

Back to where it all began

Decorated LHS grad returns to hometown

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – Long before Susan Shatzer became a globally acclaimed speaker, author, and producer, she was a Ludlow student riding her bike with friends through her rural neighborhood.

Now, eager to return home for her 40th high school reunion, Shatzer is reflecting on her childhood journey that set the foundation for lifelong success.

“There’s so much gratefulness—for the childhood I had and for the experiences people gave me,” said Shatzer, who can vividly recall her former home and schools. “My cousins lived four houses down from me, which was wonderful. The land behind us and at the end of the street hadn’t been developed, so it was all woods.”

Growing up in the eighties, Shatzer and her friends knew how to discover the joys of simple activities in their neighborhood. A new adventure seemingly waited around every corner, and local communities remained



A new documentary stars LHS graduate Susan Shatzer.

largely pastoral and quiet. “Our road didn’t have a yellow line down the middle. When another car came along, you slowed down and

moved over to let it pass. My next-door neighbor had a horse, a sheep, and dogs,” Shatzer added. “We had three television stations, rabbit

ears, and you had to get up to change the channel. Life was

Please see **SHATZER**, Page 3

Comedy for a cause

Fundraiser to benefit kids facing food insecurity

By Kevin Flanders
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LUDLOW – Area residents are invited to attend a comedy fundraiser next month to support children facing food insecurity.

As youngsters settle back into another school year, thousands of students across Massachusetts face uncertainty over the source of their next meals. With families crushed by high costs, food insecurity is a growing problem statewide.

According to Feeding America, one in eight children in Massachusetts experiences food insecurity. To help address the expanding need throughout the Commonwealth, Feed the Kids Project will host a Comedy Night fundraiser on Friday, Oct. 16, at Ludlow Country Club.

The event will bring community members together for dinner, laughter, and a night of giving back to kids in need. Proceeds will help area organizations provide meals and food assistance to children across

western Massachusetts. “We know there are children in our communities who rely on these programs to help put food on the table,” said Dr. Frederick Kadushin, who co-chairs Feed the Kids Project. “Comedy Night is a chance for people to enjoy a great evening while making a real difference in the lives of kids in our community.”

The event will benefit several local organizations, including Square One, Holyoke Weekend Backpack Program, Pioneer Valley Power Packs, Franklin County Technical School Food Pantry, and Team No Kid Hungry.

“Every donated item, sponsorship, and ticket purchased helps support children who might otherwise go without,” Kadushin added. “We’re asking the community to help us spread the word and join us for a fun night that will have a lasting impact.”

Organizers invite local businesses and community members to support the fundraiser through sponsorships, raffle and auction donations, or by attending the event.

Sponsorship opportunity

Please see **COMEDY FOR A CAUSE**, Page 5

Local leaders push for changes to SWSC

State Sen. Oliveira spearheads proposed reforms

By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
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REGION – Officials are calling for the passage of reforms that would give area communities a formal voice in governing the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, which oversees a system of services provided to residents throughout the lower Pioneer Valley.

State and local officials are asking that proposed reforms to the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC) appear in the final version of the Mass Ready Act.

The Massachusetts Senate adopted the reforms on April 15 as part of its passage of the Mass Ready Act. The House subsequently passed a different version of the legislation, which is now before a conference committee to negotiate a final bill.

The reforms, championed by State Senator Jake Oliveira through an amendment he filed in the Senate version of the bill, address the longstanding structure in which the SWSC is governed.

Oliveira and his supporters argue that the Commission’s governing board – whose three members are currently appointed by the Mayor of Springfield and confirmed by the Springfield City Council – should include broader representation from area communities served by the Commission.

“For years, communities across our region have been asked to contribute to and rely on this system

without having a seat at the table,” said Sen. Oliveira. “This reform brings fairness and accountability to the Commission by ensuring that governance reflects the regional nature of the system, particularly as we make significant investments in water infrastructure that will shape rates and service for years to come.”

The system serves about 250,000 people across ten communities.

