

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Mount Holyoke College announces new scholarship fund

SOUTH HADLEY – The life and groundbreaking legislative career of Mount Holyoke College alum Congresswoman Nita Lowey '59, the first woman to chair the powerful House Appropriations Committee, will be celebrated through a new scholarship fund.

The college announced that, thanks to the Lowey family's generous endowment, the Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey Scholarship Fund will assist MHC students studying politics and public policy.

"Nita started her change making right here on campus, as so many of our

students do through student activism," said Mount Holyoke College President Danielle R. Holley. "A daughter of Mount Holyoke, Nita carried the mission of the College to educate students for purpose and leadership directly into the halls of Congress for service."

"This scholarship fund is a testament to Congresswoman Lowey's 32-year career as a political trailblazer," said Heather K. McDonald, associate vice president of development at Mount Holyoke College. "Her boldness and tenacity will be reflected by generations of Mount Holyoke

College students who push past limits and bring change to their communities and the world."

Lowey made history by winning a seat in Congress in her early 50s in 1988 and, over 16 terms, rose to one of the top positions on Capitol Hill as the first woman chair of the House Appropriations Committee. During her tenure in Congress, Lowey sponsored and cosponsored numerous bills, including the International Violence Against Women Act, Protect Access to Birth Control Act, The Heroes Act and Further Continuing Appropriations Act.

Her legacy of principled leadership and advocacy inspired generations of Mount Holyoke students and alumni, including students participating in the College's Semester in D.C. program. Lowey passed away in March 2025 at 87 years old.

"Nita believed that education had the power to transform young people's lives. Her time as a student at Mount Holyoke was a seminal experience and an enduring inspiration for her. Nita worked tirelessly during her 32 years in Congress to create and support programs that empower women and children. From

family planning to equal status for women in medical research, international education and after-school programs, Nita's impact was deep and wide," said Stephen Lowey, on behalf of the Lowey family. "In recognition of Nita's leadership and many accomplishments on behalf of education, a bipartisan Congress honored her by naming the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers and the international Nita M. Lowey Basic Education Fund. Our hope as a family, by endowing the Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey Scholarship Fund at

Mount Holyoke, is to continue her legacy of empowering students through education to become leaders and pursue positive change in the world."

Those wishing to contribute to the Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey Scholarship Fund may do so by either emailing giving@mtholyoke.edu, by calling 1-800-642-4483 (1-800-MHC-GIVE) or by visiting mtholyoke.edu/mhc-give. On the website, under "I would like my gift to support," please select "other" and write "Nita Lowey Scholarship Fund" in the comments section.

WESTFIELD

Brent Bean named vice president/business development officer

WESTFIELD – James C. Hagan, president and CEO of Westfield Bank, announces the appointment of Brent Bean as vice president and business development officer.

Bean, who previously served as assistant vice president, business development officer, has been appointed to vice president, business development officer and will continue to establish relationships with new and existing customers focusing on commercial credit needs throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut.

"Brent brings a valuable mix of experience, market knowledge and a genuine commitment to helping our region's businesses achieve their financial goals," said Allen J. Miles, executive vice president and chief lending officer at Westfield Bank. "He works with businesses across Massachusetts

and Connecticut, bringing the full power of the Bank's commercial lending capabilities to current and future customers."

Bean joined the bank's business and government deposit services department in 2020, before moving to the commercial lending department. Prior to that, he spent many years as director of corporate and government relations at Westfield State University.

He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from American International College and a Master of Public Administration from Westfield State University. He is active within the local community, currently as a member of Westfield



Brent Bean

State University's Fundraising Committee and has been an At-Large City Councilor for the city of Westfield since 2002.

For more information about Westfield Bank, people may visit the bank's website at www.westfieldbank.com.

Westfield Bank, headquartered in Westfield, is a federally chartered savings bank organized in 1853 and is the largest publicly traded bank headquartered in Western Massachusetts. Currently, the bank has twenty-five branch offices, forty-nine ATMs and an additional thirty seasonal ATMs and serves Hampden and Hampshire counties in Western Massachusetts and Hartford County in Northern Connecticut.

Westfield Bank promotes Anja Paier and Michael Mirski

WESTFIELD – James C. Hagan, president and CEO of Westfield Bank, announces new title appointments for two key employees, Anja Paier and Michael Mirski.

These appointments recognize the success and impact each of them continues to have in their respective areas.

Anja Paier who previously served as assistant vice president, branch manager, has been appointed vice president, branch manager and will continue to manage the Bank's 39 Morgan Road office in West Springfield. She joined Westfield Bank in 1988 and has worked in numerous management and customer-facing capacities across multiple locations. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the West Springfield Lions Club and the Exposition Area Alumni Scholarship Fund, is a past member of the Southwick Rotary Club, and is a past recipient of Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellow and Western Mass Women Magazine's "Top 25 Women to Watch" in the banking category.

