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The REGISTER

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The fourth annual Ultimate Family Dance Party celebrated the Ludlow Public School for youth and families in Town.

Turley photo by Amanda Munson

Ludlow receives Age & Dementia Friendly designation

By Amanda Munson
 Staff Writer
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – Submitted by Assistant Director Heather Jolicoeur of the Ludlow Senior Center, “The Town of Ludlow recently received Age & Dementia Friendly designations from AARP and the Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA). This town-wide initiative will guide Ludlow’s efforts for years to come.

Town employees from multiple departments, along with residents and local business representatives, contributed to the planning and development of the action plan. Their collaboration and dedication helped make these designations possible.

Antron Watson from AARP presented the Town with the Age and Dementia Friendly Certificates, and State Senator Jake Oliveira shared his congratulations as well as his ongoing support for the Senior Center and the Town of Ludlow,” ended Jolicoeur.

CARES Coalition and LPS hosts 4th annual Ultimate Family Dance Party

Bringing in over 450 guests

By Amanda Munson
 Staff Writer
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – On Friday, Mar. 27, the Ludlow

CARES Coalition, in collaboration with Ludlow Public Schools, hosted the 4th annual Ultimate Family Dance Party with a glow in the dark theme.

The Ludlow CARES Coalition is a volunteer organization united in providing education, support,

and awareness to promote the health and well-being of our community, especially youth. The goal is to give kids a fun event for them to enjoy with their family and peers to jump-start them out of their cabin fever from the winter months and get them ready for the spring. In addition to being good for your physical health, dancing improves self-esteem, lifts your mood and social emotional well-being, and above all, it’s just fun!

The night had music by DJ Tom/Knight Productions, snacks, soft drinks, raffles, photo-booth, and family fun games and contests that were all free for families. Advisory Board Member Joel Freitas shared the background on how the dance party began, “The party started as a family fun

Please see **DANCE PARTY**

Page 3

Western Mass. Vietnam Veterans of America #111 fundraise in Ludlow

By Amanda Munson
 Staff Writer
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – In observance of National Vietnam War Veterans Day on Mar. 29, the Western Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans of America #111 were fundraising outside of Randall’s Farm on Saturday, Mar. 28. With the motto, Veterans helping Veterans, Ludlow Elks Paul Chrzan was accompanied by Veterans Larry W., Tim S., Josh M., Lee, VVA 111 President Delfo Barabani, Jr. and shared a couple of thoughts about the annual tradition.

“We do this every year

right around National Vietnam Veterans Day, with the courtesy of Karen Randall at Randall’s Farm, allowing us to come out here to promote and remember all our veterans. We do a lot of work to help the veterans, and we donate a lot of money to the Veterans Home, projects for them, scholarships; we do a lot of things in the community in the area.

We like to continue and remember our Vietnam brothers and sisters who didn’t come back and are still missing in action. Referring to the fundraiser, this is some way we can meet with the public and reinform up to the young-

er generations what Vietnam was, what it meant to us, that we’re still here, and that we can continue supporting and raising money so we can help the younger veterans get the benefits they deserve.

We want everybody to be aware of how much we love our country, we enjoyed it, we went over and did the job, we did the best to our ability and as long as we’re still here, we are going to fight for the veterans and the benefits. It makes a whole difference,” said Chrzan.

When asked how vet-

Please see **VETERANS**
 Page 6



Turley photo by Amanda Munson

The Veterans of the VVA #111 were fundraising a day before Mar. 29, in recognition of National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

IOCC partners with Hampden County Sheriff’s Dept. to bring the community together with Easter joy

By Amanda Munson
 Staff Writer
 amunson@turley.com

INDIAN ORCHARD – “This is what community feels like.” On Mar. 28, the Indian Orchard Citizens Council, IOCC, and the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department brought spring-time joy to families across the neighborhood on Saturday with a vibrant Easter Basket Giveaway that blended community spirit, volunteer power, and a few magical surprises. Submitted by IOCC Officer Manager Jacqueline E. Farrow, dozens of children and families gathered at the IOCC headquarters for the annual celebration, where Residential Supervisor Terry Mitchell of the HCSD delighted young attendees in full Easter Bunny costume.

Sheriff’s Department



Submitted photo

IOCC Officer Manager Jacqueline E. Farrow donning bunny ears for the big event!

Staff Jessie Murray, Connie Burke, Hannah Burke, and Mitchell helped distribute baskets, greet families, and support the event’s smooth flow. The giveaway featured more than just treats, it offered a full community experience.

One of the day’s biggest highlights was Phinny the Mini, a miniature horse who quickly became the star attraction, posing for photos and bringing smiles to children and adults alike. Farrow coordinated the event alongside the dedicated Indian Orchard Youth Council, whose young volunteers helped with setup, distribution, and family engagement.

Behind the scenes, a team of committed volunteers made the day possible, including Terry, Denise, Patrick, Sheila, Debra, Jose,

Please see **EASTER** Page 6

Hubbard Library hosts soil blocking workshop

By Amanda Munson
 Staff Writer
 amunson@turley.com

Patrons started seeds indoors

LUDLOW – On Mar. 28, the Hubbard Memorial Library hosted a soil blocking workshop that lets patrons start seeds indoors without the use of plastic trays, materials provided with the class led by Librarian Paulina Borrego of the Mass Aggie Seed Library. Held upstairs, a group of adults stood around a table that had bowls of dirt, hand-held blocking tools, and soil to help properly moisten and create little holes for the seeds added after the workshop ended.

Everyone was smiling to kick off the warmer weekend and share the space with a gardening expert for

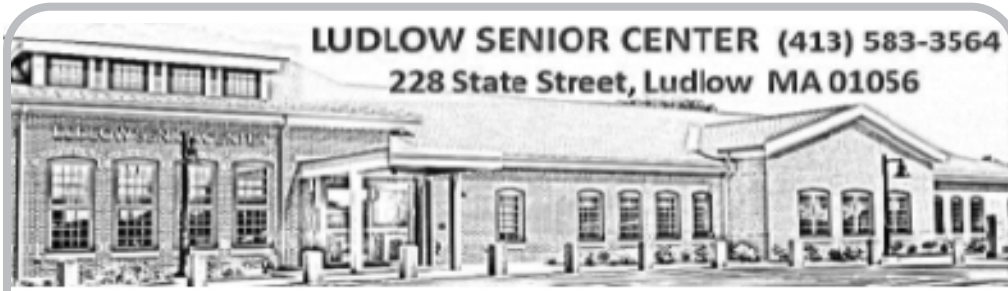
the best tips and tricks for a successful spring season!

For the workshop, soil blocking is allowing the roots to access air, so they don’t circle and display a reaction named air pruning. The shift from plastic trays allows for an easier way to transplant seeds when they are ready to go outside in the garden and a way to visualize the number of seeds going into each soil block.

Borrego provided instructions that showcased how to soil block: start by wetting the medium, the soil, and work it with your hands as you gradually add water; get the consistency to a brownie mix where you can hold the ball in your fist and it sticks together.

With a mound of thoroughly moistened mix that

Please see **LIBRARY**
 Page 9



LUDLOW SENIOR CENTER (413) 583-3564
228 State Street, Ludlow MA 01056

Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

LUDLOW—Spring is finally here! Come gather with friends in the Center's beautiful dining room and enjoy a delicious lunch, complete with coffee, tea, and dessert. To join us, call 413-583-3564 at least one day in advance to reserve your \$2 lunch (call Friday for Monday reservations).

We have several new events and activities to keep you busy, including a Caregiver series and an important Lunch & Learn presentation. Pick up our monthly newsletter at the Center or share your email with us to have it delivered directly to your inbox. You can also explore programs, find important forms, and learn more about what the Senior Center has to offer at ludlow.ma.us/coa/. For the latest news and photos, be sure to "like" the Ludlow Senior Center on Facebook!

As the days grow brighter, we look forward to sharing warm meals, engaging programs, and good company. There's no better way to welcome spring than with a brisk walk! We are looking for facilitators to lead an early morning walking group. If you're interested, please call the Center at 413-583-3564 and ask for Maria.

