

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

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**PALMER**

## Updated fee structure approved

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
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PALMER – At the April 21 Conservation Commission meeting, the commission went over several issues, including an updated fee structure, a forest cutting plan on Ware St., and an amendment to construction at Camp Ramah.

The updated fee structure has been continued for close to a year due to absences on the board, and is set to go into effect on July 1 of this year.

“This will be the first change in 10-11 years,” Commission Chair Donald Blais said. “I think we’ve done a lot of due diligence throughout this process. I think it’s time that we act.”

Commission Member Peter Izyk described the update as “not that much of a change.” Blais noted that there were several meetings where this fee structure was discussed, and it was modeled after several other communities throughout the commonwealth.

“That’s how you do something like this, you look at the comparisons and come up with a reasonable proposal,” Blais said.

Conservation Agent Jessica Ladin added that the update “won’t really affect single-family homeowners at all.”

“It’s mostly just holding commercial properties accountable for what they should be doing anyway,” Ladin said, “so most people won’t see a change. In fact, they might see a positive change.”

The commission voted to recommend the fee structure to the Town Manager and Town Council.

A forest cutting plan for 1451 Ware St., otherwise known as the James Hamilton Estate, which is in the care of trustee Catherine Wilson, was proposed to the commission as well.

“If anybody has any questions or comments about what’s happening on Ware St., this is what’s going on,” Ladin said. “Comments that I thought were interesting are that they’re going to protect advanced regeneration and desirable mid-story trees.”

Ladin added that the plan suggested stabilizing slopes with water bars, but was unfamiliar with the property. Commission

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**MONSON**



Gardeners of all ages stand together in front of a mural, posed with their eclectic variety of lawn ornaments.

Submitted photo

## Down-to-Earth Gardeners Club holding Annual Garden Sale May 16

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
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MONSON – It’s almost time for the Down-to-Earth Gardeners’ Club’s annual Plant Sale, which will be held on Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. to noon at the United Methodist Church.

The club formed in 1995, reportedly by friends Paul Blatchley, Linda Brown, Frances Chudy, Kim Defoe, and Bruce Murphy over tea. They discussed forming a club with a kitchen-table

type of forum and, sharing an interest in gardening tips, swapping plants, and learning more about gardening, they invited friends who gardened to discuss the idea.

“The decision was made to have meetings on the third Thursday of the month at members’ homes and a mission to invite friends to the first meeting,” Chudy said. “The first task was to name the club. They settled on the name Down-to-Earth Gardeners’ Club and the Nitty Gritty News for the newsletter.”

The club welcomes

members from any town, and of any age or gender, and grew into its home at the United Methodist Church. The first plant sale was held in the summer of 1998 to raise money for speakers at the meetings.

“The club has helped with gardens at Hillside Cemetery, Jacob Thompson House, and Hillcrest Cemetery, along with a basket donation to Top Floor Learning at the library,” Chudy said.

Co-President Julie Minns-Piepho said that the club sees the sale, as well as

its work at the cemetery, as a way to give back to the community.

“The members donate from their own garden,” Minns-Piepho said. “We transplant them in the beginning of May for the plant sale. We have annual perennial ground cover shrubs, firs, trees, and more.”

Minns-Piepho explained that the sale will include a variety of plants, including plants that need to be planted in the shade as well as others

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**MONSON**

## FinCom views school budget cuts

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
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MONSON – At the Monday, April 27 Finance Committee meeting, members of the School Committee, Superintendent Paul Foster, and Director of Business and Operations Leah Zippin were asked to speak on several line

items for the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

“I want to give credit to the School Committee,” Foster said. “We had two separate working sessions where we went line by line through the budget to identify what we could cut.”

FinCom Member Maureen O’Sullivan started the discussion by asking about

the before- and after-school programs, and how they are funded. Zippin and Foster explained that the cost of the program is to pay the staff, and that it regularly breaks even.

“It doesn’t have to be subsidized by the operating budget,” Foster said. “We set the rates at a level to cover the cost.”

Foster also clarified that the program is run entirely by the school, and so there is no cost to use the school facilities beyond paying the staff. Zippin speculated that a third party may have previously run the program, but when it ended, it was taken over by the school, estimat-

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**PALMER**

## PSC gets updates from student council

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
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PALMER – At the April 15 School Committee meeting, Student Council members from Old Mill Pond School and the high school presented on the events and activities that the schools have had over the past month.

Two sixth grade students and Student Council members from Old Mill Pond, Adriana B. and Mila A., shared news from their school. The first item was the Teddy Bear Social on April 16 for the kindergarten class, which involved reading stories, eating snacks, and playing games with a teddy bear theme. Mila then described the March Madness tournament.

“Classes were assigned MIAA basketball teams and competed by solving puzzles to encourage students to earn their ST math puzzles,” Mila said. “Gonzaga 4B, Mr. Orzelak’s class, won the March Madness Tournament.”

Adriana then presented on the Thunderbirds Sticks to Reading program.

“A special guest, Boomer, came out to collect reading logs and took photos with the kids that went,” Adriana said. “The kids got free tickets to the April 3 Thunderbirds game. Many OMP families attended the game and had a great time.” Mila announced the

completion of the school’s MCAS testing for English Language Arts, and the MCAS tests of April 28-29 for fifth grade science, and May 5-20 for math. Adriana announced that Career Day for fourth grade will be held on May 21.

“OMP is still looking for volunteers to present to students and educate them on various careers in our community,” Adriana said.

The Student Council also announced the Ecology School Field Trip and the school band’s performance at the Thunderbirds game on April 3 in Springfield. They then unveiled the poster made for the Bookmark Drawing Contest, led by Champagne.

“Students and staff were encouraged to draw on a bookmark and submit it to a team of reviewers,” Mila said. “The team selected the winner.”

The students presented the winning bookmarks to the school committee, and thanked the Cultural Council for its donations to support field trips and upcoming projects.

High School Senior Kelsey C. then presented on the past month’s events at the high school, stating

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**MONSON**

## Library goes viral on TikTok

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
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MONSON – Last week, the public library celebrated National Library Week with a series of viral TikToks to raise awareness of all the library has to offer.

Teen Coordinator Sarah Thomas, along with several of her coworkers, have been starring in a variety of videos that have been uploaded to the library’s TikTok account, under the handle MonsonFreeLibrary.

“We were very pleased that National Library Week happened to coincide with school vacation week,” Thomas said. “It gave the communi-



Patrons mended old clothes together during the library’s Visible Mending Craft.

Submitted photo

LIBRARY | page 8



## Monson plant sale to be held on May 9

MONSON – Monson Garden Club will hold its annual PLANT SALE on Saturday, May 9 at a NEW LOCATION in front of Memorial Hall on Main St. in Monson starting at 9 a.m.

A wide selection of perennials in addition to wildflowers, vegetables, shrubs, house plants, bulbs and herbs will be available. Prices range from \$3 and up.

There will also be an assortment of special gift plants for Mother's Day gifts.

The plants come from members' gardens, and members will be available to answer questions about the plants they enjoy.

Proceeds from the sale are used for local community projects such as the downtown plantings, holiday greens, and scholarships.

## Pancake supper to take place on May 9

MONSON – Pancake Supper on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church. 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Reservations are preferred, deadline for ordering is May 7.

Walk-ins are welcome. Call 413-267-5207 to place your order.

Meal includes fluffy & delicious pancakes, sausage,

orange juice, coffee, tea. Our specialty pancakes include blueberry and chocolate chip. Toppings include your choice of strawberries, apple/cinnamon, whipped cream, butter, and we are featuring Monson's own: Bryson's 100% pure maple syrup.

Price is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children. Come enjoy a mouth-watering special breakfast for supper.

## Actors sought for Living History Cemetery tour

BRIMFIELD – As part of Brimfield's 250th celebration of the American Revolution, a living history cemetery tour is being planned for June 13, 2026.

The tour includes powerful stories of the men who left home to serve in the patriot cause and the families they left behind. Registration details to follow.

Organizers are seeking a male actor to portray a notable Brimfield resident whose family sent fourteen men to fight for freedom.

Narrators, who will read short graveside scripts, are also needed. Contact Sue DeBruin through the Friends of Historic Brimfield at 413-239-0288 to lend your talents and make history come alive.

## Notice: Tax bills due May 1

PALMER – The Palmer Town Collector would like to remind all taxpayers of the following:

Fiscal Year 2026 4th quarter real estate and personal property tax bills are due and payable by May 1, 2026.

Please call the Collector's office at (413) 283-2601 with any questions pertaining to tax payments. Office hours: Monday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday thru Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Friday the Town Administration Building is closed.

## Songs & tales of community coming to Senior Center

BRIMFIELD – Folk-singer and storyteller Tim Van Egmond will perform for a free public concert at the Brimfield Senior Center on Friday, May 8 at 10:30 a.m. This program is supported by a grant from the Brimfield Cultural Council, a local agency which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Entitled "Landscapes of Hope," Van Egmond's program will be a collection of traditional and contemporary songs as well as tales about what draws a commu-

nity together. Themes will include a shared sense of belonging and inspiration drawn from the land around us, the fabric of family, friends and neighbors, and the hope everyone shares for peace and plenty. Van Egmond's presentation will range from the rib-tickling to the spine-tingling to the heart-warming. He'll accompany himself with guitar, hammered dulcimer, and mountain dulcimer.

A resident of Montague MA, Van Egmond has performed for over 40 years throughout the coun-

try, appearing at hundreds of schools, libraries, and community centers, and on television and radio. He's been chosen for the New England States Touring Program, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council's STARS Residency Programs. His dynamic talent, warmth, and humor create a moving and enjoyable experience for all. Renowned author and storyteller Jane Yolen has said, "Tim is a triple treat. He can sing, he can play a variety of wonderful instruments, and he can tell whopping good tales!"

## Ware Grange offering gardening workshop

WARE – Ware Grange's first gardening workshop of the year, "Hands on with Summer Annual Flowers," will be held on Friday, May 1 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware.

Our presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly "In the Garden" col-

umn for Turley Publications. Participants will learn about easy to grow summer annuals and get to try their hand at seed starting. Such favorites as Marigolds, Zinnias, Cosmos and Bachelor's Buttons will be covered.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

## 28th Annual Plant Sale set for May 16

MONSON – The Down of Earth Gardeners will hold their 28th Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 16th, 9 a.m. to noon, rain or shine, next to the United Methodist Church located at 162 Main Street, Monson across

from Dunkin' Donuts. Many plants for shade or sun plus a large selection of perennials, ground covers, shrubs, herbs, vegetables and more. For more information call Debi at 267-5207.

## Music Sunday hosted at First Church Monson

MONSON – The First Church of Monson will have its annual Music Sunday on May 3 at 10 a.m. This year's theme will be "Celebrating the Psalms." Lay readers will lead readings of several psalms attributed to King David, including Psalms 23, 92, 98, 100, 104, and 121.

Anthems and hymns inspired by each of these

psalms will be offered by the Adult and Treble Choirs, led by Kiel Krommer and Kyle Langlois, and sung by the congregation. A special anthem "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Me" will feature two choirs accompanied by organ and Joseph Farr-Wholley on flute. As a subject for her sermon entitled "Fearfully and Wonder-

fully Made", Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick will reflect on the meaning of her favorite Psalm 139.