“I fully support the amendment offered by Senator Oliveira.”
State Representative Mike Finn

Under the reforms adopted by the Senate, the Commission’s governing board would expand from three to seven members.

Four board members would be appointed by the Mayor of Springfield, preserving Springfield’s majority representation, while a newly established regional advisory board representing communities served by the system would appoint three members.

The advisory board would include municipal leaders from Ludlow, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Agawam, and West Springfield, as well as representatives from Little River watershed communities.

Additionally, the advisory board would provide surrounding communities with a formal mechanism for participation, oversight, and regional coordination.

Support for changing the Commission’s governance extends across municipal

boundaries and includes state legislators and local officials representing communities served by the system.

“No taxation without representation sparked our country’s independence, but 250 years later residents of Ludlow and across western Massachusetts have been denied this basic American value,” said State Representative Aaron Saunders. “This language guarantees every community that pays into the Water and Sewer Commission gets a seat at the table, while also establishing desperately needed oversight and accountability of the Commission.”

“I fully support the amendment offered by Senator Oliveira,” said State Representative Mike Finn, of West Springfield. “Additionally, this amendment is supported by elected officials in the communities served by the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, who are consistently denied transparency into – or input on – how rates are set or decisions are made at the SWSC. The issues that continue percolating from the current management structure only serve to show that change there is necessary, and should be embraced, rather than lobbied against.”

Area municipal leaders have also expressed strong support for the proposed reforms.

“East Longmeadow ratepayers should not be forced to absorb the costs of decisions made by a commission where their community has no direct voice,” said East Longmeadow Town Councilor James Leydon. “This reform is about fairness, ac-

Please see **SWSC CHANGES**, Page 5



The CARES Coalition table was hard at work, staffed by (from left) Lily Elkhay, Joel Freitas and JoAnn Wrona.

First Church relaunches annual Community Resource Fair

By Marcelo Gusmão
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LUDLOW – This weekend, community departments partnered with the town’s First Church to share public information about health and safety at the annual Community Resource Fair.

On Sept. 19, the community was invited to the First Church on Center Street for the fair, which ran from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Reverend Darcy Borden said that the church had previously held the fair annually, but was seeking to restart the fair after an eight-year hiatus.

“It offers the community resources to help them in different areas,” Borden said. “If they want to volunteer, if they want to support, or if they need to support themselves, things like that.”

Various local agencies participated in the Resource

Fair, including 413 Cares, Brookhaven Hospice, the CARES Coalition, the Community Survival Center, Habitat for Humanity, Hampden-Wilbraham Partners 4 Youth, the Ludlow Health Department, Police Departments from Ludlow and Wilbraham, Scout Troop 1774 and Pack 1774 and Springfield Rescue Mission. Borden described the process to revitalize the program.

“We sent letters and emails out, and we heard back from who you see here,” Borden explained. “My sons are manning a table for two vendors who couldn’t be here today, but they sent information.”

“It’s good for us too to make connections as a church to know that these things are out there to help those in our midst,” Borden said.

The different tables included information about the

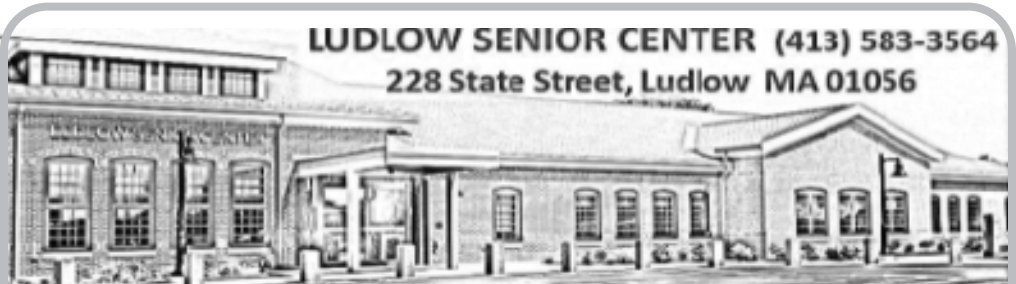
various community resources and how to contact them.

