

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

1Berkshire Youth Leadership Program graduates 32

1Berkshire announces its 15th 1Berkshire Youth Leadership Program class. The 2026-2027 Youth Leadership Class participants are: Myra Annuva - Mount Greylock Regional High School, Sophia Astorino - Charles H. McCann Technical School, Aryanna Bouchard - Wahconah Regional High School, Carter Brbovic - Pittsfield High School, Cole Creighton - Mount Greylock Regional High School, Aubrey Dowd - Wahconah Regional High School, Anima Ekua Gyapong - Pittsfield High School, Devyn Fillio - Lee Middle and High School, Nathan Foster - Mount Everett Regional School, Ruben Fried - Pittsfield High School, Liv Guinan - Lee Middle and High School, Oscar Heeringa - Mount Greylock Regional High School, Sarah Henderson - Pittsfield High School, Mia Hiltbold - Pittsfield High School, Genevieve Lagess - Hoosac Valley High School, Boden Mariano - Winlow

Oaks Homeschool, Max Mozian - Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, Olivia Perez - Mount Greylock Regional High School, Jessmirac Perry - Pittsfield High School,Chloe Potash - Pittsfield High School, Genevieve Quinto - Drury High School, Addy Reddington - Wahconah Regional High School, Emily Rosen - Lenox Memorial High School, Corey Rudin - Mount Greylock Regional School, Elizabeth Sahakyants - Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, Jonah Sanabria - Monument Mountain Regional High School, Nora Schoeny - Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, Elizabeth Spelman - Mount Greylock Regional High School, Audra Tresp - Lenox Memorial High School, Megan Tucker - Wahconah Regional High School, Rhaya Wright - Drury High School and Langston Young-Taft - Monument Mountain Regional High School.

This group of 32 high school juniors from across the Berkshires was selected through a competitive application process to begin a year-long leadership development program that kicked off in June with a three-day, two-night retreat held at Camp Chimney Corners. This year's class brings a wide breadth of experiences, backgrounds and potential to this program. The 1Berkshire Youth Leadership Program is focused on helping students in the region develop and grow through career opportunity awareness, leadership skill development and the design and completion of a nine-month-long collective-impact project focused on the betterment of the Berkshires. Selected students have shown a significant capacity to grow their leadership skills and a strong desire to have a positive impact on their communities. Over the next eight

months, these 32 students will convene at locations all around the region to participate in workshops, engage in meaningful group dialogue, learn from speakers and one another and to develop and execute their selected collective-impact project. With a focus on sustainability and diversity, equity and inclusion, this year's program will also aim to engage students in meaningful discussions that create critical reflection and new levels of self awareness as they seek to support qualities associated with global citizenry and cultural humility. Kevin Pink, Deputy Director of Economic Development at 1Berkshire and Director of the Youth Leadership Program notes, "During this year's kick-off retreat, our students met, in many cases for the first time, and began bonding and thinking about how their individual learning and communication styles interact." He adds, "We are thrilled

to kick off another amazing year in which our students will build a stronger understanding of the region and the community, as well as collaboratively design and execute a project to make a positive impact here in the Berkshires and in the world." Students in the Youth Leadership Program leave with a new group of friends from all around the county, a unique and meaningful perspective on career opportunities in the region, and the pride of completing a project that has positively impacted their community. Made possible through the financial and resource support of sponsors including Beacon Bank, Berkshire Health Systems, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA, NBT Bank, and Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, the 1Berkshire Youth Leadership Program is coordinated by 1Berkshire with the dynamic support of the volunteer Youth

Leadership Program Steering Committee, chaired by Julie Haagenon of New Pathways Coaching & Consulting. This committee is composed of professionals from across the region who commit their time and expertise to develop and facilitate the monthly sessions for the class, while also offering advice to the students as they look to their own futures. 1Berkshire is a county-wide marketing and economic development organization that works to simultaneously preserve, position and promote Berkshire County's profound sense of place. Its mission is to advance Berkshire County's economy by advocating for the business community and attracting visitors. Powered by membership, 1Berkshire provides programs that connect businesses with resources and potential customers, as well as develop future leaders and support entrepreneurs. For more information, people may visit 1Berkshire.com.

RUSSELL

Russell Public Library lists upcoming events

RUSSELL – The Russell Public Library will be closed Labor Day weekend. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 3-7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The Russell Public Library Trustees meet Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 3:15-4:30 p.m. The library's adult Monthly Book Club meets on Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 6-8 p.m. The book is "Where Did You Go, Bernadette?" by Maria Semple. Books are available at the library. People may register by email rpldirector162@gmail.com, call call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Monday, Aug. 31. "Edible Plants" with Felix Lufkin from Turtle Bend Farm, for adults takes place on Saturday, Sept. 12

from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Lufkin will teach the group to identify and harvest edible plants in their own backyards. People may register by email rpldirector162@gmail.com, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Thursday, Sept. 10. On Saturday, Sept. 19 at 1:30 p.m. Bruce Mandel returns for a concert "The View From Behind This Guitar." Adults will listen and enjoy his acoustic guitar and intimate and honest voice as they come together in an engaging show, which straddles and expands contemporary folk, American and singer/songwriter genres reflecting the breath of Mandel's experience. People may register by email rpldirector162@gmail.com, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Thursday, Sept. 17.