Bramwell Bourne has composed "Psalm Prelude" specifically for First Church; the playing of this piece will be premiered by Director of Music Ministry, Kiel Krommer. The magnificent sounds of the Johnson & Son

Organ, Opus 781, 1892, will conclude the service as Kiel Krommer plays Benedetto Marcello's "Psalm XIX."

Following the service there will be a reception in Fellowship Hall with treats donated by the Adult Choir and Music Committee. The service is open to everyone: "whoever you are or wherever you are on life's journey."

## Monson nomination papers available for town election

MONSON – The Monson Town Clerk's Office announces that nomination papers are now available for the Annual Town Election to be held on June 9, 2026.

The following slate of offices are available:  
**Select Board, 1 Seat,**  
*term 3 years*  
**Town Clerk, 1 Seat,**  
*term 3 years*

**Board of Assessors, 1 Seat,**  
*term 3 years*  
**School Committee, 2 Seats,**  
*one term 2 years*  
*one term 3 years*  
**Water/Sewer Commission,**  
**1 Seat,**  
*term 3 years*  
**Cemetery Commission,**  
**1 Seat,**  
*term 3 years*

**Parks and Recreation Commission, 1 Seat,**  
*term 3 years*  
**Housing Authority, 1 Seat,**  
*term 5 years*  
 The deadline to obtain nomination papers is Thursday, April 16.  
 For inquiries contact the Monson Town Clerk's office at 413-267-4115 or email: townclerk@monson-ma.gov.

## Nomination papers available

PALMER – The Town Clerk of Palmer will have nomination papers available the week of March 9.

The available seats on the June 9, 2026 town election are as follows:

**Councilor at Large**  
**1 seat**  
*3-year term*  
**Councilor at Large**  
**1 seat**  
*1-year term*

**District Councilor PCT#1**  
**1 seat**  
*3-year term*  
**Planning Board**  
**2 seats**  
*3-year term*  
**School Committee**  
**2 seats**  
*3-year term*

Last day to obtain Nomination papers is April 16, 2026. Nomination papers must be filed with the Reg-

istrar, no later than April 21, 2026. Fifty valid signatures are required. The fifty signatures must be registered voters in the Town of Palmer; the District Councilor Precinct # 1 seat requires fifty signatures of registered voters from Precinct #1.

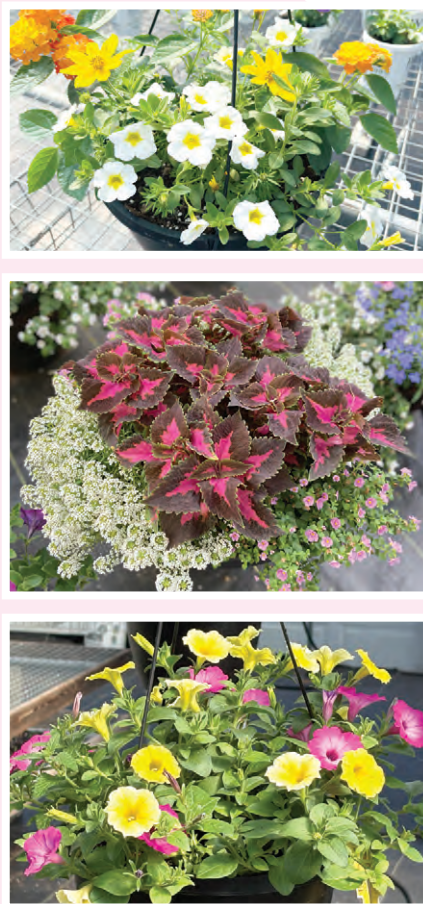
If you have any questions regarding filing requirements on above seats, please reach out to the Palmer Town Clerk's office.

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**Clean Out Solutions**  
 Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts  
 Shed, Pool & Hot Tub Removals  
 Arthur "Skip" Gervais  
 (774)397-6500

**Psychedelic Visions**  
 Featuring The Art of Alan J. Morin  
  
**Sat., May 9**  
**Sun., May 10**  
 Noon - 4pm  
**HOUSE OF ART**  
 200 Main Street  
 Monson, MA

**GRAND RE-OPENING**  
**KORAN'S FARM & Gift Shop**  
 160 EAST HILL ROAD  
 MONSON, MA  
 413-267-4035  
**OPENING MAY 1ST**  
 HOURS: FRIDAY 9-4 • SATURDAY 9-4 • SUNDAY 9-4  
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 We Have Wave Petunias, Million Bells, Geraniums, Coleus, Daisies, Angelonia, Bidens, Verbena, Silver Falls, Lobelia, Marigolds, Begonias, Lobularia, Bacopa, Thunbergia, Torenia, Scaevola, Spikes, Vinca Vine & More.  
  
 We look forward to seeing you!



**Tent for Rent**  
 The Palmer Lions Club is offering a 20' x 40' tent for rent – \$250.  
 8' tables for \$8 each to rent.  
 If interested please call Karen (413) 813-8445 for more information.

**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 an email to: journalregister@turley.com, or call (413) 283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069

# St. Paul's Church welcomes bikers for unique community tradition

PALMER – As warmer weather returns and motorcycles begin to reappear on New England roads, St. Paul's Church of Palmer will once again host its annual Blessing of the Bikes on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 10 a.m., offering riders a meaningful and memorable start to the season.

Held in partnership with the Christian Motorcycle Association (Western Massachusetts Chapter), the event is expected to draw a wide range of riders—from longtime touring enthusiasts to newer riders discovering the freedom of the open road. In recent years, interest in motorcycling has seen a steady resurgence, with riders of all ages embracing it not only as recreation, but as a source of connection, clarity, and adventure.

The Blessing of the Bikes has become a distinctive local tradition, welcoming cruisers, sport bikes, trikes, vintage motorcycles, and custom builds alike. Additional non-profit motorcycle groups will also be present, sharing their work and contributing to the sense of community that defines the event.

The gathering itself is simple and accessible: a brief outdoor ceremony offering a blessing for both bike and rider—for safety, awareness, and the shared experience of the road. It is a moment to pause before the miles ahead, acknowledging both the joy and the responsibility that come with riding.

Each rider will receive a commemorative "Blessing

of the Bikes" patch, and light refreshments will be available following the ceremony.

"For many riders, being on the road is something deeper than just getting from one place to another," said Rev. Steven Sousa, minister of St. Paul's Church. "There's a sense of freedom, focus, and even reflection that comes with riding. This event simply recognizes that—and offers a moment of goodwill and blessing for the season ahead."

The event is free and open to all riders, whether experienced or new, riding solo or with a group. No registration is required. St. Paul's Church is located at the Corner of Park & Central Streets in Palmer, Mass.

For more information, please contact St. Paul's Church at 413 283-8185 or visit StPaulsPalmer.org



Riding season kicks off with Blessing of the Bikes.

Submitted photos



## Wine festival marks 7th year

BRIMFIELD – Brimfield Auction Acres, Birthplace of the world-famous Brimfield Antique Shows will host the 6th annual Pioneer Valley wine festival on Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

2026 Marks the 7th year of the Pioneer Valley Wine and Food festival. This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the

Pioneer Valley and Farmers of many sorts selling their wares.

The event started in 2018 by the collaboration with farm wineries throughout New England and local farmers to create a festival to highlight the magnificent products Massachusetts provides all in unison and support of Massachusetts Agricultural Department.

The festival will feature local vintners and craft

brewers ready to spill their secrets, Live Art demonstrations, sizzling chef panel starring culinary celebs - to be announced soon. Last year celebrity guests include Brynn Gibson, the youngest Black Jacket finalist from Fox's Hell's Kitchen with Gordon Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who brought the heat on Food Network's Beat Bobby Flay.

## The Patrons to host Spring Fest

LUDLOW – The Patrons of the Ludlow Cultural Council was formed last summer to work in conjunction with the Ludlow Cultural Council to foster the arts in our community.

The Patrons are hosting "Spring Fest, A Silent Auction Fundraiser" on Friday, May 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Polish American Citizen's Club on East Street in Ludlow.

We have some great auction items including tickets to Tanglewood for James Taylor, WooSox VIP ticket package and a \$100 gift card to McCarthy's Pub in Belchertown.

Join us Saturday, May 9th at Tailgate Tavern from 6 p.m. to close for the OFFICIAL LAUNCH of ThRio VODKA



We'll have drinks flowing, pizza available, and a full night celebrating the start of something local.

Be there for the first night. Be part of what's next.



Eddie Jusko, Dylan Tenczar, Evan Jusko

Founded by three friends in Three Rivers, Thrio Vodka was built to bring people together and create something with real energy behind it. This launch marks the beginning, and we're bringing it to life the right way.

### DEADLINE

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

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.



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127 Munn Rd., Monson, MA

## Palmer Fire & Water District #1 Notice of Annual District Meeting May 19, 2026 at 7 p.m.

The Annual District Meeting of the Palmer Fire & Water District #1 will be held on TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 at Palmer Public Library, 1455 N Main Street.

**Wheway Group** Pat Wheway, Assoc. Broker  
C: 413-478-1166 patwheway@gmail.com

**COLDWELL BANKER REALTY** www.whewaygroup.com

## Viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY

## Matters

By Russell Gloor

## Should I collect SS now or wait two years until age 70?

## Dear Rusty:

I am 67 and 9 months old, collecting a modest SS survivor benefit with plans to collect my own much larger benefit at age 70.

I was confident this plan was a good one, but recent turbulent events make me nervous that cuts could come to Social Security at any time without warning. Would it be prudent to file for my own Social Security as soon as possible so that my benefit might be "grandfathered" in before any sudden and drastic cuts occur? I do not generally panic, but these are unprecedented times. I would be quite comfortable with the benefit listed on my 2024 statement for my current age; I was just hoping to maximize the benefit by waiting.

When I go to the Social Security website to view my 2025 annual statement to see the personalized monthly retirement benefit estimates for ages 68, 69 and 70 that section no longer shows. This omission makes me uncomfortable. Can I find out what my current benefit estimate would be for ages 68, 69 and 70? Or should I just rely on the 2024 statement?

## Signed:

Nervous in Portland

## Dear Nervous:

Please do not be nervous that recent "turbulent events" pose a threat to your future Social Security benefits. Those events do not, in any way, jeopardize your future Social Security benefits, because Social Security is completely separate from all other federal political issues and finances. The primary problem with Social Security became an issue long before the current administration took office.

The Trustees of Social Security have been warning Congress for decades that Social Security's finances require Congressional attention. The fact is that Social Security revenue (as predicted decades ago) became insufficient to pay all benefit obligations in about 2021. Since that time, money from Social Security's reserved funds (Trust Funds) has been used to pay full benefits to all.

In 2020, there was nearly \$3 trillion in SS reserved funds, but that has now dwindled to about \$2.5 trillion as reserves are used to supplement SS payments. And that problem continues. The Trustees of SS now predict that the reserves will be fully depleted in about 2032, at which time, lacking program reform by Congress, Social Security will be forced to pay out only what it receives in revenue. And that would mean an estimated cut of about 23% to everyone's monthly SS benefit. In the unlikely event that happens, wouldn't a 23% reduction to your larger age 70 benefit be better than a 23% cut to your lower age 68 benefit?