Michael Mirski, who previously served as assistant vice president, branch manager, has been appointed vice president, branch manager and will continue to manage the bank's 560 East Main Street office located in Westfield. With over forty years of banking experience, he joined Westfield Bank in 2023, having served in various officer and management roles at banks throughout the local area. Active in the community, he is the President and past Treasurer of the Agawam Center Library, a past Board Member for Springfield Revitalize CDC and past member of the Southwick Rotary Club.

"Anja and Michael bring experience and expertise to their roles, consistently leading their teams to meet the needs of our customers and



Anja Paier



Michael Mirski

communities," said Kelly A. Pignatari, First Vice President and Manager of Retail Banking and Business & Government Deposit Services. "These appointments recognize their continued success and the growth of their respective branches."

For more information about Westfield Bank, people may visit the bank's website at www.westfieldbank.com

Westfield Bank, headquartered in Westfield, is a federally chartered savings bank organized in 1853 and is the largest publicly traded bank headquartered in Western Massachusetts. Currently, the bank has twenty-five branch offices, forty-nine ATMs and an additional thirty seasonal ATMs and serves Hampden and Hampshire counties in Western Massachusetts and Hartford County in Northern Connecticut.



PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Chester Special Permit Granting Authority Public Hearing
Special Permit Review for a Proposed Earth Removing Project located at 15 Kinnebrook Road, Chester, MA 01011

The Planning Board of the Town of Chester, as the special permit granting authority, will hold a public hearing to conduct a special permit review for a proposed addition of a removal of earth and gravel operation located at 15 Kinnebrook Road, Chester, MA.

The public hearing will be held as follows:

Place: Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, Council on Aging room

Date: January 28, 2026

Time: 5:00 pm

The special permit review is for a proposed addition of a removal of earth and gravel blasting operation which includes crushing of ledge and trucking out dirt at 15 Kinnebrook Road. The purpose of this removal is to create a parking area.

12/18, 12/25/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P1366EA Chester E Danek Also known as:

Chester E Danek, Jr. Date of Death: 04/07/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons: A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by **Frances H Couture of Mooresville, NC** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/07/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 17, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
12/25/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25C0286CA

In the matter of: **Margaret Aileen Ranen** CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Margaret Aileen Ranen of Montgomery, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Margaret Aileen Lufkin

IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/16/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 12, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
12/25/2025

SOUTHERN HILLTOWNS Public Hearing – Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM

FY 2024 Performance Hearing & FY 2026 Application Forum

The Town of Chester, on behalf of the Towns of Huntington, Middlefield and Russell, in association with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will conduct a performance hearing regarding the town's ongoing FY24 Community Development Block Grant Programs. The hearing will take place at **6:00 PM on Monday January 12, 2026**, in person at the Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011.

The hearing will review the projects funded through the town's FY24 Community De-

velopment Block Grant Program including Phase II of the Prospect Street Improvement Project, public social services, and housing rehabilitation. These activities received funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Massachusetts CDBG program.

This hearing will also serve as the first public forum to solicit community input on potential activities to be included in a potential Southern Hilltowns FY26 Community Development Block Grant application. All community members and stakeholders are

invited to share thoughts on potential CDBG-eligible activities to be included.

All persons with questions or comments regarding the performance hearing will have an opportunity to submit comments up until and through the public hearing. Please submit comments to Joe Hagopian at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission @ jhagopian@pvpc.org or 413-781-6045. Persons who require special accommodations should contact the Town prior to the hearing date at 413-354-7760.

12/25/2025

The Town of Williamsburg, MA, is accepting applications for the position of Town Administrator.

Williamsburg has a population of approximately 2,500 and an annual operating budget of \$10 million.

As the chief administrative officer of the Town, the Town Administrator is appointed by and reports to the Select Board. While working with considerable independence, the Town Administrator performs administrative and supervisory duties; coordinates and supports the activities of departments, commissions, boards, committees, and offices of the Town of Williamsburg; carries out the policies and activities of the Select Board; and serves as a liaison and coordinator among other Town departments and organizations.

A bachelor's degree in public administration, business, or a related field is preferred; three to five years of experience in municipal administration as a Town Administrator or in a related field is preferred; experience in public procurement is preferred; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

The position is Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) exempt and fully benefited at 40 hours per week (M-F, 8 AM-4 PM). Friday may be remote or in-office. The position includes a minimum of two evenings per month for Select Board meetings; other night meetings may be required as needed. The salary is commensurate with experience, within the range of \$75,000-\$90,000. A complete job description is available on the Town's website at: <https://www.burgy.org/board-selectmen/pages/employment-applications-opportunities>.

Resumes will be accepted until 01/05/2026. To apply, please submit a resume and a letter of interest to selectmen@burgy.org.