

On Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 11:25 p.m. the Department responded to a motor vehicle accident (no injuries) at the underpass on Palmer Street. The Department returned to service at 1:35 p.m.

On Wednesday, Aug. 30 at 5:13

p.m. the Department assisted EMS on Main Street, returning to service at 5:34 p.m.

On Thursday, Sept. 1 at 8:49 p.m. the Department responded to a CO detector activation on Palmer Street, returning to service at 9:19 p.m.

On Friday, Sept. 2 at 8:44 a.m. the Department responded to a nonemergency call on Glenn Street, returning to service at 9 a.m.

September is campus fire safety month

STOW—Massachusetts Gov. Maura T. Healey has declared September to be campus fire safety month in Massachusetts, and fire officials are reminding students, parents, and others to be sure their living spaces have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms, and that they know two ways out in an emergency.

State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine said 2,608 fires occurred in student dormitories, fraternities, and sororities in Massachusetts between 2018 and 2022. These fires caused six civilian injuries, 11 fire service injuries, and more than \$3 million in damages. Fire officials are especially concerned about fire safety in apartments and other types of off-campus student housing, where two college students died in separate, unrelated fires in 2013.

"Fire safety is vitally important whether you live in a dorm, apartment, single-family home, multifamily dwelling, sorority, or fraternity," said Davine. "Everyone should have working smoke and CO alarms on every level of their residence and know two ways out in an emergency. In the event of a fire, don't waste precious time retrieving personal belongings - get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1."

Davine also noted that fire safety precautions should remain in place all through the year. Windows, doors, and stairways should always be clear of boxes, furniture, bicycles, and anything else that might hinder an escape. Fire doors should never be blocked or chocked open. And smoke and carbon monoxide alarms must remain operational all year long, as required by law.

"If your rental doesn't have smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, insist on them," said Hyanis Fire Chief Peter J. Burke, Jr.



who serves as president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts. "Landlords are required to provide them, but don't spend a single night unprotected in the meantime. For the price of a pizza, you can go to a hardware store and pick up smoke and CO alarms that could save your life. Choose photo-electric smoke alarms with sealed, long-life batteries. Test them once a month to be sure you're protected, and never, ever disable them."

Working alarms, clear exit routes, and a practiced plan for using them are crucial for when a fire breaks out, but students can also take steps to prevent them from starting in the first place:

There is no safe way to smoke, but if you must smoke then do it responsibly. Don't flick cigarettes on the ground, where they can smolder and ignite debris, or grind them out on porches or steps. Use a heavy ashtray on a sturdy surface and put it out, all the way, every time.

Always plug appliances such as air conditioners and space heaters into wall sockets that can handle the current, not power strips or extension cords. Don't overload outlets with multiple devices.

Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to sleep. Never leave a space heater unattended.

Don't leave pots and pans unattended on a lit stove top, and keep flammable items away from burners. In the event of a grease fire, smother the flames with a lid and then turn off the heat. Cook only when you're alert, not when you're drowsy or impaired.

Never leave candles burning unattended. Extinguish them before leaving the room. Even better, switch to battery-powered candles.

Use the charging equipment provided by the manufacturer and disconnect it when the device is charged. Charge phones, laptops, e-cigarettes, e-bike batteries, and other devices on a hard and stable surface - never a bed, couch, or pillow. If you notice an unusual odor, change in color, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises, stop using the device right away. If it can be moved safely, move it away from anything that can burn and call the local fire department. For more fire safety tips for both on and off campus, visit www.mass.gov/dfs.

Polanie Club to hold 'Spotlight on Beautiful Fashions' fashion show

LUDLOW -- The Polanie Club will hold a Fashion Show "Spotlight on Beautiful Fashions" to honor the memory of the late Loretta T. Goyette, Club President for 32 years. Fashions presented by Zanna of Amherst on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 at Ludlow Country Club, 1 Tony Lema Drive, Ludlow.

Doors open at 11 a.m. followed by lunch at noon with Entree choices of Chicken Francaise, Roast Pork Loin or Grilled Salmon. Entertainment provided by Richie Mitnick and Peter Annone. Reserved Seating at \$48 available by sending check payable to POLANIE CLUB and mailing to:

Ms. Denise Meyers--14 Glen Albyn Street Springfield, MA, 01104 specify Meal Choice Information please call: Denise-413 563-7464, Stacy- 413-593-1172, Dianne-413-214-3822, Jeanne-413-589-0366 or Sophie-413-540-9877.

Scantic River Artisans hosting professional photo taking with phone presentation

HAMPDEN-- Learn how to use your smartphone to take photographs of your artwork and sculptural work for your website or to add to your portfolio. Artist Nan Hurlburt will demonstrate how to take photos and show your art to its best advantage.

Each participant is allowed two pieces to photograph. Finished files will be emailed to each participant.

Criteria: Paintings, drawings (hanging work must NOT be framed), and sculptural work.