No one wants those cuts to happen least of all politicians because it would amount to political suicide (seniors are, after all, a very large voting bloc). Thus, we believe that Congress will act to

reform Social Security to prevent any general benefit cuts from happening. It will, however, require Congressional bipartisanship because the reforms needed for Social Security are likely unsavory to some.

Those reforms may include SS tax increases and changes to the basic structure of the SS program to align it with today's demographic reality. The program needs reform, which Congress has, unfortunately, neglected to provide for many years.

And this neglect will likely also continue, at least through the forthcoming mid-term elections. It seems the nature of Congress is to wait until the last possible moment to offer corrective legislation.

Here's what to keep in mind: Congress already knows how to reform Social Security to avoid any future benefit cuts; they just lack the bipartisanship to accomplish that reform. For our part, the Association of Mature American Citizens has offered to Congress a commonsense reform plan via its "Social Security Guarantee." AMAC's proposal has received a positive reception in Congressional circles and we are optimistic that the proposal will provide financial stability to the program for generations. AMAC continues to advocate for SS reform in Washington, D.C. on a regular basis, even more intensely as the depletion of the SS Trust Funds grows closer.

We do not suggest changing your strategy for claiming Social Security benefits based upon fear the program will cut benefits. That's because it's unlikely that all benefits will be cut because we believe Congress will eventually enact reform. And even in the unlikely event that Congress neglects to reform the program by 2032, the percentage of reduction to a higher monthly SS benefit amount would be better than a similar reduction to a lower benefit amount. In other words, your original plan is still a prudent one.

Regarding your question about your estimated benefits, I expect your most recent SS statement didn't include future benefits because you are already collecting SS survivor benefits. You can contact SSA at 1-800-772-1213 to obtain the future SS retirement estimates you seek.

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

## Alternative to airport TSA lines ...



## "Beets," me

I was so happy to finally get into the vegetable garden this past week.

My peas seeds are sown! Yip-pee!

Next on my list is beets. I have to admit that I am no beet aficionado. In fact, I began eating beets only a few years ago.

Who knows what turned me off in my younger years. Maybe it was the fact that I only knew beets by way of a can – we never grew them in our home garden. They honestly didn't look or taste all that yummy, especially to a kid who ate a total of two other vegetables; that is, of course, if corn counts.

Anyway, I think what finally convinced me to include beets in my garden was the fact that the plants are multipurpose (you can eat both the greens and the roots) and beets themselves are wonderful "keepers." Lately, there is a lot of talk about the benefits of eating them in relation to heart health.

Let me give you a brief run down on how to grow beets.

Beet seeds are unique in appearance. I can only describe them as multi-faceted "orbs."

The orb is a grouping of seeds. You can go through the trouble of trying to separate them by way of wax paper and a rolling pin, but most folks don't bother.

Because the orb is thick, however, and moisture must penetrate it in order for it to germinate, a good soaking is beneficial. Although you can try starting beets nearly as soon as the soil can be worked in spring, it is probably best to wait until two weeks before the last expected frost.

In our location that translates into the first or second week of May. This timeframe will give them the

dish-purple leaves. "Early Wonder Tall Top" is another oldie – prized as much for its early beet greens as it for its beets.

Looking for less leaf and more beet? Try "Detroit Dark Red Short Top." Well over one hundred years old, this late variety is great for canning.

Beets also come in a wide array of colors. For a dependable and tasty yellow beet try "Touchtone Gold." Another interesting heirloom beet is "Chiogga" (aka "Bassano").

Cercospora Leaf Spot of Swiss Chard, Beets, and Spinach is a common fungus that appears as circular rings on the leaves, making them unsightly and barely edible.

There are a number of tactics that claim to help if this is a problem for you. Water at the base of the plant, and do it early in the day so it dries out by evening, especially in the summer months when humidity heightens the spread.

Likewise, if you make successive sowings, space them a distance apart from one another. There are organic and chemical means of control that are worth investigating.

If that's not for you, give growing these plants a break for two-three years and likely you'll be in the clear to attempt trying again. Some companies offer disease free seed, too.

It's worth looking into.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Some beet varieties are grown especially for their greens. Try "Bull's Blood," an heirloom variety known for its large and sweet red-

most desirable soil temperature (sixty degrees plus) for germination.

Be sure that you keep the seed bed moist until the seeds pop up, and continue to provide at least one inch of water throughout the growing season if Mother Nature does not. Steady moisture will keep your beets sweet and crack-free.

I should also mention that beets prefer a soil that is slightly alkaline, and well-drained but fertile. In other words, sprinkle some lime and work a couple inches of compost into the soil!

Beet seeds should be sown an inch or so apart – my theory is to sow once and sow heavy. Because multiple plants may come from one "orb" it is critical that you thin your plants: first to one and a half inch spacing and then, when beets are the size of a marble, to a final spacing of three inches apart.

Don't feel badly when you are thinning – you are honestly doing your plants a favor. Beets that are grown too close together will never develop to their full potential.

Instead of letting the thinnings go to waste, make a salad and be grateful for some early season greens. Even when beets are at their final spacing I will rob the patch of some leaves every now and then for the very same reason. As long as I am prudent, no harm will be done to the developing roots.

Some beet varieties are grown especially for their greens. Try "Bull's Blood," an heirloom variety known for its large and sweet red-

for the build-up of unused and expired meds. A doctor may change a dose or switch a patient to a different drug before the first prescription is finished. We often stop taking a medication once our symptoms go away, such as with antibiotics or painkillers.

## The Journal Register

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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

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or by e-mail to:  
[journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@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 [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@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 the editor 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.

## A spring cleaning for your medicine cabinet



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN

Guest Column



Research has found that 80% of households have unused or expired medications on a shelf somewhere, probably in the medicine cabinet. You can do your part to reduce that percentage.

There are several reasons

for the build-up of unused and expired meds. A doctor may change a dose or switch a patient to a different drug before the first prescription is finished. We often stop taking a medication once our symptoms go away, such as with antibiotics or painkillers.

Unpleasant side effects may cause us to stop taking something. And providers may prescribe more medication than we actually need for a recovery period.

Here are some things to look for:

## Expiration dates

Since 1979, drug manufacturers have been required to stamp an expiration date on their products, the date at which the manufacturer guarantees the full potency and safety of the medication. With the exception of nitroglycerin, insulin and liquid antibiotics, most drugs are OK to use well after their "expiration date"; they may just lose some potency.

So, you can save money by not automatically throw-

JUMP | page ?

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@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 [journalregister@turley.com](mailto:journalregister@turley.com).

## UPCOMING

### FOR THE BAYSTATE WING HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE

#### May Vendors

- May 5 - Crystal Clear Emotions
- May 6 - How Charming
- May 13 - Generations of Cookies
- May 19 - Wicked Good Treats
- May 27 - Hobbit Hollow Herbs
- April 30 - Jewelry for Diane

#### May 9

Brimfield Farmers Market save these dates: May 9 is the annual Hitchcock Plant Sale, and this year's Town-Wide Tag Sale will take place on May 30.

## ONGOING

**WALES CHURCH FARMER'S MARKET** - Located in the church pavilion across from the post office on the corner of Route 19 and Monson Road. We will be open every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. beginning on Memorial Day weekend and running throughout the summer until Labor Day weekend. We offer homemade baked goods, local honey, crafts, flea market items, antiques, and fruits and vegetables

when in season. Vendors are welcome and there is no charge to set up a table.

**2025-2026 Drama & Dance Program** Beginning September 11th and running through May on Thursdays at PHCC. Does your child love dancing and acting? Have they always been interested but never tried? All levels and ages 5 plus welcome. (Drama students must be able to read.) Also offering Adult Hip Hop & Lyrical Dance Classes. Students must be available for show date in May. Date TBD. Adult class students can dance in show or choose not to as long as requested ahead of time. Contact: [trulytorie2000@gmail.com](mailto:trulytorie2000@gmail.com) for more info and to register.

**THURSDAYS - WESTERN LINE DANCE CLASSES** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 for one lesson or both. Brimfield Winery at 35 Main Street in Brimfield. Check [brimfieldwinery.com](http://brimfieldwinery.com) for any variations.

**CRAFTERNOONS:** Drop in 2 to 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. For more information call 413-267-4137, email [khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org](mailto:khm@keephomesteadmuseum.org) or visit [keephomesteadmuseum.org](http://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.

**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 participants 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 at 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 283-3691, or email [palewis19@yahoo.com](mailto: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:** Qi Gong at Monson Free Library with Randy Emerson. Every Tuesday from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

## HEALTH | from page 4

ing out "expired" aspirin or acetaminophen. You can also make medications last longer by keeping them in a cool, dry place away from pets, kids and adolescents. The bathroom medicine cabinet, despite its name, is about the worst place to keep them because of warmth, humidity and accessibility.

### Opioids

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 105,000 people died from drug overdose in 2023, and more than three-quarters of the deaths involved opioids.

These powerful painkillers are potentially addictive and dangerous, even deadly. If your dentist gave you a few Oxycodone or Vicodin tablets to take after a procedure, and if you kept a few "just in case," get rid of them.

### Antibiotics

Keeping antibiotics past their expiration date and disposing them willy-nilly is a

recipe for disaster. Old antibiotics don't perform as well, which may cause a bacterial infection to last longer and become more serious.

Flushing them or putting them down the drain puts them into the environment and can encourage antibiotic resistance or "superbugs," making infections harder to treat in the future.

### Liquids

Liquid medications like cough syrups are especially prone to bacterial growth once they have been opened. The preservatives that keep ingredients sterile degrade over time.

When that happens, bacteria can multiply inside the bottle. Using these products can introduce bacteria into a person's eyes, ears or digestive system, progressing to an infection.

Old eye drops, for example, pose a major contamination risk. Bacteria can grow in an opened bottle of preservative-free eye drops. Putting them in your eyes, an organ that is connected to the bloodstream, can cause all kinds of

havoc from mild irritations to eye ulcers.

### Keep on hand

The most useful medications are those that help deal with common aches, allergies and illnesses. These include:

- Pain relievers/fever reducers: Acetaminophen (i.e. Tylenol), ibuprofen (i.e. Motrin) or aspirin.
- Antihistamines: Medications such as Benadryl, Claritin, Zyrtec or their generic equivalents.
- Antacids: This can include tablets like Tums or liquids like milk of magnesia.
- Decongestants: Common ones include Sudafed and Neo-Synephrine. Be careful using nasal decongestants, as they can cause rebound congestion.
- Antidiarrheals: Don't be caught without some Imodium, Pepto-Bismol or their generic cousins.

Twice a year, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) hosts a National Prescription Take-Back Day. The next one will be on Saturday, Oct. 24. Meanwhile, you can

dispose of medications free of charge at many pharmacies and law enforcement offices in Massachusetts. Visit [mass.gov/safely-dispose-of-prescription-drugs](http://mass.gov/safely-dispose-of-prescription-drugs) for locations.