Activities Calendar:
Please register in advance for items with*

Thursday, April 9
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10 a.m. Reclaim Your Hands*
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation*
10:30 a.m. Sen. Oliveira Office Hour
10:30 a.m. Friends of the Center Meeting

12:45 p.m. Mahjong
1:30 p.m. Compass & Anchor Program w/Laura Lavoie*
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

Friday, April 10
8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
9 a.m. Reiki by Appointment*
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
10:30 a.m. Trivia
1 p.m. Ceramics
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*

Monday, April 13
9 a.m. Knitting
9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
10 a.m. Computer Help by Appointment*
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
1 p.m. Scrabble
1:15 p.m. Pitch
1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencil Class*
2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

Tuesday, April 14
9 a.m. Quilting

9 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Cribbage
10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga
1 p.m. Beginner Mahjong
1 p.m. Swing Your Partner
1:30 p.m. Bingo
4:30 p.m. Power Pump
5:00 p.m. Movie: *Walk in the Sun* (1945)
5:45 p.m. Guidance by Li Grief Support*

Wednesday, April 15
8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold
9 a.m. Ceramics
10 a.m. Fun with Opera
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*
11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch Trip Villa Rose*
1 p.m. Dominos
1 p.m. Movie: *Walk in the Sun* (1945)
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*
4:30 p.m. COA Board Meeting

Thursday, April 16
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation*
12:45 p.m. Mahjong
1:30 p.m. Compass & Anchor Program w/Laura Lavoie*
2 p.m. Writers Block
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga
*PLEASE register for Boomer Boot Camp, Healthy Bones & Balance, Foot Care, and other programs as noted by calling 583-3564

Daily Events:
Café: Monday – Friday 8-11 a.m.
Exercise Room: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Open until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.
Open Billiards: Monday –Thursday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. Fridays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesdays 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Menu:
Thursday, April 9: Southwest Chicken Salad
Friday, April 10: Loaded Baked Potato/Must-Go Soup
Monday, April 13: Taco Nachos
Tuesday, April 14: Bean & Veg White Chili/Corn Bread
Wednesday, April 15: Beef Stroganoff/Egg Noodles/Vegetable
Thursday, April 16: Chicken Cordon Bleu/Au Gratin Pot/Vegetable

Reserve a delicious \$2 lunch by calling a day ahead. all on Friday to reserve lunch on Monday.

For allergy concerns, call the Senior Center to inquire about ingredients at 413-583-3564.

Resident Miriam Stone turns 100, happy birthday

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – Officially on Mar. 29, Miriam Stone turned 100 years young and was honored at the Ludlow Senior Center with appearances from State Senator Jacob Oliveira and Select Board Member Anthony Alves, accompanied by family and friends. Honored at the monthly luncheons that highlight the month's birthdays, Stone donned a birthday sash and was accompanied by family like her son Carl and shared a few words to The Register before the lunch began.

"My best advice for the younger generation is don't drink and don't smoke, it's the only excuse I have! Go to church, keep track of your family, keep in touch with your family, treat your friends nicely because that's what's important...family and friends," said Stone.

Born and married in Westfield to husband Harley, who has since passed in 2018, moved to a variety of places like Quincy, Weymouth Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Florida, New York, Virginia, and then back to Massachusetts to see her children more.

"We were 80 years old, my husband and I when we moved from Virginia back up north, I called it! We have a son in New Hampshire, a son in Massachusetts, and at the time, our daughter in Pennsylvania. There comes a time in everybody's life when they've got to connect with your family. Carl chose to come to visit me so I could schedule my appointments on those mornings. I thank him for doing that for me every time I see him, and he always says, it's a pleasure.

He's an adult and when you reconnect with your adult children at our ages, it's a gift," said Stone. Alves shared a few words with Stone and members of the Senior Center, "Happy birthday! Working with numbers all day, it hit me thinking of 100 years and what that means and something to relate it to. In our town and our nation, we are celebrating 250 years. Ms. Stone has experienced 40% of the history of this nation; I'm not even 40 years old. That's a testament to a life well lived," said Alves.

On behalf of the Select Board, Alves presented a citation from the Town of Lud-



State Senator Jacob Oliveira with Miriam Stone and the citation from the MA Senate on behalf of himself and State Representative Aaron Saunders.

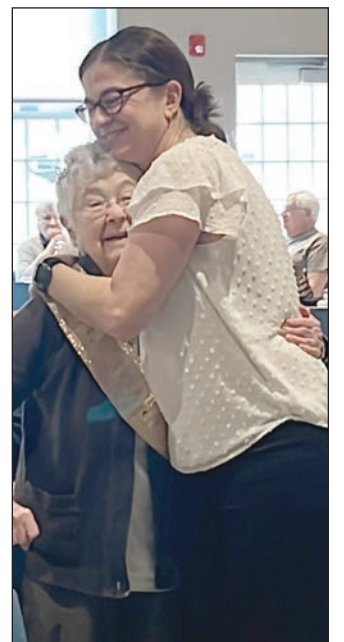
low for Stone's 100th birthday and shared a quick hug with her. Oliveira followed, "It's nice to recognize the birthdays here at the Senior Center and an incredible staff that always recognizes the birthdays. Thank you to the staff at the Ludlow Senior Center.

Miriam, you look wonderful. The important thing is to celebrate longevity and bring you to great places that bring people together, to find a community that you can see. That's why our senior centers are so important and Miriam, as someone who patronizes the center often, someone who knows this facility well, I am so pleased to offer this citation from the Massachusetts Senate," said Oliveira.

Oliveira presented the citation from the Massachusetts Senate on behalf of himself and State Representative Aaron Saunders, recognizing the celebration of her 100th birthday.

When asked what her best advice was for people reaching milestone birthdays,

Stone encouraged all to keep going. Stone has been going to the center for around 20 years and celebrated her birthday on Sunday at her church in Wilbraham.



Miriam Stone and Executive Director Jodi Zepke hugged after knowing each other for over 15 years.

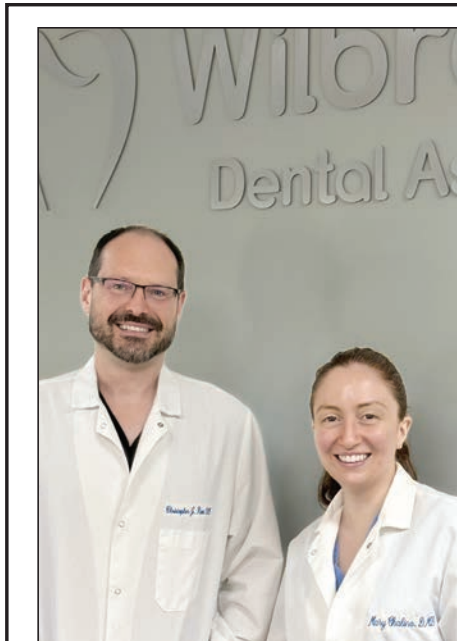


State Senator Jacob Oliveira, Miriam Stone, and Select Board Member Anthony Alves with the citations in hand.

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DANCE PARTY from Page 1

community building event in 2022, headed up by Estelle Gomulka, to give students a chance to connect outside of school and have a good time.

Sensing an amount of distance within our community, lingering after the isolation the pandemic caused, the dance party started as our way of trying to help the community move past that and return to some semblance of normalcy. It was immediately a hit, so we've kept throwing it; with the exception in 2023, when we partnered with the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club/Randall's Community Center and combined it with their dance.

This year will be our fourth Dance Party. With each iteration, it has become more and more popular.

We've always had at least 250 people attend our dance party. This year, about 175 people registered in the first 48 hours, which was unprecedented. We've actually not had to market as much at all this year because the event was selling itself.

It is really rewarding to see so many families so eager for our event," ended Freitas.

For the 2026 dance, the HBES gymnasium and cafeteria were both opened to accommodate the large crowd and offered more space for families to sit, dance, and enjoy each other's company. LCC Advisory Board Member/Dance Party Planner Cindy Newell shared why community is so important and her introduction to the LCC, "Last year, I met LCC and brought my children to the dance party and thought it was an amazing event for our community!

This is what you want to do, be part of a community who's paying attention to kids and their wellbeing and safety. I have one kid going into middle school and that was a big thing for me, there's so much change that goes into that transition, and I wanted to be involved as much as I could, and LCC just does that.

They try to really be involved with the children and community about growing up healthy, strong, safe, making the right choices, and educating them; I'm glad to be part of that," said Newell.

Newell shared that when she was looking to buy a house, Ludlow was the number one choice due to the strong community and the school system, explaining that currently Newell has one child in HBES, East Street Elementary, and Baird Middle School. During The Register interview, multiple families, friends, and children were approaching Newell and were so excited to see her at the dance party.

"The community part for



President of the CARES Coalition Peter Leoczyk and LCC Advisory Board Member/Dance Party Planner Cindy Newell promoted #SharetheCare, in hopes to spread the kindness that LCC brings to the Town with every event.