Presentation will be on Saturday, September 16th from 10:00am - 1:00pm in the Community Room at the Hampden Sr. Center at 104 Allen Street, Hampden, MA.

Contact Sue Superson: sjsrigher@aol.com to sign up and to answer any questions. Space is limited.

There will be a \$10 charge.

Foursomes needed for charity golf tournament

AGAWAM – Registration and signups are currently open and underway for the Sixth Annual "Shoot Fore The Stars To Cure Cancer" Golf Tournament to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. In the first five years, the event has raised over \$15,000 for cancer research. The four-person scramble event will take place on Monday, Sept. 18 at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT. The event will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start. There will be prizes up for grabs (Closest to Pin/Long Drive) along with a putting contest. Entry fee covers golf, lunch and dinner. Please contact ShootFORETheStarsToCureCancer@gmail.com more information. We hope you can join us.

The Scantic River Artisans to hold "Fall into Art" Art Show

HAMPDEN—The Scantic River Artisans will be holding the "Fall into Art" Art Show on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 3 – 8 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 24 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

On Saturday, there will be a reception with wine, cheese and music and peer awards given out on Sunday.

The art show will take place in the Community Room at the Hampden Senior Center at 104 Allen Street in Hampden, MA.

Additionally, featured at the art show will be "THE NEW ENGLAND MOSAIC - 24 FOOT WALL OF ART"

The New England Mosaic is a 24-foot fine art wall made up of 264 individual 6"x 6" canvas tiles painted by over 200 area artists. The wall captures the beauty and diversity of New England life. The tiles will be for sale and the proceeds will fund scholarships for area art students.

Visit: www.scanticriverartisans.com to fill out a "Call for Artists" form if you wish to participate in the art show. Or pick up forms at the Hampden Senior Center.

'Dancing with the Stars II' to occur Sept. 30

HAMPDEN -- "Dancing with the Stars II", a benefit for the Theatre Guild of Hampden, will occur on Saturday, Sept. 30 at Thornton Burgess Middle School at 85 Wilbraham Road in Hampden. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m. Enjoy desserts and beverages, a raffle and gift baskets and a fun night for all ages.

Tickets can be purchased at Lou's Bagel Nook on Somers Road, 413-566-1515, or at Mark Henry Florist on Main Street in Indian Orchard, 413-543-4203. The requested donation is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children aged 12 and under.

Theatre Guild announces auditions for 'Oklahoma'

HAMPDEN – The Theatre Guild of Hampden has announced auditions for Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical "Oklahoma".

Audition dates are Monday, Sept. 18 and Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Hampden Senior Center on Allen Street.

The show dates are April 5,6,7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21, 2024 at the Red Barn at Fountain Park on Tinkham Road.

Christopher Rojas and Mark Giza are directors. Tom Slowik is the Musical Director and Dina DelBuono is the Choreographer. For more information, one can reach Giza at 413-204-5333 or 413-543-4203.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in sentence form and as a word doc or plain email text – no PDFs or flyers, please – to pressreleases@turley.com.

COMING SOON

THE NIPMUCK INDIAN COUNCIL of Chaubunagungamaug will present their 41st annual Pow-Wow on Sept. 9 and 10 at Lake Siog Recreational Park, Dugg Hill Rd., in Holland. This event is open to the public and will feature authentic native drumming and dancing, native crafts and jewelry, and traditional and contemporary food. Suggested donation is \$5 for adults, \$2 for Senior's age 65+ and Children 6-12. The grounds will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. For more information, please call 508-347-7829 or e-mail acw1213@verizon.net.

GLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (corner of Main St & Cushman St in Monson) is having a Manicotti Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner includes Manicotti and sauce, salad,

green beans, rolls, hot fudge brownie sundae, and beverages. The cost is Adults \$15 and children \$7.00. Please call 413-267-5207 to make reservations. Thank you for your support and enjoy a nice meal without having to prepare or clean-up.

"THE LUCKY DUCK RACE", will be held again this year by the Monson Lions Club during the Food Truck festivities at Veteran's Field, Saturday, Sept. 16. Please support the Monson Lions Club. Buy your duck or ducks and watch the "Back the Duck Race" as Yellow Ducks dive into the Chicopee Brook and swim to the Finish Line on that Saturday afternoon, Post Time is 3 p.m.

JIMMY FUND WALK: Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1. Proceeds from the event support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. All four routes will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line in the Fenway neighborhood. If walkers want to participate a bit closer to home, the Jimmy Fund Walk has flexible opportunities, in-

cluding virtually. Register as an individual walker, team member or start a team at JimmyFundWalk.org or by calling 866-531-9255.

INTERESTS

CRAFTERNOONS: Drop in 2-4 p.m. daily at the Holland Public Library, 23 Sturbridge Road to learn or practice different crafts. There are new crafts every Wednesday. For more information, call 413-245-3607.

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM: Located at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the signposts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit keephomesteadmuseum.org.

QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD: Members meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Amvets post at 2150 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no-pressure group with

varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. Dues are \$55 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow them on Facebook for more.

ONGOING

FARMER'S MARKETS: The Brimfield Farmers Market at Hitchcock Academy is a fun place to find cool, unique products, plants and seasonal produce every Saturday while you meet your neighbors and support Hitchcock and local businesses.

THE WALES BAPTIST CHURCH FARMER'S MARKET is 9 a.m. to noon every Saturday until Labor Day directly across the street from the church on Route 19 in Wales. Items being sold are baked goods, honey, seasonal vegetables, antiques and crafts.

LINE DANCING CLASS: 3-5 p.m. and/or 6:30-8:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Monson Polish Club, 7 Bliss St, Monson. Rose's line dancing classes include absolute beginners and beginners, and par-

ticipants get to dance to all types of music. \$10 per class. Please wear comfortable footwear, no sandals.

GAME NIGHT: 6-7:45 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at Top Floor Learning (third floor of the Palmer Library at 1455 N. Main St.). Free and open to the public. Play available board and card games or bring your own. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. No Registration Required – just show up! Questions? Call 283-2329, or 283-3691, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

NOTCH VISITOR CENTER OPEN FOR WINTER SEASON: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday-Monday. The center is located on Rt 116, at the center of the Holyoke Range State Park. DCR Interpretive staff will be available for visitors. Coming in January, programs will also be offered to highlight the Range's special nature in winter, see the park web site for details.

QI GONG: 6 p.m., every Tuesday night at Memorial Hall with Randy Emerson. Free, no registration. Presented by Monson Parks & Rec and the Monson Free Library,

Ribbon cutting for Brimfield tennis/pickleball courts Sept. 12

Submitted Article

BRIMFIELD – For nearly a year, unbeknownst to passersby, volunteers Emerson and Laurie Recore have been working steadfastly to repair the surface of the long-neglected tennis courts tucked back behind Hitchcock Academy.

Collectively they have put in hundreds of hours carefully clearing and filling cracks in the court, painting, and repairing the surrounding fence. As a result, Brimfield is now home to revitalized tennis courts and the addition of two pickleball courts, soon to open.

The community is invited to come to a ribbon-cutting on the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 12 to celebrate.

Nestled among the trees at the end of path that runs along the far edge of the Academy's property is Charles Field. Originally a ball field installed for use by students of Hitchcock Academy when it acted as the area's high school, before Tantasqua's existence, tennis courts were added some time after the high school transformed into the community center it is today.

The courts gradually fell into disrepair over time without funding to maintain them. There had been efforts to continue to use the courts for basic tennis instruction during Hitchcock's summer programs, but

never enough to restore them for full use.

A community-led effort a few years back was significant in helping to clear heavy brush and growth.

The courts have long been a focus of brainstorming, discussion, prospecting, and grant research by the organization and its trustees, with costs looming large and daunting.

Emerson, a long-time Brimfield resident and former Hitchcock trustee, said he was inspired by all the activity he has seen happening at Hitchcock recently, and wanted to take on this project to contribute. His and Laurie's has been the largest, most dedicated and most impactful effort the courts have seen.

On top of the hundreds of hours they put in, they had even begun scrubbing the court's surface manually until Marchand's Power-Washing owner Alan Marchand offered his services pro-bono, saving immense amounts of time and labor.

Other volunteers have also assisted with painting and mowing around the courts.

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, Hitchcock Academy will hold a soft opening for the newly revamped courts. From 5-6:30 p.m., the community is invited to come and take a look.

Attendees can park in the Hitchcock lot, cross the street

and follow the path to the courts. Recore will be in attendance with photo documentation of the work that has been done on the courts.

Donations for future maintenance will be accepted at this time and continuously through the organization's website

This will mark the reopening of the courts which will be available for community use from that point forward. More information on availability will be shared on the organization's website, www.hitchcockacademy.org.

Proceeds from the upcoming Fore A Great Cause Golf Tournament will go toward ongoing maintenance of what has, until now, been a labor of love.

For anyone who wants to contribute to the effort, but doesn't play golf, donations are also being accepted into a fund for court maintenance.

Hitchcock Board President Mark Carron was the first donor to make a monthly donation to kickstart the fund.

"That court was a big part of my childhood here in Brimfield, and I couldn't be happier to see it coming back to life," said Carron.

Executive Director Cindy Skowrya first learned to play

"Kids would just show up with a racket and a can of tennis balls," she said. She went on to play competitively at Tantasqua, and has fond memories of playing on the courts.

"Everyone has memories here," said Skowrya. "It's time for new ones to be made."

The 3rd annual Fore A Great Cause Golf Tournament will take place at Heritage Country Club in Charlton on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. The fee is \$120 per player with the option to sign up as a foursome or individual.

This includes entry to the tournament, cart, steak dinner, contests, prizes, and snacks. The tournament will be played in scramble format.