Unused medications thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused, or illegally sold. If they are flushed, they can contaminate the water supply. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

*Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Contact her at [Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com) to set up a free phone consultation.*

## POETRY CORNER

### Wm. Hatton

*Out by the door I weave into the grass,  
A pattern of purple violets. They form  
In their bright faces midst the green,  
As there at church, and streets of town –  
Like a nose-gay left behind?  
Of familiar places, and those unknown...  
I dress once more - a school-girl grown –  
And go about, just unseen.*

*Do I stop here now in lilac-time?  
and scatter again our little rhymes...  
Inside, the dancing fields do dwell.  
They are not now less beautiful.  
And you, my husband -  
beyond others in heroic ways so true –  
I am held aloft by our dream...  
They let me know all will be well –  
– Where I wait for you.*

– Charles Barnes



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**CUTS** | from page 1

ing that it has been offered by the schools for more than five years.

O'Sullivan asked about costs associated with Individualized Education Program services, and Foster said that, as the program is outside of the school day, no IEP services are offered, but that it refers to staffing for students with IEP needs.

"Legally, we can't exclude a student from the Extended program based on their needs," Zippin said, explaining that in a previous year, a student required the presence of a Certified Nursing Assistant. "We had to provide medical support during the before- and after-school time while that student was in Extended."

O'Sullivan requested that the school provide an itemized budget for the revolving fund for the Extended program for further clarification. The pool was previously maintained by the town's budget, but was changed to the school's budget during a previous year.

O'Sullivan was particularly critical of a \$12,000 expense for administrative conferences and travel expenses, comparing it to the proposal to cut pool services, which benefit not only the students, but the wider population of the town.

"I'm looking at this, and saying those are excessive, at where we are," O'Sullivan said. "We've put a lot of money into that pool. About 92% of the ESCO money was put into the schools to maintain it."

School Committee Chair Alison Morgan asserted that there was no amount of money the school could reasonably cut from its budget to cover the financial burden of the pool. She also clarified the dues and expenses are necessary requirements required by the state for an incoming superintendent.

"The superintendent has to have specific credentials through the state that cost an excessive amount of money," Morgan said, "different organizations he has to be part of in order to do his job, legally, within our school department."

Foster explained that the cost is larger than in previous years because, as a new

superintendent, he benefits from the New Superintendent Induction Program. Morgan said that paying for this program was part of the negotiation when Foster was hired.

"We wanted him to participate in order to ensure that we have a superintendent that's doing the job very well, in the way that the state, the federal government, and everyone intends them to do," Morgan said. "They discuss everything from legal mandates, finances and things like that."

"I can't say it's mandated to go through this program, but I have yet to know a district that wouldn't put a superintendent through this program if they've never been a superintendent before," Morgan said.

O'Sullivan asked for the school department to direct the committee to other potential cuts, to further reduce their budget beyond the 1.9% reduction from level service that the school has already put forward, representing a cost estimated by Foster as approximately \$450,000.

"I don't think any cuts are great," Foster said. "A number of the cuts that are proposed have what I would describe as an outsized impact on children. Obviously that's a concern for us as the schools; that doesn't mean that it changes what we believe is necessary to fund the schools."

Morgan said that to make further cuts would require increasing the class sizes beyond what's allowed by teachers' contracts.

"We're struggling now with an average of 20 students in a classroom," Morgan said. "The principals and vice principals are spending the majority of their day getting called to classrooms due to behavior."

FinCom Member Peter Matrow reiterated his concern questioning the need for two principals and an administrative assistant at the elementary level.

"I know times are different, I know that children are different, I know special needs have been identified today that weren't identified even five years ago," Matrow said. "But it seems with double the population for this town at one time to have one principal and two teaching assistant principals, was able to cover twice the population

that you currently have at the elementary level."

Morgan argued that the education system has changed greatly from the time that the committee was referring to.

"The principal and the vice principal spend the entirety of their day getting walkie calls for classrooms where the teacher is by themselves and there's a student that needs assistance because there's no learning happening," Morgan said. "We, at this point, don't have enough school adjustment counselors or other personnel to support those students, so unfortunately, that's what happens."

"When there's no adjustment counselor or anyone else to go to the classroom to help that teacher out, it's the principal or vice principal that it defaults to," Morgan said.

Despite recognizing Morgan as Assistant Director of Special Education, Matrow said that he "continued to question" the need.

FinCom Chair Peter Fimognari noted a discrepancy in the number of staff members when comparing the documents provided by the school and the previous budget, saying that it did not reflect the reduction to staff. Foster said he would go over the numbers to make sure they were accurate, and get back to the committee.

"There's a narrative on Facebook that we didn't cut any positions, and that's simply false," Foster stated. "Every other number we've given you has been consistent that we have these position reductions."

When asked about cutting custodial services, Foster said that the school has already reduced to two day custodians, one from the afternoon into early evening, and two night cleaners.

"I would say building cleanliness is probably the top area of complaint I've gotten since I started here," Foster said. "This is not me criticizing our team, I think our team works incredibly hard."

Foster said that with the reduction of staff, cleaning floors and bathrooms regularly is the most the custodial staff can manage.

After the discussion, the committee held a vote to establish a revolving fund collected from the rental of school facilities, which passed unanimously.

**FEE** | from page 1

Member David Cotter, who lives near the parcel, noted its size, which was determined to be about 108 acres, and said that it's been in the family's possession for close to a century.

"When I first moved there, there was a lot more water," Cotter noted. "Because the trees got bigger, they're soaking up more water."

Commission Member Nicholas Zeo asked Ladin about the forester's willingness to receive verbal comments, and she asked that she be informed if anyone hears such comments.

"That includes the public, if they were to call, would we be able to forward those?" Zeo asked, to which Ladin said they would.

"In the past we've put together comments in writing and sent them out, similar to this notice," Zeo said, reminiscing about the frustrating pace that comments would be shared.

The Commission was also tasked with approving a planned amendment from Sherman and Frederick for Camp Ramah.

"At Camp Ramah, they noticed that they needed to revise one of their plans," Ladin said. "Currently they have the silt fence, which

goes right in front of what was the old pump house, and what they found was - doing no more clearing, which is good news - they just want to put the silt fence behind the pump house, so they can actually do work on that pump house."

Ladin said that she believes the camp is building a deck off the house, which won't impact the resource area at all or add impervious surface to the outside, so that flood waters will still be able to flow through.

"I went up by it this past week," said Izyk. "The building's going to look pretty good."

The commission had three votes to approve the amendment, with one abstention, and the amendment passed.

The meeting began with the commission going over a certificate of compliance for Wellman Realty at 250 Shearer St., for a Notice of Intent that was issued for a project back in 2005.

"This is for the healthcare center," said Ladin. "The certificate is going to be for an invalid order of conditions, because the work was never started."

Ladin said that the company will need to clear up the NOI before they can present a new project. The commission voted unanimously to issue the certificate, as read

by Blais, and signed by the members present.

"It is hereby certified that the work regulated by the above reference order of conditions never commenced," read Blais. "The order of conditions has lapsed; it is therefore no longer valid, and all future work subject to regulation under the Wetlands Protection Act may commence without filling a new notice of content and receiving a new order of conditions."

Blais also received correspondence relating to the annual operational plan from CSX Transportation, announcing the start of the post-emergent herbicide application program. The correspondence is the town's formal notification in accordance with Pesticide Board Regulations and the state's General Laws.

"CSX Transportation will commence with the application that they had told us they were going to do previously," Ladin said. "It will start on or around May 1, and conclude on or around Oct. 31."

Ladin added that the correspondence goes into what type of herbicides will be used, and the purpose, "which is to control nuisance vegetation in the ballast portion of the railroad rightaway, and around switches and signals."

**UPDATES** | from page 1

that though the middle and high school students have been busy with their MCAS testing, "spirit is higher than ever."

"On March 19, we held the Night of Belonging," Kelsey said. "This night provided students and families with education on various cultures."

Kelsey thanked the people who donated to the Project 351 food and toy drive, and the Signing Day, where eighth grade students who will stay at the high school next term signed a banner that will hang in the foyer.

The presentation also mentioned several recent field trips, including the se-

nior class's Credit For Life field trip to Ware High School on April 2 to learn about finances, and the eighth grade and seniors trip to the Basketball Hall of Fame on April 8 for a Trade's Career Fair.

After mentioning the April 11 Trail and Campus Clean-Up, Kelsey announced the Night Match Showdown fundraiser at the tennis court that was held that same evening, advertising the opportunity to play tennis and eat barbecue food.

After Spring Break, Kelsey announced that the Student Council organized a Spirit Week for the week of April 27 to May 1. The daily themes ranged from "color wars," with each grade assigned a different color, 2016 Throwback Day, Disney


Day, and Villains vs. Superheroes.

"Lastly, on Friday, which is a very special day, the theme is Mr. Holloway Day," Kelsey said. "Students are highly recommended to dress in Special Olympics attire to honor Mr. Holloway."

Kelsey said that on the morning of Friday, May 1, at 8 a.m., the unified track and field team will present a banner in honor of the late Paul Holloway.

"Due to prom being held on Friday, there will be no pep rally during school," Kelsey announced. "Prom is being held at the Log Cabin in Holyoke from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Students are not allowed to drive themselves there or back from prom, for their safety."

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Avast ye scurvy scum, the pirates are on the Quinebaug River during the Sturbridge Lions Club All-American River Race.

TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY



A daring racer traveled the river on a stand up paddleboard.

# All-American River Race

## Lions Club held paddle race on Quinebaug River

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE — This past Sunday started off well enough. A tad cool, but nothing New Englanders can't handle.

Speaking of New Englanders, a stalwart band of locals would meet in front of the Lincoln House near Sturbridge Village. They had come to that locale to coordinate their mission as communications team for the annual Sturbridge Lions Club All-American River Race.

The men and women are members of the Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club (QVARC). That is, they are amateur radio licensees, or Hams.

After the club members met and had the traditional picture taken, they dispersed to their various posts. The Hams were along the route of the race to keep tabs on the progress and be ready to communicate any problems that might arise to whomever needed to be contacted.

Your correspondent headed to Turners Field

with Hams Deb (KC1RDH), Ken (KB1HXO), and Tim (KC1RZE) who would be point for the beginning of the race.

The capital letters and numbers in parenthesis are call signs. It is how Hams identify themselves on the air.

At the field members of the Sturbridge Lions Club served as registrars for the race. Linda, VP Laurie and Becca were signing in the entrants.

The Citizens Emergency Response Teams of Sturbridge and Charlton were present in force to direct traffic at Turners Field and at the finish as well. CERT are volunteers

who serve under police supervision.

Canoes kept arriving and getting ready. It was not just canoes. There were kayaks and paddleboards, which is a different skill and one that could be tested in these waters.

Before the race, a day or so, the Corps of Engineers opened one of the dams on the Quinebaug River so the water was moving swiftly, and one could say, forcefully.

Contestants set up toward the river, and they all worked to make sure everything was in order with their gear.

One vessel had a large, inflated sack in the canoe that took up more than half. It was

explained that it was to provide buoyancy in case of capsizing.

Certainly, everybody had their own story, and we were curious to know about the man and woman team wearing tutus. Though one might be tempted to think them a tad frivolous, they compete in 18 to 20 races a year, which is a lot and they are tracking 300.

Anyway, a bit of good humor was welcome on the day. As a team, they called themselves SYOTR. It stands for See You On The River, and why not?