At the Eastern Hampden Shared Public Health Services, Annette Gordon advised people on effective preventative measures, while Dan Kinne informed visitors about the upcoming Scouting events with Troop and Pack 1774.

“I’m here representing the town’s Health Department, as well as some shared services, and I have a bunch of different assortments of resources,” said Erin McMurray at the Mill Towns Public Health table. “We offer sharps disposal and medication disposal, and we offer educational materials. We also have a vaccine clinic coming up at the Veterans Center on Oct. 8 and Oct. 13.”

Though the vaccine clinic is being held at the Veter-

Please see **RESOURCE FAIR**, Page 6



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

Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

LUDLOW – Welcome the cooler weather of autumn while you gather with friends in the Center’s dining room and enjoy a restaurant-style lunch, complete with coffee, tea, and dessert.

To reserve your \$2 lunch, please call 413-583-3564 at least 24 hours in advance (call Friday for Monday reservations).

Stop by on Sept. 25 for SeniorStrong 3.0 and celebrate the Senior Center and direct service providers that support older adults in our community. The event will feature more than 20 exhibitors, snacks, and raffles.

Join us for Oktoberfest from 4–6 p.m. on Sept. 29, when the Oompa Meisters Brass Band brings the sounds of Munich to the Center. Bring your dancing shoes and enjoy traditional brass tunes, New Orleans Street music, and patriotic favorites. Tickets are \$20 per person and include live entertainment and classic Bavarian fare.

For complete program and activity details, and to find out which Tuesday nights Jodi is cooking \$2 suppers, visit our Facebook page, go to ludlow.ma.us/coa, or pick up The Senior Scene, our monthly newsletter, at the Center.

Activities Calendar:
Please register in advance for items marked with*

Thursday, Sept. 24
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10 a.m. Sunshine Painting Class*
10:15 a.m. Meditation*
10:30 a.m. Lazy Carmel Apples
12:45 p.m. Mahjong
2 p.m. Book Club: The Thirteenth Tale/D. Setterfield
2 p.m. Writers Block
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

Friday, Sept. 25
8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
10 a.m. Senior Strong Event
1 p.m. Ceramics
1 p.m. Healthy Bones and Balance*
1 p.m. Forget-Me-Not Circle*

Monday, Sept. 28
9 a.m. Knitting Club
9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
1 p.m. Scrabble
1 p.m. Limitless Legends*
1:15 p.m. Pitch
1:30 p.m. Flex and Core

1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencil Class*

Tuesday, Sept. 29
9 a.m. Quilting
9 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Cribbage
10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga
1 p.m. Swing Your Partner Dance Class
1:30 p.m. Bingo
4 p.m. Oktoberfest!
4:30 p.m. Power Pump
5 p.m. Movie: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

Wednesday, Sept. 30
8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold
9 a.m. Ceramics
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones and Balance*
1 p.m. Healthy Bones and Balance*
1 p.m. Movie: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

Thursday, Oct. 1
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10:15 a.m. Meditation*
12:45 p.m. Mahjong
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga
*Please register for Boomer Boot Camp, Healthy Bones and Balance, 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, Sept. 24: Lazy Chicken Pot Pie
Friday, Sept. 25: Cheese Pizza/Side Salad
Monday, Sept. 28: Open Faced Turkey Sand/Mashed Pot/Vegetable
Tuesday, Sept. 29: Seafood Casserole over Rice/Vegetable
Wednesday, Sept. 30: Chili Cheese Dog/Steak Fries
Thursday, Oct. 1: Sweet and Sour Chicken/Rice/Veggies
Reserve a delicious \$2 lunch by calling a day ahead. Call on Friday to reserve lunch on Monday.
For allergy concerns, call the Senior Center to inquire about ingredients at 413-583-3564.

DATEBOOK

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.