Players or foursomes can register at <https://www.hitchcockacademy.org/fore-a-great-cause-golf-tournament.html>.

About Hitchcock Academy

Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. More information can be found at www.hitchcockacademy.org.

Margot Botsford appointed as State Ethics Commission Chair

BOSTON— The Honorable Margot Botsford (ret.), formerly an Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, has been appointed by Gov. Maura Healey to the State Ethics Commission and designated by Healey as the Commission's Chair. Botsford succeeds former Chair Maria J. Krokidas.

Chair Botsford was appointed to the Supreme Judicial Court in 2007 by Gov. Deval Patrick and served until her retirement in 2017. Previously, she served for 18 years as an Associate Justice of the Superior Court, a position to which Gov. Michael Dukakis appointed her to in 1989. Prior to her service on the bench, Botsford was an Assistant Attorney General under Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti, an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of Middlesex District Attorney Scott Harshbarger, and a Law Clerk to Supreme Judicial Court Justice Francis J. Quirico. Botsford also practiced law in the private sector.

Botsford, a magna cum laude graduate of Barnard College, received her law degree from Northeastern University School of Law and holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Botsford is a trustee emerita of

Northeastern University, has taught at the Northeastern University School of Law, and has served on the university's governing boards.

Among Botsford's professional awards and honors are Judicial Excellence Awards from the Massachusetts Conference and the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys, the Haskell Cohn Distinguished Judicial Service Award from the Boston Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association President's Award, the Barnard College Distinguished Alumna Award, and honorary degrees from Northeastern University School of Law and New England Law Boston.

The State Ethics Commission is a non-partisan, independent state agency which administers, provides advice and training concerning, and civilly enforces the conflict of interest and financial disclosure laws. There are five Commissioners: three, including the Commission Chair, are appointed by the Governor, one is appointed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and one is appointed by the Attorney General. No more than two of the Commissioners appointed by the Governor, and no more than three Commissioners overall, may be from the same political party.

journalregister.turley.com

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

FULL-TIME Planning/Building Secretary

The Town of Warren is seeking qualified applications for the position of Secretary to the Planning/Building Department. This position is a permanent full-time (29 hours) Town benefited position.

Monday through Thursday schedule with occasional evening meetings. The successful candidate will perform clerical duties and provide excellent customer service in the Town's Planning and Building Department. The pay scale ranges from \$18.36 to \$24.67/hour based on relative work experience and educational background. For a full job description please visit the Town's website www.warren-ma.gov.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to Jim Ferrera, Town Administrator, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov.

Resumes will be accepted until Friday, September 15, 2023.

The Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer

The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary

than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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REGIONAL | from page 1

“so far it’s been great for both communities.”
 “Both communities have seen an increase in services and faster services. Later last year, Belchertown approached us, requesting to see if they could join the Wilbraham Regional Center and, actually, last week, they signed their letter of attestation for the state, letting the state know they’re committing to regionalizing with the Wilbraham Regional Communications Center,” Gentile said.

Longmeadow Town Manager Lyn Simmons shared she is the Chair of the Board of Directors for WestCom Regional Dispatch Center, which covers Monson, East Longmeadow, Ware and Chicopee.

Simmons explained if anyone is interested, a director would attend a board or committee meeting and conduct a presentation.

“We also provide contract dispatch services for specialty units through the Sheriff’s Department. Been up and running since December 2019 with Longmeadow and Chicopee as the lead communities and then the other communities have come on board since then. We have purchased Salter College off of the Pike. It’s currently in the design phase right now and is going to be undergoing substantial renovation and then the doors will be wide open to accept as many more communities in the Western Mass area as are willing to join us,” Simmons said.

Veteran’s Services

Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz shared the town’s full-time Veterans Agent departed recently and they connected with Wilbraham Town Administrator Nick Breault to have Jared Sasen, director of Veteran’s Services, help them out.

“Our goal is to create a district agreement with Wilbraham and possibly other communities if they are willing to do that. The Veteran’s Services is a very unique, municipal department where you can live in any community and go to any community to get your services,” Wolowicz said.

Ludlow Select Board Vice Chairman Derek DeBarge said the town opened a Veteran’s Center five months earlier.

“Since we’ve opened, we’ve been getting veterans from all over the area,” DeBarge said. “Actually, just this week, started a Regional Veterans Service Rep that will be at our center two days a week from here on out that will be able to do things that our great Veterans Service Director cannot attend to which is mostly out of town veterans needing services.”

Broadband

After Wilbraham Select Board Vice Chairman Sue Bunnell provided an overview of broadband and answered questions from Ludlow Town Administrator Marc Strange on providing municipal broadband and who administers Mobile Location Protocol or MLP, Hampden Town Administrator Bob Markel shared the town is moving in a similar direction as Wilbraham, with prior town meetings approving the steps.

Hampden uses Westfield Gas & Electric, or Whip City Fiber, for their broadband.