One canoe flew a huge jolly roger flag. No reports of attempting to board an-

other craft.

Contestants, for the most part wore helmets, and some wore GoPro cameras attached. According to the company, a "GoPro is a compact, rugged, and waterproof action camera designed for capturing high-definition video and photos during active, outdoor, or underwater adventures."

That "underwater adventures" could have become the operative part if a craft capsized or a man or woman overboard incident occurred. It could have been quite the interesting short movie.

Fortunately, there were no such incidents reported.

11:01 is launch time

when the first craft enters the river from a side stream. After that, there is one launch every minute.

As they take off, Ken, Deb and Tim swing into action. Deb and Tim radio over to Ken the boat that has taken off and he calls to the next station to watch for it.

From there, each checkpoint will take up the watch.

After the last boat took off, sweeper canoes went in the water. Their task was to make sure nothing had happened that some contestants had been left behind. Again, this year, no reported problems.

It is a timed race of six miles. Contestants will have one mandatory portage and one that is optional. A portage is where participants exit the water and carry their craft and then re-enter the river.

Eventually the course takes the participants to the finish line at the Westville Dam. The crafts and their crews reported no capsizing, as happened in other years. Thus the day can only be considered well done by all from the canoers and to the Lions staff, communications team and CERT volunteers.

With luck, all will be back 12 months hence for the 2027 Sturbridge Lions All-American River Race.



Paddlers headed down the Quinebaug River during the Sturbridge Lions Club All-American River Race held on Sunday.

### Saving for Retirement: Are You Guessing or Planning?

Let's say you dream of spending your retirement mornings on a warm beach, coffee in hand, waves rolling in. To get there, you had a simple plan: save \$1 million and buy the beach house you always wanted.

But when retirement arrives, reality hits. After accounting for keeping your current home, everyday expenses and health care, \$1 million doesn't stretch as far as you thought, and the beach house remains a dream. The problem wasn't your discipline — it was that your number was never really your number. It was arbitrary, not anchored to what your ideal retirement would actually cost.

How can you make sure your retirement number is right for you?

A solid savings goal starts with a clear picture of the retirement you want. Think through where you plan to live, whether you'll keep your current home or downsize, how much you plan to travel, if you'll help children and grandchildren financially and what health care might cost you later in life. Build a realistic monthly budget, then multiply by 12 months to find your annual need. Adjust this amount for inflation until the first year of retirement.

Then, multiply that figure by 25 to get a sense of how much may be needed to save. It's a formula based on the idea of withdrawing 4% annually from your savings, assuming you retire in your mid-60s. If you need \$60,000 a year, your target is around \$1.5 million. You may need more or less depending on your lifestyle, health, unexpected expenses, Social Security benefits and other income. No single rate or strategy will work for everyone. A financial advisor can help you determine your number and strategy.

Once you know your target, the path forward becomes clearer. Here are a few tips for next steps:

Start early. The sooner you begin saving, the more time compound interest has to work in your favor. Small amounts set aside automatically each paycheck have the opportunity to grow significantly over decades.

Live below your means. Spending less than you earn is one of the most powerful wealth-building habits. When your income rises, save and invest the difference instead of upgrading your lifestyle.

Keep your debt under control. Since credit cards and other high-interest debt can slow your progress, pay off balances monthly when possible.

Invest consistently. If your employer offers a 401(k), aim to contribute at least 10%-15% of your salary, and increase your contributions after every raise. If you max out your 401(k), a traditional IRA or Roth IRA may offer additional tax-advantaged growth (eligibility and contribution limits apply).

Boost your income when you can. Develop new skills, ask for a raise or explore a side income. Every extra dollar saved moves you closer to your goal.

The difference between a retirement you love and one full of compromises often comes down to the planning you do today. Know your real number, build a solid plan and get the right help along the way.

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**LIBRARY** | from page 1

ty an opportunity to experience the maximum number of activities and use resources that the library makes available."

The library has been uploading these videos regularly for some time, always involving staff making jokes and showing off what the library has to offer.

"Before National Library Week, we did a video every day. One video hit over 200,000 views, and it also had a lot of views on Facebook and YouTube," said Assistant Director Rebecca Sawyer. "The reason we do a lot of videos is to get out the word about what public libraries do in general, and bring new patrons in from our community as well."

The skits on the library's TikTok involve things like tours of the building, and highlighting various things that can be checked out at the library, including one video that boasts that the library has "the largest collection of cake pans in the whole state."

Library Technician Sam Stevens, who often appears in the videos, described making the videos as "a refreshing change of pace."

"I think a lot of the time, it allows us to be more expressive and have a creative way to get people attracted or enticed back into the library," Stevens said.

Though the library didn't

have any designated Library Appreciation Week events, it did offer a number of Earth Day events, including the Earth Day Crafternoon, where attendees were able to make crafts utilizing recycled and re-used materials, and a Mending Workshop, where participants were able to repair old clothes.

"A lot of clothing, even if it's donated, ends up in landfills," Thomas said. "The more use we can get out of clothes by mending, the better off the environment is."

As he closed out his shift to go home to his partner and six-month-old, Stevens said that he looks forward to bringing his "kiddo" to the library throughout their life.

"It's an honor that we get a week for people to appreciate our library, especially in such strange times that we're having now," Stevens said. "It's good to know people still appreciate and honor the value that libraries can give to their lives. I'm part of an incredible staff, and we have incredible patrons. Whether they see our TikToks or not, they still treasure what libraries represent."

The library has a number of events coming up to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary, including a collaboration with Old Sturbridge Village for a reading of One Girl's Voice by Vivian Kirkfield on May 14, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and an adult craft of a Japanese art form of fabric

painting called kinusaiga. On Saturday, May 2, the library will hold a Tea Party Storytime at 10:30 a.m., and on May 9, the library will host Lisa Stringfellow, author of 2025's Mass Book Award Honors recipient, Kingdom of Dust, at 11 a.m. The library will also hold Star Wars Trivia Night on May 21 at 4 p.m.

For more information on what the library has to offer, visit the library's website at MonsonLibrary.com, or follow them on TikTok at Monson-FreeLibrary.



Patrons mended old clothes together during the library's Visible Mending Craft. Monson Library



The library offered instructions on creating an Earth Day Wind Sock out of a cardboard tube.



Library Technician Sam Stevens enjoys the opportunity to express himself creatively with the library's TikTok account.



Sarah Thomas encourages viewers to visit the library, while Sam Stevens is hit in the head with a book, in the library's most popular video.

**GARDEN** | from page 1

that are planted in the sun. She told visitors looking for the sale on Saturday that they would see "a human in a flowerpot outfit."

"The side of the yard is full of plants, and they can browse at their leisure. It's perfect for spring planting," Minns-Piepho said. "The prices are very reasonable; I would even boast that we might have the lowest prices in town in the area."

The sale will include herbs, annual and perennial plants, and a wide variety of floral and gardening tools, as well as a free raffle.

Minns-Piepho has been associated with the club for four years, ever since a fellow gardener got her involved. She said that she was inspired to get into gardening by her mother.

"My mom was always planting something," Minns-Piepho reminisced. "She had a compost pile that she would



The Down-to-Earth Gardeners Club has 38 members, who share gardening tips and stories.

throw things into. This is a ways long ago, before there were compost bins."

Co-president Pat St. Laurent, who has been with the

club for "at least" three years, said that her love of gardening goes as far back as "in early science classes where we would put seeds in cartons."

"We all, the men and women in our club, share that love of nurturing plants and being out there," St. Laurent said. "We're very open to all ages, we have high schoolers, all the way up to the very very senior."

According to Chudy, the club considers "community, sharing knowledge, and

friendship" to be integral parts of the Down-to-Earth Gardener's Club, which boasts 38 members.

"I did buy our co-president Julie a rose bush on the day that her father had passed," St. Laurent said. "That has been a joy to see blossom every year."

"I often have my granddaughters come and help, planting, watering, and harvesting," said Minns-Piepho. "That's their favorite part, they love to pick."

"Our name fits us perfectly," St. Laurent said. "We're very down to earth, almost like a family kind of club."

The sale is not the only event the club has to offer; it also holds an annual Garden Tour where the club visits its members' homes to admire the work they've done on their gardens over the year.

"We invite others that aren't members to show off their gardens as well," St. Laurent said. "We'd be happy to see theirs."

The club regularly hosts guest speakers, field trips, plant swaps, and seed exchanges, all outlined in their monthly newsletter. The club also makes holiday crafts

in November, having made Christmas wreaths, centerpieces, and door swag.

"We also give a basket to the Palmer Library Raffle," Minns-Piepho said. "Tickets are on sale through the month of May, and then they draw the winner on June 1."

The co-presidents shared that a reason they recommend the club is the wealth of knowledge offered by the other gardeners, who are always open to sharing information and stories, which they described as "remarkable."

"You don't have to always have a green thumb," St. Laurent said. "There's a lot of trial and error, and no perfect garden; a garden should be anything you want it to look like."

"Our motto is to always ask questions of other gardeners," Chudy said. "They will be your biggest source of information and inspiration."

The garden sale will be held on May 16 from 9 a.m. to noon at the United Methodist Church at 162 Main St. If you'd like to get in contact with the club, you can send an email to the co-presidents at Swim1Julie@AOL.com or St.LaurentP12@outlook.com.

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**BASEBALL**



Josiel Ortiz fires a strike down the middle

Above, Dylan Holbrook speeds past third with eyes on home. Right, Theo Haley tosses the ball to a teammate. Below, Matthew Santos winds up for a pitch. Far right, Brendan Hess settles under the pop fly.



Theo Haley darts for home plate.

Turley photos by Maddox Baer

## Panthers rebound from tough loss with pair of wins

PALMER – Last Tuesday afternoon, Palmer High School baseball suffered a tough mercy-rule loss against Westfield Tech.

But the Panthers were able to rebound and defeated Granby 5-2 last Wednesday and Smith Vocational 19-3

last Friday. The wins helped elevate Palmer's record to 7-3 for the season.

The Panthers have a rematch coming up with McCann Technical on Thursday, Apr. 30 at 4 p.m. McCann defeated Palmer 8-5 in the first meeting between the teams.

**BASEBALL**



Emerson Boronski delivers a pitch.

## Pathfinder falls to SICS

PALMER – Last Thursday on a sunny, but breezy afternoon, Pathfinder baseball was defeated 14-4 by SICS at Legion Field in Palmer. While Pathfinder was able to get on the scoreboard, SICS was able to score some early runs to get ahead, and the Pioneers could not match the offense. Pathfinder fell to 0-8 on the regular season.



Above, Brody Wetnicka winds up for a throw across the diamond. Right, Zachary Smith tries to make throw to first for an out.



Dayne Shanley takes the pickoff at first.



Anthony Elliott sends a long throw to third.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Zachary Latourelle sends a throw to first.

**SOFTBALL**

## Palmer falls in wild matchup with Comp

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – A softball team that scores at least one run in every inning has a strong chance of coming out on top.

The Chicopee Comp Lady Colts accomplished that feat in their 27-13 road victory over Suburban East rival Palmer, last Friday afternoon.

"We're a young team and we've been struggling a little bit lately. We really needed to win a game," said Comp head coach Kelly Walsh. "We took an early lead, but we could never let up because Palmer can make a comeback. I'm very happy with this result."

