

# WILLIAMSBURG

## FCC has new interim pastor

WILLIAMSBURG – The First Congregational Church of Williamsburg, 4 North Main St., has a new interim pastor, Rev. Jack Kraaz.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

## MUSIC

Michael Ewen Madden, Paired Down, Stephen Katz, Holly Muñoz, Stلالuna, Don Chiulli, Wild Thyme and Electric Castle and a sing-along with Jennifer Black.

A project of the Williamsburg Local Cultural Council, Chairman Rob Longley explained that he had been aware of a porchfest in Rhinebeck, New York. Longley joined the LCC when he moved to Williamsburg and is excited about the upcoming event.

“We have a wide range of musicians, artists, performers and writers – you name it in Williamsburg,” Longley said. “Last year we did our first reception for the LCC



Singer/songwriter Louise Coombe is among the performers taking part in the first annual Williamsburg Porchfest on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Submitted photo

grant recipients. This year, we decided to go further.”

They filled all of the available performing slots and had to turn some musicians away, Longley said. Tangle Chocolate will host an open mic night on Thursday, Sept. 12 with sign-ups at 6:30 p.m., as a kind of kickoff to the porchfest. Performances coincide with the annual Williamsburg Grange Fair with displays of locally grown produce and handicrafts, craft vendors and baked goods and lunch for sale. Food will be also available from local establishments.

Modeled after other porchfests throughout the

country, musicians will play various outdoor venues in the center of town, including the Grange, Williamsburg Market, library and local businesses. The porchfest movement started in 2007 in Ithaca, New York, as community driven music festivals where neighbors open their porches for free performances in a vibrant celebration of local talent and togetherness.

Major sponsors include Exhibit A Brewery, Williamsburg Market, Tangle Chocolate and Local Brewery.

People may visit the website at <https://www.williamsburgporchfest.com> for an up-to-date schedule of events.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### TOWN OF BLANDFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE –DEER HUNTING PERMITS- 2025

The Blandford Conservation Commission will be available on **September 22, 2025 between 6:00 and 7:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall to receive deer hunting Permit Applications for Town-owned Conservation properties. The Conservation properties include the Knittel Conservation Area on Herrick Road, Shepard Farm Conservation Area on Route 23 and the Long Pond Conservation Area on North Blandford Road. If more applications are received than the allotted number of permits for each area, the permits will be selected on a random basis. If additional permits are available after September 26, they will be issued on first-come first-serve basis by contacting the Conservation Commission. Applications will only be accepted from those that present a valid Massachusetts hunting or sporting license at the time of application and the license/customer number must be entered on the application. Each applicant must personally submit his or her own application. Successful Applicants will be issued a permit to hunt in only one of the above Conservation properties. Permits issued will only be valid for the **2025 Deer Hunting Seasons**. Permit Applications will be available at the Town Hall on September 22, 2025 at the Conservation Commission Office at 6:00 PM. For further information or questions, please contact the Conservation Commission at (413) 848 4279 x 202. 09/11/2025

### Town of Blandford Select Board Notice of Public Hearing Monday, September 29, 2025 6 P.M. Select Board Chambers Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford

To hear petition for joint or identical pole locations from NSTAR Electric C. DBA Ever-source and Verizon New England, Inc.

Petitioners seek permission to construct and maintain a line of ten (10) poles and their respective wires and cables to be placed thereon together with sustaining and protective fixtures as deemed necessary, located on North Blandford Road per Field Plan 19974401. 09/11, 09/18/2025

### Legal Advertisement TOWN OF CHESTER PROSPECT STREET PHASE II IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Town of Chester invites sealed Bids for the Prospect Street Phase II Improvement Project. The Prospect Street Phase II Improvement Project will provide a series of upgrades to the existing drainage and water infrastructure on Lower Prospect Street in Chester to provide for improved stormwater removal and mitigation to all residents of Prospect Street and Soisalo Road.

This project is being administered by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EO-HLC), FY24 Chester Community Development Block Grant Program.

Contract Documents may be viewed electronically beginning **Wednesday, September 10th, 2025, at 9:00 AM EDT**, at [www.biddocs.com](http://www.biddocs.com) and hard copies requested at Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104 (413-781-6045).

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount, considering all alternates, and made payable to the Town of Chester.

Electronic bids for the Prospect Street Phase II Improvement Project shall be submitted to BidDocs Online, Inc. until **Wednesday, October 1st, 2025, at 2:00 PM EDT**, at which time they will be publicly opened online. Complete instructions for filing bids are included in the project manual.

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §§26 to 27H, inclusive. All applicable Federal minimum wage rates and applicable Federal labor standards shall also apply pursuant to the Davis-Bacon Act. When both State and Federal wage rates are applicable, the higher rate must be paid.

The Awarding Authority encourages, to the extent feasible, the use of minority-, women- and disadvantaged-owned businesses for work under this contract and likewise encourages, to the greatest extent possible, that all bidders take affirmative steps to ensure training and employment

for lower-income project area residents and award of subcontracts to HUD-defined Section 3 businesses. Bidders on the work shall make a good faith effort to achieve the goals of the Federal Minority and Women’s Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) policy regarding utilization of MBEs and WBEs in order to be deemed a responsible bidder.