Madeleine, Gabriela, Guiliana, Addison, Emma, Grace, and Greta danced the night away!

me was a big thing and Ludlow has been that, you don't see that in a lot of towns, they don't do a lot of community events and try to bring the community together because let's face it, we're all so very busy.

You have to depend on the community that you can trust, and it takes a village to raise a child; anywhere you go in Ludlow, you'll bump into someone and I love that," ended Newell.

Followed was President of the CARES Coalition Peter Leoczyk who shared the importance of connection within the community, especially over the last couple of winter months, "CARES continues to work hard in the community, we're coming off a successful Trikerstz event during Red Ribbon week. The dance party is more of a community building family-oriented event that's free, and this aligns well within our core mission of building

community, making memories, and showing the kids that they belong to a caring community.

Coming out of the pandemic, we wanted to celebrate the #SharetheCare initiative where we had hundreds of acts of kindness recorded, and the community has since taken off, especially with the schools that have embraced it. Thank you to Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano, our hosts HBES Principal Nikki Reed and Assistant Principal Antoine for letting us come here. They've been so supportive.

All are welcome, and people are responding, continuing to grow the CARES membership and hopefully continue to allow us to reinforce our mission. It starts with drug prevention and awareness and education; we want to continue to be that conduit with the schools, with the Health Department, and with the Town to provide

events like this.

None of this would be possible without our sponsors and their support, especially from the Town and local businesses. We have a lot of games and contests, we're hoping to have a dance off with a couple of the teachers who were willing to participate on their time off, and the LBGC doing a crowd favorite game.

We're lucky to have DJ Tom again, who supports the event and makes sure people are dancing. None of this would be possible either without our volunteers; we have a strong group of volunteers and 15 of us on the committee. We have been here as early as 3 p.m. setting up.

The custodial staff from the school has been awesome; it takes a village to raise our kids and events like this; we rely on our volunteers and sponsors. Our goal is to have families, parents, and residents involved. We live here and we want to make Ludlow a better place," said Leoczyk.

LPS Social Worker Ron Hokanson shared a few words, "Having a stronger community is important, families being together and doing activities that are not based around the television and in houses. They're getting outside and seeing them here having fun with their friends, no phones and nobody on video games, it's pure unadulterated fun and that's what it's all about."

Special thanks to Freitas for the background information and coordination for The Register. Remember to #SharetheCare and if interested in joining the LCC, visit the website.



Volunteers from the Ludlow High and Baird Middle CARES clubs were thrilled to help the LCC at the Ultimate Family Dance Party.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



The ins and outs of forsythia

Each year as forsythia burst into bloom, I am reminded of my dad.

You see, this spring harbinger always blooms right around his birthday. This year would've been a monumental one, as he would have celebrated 100 years,

Although most landscape professionals aren't all that fond of forsythia, it holds a special place in my heart. When it is in full bloom our eyes are lifted away from the still drab lawn and the bare borders to bask at its branches of yellow flowers.

If you are lucky enough to have forsythia growing in your yard, perhaps you will find the following facts interesting, straight from the archives.

Forsythia can be forced into bloom indoors. While it is a little late in the season to fully appreciate this technique, it can easily be achieved now.

As long as temperatures are above freezing, you can harvest the branches. Simply prepare them as you would any other cut flower by removing side shoots that would be under water in the vase. Fill the vase with hot water and just prior to insertion recut the end of the stem on a 45 degree angle to expose as much surface area as possible.



We use hot water because it will move through the plant's vascular system quickly, hydrating it fully.

Place the vase in indirect, bright light, and change the water a couple of times a week. Expect blooms in a matter of days this time of year; if you harvest stems in early March it will take a bit longer to enjoy the flowers.

Forsythia buds are tender. While the shrub itself is hardy to Zone 4, the buds are reliably hardy to only Zone 5.

After an especially cold winter you may see forsythia in half-bloom! The tops of the shrub may be

devoid of blossoms, but the bottom chock-full. This generally happens because the lower portion of the shrub was insulated under a snow bank or leaf mound.

Likewise, the blossoms are also tender – sometimes reduced to mush the morning after a hard freeze.

Forsythia flowers are borne on the previous year's wood. With that in mind, prune as soon as possible after flowering.

Simply cut the oldest stems all the way down to the ground. You can safely remove up to one-third of the bush in a single pruning session. New growth will emerge over the summer and provide blossoms for next season.

While some books recommend cutting overgrown forsythias down to the ground completely, in my experience, this advice is drastic. The plant will need a couple of years to recover from that approach.

Sometimes you see forsythia pruned into balls or stiff hedges. While some homeowners consider this look appealing, I like to see the bush a little less tame. It's also hard to guarantee flowers throughout such a manicured shape; sometimes part will bloom and the rest will be just foliage. Kind of a weird look.

Propagating forsythias is easy! Do you want more of a good thing? Try layering your forsythias. Take a long, pliable branch and bend it to the ground a foot or so from the main plant. Cover the bend with soil and secure it with a brick or heavy stone. In a few months' time it will root, and by the following spring the new plant can easily be separated from its mother.

Forsythia is easily grown. Perhaps this is why we see so many forsythias in the landscape.

While it will undoubtedly bloom best in full sun, once established, it can tolerate all but the driest of soils and adapts to a range in pH. Also, it is bothered by few pests or diseases.

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 with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

HOW ASTRONAUTS WILL TRAIN FOR RETURN TO MOON...



GUEST COLUMN



By Ellenor Downer



Eastern Phoebe

I saw an Eastern Phoebe on March 28, my first sighting of 2026.

The Eastern Phoebe is a plump songbird with a medium-length tail. It appears large-headed for a bird of its size. The head often appears flat on top, but phoebes sometimes raise the feathers up into a peak. Like most small flycatchers, they have short, thin bills used for catching insects. The Eastern Phoebe slightly larger than a tufted titmouse.

The Eastern Phoebe is brownish-gray above and off-white below, with a dusky wash to the sides of the breast. The head is typically the darkest part of the upper parts. Birds in fresh fall plumage show faint yellow on the belly and whitish edging on the folded wing feathers.

The Eastern Phoebe generally perches low in trees or on fence lines. Phoebes are very active, making short flights to capture insects and very often returning to the same perch. They make sharp "peep" calls in addition to their familiar "Phoebe" vocalizations. When perched, Eastern Phoebes wag their tails down and up frequently.

These birds favor open woods such as yards, parks, woodlands and woodland edges. Phoebes usually breed around buildings or bridges on which they construct their nests under the protection of an eave or ledge.

Bring in bird feeders

The Allen Bird Club of Springfield reminds area residents that early spring means hungry bears. If people en-

joy feeding birds during the winter, it's now time to bring feeders in at night or to put them away entirely until next December. Black bears have an excellent memory and will return to feeders where they find easy meals. When that happens, bears can become a nuisance. FYI, over 50 million Americans purchase more than one billion pounds of bird seed and suet annually.

An excellent way to feed birds year-round is by planting native fruit and seed bearing plants that provide food for wildlife. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's new citizen science initiative, Garden for Birds, offers regionally-tailored tips on the best plants to choose to help struggling wildlife to thrive. This program is free and participation can be cancelled at any time. Information on how to turn a yard into a bird-supporting habitat can be found by visiting gardenforbirds.org.

Common mergansers
My husband and I saw the male and female Common Merganser diving in cedar Lake Sturbridge in between the ice on Thursday, March 19. They were beautiful.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "In my last email I had reported a broad-winged hawk seen in the yard. I later was looking at some photographs I had taken of the bird and discovered I was wrong, the bird was a red-shouldered hawk. Also it should have been very early for a broad-wing."

He saw crows, blue jays and a red-shouldered hawk on his trail camera as well as raccoons and an opossum.

He also has eight goldfinch visiting regularly. He said, "For most of the winter we have only seen one or two at the feeders. One was starting to show some yellow plumage."

He puts out a coffee can of whole peanuts every day in a tray. He said, "Blue jays, titmice and an occasional red-bellied woodpecker take the peanuts that are usual-

ly gone within a couple of hours. Lately the peanuts have been lasting two or three days and I haven't seen any blue jays." He also noted it is "A sign of spring, the chipmunks are out and about and the daffodil leaves have started to emerge, hooray."