At the beginning of April, Comp defeated Palmer, 14-2, in a home game.

In the second meeting of the regular season between the two squads, the Lady Colts (4-7) scored a season-high 27 runs on 16 base hits.

The Lady Colts scored 25 runs in another road win against Pathfinder Tech. Their other victory came at home against the Springfield International Charter School by the final score of 18-5.

Leading the way offensively for the Lady Colts in last Friday's game was senior centerfielder Arianna Bird. She contributed with six base hits and four RBIs.

Senior right fielder Millie Fidalgo chipped in with two base hits and she scored four runs.

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## Athlete of the Week



**Brendan Hess**  
Palmer High School

Hess turned in a big performance against Smith Vocational last week with three hits and five RBI for the Panthers baseball team.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

# Mustangs suffer setback against Mt. Greylock

MONSON – Last Tuesday afternoon, Mt. Greylock boys lacrosse invaded Monson, which co-ops with Pathfinder in boys lacrosse. The

Mounties were too much for the hosts, taking home a 15-3 win. Luckily, Monson would rebound in its next matchup, defeating Smith Vocational

High School to improve to 5-3 for the regular season. The Mustangs are back in action on Saturday, May 2 hosting McCann Tech at 2 p.m.



Landon Couture tries to dig out the faceoff.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Kyle Beaudry advances up the field.

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Brennan Peterson winds up to shoot.



Goalie Riley Hurst emerges from the goal area looking to pass.



Wyatt Breault gets ready to send the ball up the field.



Noah Latulippe tries to bring in a pass.

## PALMER | from page 9

Junior shortstop Alexis Wojcik also had two hits.

“The middle part of our batting order has been on fire during the past couple of games,” Walsh said. “They’ve been hitting around .700. We got production from the whole line-up in today’s game, which was nice to see.”

The Lady Panthers (2-6), who had eight base hits, scored two or more runs in four of the seven innings that they batted. Their defense committed 13 errors.

“We did fall behind early, but we just kept battling back,” said Palmer head coach Heather Korzec. “We’re a young team and we just need to limit our errors.”

The Lady Panthers two victories came against Pathfinder Tech (8-3) and Mahar Regional (22-10).

The Lady Colts held a 7-0 lead before junior righthander Alexis Wojcik threw her first pitch in the bottom of the first inning.

Freshman first baseman Audrey Mosko, junior catcher Olivia Cruz, and Fidalgo had RBI singles. Another run crossed the plate on a ground-ball out by sophomore DP Janyah Jones. Their other three runs scored on two wild pitches and a throwing error.

In the bottom half of the opening frame, Wojcik, who hurled the first five innings, retired the Lady Panthers in order with the help of two strikeouts and a flyball out.

Comp held an 11-0 lead after scoring four more runs in their next at-bats.

The Lady Panthers battled back with three runs in the second inning and two more in the third.

Senior third baseman Avigail Lee capped off Palmer’s five run fourth inning by hitting a grand slam over the left field fence. It was Lee’s first home run as a varsity softball player.

“Avigail is a powerful hitter,” Korzec said. “We’ve been working with her to hit more line drives.”

Lee also had a run scoring double in her previous at-bat. She finished the game with five RBIs.

Eighth grade catcher Kylee Lukas also had two hits and a pair of RBIs for the Lady Panthers.

The home team scored three more runs in the fifth inning, which closed the gap to 18-13.

While Comp junior relief pitcher Faith Irwin managed to keep the Lady Panthers from scoring anymore runs, the Lady Colts pulled away by scoring nine more runs during the final two innings.

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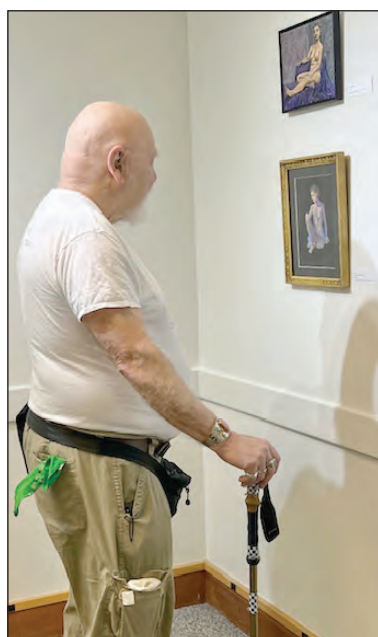
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## ArtWorks Gallery 'Celebrate the Figure' exhibit



WARE – Workshop13's ArtWorks Gallery presents its 5th annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition. This exhibition embraces the diverse ways in which artists approach representing the human form, showcasing pieces that utilize both the clothed and unclothed figure, and uplifting the works of local and regional visual artists.

ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main Street in Ware, MA. The 5th annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition opened with a reception on April 11 and is on display now through May 9. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays

from 1 to 4 p.m. For those who cannot attend the show in person, a virtual gallery is available for viewing at [workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org).

Fine artist SK Sullivan served as the juror for Celebrating the Figure. Liz Popolo was awarded Best in Show for her atmospheric charcoal study, Susie. Lee Hutt's sculptural piece Torso in Bronze received an Honorable Mention, as did Jordan Hayslip's painting Distant Gaze. Each of these artists and their works will be spotlighted on Workshop13's social media pages as well as in their weekly newsletter.



Submitted photos

Workshop13's ArtWorks Gallery of featuring its latest display.

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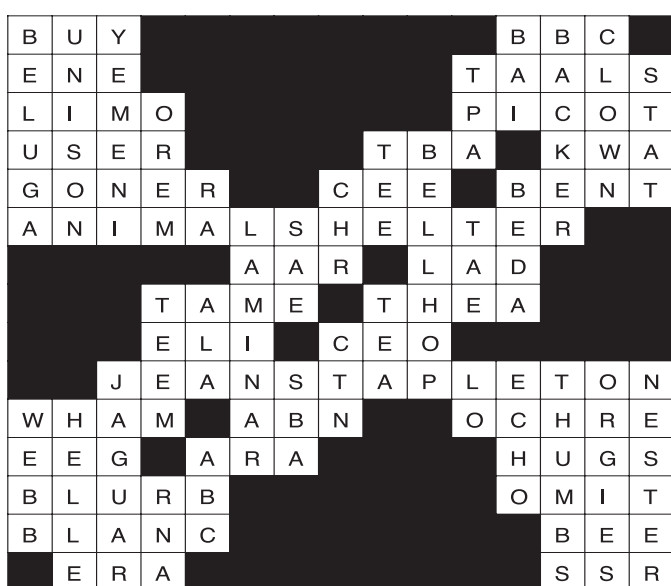
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## REAL ESTATE

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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# Obituaries

## Carol Robertson Szwed

Carol Robertson Szwed, 75, of Palmer, passed away on April 19, 2026. She was born on November 9, 1950, in Weymouth, MA, to the late John and Barbara (Lewis) Robertson.

Carol dedicated nearly two decades of her career as an executive secretary at Friendly's before transitioning to Hasbro, where she worked for almost 20 years until her retirement. In her leisure time, Carol enjoyed working in the kitchens at Pulaski Park alongside her husband.

In addition to her parents, Carol was preceded in death by her brother, David Robert-

son. She will be dearly missed by her husband, Jan Szwed, with whom she shared a loving partnership for 41 years. She leaves behind her siblings, Donald and his wife Susan Robertson, Joann Thistle, and Martha Sullivan; sister-in-law, Janice and her husband Carl Cederquist; brother-in-law, Michael Szwed and his wife Patricia Oney; as well as many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Services will be held privately for the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Carol's memory can be made to either Wounded Warrior Project or Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

**MONSON**—Ronald J Padykula, born on January 8, 1947, in Ware, Massachusetts, peacefully passed away at home on April 20, 2026 at the age of 79. He was a dedicated family man, a proud veteran, and a committed public servant.

Ron dedicated over 27 years of his life to the State of Connecticut Department of Correction, where he earned recognition for his efforts, including receiving



## Ronald J. Padykula

the Preservation of Life Award. His career was marked by a deep commitment to helping others. Before beginning this path, he served honorably in the United States Navy, stationed on the USS Independence Aircraft Carrier,

a chapter of his life he held with great pride.

An educated man, Ron was a graduate of Cathedral High School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University

of Massachusetts. Throughout his life, he combined his education and experience to make a positive impact on those around him.

Ron was a sports enthusiast who loved cheering for the Red Sox and the Patriots. However, his greatest joy came from spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He savored these moments and cherished the laughter and love they brought.

He is survived by his sons Sean Padykula and his wife Samantha of Wilbraham, and Brian Padykula of Monson. Ronald's

grandchildren, Joshua, Riley, Patience, and William, will also carry forward his memory and love. He was predeceased by his parents, Frank and Lillian (Jewett) Padykula; his brother, Richard Padykula; and his sisters, Susan Derocher and Rena Pelis.

A Celebration of Life will be held when the weather becomes warmer. Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit [www.lombardfuneralhome.com](http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com).

## Barbara Joan Keith

Barbara Joan Keith, 87, of Palmer, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 20, 2026. She was born on December 30, 1938, in Springfield, MA to the late William and Charlotte (Burleigh) Haley.



Barbara was a graduate of West Springfield High School and devoted her life to her family and home, a role she cherished deeply. In later years, she continued her spirit of service by working as a driver for Van Pool, where she enjoyed helping others in her community.

She was a devoted member of Faith Baptist Church in Palmer and actively partic-

ipated in the Quabog Valley Quilters in Three Rivers and Stitching Sisters in Palmer. Barbara was also a former member of the Lions Club and volunteered at the Palmer Senior Center.

Barbara was an avid quilter. She enjoyed making award winning quilts with her sister and friends. Most often her quilts were gifted to loved ones. She especially treasured time spent with her family. She delighted in playing cards, sharing laughter, and creating lasting memories with those she loved most.

She was predeceased by her parents; her beloved husband, James L. Keith; and her

sister, JoAnn Antunes. Barbara is survived by her loving children, Charlotte Courmoyer and her husband David, William Keith and his wife Gina, and James Brian Keith and his wife Rebecca; sister, Betty Williams and her husband Paul; eight grandchildren, Shanna, Valdine, Miranda, Brandon, Noelle, Jordan, Nathan and Katherine; as well as seven great-grandchildren, James, Aiden, Emma, Ashley, Brinley, Lily, and David, each of whom brought her immense pride and joy.

Services celebrating Barbara's life will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 1 p.m. at Faith Baptist Church in Palmer. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to Faith Baptist Church Missionary Fund.