“We have received a \$250,000 grant under the Community Compact Program to start off by connecting town buildings and the goal is very similar that we’ll be connecting, eventually, all residents who choose to be connected,” Markel said. “The estimate is we need about 50% of the residents to take the service in order to break even and service our bond which will be somewhere in the range of five to six million dollars as well to have a certain surplus to service the system.”

East Longmeadow Town Manager Tom Christensen said the town is in a similar direction as Hampden.

“What they’ve proposed to us is sort of a full service. They do the billing, the marketing, construction, bidding, procurement, the whole bit and we charge the customer and give them their cut and that’s about the extent of our involvement,” Christensen said.

Upon Wolowicz’s suggestion on regionalizing broadband, Wilbraham Select Board Chairman Theresa Goodrich presented the idea of the town managers and administrators meeting to discuss this further.

Additionally, the chairs of all boards meet once a month to discuss what each town is working on.

“Maybe we can collaborate on some things and ultimately save money and effort and time on projects and get things done fast and more efficiently,” Goodrich said. “We’re all small towns, we’re all very similar demographics. Just kind of seems to make sense.”

The idea to meet was unanimous.

Health Services

Simmons explained the towns of Longmeadow, Monson, Hampden and Wilbraham are part of the Eastern Hampden Shared Public Health Services, providing public health services to all the communities.

Hampden Selectmen Donald Davenport praised its success.

“The important part for us was that we were able to keep the fees in the town or any other permits that the inspector would do the permits we keep the fees, which helps offset our portion of the payments, so it’s really worked well it’s been great,” Davenport said.

Strange said Ludlow recently signed a similar contract with the towns of Warren, West Brookfield and Palmer.

“We also get money for admin support, so what we’ll be able to do is take money from admin support and turn any part-time admin in our Human Resources Department into a full-time position so that’s going to really help us and I’m really looking forward to it,” Strange said.

Trash Collection

East Longmeadow Town Manager Mark Gold was concerned about future contract negotiations for trash collection individually, explaining there was a regional approach before and “we had a better price for it.”

“I think we really need to reconsider regionalization because I saw how effective it was back when we did it,” Gold said. “I don’t have an answer but we really ought to consider the strength of negotiating as a group because we have 5,000 curbside but when we’re together with other communities we had like 15, 20 or 25,000 curbside pickups and that made a big difference.”

Longmeadow Select Board Chair Thomas Lachiusa brought up composting and organic waste, saying “It’s pretty heavy stuff” and “Everybody develops a lot of it.”

“If we could set up some kind of system where, you know, compost all this kind of organic waste safely, it might be something we could do in our own communities,” Lachiusa said.

Crime Statistics

Wolowicz stressed the importance of fighting the opioid crisis in her report.

“I think from the chief’s point of view, I think really that’s where a lot of the focus should be from your select boards and town councils is support your chiefs with the fight against the opioids and the drugs,” Wolowicz said. “It’s in every community and it’s just really unfortunate there’s this underground world that is affecting the quality of life for all of us.”

Christensen said East Longmeadow had traffic and bylaw offenses, followed by all other offenses and shoplifting as their top items.

“We haven’t seen any real uptick and we’re almost right on par with last year,” Christensen said.

Hampden Select Board Chair John Flynn said for them and Wilbraham, car break-ins have been the top issue.

“I think we see a lot of that in social media, the warnings ‘don’t leave them unattended, don’t leave them open’ and even if we don’t leave them open, they’re still getting in,” Flynn said. “Other crimes there’s barely any other crime in Hampden.”

School Enrollment Trends & Budgeting

Davenport explained how “there’s quite a bit of disparity” between the Hampden and Wilbraham popu-

lations for the schools.

“Right now, we’re looking how to reconfigure the school system in order to not only get the utilization of school, the best-educated schools, but also to do something about the disparity of the funding,” Davenport said.

Ludlow Select Board Chairman James Gennette shared that their district is also experiencing a decrease in its student population and concerns about “running into another budget crisis.”

“But we have a new superintendent of schools who is doing a wonderful job, a new business manager she’s doing great, they’re truly trying to hone in everything in the school department, so we’re hoping for some better results this year than we’ve had in the past couple of years,” Gennette said.

The meeting concluded with plans for future meetings between the boards and councils and invitations for state legislators to attend.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
 Wilbraham Select Board Vice Chairman Sue Bunnell provides insight as Wilbraham Select Board Clerk Michael Squindo, Wilbraham Select Board Chairman Theresa Goodrich, Monson Select Board Member Peter Warren and Monson Select Board Vice Chair John Morrell listen during the Aug. 29 Regional Government Meeting at the Wilbraham Police Department.