Goldfinches

I received an email from a Worthington resident. He said, "Around mid-February each year my bird feeders are inundated by a flock or maybe flocks of goldfinches in their drab winter colorations. It's amazing how many flit in and out of my feeders. And, when the goldfinches come, they are joined by an equally large flock of pine siskins. They must travel together and they look somewhat similar since the goldfinches aren't yet sporting their bright yellow colors. They usually hang around for a month or so and then move on further North." He said, "I enjoy watching them at the feeders, the few who decide to spend the summer in Western Massachusetts."

Bluebirds

I received an email from a Hampden resident, who shared video from a blink camera she installed inside her bluebird house in 2025. She placed the camera in the birdhouse to keep track of activity and this resulted in two broods of bluebirds successfully hatching and fledging a total of eight young. She said, "The camera helped to keep the sparrows from establishing a nest and gave us close ups of the bluebird families." She also said, "Once September rolled around, it was time to clean and sanitize the birdhouse. However, a downy woodpecker found it was a fine place to spend the night. He has continued arriving at sundown and leaving at sunrise the next day. The bluebirds sometimes stop by during the day possibly checking it out for their future nest." She said, "Our hope is the bluebirds return this spring and don't have issues with the woodpecker as well as the sparrows."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

The REGISTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language.

All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email theregister@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Readers, local merchants, institutions, municipalities, non-profit groups, and civic organizations are strongly encouraged to send The Register your hometown news and photos. News items and press releases should be sent via email to mharrison@turley.com as an attachment AND pasted directly into the email message screen.

Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in your image(s) from left to right. We need first and last name, hometown, title if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo. Email uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution directly off your camera to mharrison@turley.com.

Publicity chairpersons are encouraged to send in news about upcoming fundraising or other calendar events at least three weeks before the event.

If you are having difficulty with a press release or need help, please call (413) 283-8393.

To send submissions by regular post, mail to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

The REGISTER

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theregister@turley.com

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The Register is published every Wednesday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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ELECTION LETTERS POLICY

The 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 Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to theregister@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 Register.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Register, please email theregister@turley.com.

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NEWS

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What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library

To register for programs or find out more information, visit ludlow.cwmars.org, or call (413) 583-3408 x113. Weather-related announcements for outdoor events will be made on the library's Facebook page the morning of the program.

Library Hours: Mon 9-5, Tue 9-8, Wed 9-5, Thu 9-8, Fri 9-5, Sat 10-2. Closed Saturdays during the summer, Sundays and holidays.

Friends of the Hubbard Memorial Library, third Thursday of the month, 6:00 pm. Get involved! Join the Friends of the Library for their monthly meeting and learn how you can help support the library.

FOR ADULTS

Discovering Your Roots, Thursday, April 9, 6 to 7:30 pm. Go beyond Ancestry.com to discover the immigration story of your family! Learn about the FREE websites available for genealogy searches and which records you'll need in your quest. Something for everyone - whether you're an amateur or seasoned genealogist! Please register.

Backyard Astronomy - Using the Library Telescope & Binoculars! Thursday, April 23, 6:30-8:00 pm. Join us for an evening of space and science fun, including a chance to see Venus, Jupiter, and the Moon through a telescope! Jim Zebrowski of the Aldrich Astronomical Society will present a forty-five minute talk followed by a sky viewing session on the library's lawn (weather dependent). Plus, see the Orion Reflector telescope available for checkout at the library! This program is for all ages - children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register.

Sound Energy Healing Series, One Saturday per month, 10:30 am. Enjoy an hour of peace and calm absorbing healing vibrations from instruments like the quartz crystal bowl. Session led by Mystic Willow. Bring a yoga mat, towel, or something to lay on during the program, as well as a blanket. Dates: 4/25, 5/23, 6/13. Sign-ups are for the individual session, not the entire series. Please register.

Chair Volleyball for Seniors, every Thursday, 1:30 pm. Have some fun and join us for chair volleyball! No running or jumping required. Please register, though walk-ins are welcome.

Technology Appointments, Have questions about your smartphone, tablet, or laptop? Book a 30-minute,

one-on-one technology appointment by visiting the reference desk or calling (413) 583-3408, x114.

Seeking Local Artists, Seeking local artists, craftspeople and collectors who would like to display their wares in the library's display case. Exhibits remain in place for one calendar month. For more information, or to arrange a showing, call (413) 583-3408, x113.

Mass Center for the Book Monthly Reading Challenge, Each month, read a book based on a chosen theme. Participants will be entered to win a free tote bag full of books! For more information and to sign up, please visit <https://www.massbook.org/readingchallenge-2>

Who picked this book? Book Club Meeting, first Thursday of the month, 3:30 pm. Join us for this month's Who picked this book? Book Club meeting! Pick up a copy of this month's book at the circulation desk.

Happy Hour Book Club Meeting, last Thursday of the month, 6:30 pm. Join us for this month's Happy Hour Book Club meeting! Pick up a copy of this month's book at the circulation desk.

FOR YOUTH

Dino Explorers: Unearth a Story - Storytime for 2-3s, Fridays (weekly) through May 8, 10:00-11:00am. For ages 2-3. Please register.

Dino Explorers: Unearth a Story - Storytime for 3-5s, Mondays (weekly) through May 11, 10:00-11:00am. For ages 3-5. Please register.

True Tales Storytime for homeschooled 5-8s, Wednesdays (weekly) through May 6, 1:00-2:00 pm. For homeschooled 5-8 year olds. Please register.

Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup for 0-2 year olds, Thursdays, April 9,16,30 (NOT 4/23) 9:45 - 10:30 am. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup for 2-5 year olds, Thursdays, April 9,16,30 (NOT 4/23) 10:45 - 11:30 am. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

Online Gaming Club for YAs, Thursdays, April 9,16,23,30, 3:30 - 5:00 pm. For ages 10-15. Drop-in, first come first served.

Minecraft Club, Saturdays, April 11,18,25, noon to 1:50 pm. For ages 7-11. We have Minecraft accounts. Please register.

Pokemon Club, (biweekly) Wednesdays, April 15,29, 3:30 to 4:45 pm. For gr. 3-8. Please register.

Ludlow Procurement Office request for Proposals for Senior Center car port

LUDLOW – The Town of Ludlow is seeking sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the design, supply, and installation of a carport structure at the Ludlow Senior Center.

The selected contractor will be responsible for providing all labor, materials, equipment, and services necessary to complete the project in accordance with the specifications outlined

in the RFP.

Proposal documents, including scope of work and submission requirements, may be obtained from the Ludlow Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours or by request via email.

April 8 at 11 a.m. Site Visit at Ludlow Senior Center, 228 State Street, Ludlow, MA. Please meet at front desk.

April 15 at 10 a.m. ques-

tions for the Town due on or before this date and time. E-mail to: bbeaumier@ludlow.ma.us

May 8 at 2 p.m. latest date and time for the Town of answer questions. An addendum will be issued to all those who have received bid documents.

May 15 at 10 a.m. Bid submittals due at 488 Chapin Street, Select Board's Office, third floor.




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The unstoppable nature of Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease and one man's quest to outpace it!

April 28th 6:00p



Sean Terwilliger, a former technology leader and teacher will share his own inspiring story about how being diagnosed with Alzheimer's led to writing, advocacy and a sense of purpose.

Learn about how experiences with clinical trials, newly approved medications and lifestyle change led to his belief that he could outpace the progression of the disease!

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Submitted photo

Miniature horse Phinny the Mini with Springfield Police Officer Murray and a young visitor.

EASTER from page 1

Barbara, Deb, and Maria. Their work-packing baskets, organizing supplies, and preparing the space-ensured that every family who arrived felt welcomed and supported. Volunteer Pat also played a key role in helping families

navigate the event and ensuring that every child received a basket.

The partnership between IOCC and the Hampden County Sheriff's Department continues to be a bright spot for the neighborhood, especially during a time when many families are feeling fi-

financial strain. The Sheriff's Department's ongoing support for community-centered events like this one remains deeply appreciated. As families left with baskets, photos, and memories, the message of the day was clear, Indian Orchard is strongest when it comes together.



Residential Supervisor Terry Mitchell of the HCSO dressed up for the families in the classic bunny costume.

VETERANS from page 1

erpszans can access the resources available to them in their communities, Chrzan suggested reaching out to the local veterans' agents and

officers, and to visit veterans' organizations which will have representatives available to help file claims and work to get the benefits needed. "Don't deny it, don't wait and just say I

don't care, as you get older, it's important for your health and all. If you need it, you deserve it, go and look for it because you'll be so much healthier and better off for it," said Chrzan.