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

ALL MAKES & MODELS CAR SHOW will be presented by the Corvette Club of Western MA on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Chicopee Moose Club, 244 Fuller Road, Chicopee. There will be food, beverages, raffles, trophies and live music provided by The Blue Groove Band. There is a \$20 car entry fee and spectators are free.

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 will begin Sept. 16 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 and December) First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St, collects non-perishable foods. From 10 a.m.-1 p.m., drive through the back parking lot. We will take your donations out of your car and bring them to the Community Survival Center to be distributed to those in need.

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 Monday – Aquacise, 9-9:45 a.m.; Tuesday – Aquajazz, 9-9:30 a.m.; Aquacise,10-10:45 a.m.; Wednesday – Aquacise, 9-9:45 a.m.; Thursday – Aquacise, 10-10:45 a.m. and

Friday – Aquacise, 9-9:45 a.m. For questions, call 413-583-2072, extension 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 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. Call for information about the schedule. 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 888-613-2777 for details.

Ludlow Police make three arrests in armed home invasion

LUDLOW – The Ludlow Police Department arrested and charged three people in connection with an armed home invasion that left a man with a significant head injury last week.

On Thursday, Sept. 10, at approximately 9:30 a.m., the Ludlow Police Department was called to a home on Williams Street for a report of an armed home invasion.

Officers arrived to learn that two men broke into a home on Williams Street and that one of them allegedly pistol-whipped a resident while the other allegedly punched a resident. The suspects then fled the area.

Police were able to obtain descriptions of both suspects and a description of the vehicle that they fled in. Police then used Flock Safety cameras to identify a possible suspect vehicle, which was subsequently stopped by Chicopee Police.

The motor vehicle stop conducted by Chicopee Police led to the discovery of a firearm and several other items believed to be connected to the home invasion in Ludlow.

According to a press release, Ajaia Gladden, age 25, of Three Rivers; Jaila Warren, age 30, of Chicopee; and Shamal Thomas, Age 26, of Springfield were arrested and charged with: Armed Home Invasion; Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon

Armed Assault in a Dwelling; Carrying a Loaded Firearm Without a License; Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device; Leaving a Firearm in a Vehicle; and Breaking and Entering in the Daytime While Armed.

These charges are allegations. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Gladden, Warren and Thomas were taken into custody at the scene of the motor vehicle stop in Chicopee and turned over to Ludlow Police. All three were arraigned on Sept. 11 in Springfield District Court.



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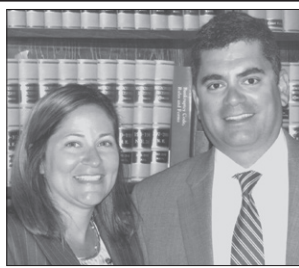
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Submitted photo

Mary Esteves celebrates birthday.

Celebrating 102 at the Ludlow Senior Center

LUDLOW – Longtime Ludlow resident Mary Esteves celebrated her 102nd birthday on Aug. 17 at the Senior Center.

The celebration included her favorite lunch: fruit salad and cottage

cheese.

Executive Director Jocelyn Zepke then treated Mary to a triple-layer strawberry and vanilla cream cake, while Merrill Shepard sang Happy Birthday.

SHATZER from Page 1

much slower than it is now, and I loved it.”

In high school, Shatzer was busy with cheerleading, schoolwork, and community programs. She also served as a lifeguard at Haviland Pond for three years.

Looking ahead to her class reunion in Ludlow, she will embrace a nostalgic journey of revisiting the LHS community.

“So much of my life revolved around that school—my education, cheerleading, committees, fundraising, and the people I spent my days with,” Shatzer said. “Cheerleading was a huge part of my life. I became captain of the varsity squad; the juniors were my co-captains, and we also had junior varsity and freshmen squads.”

Added Shatzer, “We raised enough money that year to buy new uniforms for the varsity team. That meant we could pass the varsity uniforms down to JV – and the JV uniforms down to the freshmen. At the time, we weren’t considered a sport, so there wasn’t a budget for us. We had to make things happen ourselves. It was a great lesson in motivation.”