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Public Notices

Town of Monson Zoning LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with M.G. L Chapter 40A § 11 the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday September 28, 2023, at 7:10 P.M.**, at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, Ma 01057, on the application of Ronald Griswold Jr. for a variance from the requirements of §3.2, Table 2, Dimensional & Density Regulations, of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks to install a 20 ft. x 25 ft. metal building for storage that will violate the required setbacks. The property is located at 106 Fenton Road, Map 146, Parcel 007, zoned Rural Residential. A copy of the application is available for review with the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals. David Beaudoin, Chairman 09/07 09/14/2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Steven Bisson to Beneficial Massachusetts Inc., dated May 25, 2007 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16720, Page 270, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Beneficial Massachusetts Inc. to DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc., recorded on June 7, 2018, in Book No. 22207, at Page 61 DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as indenture trustee, for the holders of the CIM Trust 2021-R2, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2021-R2, recorded on June 21, 2023, in Book No. 25049, at Page 121 for breach of the condi-

tions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **4:00 PM on October 16, 2023**, on the mortgaged premises located at 24 Halfway Lane, Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

TO WIT: THE LAND IN HOLLAND, HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON, SITUATED ON THE WESTERLY SIDE OF HALFWAY LANE, BEING LOTS 615, 616 AND 617 ON PLAN OF MASSACONNET SHORES BY SMITH & WALLER ENGRS. DATED JUNE 1947 AND FILED WITH HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS, BOOK OF PLANS 26, PAGE 100, TOGETHER BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: NORTHERLY BY LOT 614 ON SAID PLAN 100

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AMERICAN PROPERTIES CORPORATION DATED AUGUST 19, 1948 AND RECORDED WITH SAID REGISTRY OF DEEDS, BOOK 1954, PAGE 481. SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, IF SAME ARE IN FORCE AND EFFECT, AS RECORDED WITH HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN BOOK 9566, PAGE 48.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 13346, Page 60.

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which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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Legal Notice Public Hearing Town of Wales

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in the Office of the Board of Selectmen located at the Town Offices, 3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA on **September 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**, to consider a request by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc to allow National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Union Road beginning at a point approximately 127 feet South of the centerline of the intersection of Bayshore Drive. Approximately 127 feet +/- South of Bayshore Drive, install Pole #18-50. The documents and map related to this matter are available for review from the Executive Secretary during regular business hours. Wales Board of Selectmen 09/07, 09/14/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS23P0541EA Estate of: Raymond Francis Shaw Also Known As:

Raymond F. Shaw Date of Death: April 25, 2023

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **James H. Shaw of Brimfield, MA.** **James H. Shaw of Brimfield, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 09/07/2023

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Bringing aWAREness to Recovery



Faith Montaperto Ward stands with her sculpture "Rooftop Hero", created in memory of her brother, Michael.



Abaigeal Duda, program manager at the Recovery Center of HOPE, welcomes guests to the artists' reception held on Aug. 31, National Overdose Awareness Day.



Susan Daley stands with her quilt, which will be a permanent display at the Recovery Center of HOPE following the "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" art exhibition at ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St., Ware.



Anthony Seay submitted three paintings to the "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" art exhibition. This painting is called "Blue Moon".



This painting by Charlotte "Charlie" Lopez was featured in the first "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" show in 2021 and returned again for this year. Lopez passed away shortly after that first show, and members of the Recovery Center of HOPE include her work to remember her kind and positive spirit.



Workshop13 Board of Directors and Exhibition Chair Joyce Eichacker talks about the importance of the arts in the community.



Susan Daley's quilt is based off of the Recovery Center of HOPE's logo and colors and it's filled with words that inspire her.



"Colors" made using fabric and beads, was created at the Recovery Center of HOPE.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
This collage shows the complexity of sobriety.



A phoenix rises from its ashes in this anonymous pencil work.



This artist described addiction as an "infinite weight that can cause my death."



A portrait of Tarra Simmons, the first former felon elected as County Supervisor in Kitsap, Washington, was made using nonrecyclable materials by artist Sarah Schneiderman.

Art exhibition focuses on recovery and overdose awareness

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – In recognition of National Overdose Awareness Day, the Recovery Center of HOPE and Workshop13 presented the third annual "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" art exhibition at ArtWorks Gallery.

The exhibition will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5 p.m. through Sept. 17 for Recovery Month, helping to reduce the stigma those with substance use disorders face.

This was the first "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" exhibition since the Recovery Center of HOPE opened at its 52 Main St. location at the beginning of this year, a milestone that Abaigeal Duda, program manager at the Center, is proud of.

"It's an honor to have the Recovery Center here," she said, giving the community access to numerous services and support.

Many of the artists featured in the exhibition were willing to share their stories, and how substance use disorders have impacted their lives.

"People in recovery longer, feel more encouraged to speak up and feel confident," Duda said. "I'm so glad that their art and their voice is present," she said of all contributors.

Art also has healing qualities, and the Recovery Center of HOPE is able to offer weekly art classes through the use of a grant.

Artist and coordinator of the exhibition, Faith Montaperto Ward has three entries in the exhibition, including a mask with an elaborately long nose entitled "The Liar" and a collection of original songs called "Conversations with God."

"Art and music heal," she said.