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Steve Nanton photo courtesy of The Republican

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Lions hold on for win over Orioles

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Holding a six-run lead entering the top of the seventh inning was almost not enough for the Ludlow varsity softball team.

The Belchertown Lady Orioles rallied for three runs in their final at-bats, but the Lady Lions managed to hang on for a 9-6 victory in a Bi-County League contest held at the Paul R. Baird Middle School softball field in Ludlow, last Wednesday afternoon.

“We were able to score some runs early in the game, which gave us a little bit of a cushion,” said Ludlow head coach Missy Rocker. “I was a little bit worried in the final inning, but I went out and visited with my pitcher. I tried to settle her down and we were finally able to end the game.”

Ludlow has now won the last five games against Belchertown.

The two teams entered the first meeting of this season, which was played in the rain, with 1-0 records.

The Lady Lions, who played their home opener, began the season with a 15-9 road win over league rival Monson.

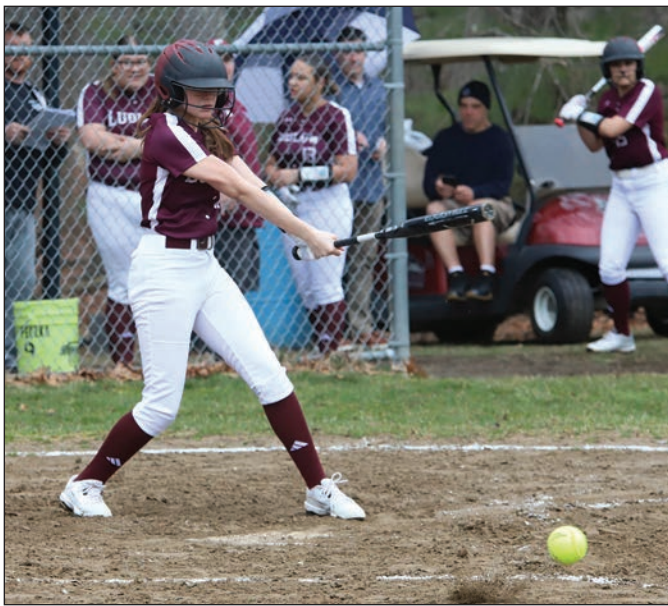
“We now have a 2-0 record, which is huge for us,”

Rocker said. “We finished tied for the league title a couple of years ago. We don’t have any seniors, and it would be very nice to win the league title this year.”

The Lady Orioles, who defeated Springfield Central, 18-9 in their opener, committed four errors in their first meeting of the season against



Abby Monette takes a swing.



Kylie Gregory sends a grounder foul.

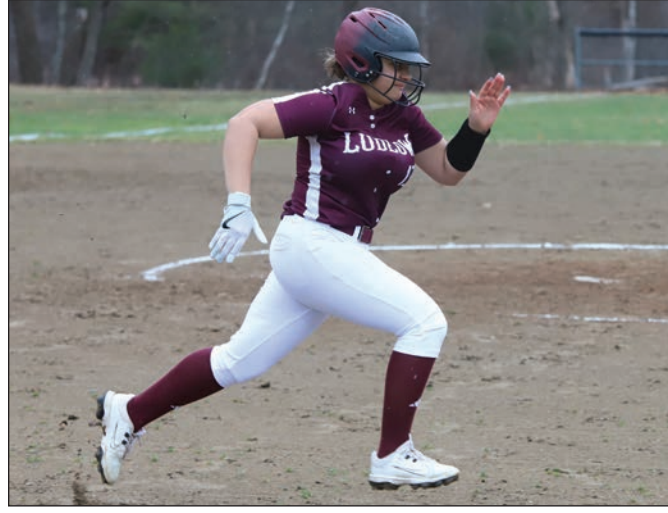
the Lady Lions.

“We struggled during the first six innings,” said Belchertown head coach Mike Lafayette. “We just need to work on a few different things. It’ll probably be a different outcome the next time that we face Ludlow. We battled back in the final inning, and we were a base hit

away from tying the game.”

The last time that Belchertown celebrated a victory on the softball diamond against Ludlow was on May 22, 2019, by the final score of 10-6.

In last Wednesday’s game, the Lady Orioles were trailing the Lady Lions, 9-3, entering the top of the



Marlie Fuentes hustles down the line to beat out a ground ball.

seventh inning.

Junior shortstop Emily Waller and junior leftfielder Sophia Mitus (2-for-3) began the Lady Orioles comeback rally with back-to-back walks against sophomore righthander Olivia Slatton. Sophomore catcher Kina Roy was then hit-by-a-pitch, which loaded the bases.

After Slatton struck out the next batter, senior third baseman Abigail Almeida hit a pop-up single into left field bringing home the first run of the frame.

Almeida, who had two hits in the game, was the Lady Orioles only senior starter.

The Lady Orioles rally continued with sophomore centerfielder Cassidy MacLean drawing a walk scoring another run, which sliced Belchertown’s deficit to 9-5. An infield hit by junior first baseman Kaiya Cavanaugh made the score 9-6.

Following a visit by her head coach, Slatton quickly regrouped and struck out the next two batters with the bas-

es loaded, which ended the game.

Slatton was the winning pitcher despite allowing six runs on ten hits. She walked four and had nine strikeouts.

Belchertown took a 1-0 lead with two outs in the first inning on an infield hit by Almeida.

With two outs in the home half of the inning, Slatton (4-for-5) hit a hard ground ball into left field. After stealing second base, sophomore catcher Madeilyn Goncalves-Korny (3-4) knocked her home with a double down the left field line.

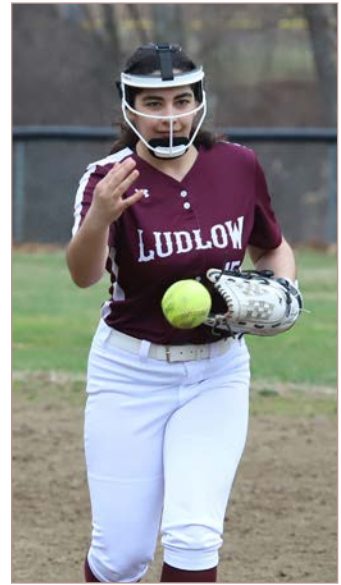
The Lady Lions, who banged out a total of 15 hits against junior righty Lila Roy, took a 3-1 lead for the first time in the second inning. Sophomore first baseman Khloe Davis (2-for-4) brought home the go-ahead run with a double to right and Slatton also had an RBI single.

The top four Ludlow batters went 12-for-18.

Both teams scored a run



Caitlyn Peczkasends a throw back to the infield.



Isabella Leutsch makes a quick flip to first on a ground ball.

lyn Peczkas (3-for-5) in the bottom half of the inning.

The Lady Lions, who almost watched their lead slip away in the seventh inning, will be looking to sweep the season series when they make the short trip to Belchertown High School on April 22.

Boys volleyball falls to Granby



Adam Riley goes backwards to get a return over the net.

GRANBY – Last Wednesday, Ludlow High School boys volleyball engaged in three tough battles with Granby, but the Rams pulled away in the third set, and then had a decided advantage in the fourth set, winning 25-16 and taking the match 3-1 over the Lions. Ludlow fell to 0-2 on the season. Granby improved to 3-1, with 12 kills from Braeden Gallagher and 11 kills from Jake Gagnon, who also achieved 16 assists, including the 1,000th for his career.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Andre Costa sends a set away.



Cooper Champigny sends the ball over the net.

Offense busts out for Ludlow in first win

LUDLOW – The Ludlow High School baseball team picked up its first win of the season in convincing fashion, defeating Mahar Regional High School 11-0. The Lions pounded out 13 hits in the game, with Mason Morace having three of those hits.

Nicholas Dion, Ethan Steigmeyer, and Kellan Steigmeyer had two hits each. Alex Spurlock had a hit and scored twice. On the mound, Ryan Sargeant had a complete game win, allowing just one hit, four walks, and striking out nine hitters.

Ludlow is now 1-1 on the season. Coming up, the Lions will face Amherst on Apr. 9 at 5 p.m. on the road. Coming up, Ludlow will host Monson High School at 4 p.m.



A pair of Lions attempt to make a block.



Jordan Gray goes for a block.



Jake Canoa fires a serve away.