### 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 \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).


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

### DEATH NOTICES

**Barbara Joan Keith**  
Died April 20, 2026  
Services May 2, 2026  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

**Ronald J. Padykula**  
Died April 20, 2026  
Lombard Funeral Home

**Carol Robertson Szwed**  
Died April 19, 2026  
Services are private  
Beers & Story Funeral Home



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# Public notices

## PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, May 18th, 2026, at 6:30 PM** in the Police Department Meeting Room, 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Randy Pascale, is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.45 to allow for vehicular egress through the rear lot line to create access from Norman Street at 27 Lathrop Street, Palmer. These parcels are also known as Assessor's Map 63, Lots 29.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website: (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Norman Czech, Chairman  
04/30, 05/07/2026

## TOWN OF PALMER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40 A, Sections 6 & 11 M.G.L., the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, May 11th, 2026 at 6:30PM** at the Palmer Police Meeting Room, 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant Max Bock is requesting a Finding under §171.83J of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of an addition in the front and side setback. The property is located at 4037 Hill Street, Palmer. This parcel is also known as Assessor's Map 25, Lot 10-6.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals  
04/23, 04/30/2026

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS BONDSVILLE FIRE AND WATER DISTRICT OF THE TOWN OF PALMER FISCAL YEAR 2027 Hampden, ss. Bondsville, Massachusetts

To: Stephen Nagy, Clerk of the Bondsville Fire & Water District of the Town of Palmer:

### GREETINGS:

In the name of all Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn all the qualified voters of the Bondsville Fire and Water District of the Town of Palmer to meet at BONDSVILLE FIRE AND WATER DISTRICT COMPLEX in the Village of Bondsville, on **TUESDAY, the 19th day of MAY 2026, at six o'clock in the evening**, to act on the following articles:

**Article 1.** To choose a Moderator to preside at this meeting.

**Article 2.** To choose by ballot the following officers:

For a term of three (3) years one (1) Commissioner

**Article 3.** To hear and act on reports of District officers and committees.

**Article 4.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners, to borrow money in anticipation of the revenue for the financial year beginning July 1, 2026, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or to take any action relative thereto.

**Article 5.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners, to borrow money as permitted by Law to meet the appropriations made or expenses incurred under any of the articles of this warrant, or to take any action relative thereto.

**Article 6.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money to pay for interest incurred in borrowing money relative to Articles 4 and 5 for the Fire Department, or to take any action relative thereto.

**Article 7.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as are necessary to pay the salaries of its Fire Department's officers and firemen and to defray the expenses of the Fire Department for the ensuing year and to cover special appropriations made under the articles of this warrant, or to take any action relative thereto.

**Article 8.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate any sums of money to continue the Fire Department stabilization fund, or to take any action relative thereto.

**Article 9.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as are necessary to pay the salaries of its District officers, or to take any action relative thereto.

**Article 10.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Water Department for the ensuing year and to cover special appropriations made under articles of this warrant, or to take any action relative thereto.

**Article 11.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money to pay for any interest incurred in borrowing money relative to Articles 4 and 5 for the Water Department, or to take any action relative thereto.

**Article 12.** To see if the District will vote to transfer any sums of money from certified free cash to reduce the Fiscal Year 2027 tax levy or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 13.** To see if the District will vote to appoint and choose committees and to give them instruction or to take any action relative thereto.

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting an attested copy thereof in two or more public places in the Village of BONDSVILLE, in said Palmer, not less than fourteen days before holding of said meeting in a newspaper published in Palmer.

Hereof, fail not and make do return of this warrant with your doings hereon, before holding of said meeting.

Given under our hand on 28th day of April 2026:  
COMMISSIONERS OF BONDSVILLE FIRE AND WATER DISTRICT OF THE TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS  
David LaVallie, Chairman  
Richard Dranka  
Robert Young  
04/30/2026

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS HAMPDEN, ss. SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 2579CV00352

**JOSHUA DELAND Plaintiff**

**v. LAURIE A. GELINAS, MARY L. PETROLATI, LOUISE R. MAUTER, JOHN FRATINI, and the heirs or legal representatives of ELIZABETH M. GELINAS, PHILIP R. GELINAS a/k/a Phillip R. Gelinas and ANGELO FRATINI, who may claim an interest in certain land in Wales, Hampden County, Massachusetts by purchase, descent or otherwise Defendants**

### ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: the Defendants, the heirs or legal representatives of Elizabeth M. Gelinas; the heirs or legal representatives of Phillip R. Gelinas; and the heirs or legal representatives of Angelo Fratini who may claim an interest in the Premises at Lot 7R Reed Hill Road, a/k/a 4 Reed Hill Road, Wales, Hampden County, Massachusetts (the "Premises") by purchase, descent or otherwise

**JOSHUA DELAND** claiming to have an interest in the Premises by virtue of that certain Quitclaim Deed made by Guy C. Lucia, Jr., and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 23456, page 255 has filed with this Court a First Amended Complaint to Quiet Title pursuant to M.G.L. c. 240, §§6 to 10 and for Adverse Possession.

If you object to the Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer or other responsive pleading with the **Hampden County Superior Court, 50 State St., P.O. Box 559, Springfield, MA** on or before **May 15, 2026** (the "Return Date"), or you may be forever barred from objecting to the Plaintiff's claims.

Witness: Townsend, J.  
Attest: **Laura S. Gentile**, Clerk, Hampden County Superior Court  
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026

**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. HD26P0873EA Estate of: Ronald F Domey Also known as: Ronald Francis Domey Date of Death: 01/19/2026 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Denise Haley of Worcester, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Denise Haley of Worcester, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**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 writ-

ten appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/27/2026**. 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.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 22, 2026  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
04/30/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD26P0432PM**

In the matter of: **Anita M Helliwell Of: Palmer, MA RESPONDENT (Person to be Protected/Minor)**

**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Denise A Lutkus of Monson, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Anita M Helliwell** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that David C Sanford, Jr. of Palmer, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **05/20/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 22, 2026  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/30/2026

Witness, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 22, 2026  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/30/2026

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due: FORD VIN:1FAH-P37N57W127003 Luisa Bonilla Alvarado 203 Essex ST Apt 1 Marlborough, MA; FORD VIN:-3FA6POH79FR301257 Carmen Pastranasolo 147 Hampden ST Chicopee, MA; SUBARU VIN:JF1GHA65AH809001 Megan Szwarcop 13 Dale ST Apt. 2 Ware, MA; TOYOTA VIN:JTDKKB20U693514335 Mayco Silva 25 Ames ST Apt. 1 Worcester, MA; CHEVY VIN:2GCEK13T251352438 Ryan Martinek 16 Elm ST Monson, MA; FORD VIN:1FTPX-12V67FA51924 Dustin Veroneci 85 North View DR Rockport, TX. This auction is to take place on May 1, 2026 10:00 A.M. at LaBontes & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069 04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026

**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. HD26P0844EA Estate of: Paul A Pontbriand Date of Death: 02/28/2026 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Catherine L Moulton of Brimfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Catherine L Moulton of Brimfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**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 05/15/2026.** 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.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 21, 2026  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
04/30/2026

**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. HD23P2345EA Estate of: Kayla Luongo Also known as: Kayla Jean Luongo Date of Death: 07/29/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Anthony Luongo of Sandown, NH** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Anthony Luongo of Sandown, NH** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**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 05/26/2026.** 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.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER**

## THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 21, 2026  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
04/30/2026

**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. HD26P0844EA Estate of: Paul A Pontbriand Date of Death: 02/28/2026 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Catherine L Moulton of Brimfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Catherine L Moulton of Brimfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**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 05/15/2026.** 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.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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Witness, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 17, 2026  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
04/30/2026

**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. HD26P0844EA Estate of: Paul A Pontbriand Date of Death: 02/28/2026 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Catherine L Moulton of Brimfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Catherine L Moulton of Brimfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**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 05/15/2026.** 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.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER**

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- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines.
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Palmer, MA 01069  
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[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)

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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.

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

# Public notices

## PALMER FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER ONE AND PALMER WATER DISTRICT NUMBER ONE ANNUAL FIRE DISTRICT MEETING WARRANT

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Hampden, ss. Town of Palmer**

TO: William K. Cole, Clerk of Palmer Fire District Number One and Palmer Water District Number One.

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn all the qualified voters of Palmer Fire District Number One and Palmer Water District Number One to meet in the Palmer Public Library, N. Main Street, in Depot Village, of said Palmer, on **Tuesday, the 19th day of MAY, 2026 at seven o'clock in the evening**, to act on the following Articles:

- ARTICLE 1.** To choose a moderator to preside at the meeting.
- ARTICLE 2.** To choose by ballot the following officers:  
For a term of three (3) years:  
One (1) Member of the Prudential Committee  
One (1) Water Commissioner
- ARTICLE 3.** To hear and act on reports of district officers and committees.
- ARTICLE 4.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to pay the salaries expenses and operating expenses for the Fire Department for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2026, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 5.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to pay the salaries expenses and operating expenses for the District Treasurer, District Clerk, Tax Collector, Assessors and Auditor for fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2026, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 6.** To see if the District will vote to empower the Fire Department (AMBULANCE SERVICE) through the use of its receipts and revenues, to expend funds to defray the expenses for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 7.** To see if the District will vote to empower the Water Department, through the use of its receipts and revenues, to expend funds to defray the expenses for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 8.** To see if the District will vote to transfer any sums of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax levy for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2026, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 9.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2026, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and acts in amendment thereof, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 10.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to a Reserve Fund-Fire Account for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2026, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 11.** To see if the District will vote to establish a Reserve Fund-Water Account and to appropriate water receipts a sum of money to the Reserve Fund-Water Account in accordance with Section SC of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 12.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund Account or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 13.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to repay an obligation to Farmer's Home Administration for the remodeling of the Fire Station, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 14.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money for the purchase of new self-contained berating apparatus (SCBA), with financing not to exceed (7) years, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 15.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money for the purchase of new fire hose, fittings, and nozzles, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 16.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to repay Monson Saving for the new pumper fire truck, or take any other action relative thereto.
- ARTICLE 17.** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the purchase of new furniture for the break room and offices, or take any other action relative thereto.