Shatzer took that lesson, among others, and extended it far beyond graduation. She also learned from many social challenges she faced during her school years, and she hopes her story will inspire today’s youngsters to push through adversity.

“School itself wasn’t easy for me, and I didn’t always feel that I fit in socially. There were cliques, and I remember thinking, ‘Can’t we all just be friends? Why do we have to do this?’” Shatzer recalled. “I experienced bullying and situations

that made me feel wrong for being myself. My perspective on those experiences has changed over time, but they were difficult when I was living through them.”

Carving a unique path

Since graduating in 1986, Shatzer has brought her motivation cultivated in a small town to the biggest cities. No matter the challenge, she has never been afraid to pursue her inspirations.

Much of her work has involved leadership and mentorship projects achieved by tuning into energetic frequency. She has also contributed award-winning pieces across several platforms.

“I started with books. I contributed chapters to 14 number-one bestselling anthologies, some of which also won awards. A publisher in our community would develop a book idea, and if the topic resonated with us, we would write a chapter,” Shatzer said.

“From there, I moved into radio because I felt called to expand my reach. Then came television, including a Webby-nominated global TV series. After television, a movie felt like the next progression.”

Most recently, with her appearance in “Pillars of Power: The Hidden Secret Behind Achieving Greatness,” Shatzer joined a cast that includes Joe Vitale, John Assaraf, Marie Diamond, and Lisa Nichols.

In this documentary, Shatzer appears alongside seven of the original co-stars of the 2006 global phenomenon “The Secret.”

“I had never been in a movie before, and this one was specifically about energy and the work I do. There were so many synchronicities. It felt like one yes after

Designer Bag Bingo Oct. 15

LUDLOW – The Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club will host a Designer Bag Bingo event.

The program will take place on Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Gremio Lusitano Club (385 Winsor Street, Ludlow).

“It’s an evening of fun Bingo and a chance to win all the designer bags you want in your closet,” read a statement released by organizers.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Games start at 7 p.m.

Admission tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Purchase a table of 10 for \$300 (a discounted rate of \$30 per ticket when purchased in advance).

Tickets include 10 Bingo games, a dauber, and a special lucky charm.

A cash bar will be available, and attendees can bring their own snacks or order off of the club’s menu.

Extra Bingo cards will be available for purchase, as well as raffle tickets for a bag-themed raffle of over 30 handbags.

All proceeds will benefit charitable projects in the community.

To secure your tickets, visit WilbrahamJuniorWomens.org.

You may also contact Brenda Willard at 413-279-1394.

Notice of annual meeting

LUDLOW – Notice has been announced for the 76th annual meeting of Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys and Girls Club.

According to the bylaws of the organization, the board of directors hereby gives notice of the annual general meeting of Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys and Girls Club, which will take place on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 5:30 p.m. at Ludlow Country Club (1 Tony Lema Drive).

Board members, ambassadors, volunteers, and donors of the organization are

invited to participate.

To RSVP, please contact Christina Yacono at 413-583-2072 (extension 112).

Agenda for the meeting: report on the activities of the organization in the past year; presentation of the audited annual report for approval; appointment of new directors; and recognition and awards for staff, volunteers, and community.

For more information about the Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys and Girls Club, please visit www.ludlowbgc.org.



Submitted photo

Susan Shatzer is looking forward to her 40th high school reunion.

another,” Shatzer said. “The movie is making its way around the world, and I’m grateful to be part of it – but I feel there is more for me to do.”

Shatzer’s accomplishments have also earned several honors for leadership and service. The Global Ambassador Queen honor through the Mental Health Project recognizes her international impact, compassion, and dedication to inspiring hope and positive change worldwide.

Additionally, she received a Certificate of Recogni-

tion for her commitment to mental health at Legacy Approach’s first annual gala for the City of Ontario, California.