Ward also entered "Rooftop Hero"; a sculpture based off of a poem she wrote for her late brother, Michael.

"He was an addict and in recovery a long time," she said, but went back to addiction after the death of their mother.

Ward is a photographer, and sculpture is something she "truly messed around with," admitting that it's not her "thing."

"Rooftop Hero" refers to her brother climbing up on the roof to retrieve balls when they got stuck up there during play. The sculpture also has chicken bones, and Ward explained their meaning.

"We had no money and would buy pot pies when Mom couldn't work," Ward said. "Michael and I

would fight over the beef pot pies and he'd leave me the chicken, which I hated."

The sculpture also features nails and screws and other pieces of metal, which are hard to bend.

There was "not a lot of bending" in the relationship between the two siblings, Ward said, but it also pays homage to Michael's work as a carpenter.

"He loved the smell of fire burned wood," Ward said, a detail she added to the back of the sculpture.

The sculpture, Ward said, is of her family's house.

"It's our house, it's not perfect...there was a lot of addiction and a lot of pain," she said, adding that the whole family goes through the addiction along with the substance user.

This is why she loves her time teaching art at the Recovery Center of HOPE, because it includes the whole family.

"You need all of them in recovery to be a family again," Ward said.

Susan Daley took up quilting 15 years ago, and gave up once before returning to it. Now it's something she commits three hours to each Saturday.

Daley works at the Recovery Center of HOPE and was "very proud" to sew a quilt bearing its logo and proudly displaying its colors, along with words of encouragement.

"I love the words; I live by the words," she said.

Quilting is something that is comforting to Daley and helps to get her out of her own head.

Daley also entered a mixed media project featuring one of her favorite symbols of joy and happiness; Santa Claus.

"Santa Claus is my man," Daley said. "I just love him so much."

Daley herself was a source of joy for one of the artists featured in the show, the late Charlotte "Charlie" Lopez, a Ware resident who died one month after being featured in her first art show in 2021.

Daley was Charlie's sobriety coach, and during an interview at the first ever "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" exhibition, she credited Daley for helping her in her sobriety journey.

"Without her, I wouldn't be here," Charlie said during that first exhibition.

Charlie's painting is a mix of acrylic and oil paints, using techniques she learned during a painting class with Workshop13's Roc Goudreau.

Duda said the painting is included in this year's exhibition to remember Charlie and her impact on the world around her.

"She was so vibrant and effervescent," Duda said. "She's a per-

manent part of our community... she's still in our hearts."

Three Rivers resident Anthony Seay returned for his third time entering the exhibition, with three paintings.

One, called "The Raven" features the bird which in Sioux legend, is known as the Trickster. The raven is also a shapeshifter, and in Seay's painting he is holding a key in his beak.

"He is holding the key to change," Seay said.

In six years, Seay's life has changed immensely he said, since finding his path to sobriety and discovering painting.

One night while leaving a sunrise group in his town, Seay saw a sign offering painting lessons and he decided to ask to join in. Seay has since become a professional artist, painting lifelike pet portraits, military-inspired portraits and scenes and more.

A U.S. Coast Guard veteran, Seay has also painted a series of portraits of "pilot aces" of the military. Fifteen of these portraits are on display at the 104th Fighter Wing in Westfield.

Another painting Seay had in the show features a bonsai tree, and he was inspired to paint it while watching "The Karate Kid II" with his wife.

His favorite painting in the exhibition is "Blue Moon", which he said is his concept of "there is a God."

Seay said his talent for painting is a gift from God, and one he doesn't take for granted.

Also featured in "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" this year, is the Photovoice Collection 2022, featuring seven photographs taken around Ware by people in the community who are in recovery.

Photographs range from a broken trophy to a disinterested dinosaur drawn on a piece of playground equipment, to a cemetery and a car that can't be fixed.

Alyssa Curran of the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium, the umbrella organization for the Recovery Center of HOPE, explained that the photos capture the "hidden in plain sight" phenomenon, and bring awareness to the challenges people in recovery face.

The Photovoice Collection project was introduced as an optional strategy in the HEALING Communities Study, of which Ware and Belchertown were selected to participate.

Through a camera lens, people can identify, represent and enhance their community by focusing on issues that can affect them, like lack of transportation, substance use and more.

Curran was "blown away" by the number of participants who at-

tended the Photovoice project at the Fire Station over six weeks last year, and she hopes to start the next installment in the new year with funding from District Attorney David E. Sullivan

About the exhibition

The "Bringing aWAREness to

Recovery" art exhibition is a partnership between the Recovery Center of HOPE and ArtWorks Gallery/Workshop13, a cultural arts and learning center located in Ware and supported in part by a grant from the Ware Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by

the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Recovery Center of HOPE is a program of the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium and was founded by the Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

The Journal Register ~ November 2, 2023

The Journal Register will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to dflynn@turley.com or drop off a photo to

The Journal Register,
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than
Monday, October 16, 2023.