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DATEBOOK

First Church in Ludlow offers popular Victorian Tea Room

LUDLOW – Returning this year, First Church in Ludlow 859 Center St. Ludlow, MA is offering a day of elegance with our popular Victorian Tea Room. Join us on Saturday, May 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a relaxing time with friends and family. Enjoy an elegantly

served variety of teas, finger sandwiches, scones and dainty sweet treats. Prices range from \$3 to \$7 per teapot or variety plate of treats. Cash only, No reservations. Dress casually or fancy with a whimsical hat or fascinator. A photo memory space available to take pictures.

Surprise Mom with a pre-Mother's Day treat! Try your luck with a special raffle. We look forward to seeing you. Call or text 413-237-4062 or message First Church in Ludlow at <https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow> for more information.

Lions Club to hold pancake breakfast

LUDLOW – The Ludlow Lions Club will hold their annual Free Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Polish

American Citizens Club, 355 East Street in Ludlow. There will be free Child Vision Screening, a free Coloring Station and free Pictures with Blu-

ey! 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., you must use your own camera. Many raffle prizes will be available. Open to everyone.

Wilbraham Women's Club Fashion Show April 23

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Women's Club is sponsoring a Fashion Show Luncheon on Thursday, April 23, at the St. Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. Clothing from Chico's in the Longmeadow Shops will be featured. The catered luncheon choices are Salmon with dill sauce or Chicken Francaise.

There will also be a raffle for many prizes and gift certificates. Join us at 11:30 for a social time with hors d'oeuvres followed by lunch at Noon. The donation is \$42 and is a fundraiser for the club's scholarships and charitable donations to needy organizations in the area. For reservations, please

make checks payable to Wilbraham Women's Club and mail to Sue Agnew, 7 Aspen Dr., Wilbraham 01095. For questions, call Sue at 596-9480. Be sure to include meal choice in memo of check. Also, include with whom you wish to sit. Thank you for your support. Deadline to register on April 14.

Do you have a local event or activity to publicize? Please send the information as either a Word doc or plain (no bold text or other formatting) email text (no PDFs, please and do not use all uppercase (i.e. UPPER CASE) by 5 p.m. Friday. At least two weeks prior to the event is encouraged. Send your community events to theregister@turley.com

ONGOING

PLAY CRIBBAGE IN INDIAN ORCHARD - Cribbage players of all ages and ability are welcome to enjoy a fun time with other local cribbage players. Join us at Club #72, "Pegging Fools", Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at St. Gregory Armenian Church, 135 Goodwin St., Indian Orchard. For more information, contact Peter Setian, 413-552-6336.

VOLLEYBALL at E Street School began Sept. 16th at 5:30 p.m. They play Tuesday and Thursdays. Call the Ludlow Senior Center for more information 413-583-3564.

BI-MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE On the first Saturday of each EVEN month (February, April, June, August, October, December) First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St, collects non-perishable foods. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., drive through the back parking lot. We will take your donations out of your car & bring them to the Community Survival Center to be distributed to those in need.

FREE CLOTHING. Every Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m., in the school building located behind Crossway Christian Church, 2230 Main St., Three Rivers. Clothing from baby through adult. Current, seasonal clothes in all sizes. Bags are provided for easy shopping. For more information call Donna, (413)478-0768.

SENIOR BINGO: Hosted by the Indian Orchard Citizens Council 3:30-5 p.m. every Monday. Free to play with great prizes. For more information, call 413-209-8240.

CHESS CLUB: Open to residents of all surrounding communities 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Indian Orchard Citizens Council, 117 Main St. For more information, contact the IOCC at 413-209-8240 or indianorchardcitizenscouncil@gmail.com or stop in during operating hours. Follow the IOCC on Facebook and Instagram.

AQUACISE AT THE CLUB: The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club, at 91 Claudias Way, continues to offer Aquacise throughout the week. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength. Classes are open to all members with pool-inclusive memberships and do not require prior registration. Classes are held 8:30-9:15 a.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For questions, call 413-583-2072, ext. 124.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS: The Michael J. Dias Support Group meets 6-7:15 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Center. Education, resources, peer support, and hope for parents and family members coping with a loved one with a substance use disorder. Anyone needing help is welcome to attend. Masks are required and we will be seated six feet apart. For more information, call Maureen at 413-563-6226.

QUABBIN VALLEY TWIRLERS If you missed the first lessons in the fall, now is the time to give yourself a gift of dancing enjoyment for the coming holiday time. Do you want some exercise, mental acuity, and lots of fun with great people? Try our national folk dance, square dancing with the Quabbin Valley Twirlers. They dance in Belchertown and Ludlow with Sunday and Wednesday evenings available. For more information, call Gloria or Fran at 413-467-3352.

BIBLE STUDY: A weekly Bible study led by Ludlow resident Hank Bastos takes place at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays at 485 East St., Ludlow. Call 413-348-6487 for more information.

SHARE YOUR SIGHT: Volunteer to read, shop or walk with a blind or vision impaired person in your community. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired at 1-888-613-2777 for details.

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QUABBIN VALLEY TWIRLERS If you missed the first lessons in the fall, now is the time to give yourself a gift of dancing enjoyment for the coming holiday time. Do you want some exercise, mental acuity, and lots of fun with great people? Try our national folk dance, square dancing with the Quabbin Valley Twirlers. They dance in Belchertown and Ludlow with Sunday and Wednesday evenings available. For more information, call Gloria or Fran at 413-467-3352.

BIBLE STUDY: A weekly Bible study led by Ludlow resident Hank Bastos takes place at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays at 485 East St., Ludlow. Call 413-348-6487 for more information.

SHARE YOUR SIGHT: Volunteer to read, shop or walk with a blind or vision impaired person in your community. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired at 1-888-613-2777 for details.

FREE CLOTHING. Every Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m., in the school building located behind Crossway Christian Church, 2230 Main St., Three Rivers. Clothing from baby through adult. Current, seasonal clothes in all sizes. Bags are provided for easy shopping. For more information call Donna, (413)478-0768.

SENIOR BINGO: Hosted by the Indian Orchard Citizens Council 3:30-5 p.m. every Monday. Free to play with great prizes. For more information, call 413-209-8240.

CHESS CLUB: Open to residents of all surrounding communities 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Indian Orchard Citizens Council, 117 Main St. For more information, contact the IOCC at 413-209-8240 or indianorchardcitizenscouncil@gmail.com or stop in during operating hours. Follow the IOCC on Facebook and Instagram.

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Congratulations Karly Smith! We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College!



Love, Mom & Dad

Ludlow Elks receives Gratitude Grant

LUDLOW – The Ludlow Elks Lodge #2448 received a \$6,000 Gratitude/Spotlight Grant from the Elks National Foundation. With this grant, the Lodge donated over 661 pounds of food and a check for \$4,500 to the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard.

This brings the total of Ludlow's donation of money to the Community Survival Center to \$20,500 over the past 6 years and \$2,500 of food to the Center.

The Ludlow Lodge is fortunate to be awarded this grant with the help of their members. Thirty-seven percent of people in Massachusetts suffer from food insecurity. According to Cristal Turcotte, Executive Director of the Community Survival Center they served 4,722 people last year.

This is a fabulous community effort on behalf of Lodge #2448.



Submitted photo



Turley photos

Hubbard Memorial patrons waved their "dirt"-y hands and were pleased with the helpful information at the workshop.

LIBRARY from age 1

is about an inch and a half deeper than the working end of your blocker, push the tool firmly into the soil until you reach the bottom of the soil tray. Scrape the excess soil off the blocker and add the soil blocks to another tray. Then, depending on the type of seed and how many to sow, sow a seed into the central depression in each block and cover with the soil.

Once each block is sown, mist the blocks with water and place each tray onto a heat mat and cover to create a warm and humid environment until germination. To note, the cubes must stay moist and never be allowed to dry out and to bottom water them for best hydration and results.

Based on the website fruitseeds.com, seeds for the northeast that are best to start indoors in Apr. are kale and chard, lettuce and mesclun mix, spinach, Asian spinach, tomato, eggplant, and peppers. Borrego also shared a deep dive into how to compost properly,



The soil blocking lets people easily transplant seeds into their garden for the spring and summertime.

seed viability charts, and a reminder to let your garden sleep in before the weather rises above 50 degrees. "Wait to tidy up your old flowers, stems, and plants until spring and until weeks of 50 degrees or above." Remember, pollinators are still sleeping in those plants! For more information and events on the Mass Aggie Seed Library, visit the website.