Heading Home

As Shatzer prepares for the Ludlow High School Class of 1986 40th reunion on Sept. 25, she can’t wait to see several faces and places from her youth.

“I also want to drive through my old neighborhood,” Shatzer said. “I believe my longtime next-door neighbor, who was also my godmother at confirmation, still lives there. I’m excited to knock on her door.”

Shatzer is also eager to connect with old classmates who may not be able to attend the reunion.

“I would love to hear from anyone who reads this and feels called to reach out. The best way to find me is by going to SusanShatzer.com and putting yourself on my calendar,” Shatzer said. “I prefer face-to-face conversations to email – it’s much more personal and creates a higher vibration than email.”

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

By Ellenor Downer

Sandhill crane

Someone reported hearing as sandhill crane calling in New Braintree, but did not see it. Recently, someone saw a pair of sandhill cranes in a field on Pleasant Street in Barre. The cranes stayed about a week and then left.

Sandhill Cranes are large birds that live in open habitats, so they're fairly easy to spot. They are gray overall, have red foreheads, white cheeks, a long dark bill and dark legs.

Immature birds have reddish-brown upper parts and gray underparts and lack the red foreheads. This makes it easy to pick out the parents from the youngsters even when they are the same height.

Sandhill cranes make a loud trumpeting call that can be heard for long distances. They are mainly herbivores, but feed on other foods depending on availability. They will feed on berries, small mammals, insects, snails, reptiles and amphibians.

These cranes raise one brood per year. The female lays one to three brownish eggs. Both sexes build the nest using plant material and both incubate and feed the young.

In summer cranes are often seen in small bogs, marshes and prairies across northern North America and the southeastern United States. In winter they form immense flocks in places like Bosque del Apache, New Mexico and Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Texas.

Sandhill crane's call is a loud, rolling, trumpeting sound whose unique tone is a product of anatomy. They have long tracheas that coil into the sternum and help the sound develop a lower pitch and harmonics that add richness.

Sandhill cranes are also known for their dancing skills. Courting cranes stretch their wings, pump their heads, bow, and leap into the air in a graceful and energetic dance.

Many years ago, a Barre resident saw a pair dancing in a field. He said it was a "sight to behold."

Although some start breeding at two years of age, Sandhill cranes may reach the age of seven before breeding. They mate for life, which can mean two decades or more and stay with their mates year-round. Juveniles stick close by their parents for nine or ten months after hatching.

Sandhill crane chicks can leave the nest within 8 hours of hatching and are even capable of swimming.

The oldest sandhill



crane on record was at least 37 years, 3 months old. Originally banded in Florida in 1982, it was found in Wisconsin in 2019.

Scarcity of birds

I received an email from a woman who lives on Lake Lashaway.

She said, "Since Sunday, Aug. 30, they had most days without birds... any type, large or small at our feeders or just in the shrubs or anywhere. All my neighbors have noticed their feeders are full too." One neighbor said he has seen a falcon. She wonders if the falcon has anything to do with the lack of birds.

Several people at the Oakham Senior Center reported, they see only a few birds and the feeders remain full of seeds.

Massachusetts Audubon sighting

This report to the Massachusetts Audubon Society supports the lack of birds. Someone stated, "On Sept. 11 we birded around Hardwick and on Sept. 12 we birded around Warren. Both days were very poor for passerine migration." They also stated, "On both days we only saw 1 species of warbler: common yellowthroat. In general, song birds were in very low numbers and poor variety. And we went to spots that had proven good for migrants in years past. We really worked hard to turn up migrant warblers, and it just was not happening, at least where we were."