- ARTICLE 18.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Fire Department to expend from ambulance receipts a sum of money for a new Type III ambulance or take any other action relative thereto.
  - ARTICLE 19.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Fire Department to expend a sum of money from ambulance receipts for the purchase of a new advanced life support (ALS) monitor/defibrillator, to be financed for a term not to exceed three (3) years, or take any other action relative thereto.
  - ARTICLE 20.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Fire Department to expend a sum of money from ambulance receipts for the final payments on a 2016 Type III ambulance or take any other action relative thereto.
  - ARTICLE 21.** To see if the District will vote to establish a dedicated Ambulance Revenue stabilization fund for the purpose of managing and stabilizing revenues derived from ambulance service receipts; and to further determine whether the District will authorize the Treasurer to deposit a portion or all of such receipts into said fund, and to appropriate monies from the fund as needed to support ambulance service operations, capital needs, or revenue shortfalls; or take any other action relative thereto.
  - ARTICLE 22.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money to complete an Engineering Design for Clearwell repairs or take any other action relative thereto.
  - ARTICLE 23.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money to Replacement of Leak Detection Equipment & Laptop or take any other action relative thereto.
  - ARTICLE 24.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for Preliminary Engineering of Breckenridge Street Water Tank or take any other action relative thereto.
  - ARTICLE 25.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for Hydraulic Modeling per Mass DEP consent order or take any other action relative thereto.
  - ARTICLE 26.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for the State Street Bridge Project, or take any other action relative thereto.
  - ARTICLE 27.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to expend from Water Department receipts a sum of money for the Preliminary Design for the Thorndike Street Water Main Replacement project or take any other action relative thereto.
  - ARTICLE 28.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to the Meter Fund Account or take any other action relative thereto.
  - ARTICLE 29.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Prudential Committee to engage in discussions, negotiations, and exploratory efforts with other Fire Districts and/or relevant municipal bodies regarding the potential consolidation of Fire District, and to report back its findings and recommendations; and further, to take any other action relative thereto.
  - ARTICLE 30.** To choose committers and give them instructions.
- And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof and publishing an attested copy thereof in one issue of The Journal Register, a newspaper published in said Palmer, the publication to be not less than seven days before the holding of said meeting, said postings to be fourteen (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting, at the offices of Palmer Fire District Number One and Palmer Water District Number One, Walnut Street, and at the Palmer Town Administration Building, all in said Palmer.
- Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant, with your doing thereon, before the holding of said meeting.
- Given under our hands this 28th day of April, 2026.  
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF PALMER  
FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER ONE AND  
PALMER WATER DISTRICT NUMBER ONE  
Daniel Belanger, Chairman  
James St. Amand  
Anthony E. Arventos

A True Copy,  
ATTEST:  
William K. Cole, Clerk  
04/30/2026

## TOWN OF PALMER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40 A, Section 15 M.G.L. the Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, May 11th, 2026 at 6:45 PM** at the Police Department Meeting Room, 4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA. The applicant, Fred Ferguson, is requesting an administrative appeal from a cease & desist made by the Building Inspector dated February 17th, 2026 to cease operations due to violation of the special permit SP16-07. The property is located at 58 West Ware Road. This parcel is also known as

Assessor's Map 49, Lot 4; Map 44 Lots 33 & 35  
A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Administrative Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.  
Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.  
This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).  
Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals  
04/23, 04/30/2026

## 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.

## ADVERTISING SALES HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills.

Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

**Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.**

Send resume & cover letter to:



Jamie Joslyn  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Email: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

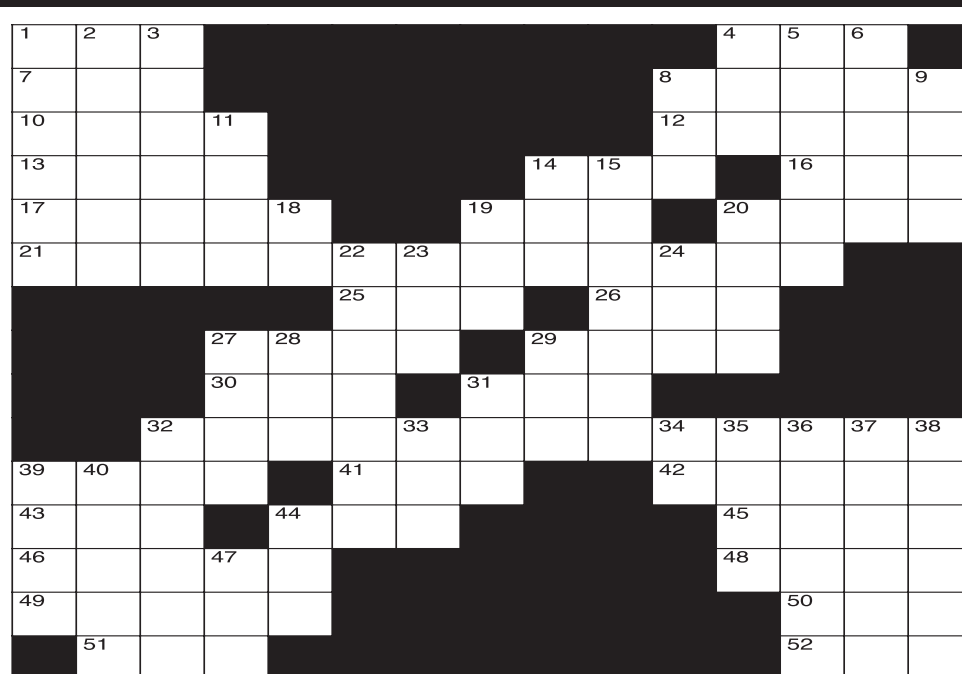
# Job Connection

## HELPING YOU FIND HELP

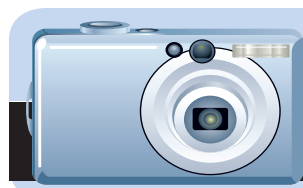
### TOWN OF WARE JOB OPENINGS

- **Part-Time Administrative Assistant**  
Part-time Administrative Assistant in the Treasurer/Collector's Office. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to performing a variety of administrative and financial support functions for the Collector's Office, including processing payments, issuing receipts, preparing and reconciling daily deposits, and maintaining records. Provides customer service by responding to inquiries and resolving account issues. Part-time, non-benefited, non-union, \$22.80-\$23.49 per hour, 18 hours per week.
- **Assistant Treasurer/Collector**  
Assistant Treasurer/Collector. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to a variety of accounting and administrative functions to assist the Treasurer/Collector in all financial operations of the office. The Assistant provides skilled accounting and computer banking support, including billing and collection activities, account reconciliation, cash management, reporting, and research, as well as other municipal procedures and functions as required. Full-time, benefited, union position, \$25.53-\$26.29 per hour, 35 hours per week
- **Equipment Operator/Truck Driver**  
Equipment Operator/Truck Driver in the Department of Public Works. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to Operating various types of motorized vehicles, trucks, dump trucks, sweepers, excavators, snow and ice removal equipment and other miscellaneous equipment, such as loaders, mowers, and chippers; Participating in emergency operations including but not limited to snowplowing, road sanding, snow and ice removal, hazardous materials mitigation, and natural disasters; Assisting with preparation of trucks and other equipment for different seasonal jobs including repairing and maintaining sanders and snow plows; Repairing roadways, sidewalks, pavements, and other surface areas and drainage structures, including excavating trenches, and chain saw operation. Full-time, 40 hours per week average, union position, \$23.32-\$25.26. Applicants are required to have a Class B CDL License with Air Brake endorsement endorsements.

For full job descriptions visit- <https://www.townofware.com/> Interested applicants please send resume to: Human Resources Department, Town of Ware, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 or e-mail [resumes@townofware.com](mailto:resumes@townofware.com). AA/EOE



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Purchase
  4. British news organization
  7. Midway between northeast and east
  8. Language specialist group
  10. Fancy automobile
  12. Small loop or series of loops
  13. Exploiter
  14. Don't know when yet
  16. Group of languages
  17. One who's finished
  19. After B
  20. Angled
  21. A place to adopt pets
  25. Swiss river
  26. Young boy
  27. Unexciting
  29. American comedian Vidale
  30. Peyton's little brother
  31. Corporate higher-up
  32. "All in the Family" star
  39. Strike something forcefully
  41. Up in the air (abbr.)
  42. Clay earth pigments
  43. Means to record brain activity
  44. Small constellation
  45. Embraces
  46. Brief description
  48. Exclude
  49. White (French)
  50. Insect
  51. A major division of geological time
  52. Soviet Socialist Republic
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Type of whale
  2. In tune
  3. A citizen of Yemen
  4. Actress Ling
  5. One who supports
  6. Circus performer
  8. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
  9. Quantitative fact
  11. Utah city
  14. Where a golfer begins
  15. Attendant
  18. The ancient Egyptian sun god
  19. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
  20. Benedictine monk
  22. Not turbulent
  23. Car mechanics group
  24. Buffer used in chemistry
  27. Fall heavily
  28. Pie \_\_\_ mode
  29. The Brits love it
  31. Children's TV channel (abbr.)
  32. Jacksonville footballer
  33. Helps little firms
  34. \_\_\_ and behold
  35. A way to resemble
  36. Fingers
  37. Excessive indulgences
  38. You might be an "empty" one
  39. "How the West Was Won" writer
  40. European river
  44. They began the alphabet
  47. The body's messenger



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# Zonta in Action: Connecting Communities, Changing Lives

LUDLOW—On May 11 at the Ludlow Country Club, learn about the local and global reach of Zonta.

Locally, we will award the Young Women in Leadership Scholarship to Assala Ali of Springfield Central High School and three Service Grants to organizations working with women and girls: The YWCA of Western MA, Girls Inc of the Valley, and Girls on the Run.

Globally, we will learn from Zonta Foundation of

Women Ambassador Dr. Mary Ann Rubis about Zonta's international projects to end gender-based violence, combat child marriage, and increase access to education.

The public is invited to join us at the Ludlow Country Club on May 11, please register by May 4, 2026 at info@ZontaQV.org. The reception will begin at 5:30, dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the Program.

Pay at the door for the buffet \$30 or pay online \$35

zontaqv.square.site/. Details at www.ZontaQV.org.

Since 1919, Zonta has been working to create a more equitable future for women and girls. We believe that fostering a diverse and inclusive global community is a powerful platform to bring about the social change needed to make our vision for gender equality a reality. For more information on visit Zonta.org or contact info@zontaqv.org. Join us in building a better world for women and girls.

# Plant, Bake Sale, Craft & Tag Sale to be held May 16

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church is pleased to announce they will be holding their 20th Annual Plant, Bake Sale, Craft & Tag Sale on the Hardwick Common Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite, and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals,

heirloom vegetable plants, and herbs in time for spring planting! There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through several local vendors including Stillman's Farm and Howe's Farm and Garden of New Braintree, Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, and "home-grown lovelies" from private gardens. A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be

sold. The event is held rain or shine. All are welcome!

The Church is also seeking vendors for their annual Tag and Craft sale to coincide with the Plant and Bake Sale. Please reserve your space on the Hardwick Common early. Spaces will be offered for \$35.00 each. Applications may be obtained by contacting Marguerite at: mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com or 413-477-6942



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**di Hampden House**

1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA  
**413-566-8324**

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Serving Full Service **PLATED** Brunch 11am-3pm  
Dinner Menus With Specials Available 11am-10pm  
*Specialty Mimosas & Bloody Marys!*

**CALL FOR FULL MENU**  
Reservations Available Now - Call Early!

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Showers, Christenings, First Communions,  
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See our website for our Banquet & Catering Menu

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EVERY THURS., FRI. & SAT.  
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Anthony Bruno  
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Luther  
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John Manzi

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Serving: Thurs. - Sat. 11:30  
and Sun. 10:30

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**NIGHT EVERY TUESDAY**  
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**route20barandgrille.com**

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SERVING: TUES. & WED. 4-9PM  
THURS.-SAT. 11:30AM-9:30PM • SUN. 10:30AM-8PM  
**WITH EXTENDED BAR HOURS EVERY NIGHT**  
RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED FOR PARTIES OF 6 OR MORE

**MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 10TH**  
CALL US TODAY TO BOOK YOUR RESERVATION FOR PARTIES OF SIX OR MORE  
**413-279-2020**  
OUR FULL & BRUNCH MENU PAIRED WITH BUILD YOUR OWN BLOODY MARY & MIMOSAS 10:30AM - 2:30PM  
DINNER SPECIALS 3:30PM - 8PM

**SUNDAY BRUNCH**  
**Sundays 10:30-2:30**  
(Plus Our Regular Menu Until 8pm)

**WINE DOWN**  
**WEDNESDAYS \$20**

**\$20 STEAK N' BREW**  
**EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT!**

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**Treat Mom To A Special Lunch or Dinner for Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11th**

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