OBITUARIES

Edward J. Cislak, 91

Edward J. Cislak, 91, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully on March 29 at home with his loving family by his side. Born in Ludlow, he was the son of the late John and Christine Cislak and was a lifelong resident. Edward graduated from Trade High School and was a United States Marine Veteran proudly serving his country from 1953-1957. He worked for many years at Hamilton Standard, Wrona Construction, and for the Ludlow DPW, but will most notably be remembered as the owner of Cislak Paving. Edward was actively involved in the Ludlow community as a faithful communicant of Christ the King Church, a member of the Kiwanis Club, member of the Ludlow Polish Club, also serving as President and on its bingo committee, and as an elected official on the Ludlow Board of Public Works and as the town's tree warden. He was also an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed fishing, hunting, and camping; but above all, he loved his weekly trips to the casino with his wife, as well as spending time with his family and friends, including his best canine friend Willis.



Edward was the beloved husband of 68 years to Jacqueline (Blais) Cislak; a devoted father to Lisa Di-

otalevi and husband John, Tina Perkins and husband Brent, John Cislak, and Tommy Cislak and wife Gina; a dear brother to Phyllis Babineau and the late Ben Cislak; a loving grandfather to Michael Diotalevi, Meghan Domingos, Danny Cislak, Christina Cislak, Gianna Szafarski, Sienna Cislak, and the late Aiden Cislak; a cherished great-grandfather to Addison, Emma, and Blakely Meffen, Bohdi Domingos, and Violet and Juduh Malonado;

and also leaves many loving extended family members, and dear friends. Edward was also predeceased by his cousin Paul Cislak.

In our sadness, we will be forever lifted by the gift of his life; and we will spend the rest of ours trying to live up to his example. We will forever love you.

Funeral services were held on Monday, April 6. Visiting Hours for Edward were held from 8:45-10:15 a.m. at Ludlow Funeral Home with Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. in Christ the King Parish followed by burial in Island Pond Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Edward's memory to Shriners' Hospital for Children, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, or Dakin Humane Society.

DEATH NOTICES

Edward J. Cislak
Died March 29, 2026
Services
April 6, 2026
Ludlow Funeral Home

David Paul Petrolati
Died March 31, 2026
Services
April 11, 2026
Ludlow Funeral Home

The Ludlow 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.

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

David Paul Petrolati

David Paul Petrolati, age 72, passed away peacefully in his childhood home in Ludlow on March 31, 2026 surrounded by his loving family and caretakers. Born in Springfield to Redicento "Jack" and Yolanda (Mei) Petrolati, he was a lifelong Ludlow resident and 1972 graduate of Ludlow High School where he was known as "Petch". Upon graduation, he attended STCC, becoming an auto mechanic like his father, and worked for Hamilton Standard and the Hampden County Sheriff's Department before retiring. David went on to marry his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Karen Mary Bassette, and together they had 2 sons Marc Anthony Petrolati (Stephanie Burek) and Frank Raymond Petrolati (Kathleen O'Brien) who gave them their beloved grandchildren Michael, Frank Jr. Antonio, and Alora Grace, as well as Jordan Gray and Alexis Casseuse. In their early years, David and Karen spent a few

years on Marco Island before returning to Ludlow to raise their sons. David was an avid hunter and fisherman, as well



as a longtime member of the Granby Bow & Hunt Club and especially cherished his time spent with his sons doing archery. Karen predeceased him in 2024 and besides his children and grandchildren, David leaves his sister Adele Vautrain and husband John; as well as several nieces, nephews, additional relatives, and friends.

The family has asked that you join them for a family hosted Celebration of his Life on Saturday, April 11. A funeral mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. in St. Elizabeth Parish followed by a reception at Mills Tavern & Grille in Ludlow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in David's memory to Lustgarten Pancreatic Cancer Research or Charity of One's Choice. In David's own words, he would want us all to "Carry On".

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Holyoke Wilds is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

SEASONAL FACILITIES CREW wanted at Norcross Wildlife Foundation. For a full job description, please visit www.norcrosswildlife.org or email info@norcrosswildlife.org

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535**; or by email to selectmen@northbrookfield.net.

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BUSINESS

John Schelb launches True North Transitions, LLC

Helping Massachusetts families navigate MassHealth Long-Term Care Applications

LUDLOW — John Schelb is proud to announce the launch of True North Transitions, LLC, a Massachusetts-based company dedicated exclusively to providing MassHealth / Medicaid Long-Term Care application support for individuals and families facing the nursing home admission process. True North Transitions serves families across Massachusetts with step-by-step administrative support designed to make a complicated process feel clearer, calmer, and more manageable.

When nursing home care becomes necessary, families are often suddenly faced with complex paperwork, documentation requirements, deadlines, and follow-up requests from MassHealth. According to the company's website, True North Transitions helps clients understand what MassHealth is asking for in plain English, create a personalized document checklist, complete and submit applications, and respond to requests for additional information. The company also coordinates with authorized parties such as family members, powers of attorney, facilities, and elder law attorneys when appropriate.

"Families are often trying to manage an emotional transition while also dealing with a very detailed application process," said John Schelb, founder of True North Transitions. "My goal is to provide clear steps and calm, steady support so families feel less overwhelmed and more confident about what needs to happen next."

True North Transitions offers a free 15-minute clarity call to help families understand their situation, timeline, and next steps. From there, the company provides structured administrative support to help organize documentation and move the MassHealth Long-Term Care application process forward as clearly and accurately as possible.

The company serves families and adult children navigating a nursing home admission, POAs and authorized representatives, nursing home admissions and business office teams, and elder law attorneys in a support role.

With the message "Clear steps. Calm, steady support," True North Transitions was created to bring clarity and structure to one of the most stressful parts of the eldercare journey for Massachusetts families.

For more information or to schedule a free 15-minute clarity call, contact John Schelb at True North Transitions, LLC at 413-250-0510 or email info@TNTeldercare.com on the web at TNTeldercare.com

Fall 2026 Kindergarten registration

LUDLOW—St. John the Baptist School is now accepting applications for students wishing to enroll in the fall of 2026 in Grades K to 8. Children must be 5 years old by September 1st to register for kindergarten.

If you are interested in a Principal's tour of the

school or would like more information, please call us at 583-8550 or go to our website (www.sjbludlow.org) and click on our "Admissions" tab. We can make an SJBS education happen for your family. SJBS School...because God created your child to thrive.

LEGALS

LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SPECIAL PERMIT/HOME OCCUPATION

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Select Board's Conference Room on **Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** on the application of Alex Wurszt of 103 Jerad Drive, Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 41, Parcel 26G) for: **home office for electrical contracting.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, May 14, 2026.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
04/08/2026, 04/15/2026

LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SITE PLAN

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Select Board's Conference Room on **Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 7:15 p.m.** on the application of Michael Sotiropoulos for the property located at **648 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 16B, Parcel 84)** for the purpose of: **proposed 500 SF accessory dwelling unit (ADU).**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, May 14, 2026.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
04/08/2026, 04/15/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD26P0484EA Estate of: James Almeida Date of Death: 12/29/2025 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jeffrey M Almeida of Belchertown, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Jeffrey M Almeida of Belchertown, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative

under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

04/08/2026

Town of Ludlow LEGAL NOTICE

You are hereby notified that a **PUBLIC HEARING** will be held at the Town Hall Select Board's Conference Room, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA 01056 on **Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 5:45 P.M.**

Upon petition of **EVER-SOURCE** to locate poles, wires, cables and fixtures including necessary anchors, guys and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures to be owned and used in common by your petitioners, along and across the following public way or ways.

WEST STREET: to install one (1) 45' fully owned pole on West Street as well as an anchor. The pole will be labeled 223/B30 and located 22' east of the center line and 80' south of the pole 223/B31 in order to run underground wire for the removal of a right of way for a solar panel array. Also, permission for Ever-source to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such pole and buildings as it may desire for distributing purposes.

Manuel Silva, Chairperson
William Rosenblum, Vice Chair
James Gennette
Anthony Alves
Ludlow Select Board
04/01, 04/08/2026

Finance Committee Town of Ludlow Legal Notice

In accordance with Chapter 1, Section 14 of the Town of Ludlow Bylaws, the Finance Com-

mittee has called a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 15th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Select Board's Conference Room, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA to discuss the FY27 Budget.

Chad Mullin, Vice Chairman
Ludlow Finance Committee
04/01, 04/08/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. Probate & Family Court Dept. HD26E0011PP

To **Gary L. Guertin, of Hampden County, and to all other persons interested.**

A petition has been presented to said Court by Jeffrey J. Guertin, of Middlesex County, representing that they hold as joint tenants in an undivided part or share of land lying in Ludlow, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$360,000.00), and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection in said Court at **Springfield** on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **May 19th, 2026.**

Witness, **Claudine T. Stou-demire**, First Justice of said Court, this 23rd day of March 2026.