Bids may be changed or withdrawn prior to the bid opening, but not within the sixty (60) days subsequent to the bid opening, by submission of such a change in writing in a sealed envelope, identifying the submitting party and indicating that it contains a correction of the bid for the Prospect Street Phase II Improvement Project, Chester, MA.

The lowest qualified responsible bidder shall be awarded the contract subject to availability of funds under the EOHLB Block Grant program. The Town of Chester, the Awarding and Contracting Authority, may cancel this Invitation for Bid (IFB), in whole or in part, at any time that such an act is deemed in its best interest, reserves the right to waive any informality in the bidding or to reject any and all bids in total or in part as may be deemed to serve the best interest of the Town, and will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a bidder in preparing and submitting a bid in response to this IFB.

**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at [www.biddocs.com](http://www.biddocs.com).

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held for this project on **Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 10:00 AM**. Meeting location for this meeting shall be at the Chester Railway Station and Museum located at 10 Prospect Street, Chester, MA. Questions regarding the technical specifications should be directed in writing to Ryan Neilan, Apex Senior Project Manager at [ryan.neilan@apexcos.com](mailto:ryan.neilan@apexcos.com) and Steven Ignatowich, Senior Project Engineer at [Steven.Ignatowich@apexcos.com](mailto:Steven.Ignatowich@apexcos.com). Questions regarding general bid information should be directed to Joe Hagoopian at PVPC, at [jhagoopian@pvpc.org](mailto:jhagoopian@pvpc.org) no later than **Friday September 26, 2025, at 2:00 PM EDT**. 09/11/2025

**Hampshire Regional School District Offers Meals at No Cost for All Students**  
Hampshire Regional School District participates in the [National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program]. As part of this program Hampshire Regional High School, William E. Norris, offers healthy meals every school day. The Commonwealth is supplementing National School Lunch Program funds to ensure all students have access to healthy school meals in Massachusetts, regardless of household income. We ask that families complete a Meal Benefit Application as this provides data for school funding and community resources. The results from each Meal Benefit Application is used to ensure sustainability for this program.

Qualifications for children to receive free or reduced price meals include: belonging to a household whose income is at or below the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines, belonging to a household that receives public assistance, or if the child is homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, or participates in a Head Start or Even Start pre-K program.

Household size and income criteria are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits if the household does not receive assistance or the children are not in the other categories mentioned above. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if the household’s gross income falls at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guideline chart.

### FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2025-2026 Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals

Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$20,345	\$1,696	\$392
2	27,495	2,292	529
3	34,645	2,888	667
4	41,795	3,483	804
5	48,945	4,079	942
6	56,095	4,675	1,079
7	63,245	5,271	1,217
8	70,395	5,867	1,354
Each additional person	+7,150	+596	+138

### Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals

Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$28,953	\$2,413	\$557
2	39,128	3,261	753
3	49,303	4,109	949
4	59,478	4,957	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	1,927
Each additional person	+10,175	+848	+196

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households can fill out the application and return it to the school unless the household has already received notification that their children are approved for free meals this year. Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children and what is required to complete on the application. Applications also are available **Hampshire Regional School 19 Stage Rd. Westhampton, MA 01027**

Only one application is required for all children in the household and the information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified at any time during the school year by the school or other program officials. An application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability.

Families can apply for benefits at any time. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household’s income falls at or below the Federal Guidelines. Contact **Carol Inman** at any time to request an application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, **Carol Inman Food Service Manager, Renee Fremier Kitchen Manager** will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to **Vito Perrone Superintendent 19 Stage Rd, Westhampton, MA 01027 413-527-7200 vperrone@hr-k12.org**

When known to **Hampshire Regional School District** households will be notified of their children’s eligibility for free meals if they are members of households receiving assistance from the:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); or
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), if the State program meets Federal standards.

An application is not required for free meal benefits for Assistance Program participants and all the children in the household are eligible for free meal benefits. If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, or if a household does not receive a notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school to have free meal benefits extended to them. Participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but they will need to turn in an application including household size and total income.

When known to **Hampshire Regional School District** households will also be notified of any child’s eligibility for free meals if the individual child is considered “Other Source Categorically Eligible”, because the child is categorized, as defined by law as:

- Foster
- Homeless,
- Migrant,
- Runaway,
- Enrolled in an eligible Head Start, or
- Enrolled in an eligible pre-kindergarten class.

If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school about their eligibility through the list above, or should submit an income application.

Households notified of their children’s eligibility must contact the school if the household chooses to decline the benefits.

For more information, you may call **Carol Inman at 413-437-5631** or e-mail at [cinman2@hr-k12.org](mailto:cinman2@hr-k12.org)

**Community Eligibility Provision**  
**Hampshire Regional School District** will be participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program Anne. T Dunphy, New Hingham, Westhampton Elementary will offer healthy meals every school day at NO COST to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2025-2026. Students will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

Non-Discrimination Statement:  
In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OAS-CR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- 1. mail:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- 2. fax:**  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. email:**  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider. 09/11/2025

## News, photo publication policy

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

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

**Deadline is Friday at NOON.**

