

WESTHAMPTON

Westhampton Public Library lists September programs

WESTHAMPTON – The Westhampton Public Library, 1 North Road, is open for in-person browsing and materials pickup as well as curbside pickup.

To place a request for curbside pickup, people may email westhampton@cwmares.org or call 413-527-5386. The library is open Monday and Thursday from 2-8 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-noon and from 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Recurring programs include: Council on Aging computer class

with Bob Miller the second and fourth Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon, knitting group Mondays at 6 p.m., yoga with Brian fourth Monday, Sept. 25 at 6 p.m., Scrabble group Tuesdays at 2 p.m., CFCE playgroup Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and walk-in wellness clinics with Westhampton's Public Health Nurse first and third Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. a.m.

Other programs are coffee and chat Wednesday from 10 a.m.-noon and after school homework help will resume in October. Cindy Chandler-Guy presents

"One artist, two mediums" with an opening reception on Thursday, Sept. 7 from 5-7 p.m.

An outdoor movie, "Sky High (PG)" will be held Friday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. People should bring lawn chairs or blankets. In the case of rain the movie will be screened in the community room. All ages are welcome.

Russ Cohen will give a wild edibles walk on Thursday, Sept. 14 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Massachusetts Audubon Lynes Woods. No foraging is allowed on any Mass Audubon sanctuaries and the

event will be People may call Meaghan at 413-527-5386 or email westhampton@cwmares.org to sign up.

Story time is back on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 10:30 p.m. for children ages 0—5 years old and their caregivers. Children will meet in the children's room for a story and then move to the Community Room for a craft.

On Thursday, Sept. 28 from 6:30-8 p.m. Alexis Doshas will talk about slow gardening. He is a conservation biologist, plant ecologist and soil enthusiast.

OPINION

SECURITY

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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 finan-

cial 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.

GARDEN

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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 early 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.

BACKYARD

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always wondered why they leave the area 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



Black vulture

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 mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town Of Goshen Conservation Commission Notice Of Public Meeting

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a Public Meeting under the provision of the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Sec. 40) on **September 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Goshen Town Offices, 40 Main St., Goshen, MA to review a **Request for Determination** filed by Thomas and Janine Nye. The work to be reviewed is: build a single family home with well and septic for property located at 154 West Street, Goshen, MA. 09/07/2023

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING WILLIAMSBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION, Williamsburg MA 01039

The Williamsburg Conservation Commission, in accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, will hold a public meeting on: 14 September, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. zia zoom (access link available on agenda, www.burgy.org) to review a: **Request for Determination of Applicability** submitted by: **The Town of Williamsburg.** The subject area or activity is located at: Adams Road, Haydenville, MA 01039. 09/07/2023

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of the Town of Huntington will hold 2 public hearings on **September 19, 2023 beginning at 7:00 pm** in Stanton Hall.

The first Public Hearing is scheduled for 7:00 pm for the Special Permit Application of Dale Rogers DBA Gray Catbird Pottery & Gift Shop, under several Huntington Zoning Bylaw Sections including IV.D.: Use Regulations; Non-Residential Uses on Lots Not Also Used

for Residence, IV.I: Signs, and V: Special Permits at 22 East Main Street, Assessors Map # H-2, parcel 101-0 in a portion of the Huntington Shoppes complex.

The second Public Hearing is scheduled for 7:30 pm for the Special Permit Application of David Baillargeon under Huntington Zoning Bylaw Sections IV.J: Earth Removal and V: Special Permits to operate an Earth Removal Operation at 3 Thomas Road, Assessors Map # H-3, parcel 4-0 at the site of his former Earth Removal Operation.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN OF HUNTINGTON 08/31, 09/07/2023

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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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