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register
04/08, 04/15, 04/22/2026

ADVERTISEMENT

The **Wilbraham** Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for Contractors for the Housing Type: **Elderly 667-1** Development for the Wilbraham Housing Authority in Wilbraham Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **N3 Architecture,**

Inc. The Project consists of: **Interior renovations of one apartment unit at 5 Miles Morgan Court, Wilbraham, MA**

The work is estimated to cost **\$ 53,471**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 pm, Wednesday, April 22, 2026** and publicly opened, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at Projectdog.com and received no later than the date & time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 978.499.9014.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates) and made payable to the Wilbraham Housing Authority.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available in electronic form and without cost or charge at Projectdog.com, project code **873508**, beginning Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Persons desiring hard copies of the documents shall be solely responsible for all printing costs.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection between 9:00 A.M. and 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, April 8, 2026.

For an appointment call Tricia Bouchie (413) 543-1700.
04/08/2026

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Church DIRECTORY

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
584 West St., Ludlow
413-583-8454
Sunday services
Sacrament Meeting 10- 11 A.M.
Sunday school for adults,
Young single adults (18-30) and teens (11-18)
1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Classes for Single Adults(18-30)
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -11- 12 noon
Classes for Young Men(11-18)
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon
Classes for Young Women (11-18)
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month - 11-12 noon
Children's classes: Sunday school & singing time every Sunday(3-10) 11- 12 noon
Nursery providedfor ages 18 month- 3 yr

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH
41 Warsaw Ave., Ludlow
413-583-2630
Pastor Rev. Raymond A. Soltys
Saturday Vigil Masses - 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Masses - 7:30 a.m.; 8:45 a.m. (Polish); 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Sunday Evening Mass - 5:30 p.m.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
25 Parker St, Indian Orchard,
413-543-3627
Very Rev. Piotr Calik
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m. —1 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAY
MASS SCHEDULE
Monday 8:00am
Tuesday 8:00am
Wednesday No Mass
Thursday 6:00pm
Friday 6:00pm
Saturday 4:00pm
Sunday 8:30am (English) 10:15am (Polish)
Confessions: Saturday - 3:15-4 p.m.

ST. ELIZABETH PARISH
191 Hubbard St., Ludlow
413-583-3467
Pastor - Rev. Msgr. Homer P. Gosselein
In Residence - Rev. Norman Bolton
Deacons: Normand Grondin, Keith Davies
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Visit our website at www.stelizabethludlow.org
Like us on Facebook Check out our Parish App
Wednesday, April 8 - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C)
Adoration - 8 AM (C),
Holy Mother Choir - 4:30 (C),
Cub Scouts - 6 PM (FLBH),
Bible Study - 6:30 PM (JR)
Thursday, April 9 -Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C),
Knights of Columbus Council Meeting - 6 PM (JR)
Friday, April 10 -Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C)
Saturday, April 11 - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C)
Confessions - 2:30PM (C),
Saturday Vigil Mass - 4 PM (C),
Sunday, April 12 - Sunday Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11 AM, 5 PM (C),
Faith Formation - 10:15 AM (FLBH/S),
Lifeteen - 6 PM - (JR)
Monday, April 13 - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C),
Ladies Auxiliary of Kof C - 1 PM (JR),
Faith Formation - 6 PM (JR),
Women's Bible Study - 6 PM (ER)
Tuesday, April 14 - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C), Middle School Youth Ministry - 3 PM (JR), St. Rita Choir - 4 PM (C), Pasta Supper 4:30 PM (FLBH/K/F)

ORCHARD COVENANT CHURCH
95 Berkshire Street
Indian Orchard, MA 01151
413-543-4204
Revs. Karen and Nick Munn, pastors
Sunday School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.
Worship in person, 11 a.m.
Or watch our livestream.
See our website for more information:
orchardcovenant.org.

STS. PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
45 Newbury St.
Ludlow, MA 01056
Phone: 413-583-2140
Pastor: Father Andriy Krip
Liturgy schedule:
Wednesday 9 a.m., Friday 9 a.m.
Rosary for Peace in Ukraine on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH
438 Winsor St., Ludlow
413-583-2312
Father Pedro DeOlivera
Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses - 9 a.m. (Portuguese); 11 a.m. (English)
Monday and Wednesday Morning Masses - 8:30 a.m. (Portuguese)
Tuesday and Friday Masses - 5:30 p.m. (Portuguese)
Saturday Vigil Mass - 4 p.m. (English)
First Saturday of the Month - 8:30 a.m.
For more information, visit ourladyoffatimaparish.org.

FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL
A Church of the Nazarene
485 East Street, Ludlow
(413) 583-7875
Email: FCCPastorLisa@gmail.com
Lead Pastor: Rev. Lisa Morrison
Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs
Sunday Morning Discipleship Groups meet at 9:45am
Worship service meets at 11am
OTHER MEETINGS
Tuesdays: Zoom Bible Study 7pm
Fridays: After School Club for Children 5pm
AA Group 7pm

FIRST CHURCH IN LUDLOW
859 Center St. Ludlow
413-583-3339
Reverend Darcy Borden, Pastor
Office hours Monday & Wednesday 10 am to 2 pm
Available by appointment at other times
Sunday worship at 10 am alternating weekly with Grace Union Church, Wilbraham
Call or check Facebook or the website for the schedule of worship and events
Service live-streamed at 10 am on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow>
Website: www.ludlowfirst.com

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 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

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.

We are 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



DL&G TREE

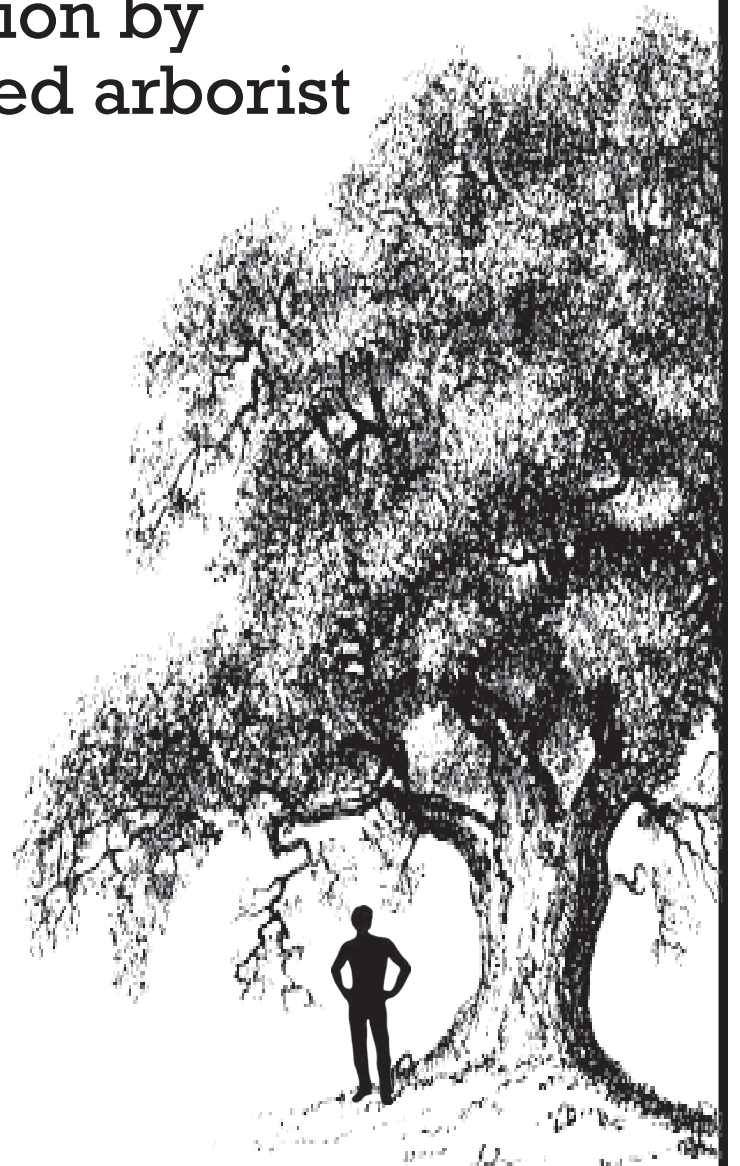


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- Crane Service
- Storm Damage
- Stump Grinding
- Lot Clearing

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