Miss Dawne on Sept. 22 from 5-6:30 p.m. hosts a game and book of "I Spy" for children. They will create an "I Spy Collage" in model magic. They should bring some of their favorite tiny objects to press in the clay to create a three dimensional collage to take home. Model magic and some tiny objects will be provided. They should register by email rpldirector162@gmail.com, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Monday, Sept. 21. On Tuesday, Sept. 29 there will be a program for adults to "Debug Vaccination" from 4-5 p.m. The community is invited to have a conversation with a local pharmacist to discuss the current recommended vaccines and the facts and myths that surround vaccination. People may register by email rpldirector162@gmail.com, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Monday, Sept. 28.

On Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 6-8 p.m. adults may attend "Herbs for Winter Health." Gale La Scala will share favorite herbs, recipes and remedies to help with common winter ailments. Participants learn how to boost the immune system to stay healthy for the long winter months ahead. They will learn how to make Fire Cider and Elderberry Syrup among other tasty remedies. La Scala has been a practicing Herbalist for over 30 years and enjoys teaching others how to make herbal medicine using native New England plants. People may register by email rpldirector162@gmail.com, call 413-862-6221 and leave a message or come in and sign up at the library by Friday, Sept. 25.

Hilltown Community Ambulance Association hosts pig roast Sept. 20

RUSSELL – The Hilltown Community Ambulance Association will host their second annual Pig Roast barbecue on Sunday, Sept. 20 from 1-4 p.m. at Strathmore Park. The menu consists of roasted pork or chicken, Cole slaw, baked mac and cheese, corn bread and a cookie bar. Music presented by The Pitoniak Brothers, raf-

fle prizes and fun for the whole family. This event will be held rain or shine. People may RSVP by Sunday, Sept. 6 via email to jade@hilltownambulance.org or bailey@hilltownambulance.org. Advance sales are \$18 per plate for adults and \$10 per plate for children. People's presence helps support their local Emergency Medical Service.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Russell 2027 Tax Classification Hearing
There will be a Tax Classification Hearing held at the Board Of Selectmen's Office at Russell Town Hall **Tuesday, September 1, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.** To discuss the determination of the Fiscal Year 2027 tax rate of the residential, commercial, industrial, open space, and personal property as set forth in Chapter 40, Section 56, as amended by Chapter 79 Acts of 1982 and Chapter 79 on the Acts of 1983, General Laws of Massachusetts.

The Board of Selectmen and Assessors will be present to provide relevant data and information. All interested persons may present their views at this hearing.
Town of Russell Board of Selectmen
08/27/2026

Town of Blandford Conservation Commission Public Notice
At its regularly scheduled public meeting on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)** received from Jake Komar as the Applicant. The RDA is related to the construction of a single-fam-

ily home and related site development. The project location is 4 Blair Road, tax parcel 410-0-7.1 in the Town of Blandford. The Conservation Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended). Project plans and additional information are on record in the Office of the Conservation Commission.
Richard Gates, Chair
Town of Blandford Conservation Commission
08/27/2026

TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG Zoning Board of Appeals
A Public Hearings will be held at **5:30 PM on Wednesday, September 9, 2026**, in the Williamsburg Town Offices,

141 Main St., Haydenville, MA to consider the following application: The application of Julie Elias of 13 High St., Assessors Map K, Lot 74.0 to demolish, rebuild, and enlarge a pre-existing non-conforming garage on a pre-existing, non-conforming lot as required by Section 12.0e of the Williamsburg Zoning Bylaw. Kelly Blaser, Chairman
Zoning Board of Appeals
08/20, 08/27/2026

Town of Washington LEGAL NOTICE Conservation Commission Public Hearing
In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c. 131, §40, the Town of Washington Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **September 2nd, 2026 at 6 p.m.** at Wash-

ington Town Hall 8 Summit Hill Rd., Washington, MA 01223 to consider a Notice of Intent filed by the Town of Washington for proposed work on New Lenox Road. The proposed project involves the replacement of a structurally deficient bridge within resource areas protected under the Wetlands Protection Act. The bridge spans over Mill Brook and is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the intersection of New Lenox Road and Roaring Brook Road. Copies of the application may be obtained electronically from Madison Sullivan (msullivan@gill-eng.com) or from the Town of Washington Conservation Commission. Interested persons may attend the hearing and provide comments
08/27/2026

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