There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact before to October 10th.

Car Club of New England Car Show supports local schools



A 2017 Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat was one of many modern cars shown off to attendees during the The Car Club New England Inc. Annual Car Show at the Chicopee Moose Lodge 1849 on Aug. 26.

The event took place at the Moose Lodge on Aug. 26 and benefitted Old Mill Pond School in Palmer

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- Residents stopped by the Moose Lodge 1849 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Aug. 16 for The Car Club of New England Annual Car Show.

The event, featuring 130 classic and modern cars, raised \$1,400--\$700 each--for Old Mill Pond School in Palmer and Benjamin Phelps School in Agawam to help them buy school supplies.

Additionally, vendors included AMS Oil, Lincoln Technical Institute, Go Green Design, TJ's Pop, Opa's Collectibles and more.

Jamison Dupuis, president of The Car Club of New England, explained the organization annually hosts two car shows to support veterans and local schools.

"What we decided to do this year and moving forward with the kids is this show here, 100% of the proceeds when you come through the gate, you make your \$10 donation, 100% of that is going to purchasing school supplies for two local schools," Dupuis said.

Dupuis got involved in the organization when he used to run a car show at the Springfield Armory while serving in the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

When a local car club considered shutting down, Dupuis was asked to take over and has run it since.

"So it just kind of happened based off of a car show," Dupuis said.

Dupuis came to Chicopee seven years earlier and connected with Bob Gallagher, who mentored him on running car shows, later joining the Moose Lodge last year.

"It's a good venue, the people are great, the people are established," Dupuis said. "We've done a lot of stuff in Chicopee, in the local area, supporting small businesses, things like that, and small businesses have supported us, so we always want to give back to the areas that take care of us."

John Gardner is a member of The Car Club of New England and has taken part in car shows for many years, bringing his 2013 Corvette 3LT Yellow to the event.

Gardner also helps run the Knights of Columbus Elder Council 69 Cruise Nights on Wednesdays from 5 - 8:30 p.m.

"I only have 20,000 miles on it. I try to do something different every year to customize it to the way I like it, and I dress it up like Lightning McQueen so the kids like it," Gardner said.

Gardner enjoys the car shows to meet fellow enthusiasts and see other cars.

"Sometimes you can get ideas for your own car, you know, from other people and then it's meeting the people, talking to everybody," Gardner said.

Jesse Cotto had a 1997 Honda Civic LX customized for autism awareness in honor of his nephew and grandchildren.

Cotto is part of Da Click Auto Club in Springfield and was invited to the event by Dupuis.

"My main goal is as long as I put a smile on a kid's face, that's my trophy. I don't come to win. It's daily driven, I never put her away. It's take her, drive her, go to work and any show that she can make it to, we bring her out, but my main thing is I see the kids smile and that's good enough for me," Cotto said.

Cotto wants the community to know the importance of supporting local communities at the car shows.

"The whole point is supporting local communities. Help out our kids, that's the only way we're going to expand and the kids are going to have better futures. We can't do it all on our own, sometimes we got to reach out," Cotto said. "It's better for us to come together even if we're different backgrounds, different cars, different clubs. Unity is what's going to keep us in the long run to be able to help out kids."

A 2013 Corvette 3LT Yellow dressed up like Lightning McQueen to entertain families during the The Car Club New England Inc. Annual Car Show at the Chicopee Moose Lodge 1849.

A 1960s Futurliner on display The Car Club New England Inc. Annual Car Show at the Chicopee Moose Lodge 1849 on Aug. 26. The Futurliner was courtesy of Peter Pan Bus Lines, a sponsor for the event.



Jesse Cotto shows off his 1997 Honda Civic LX customized to raise awareness for autism during The Car Club New England Inc. Annual Car Show at the Chicopee Moose Lodge 1849.



A 1931 Ford Vickie was one of many classic cars on display for attendees during the The Car Club New England Inc. Annual Car Show at the Chicopee Moose Lodge 1849 on Aug. 26.



Attendees check out a 1967 Chevelle SS Retro Mod during the The Car Club New England Inc. Annual Car Show at the Chicopee Moose Lodge 1849.



Joleen Suarez and Troy Atherton hold up their gourmet popcorn offerings to attendees during the The Car Club New England Inc. Annual Car Show at the Chicopee Moose Lodge 1849.



Jeff Bertrand of Go Green Designs holds up a can designed with The Car Club New England Inc. logo during the The Car Club New England Inc. Annual Car Show at the Chicopee Moose Lodge 1849.



A 2013 Corvette 3LT Yellow dressed up like Lightning McQueen to entertain families during the The Car Club New England Inc. Annual Car Show at the Chicopee Moose Lodge 1849.



A 1960s Futurliner on display The Car Club New England Inc. Annual Car Show at the Chicopee Moose Lodge 1849 on Aug. 26. The Futurliner was courtesy of Peter Pan Bus Lines, a sponsor for the event.

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