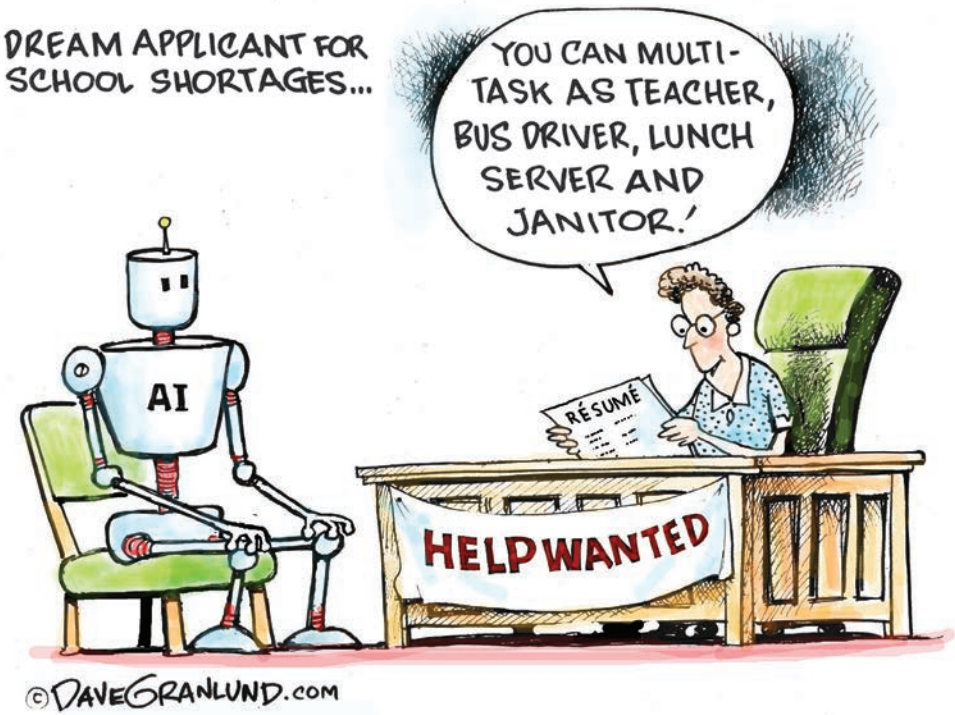
Migrating hawks

The Massachusetts Audubon Society listed migrating hawks spotted on Friday, Sept. 11 at Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham. They included 3 osprey, seven bald eagles, ten sharp-shinned hawks, 131 broad-winged hawks and one merlin.

Canada geese

On Friday, Sept. 4, I saw a large flock of over fifty Canada geese in a field in Spencer. On the same day, I also saw a small flock of wild turkeys and about six Canada geese in field in Barre.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



GUEST COLUMN

Raised beds? Why not!

I have to say that today I am having a hard time thinking of something to write about.

As I scan my mind of all the seasonal gardening topics, I come up blank. Winter squash? Done it. Mums? Ditto. Seed saving. Yup.

So, on this rainy Sunday, I give you all the luck of the draw. I will grab a gardening book off of my shelf, twirl the pages, and where my finger lands, I will expound on the subject. It may not be autumnal, but it will be interesting, I guarantee that.

Here we go...

The book I grabbed from the shelf was "The Dirt Cheap Green Thumb," by Rhonda Massingham Hart. My finger landed on page 189, with the heading "Raise Your Beds, Not Your Expenses."

I have some experience with raised beds. In my home garden I have four rock-edged beds. Prior to that I had beds edged in pine slabs.

My friend uses hemlock edged beds and is happy with them. I envy how neat and orderly they are. Another friend is using galvanized metal beds this year. They seem to be all the rage.

Her tomatoes and peppers continue to produce like gangbusters even late in the season. She has just gotten back into gardening after a two year hiatus and I am proud of her and happy she has been so successful.

Let's begin our chat with some of the advantages of raised bed gardening.

The first one that comes to mind is that you can be selective about the soil you fill it with. I've enjoyed using the Coast of Maine Raised Bed Mix.

Blending loam and aged manure or compost at a 2 to 1 ratio is another option. Additionally, raised beds make it easy to concentrate fertilizers where they are needed.

In large garden plots we often broadcast fertilizers and other amendments throughout the bed. Some inevitably gets wasted in walkways or around hills of plants.

Raised beds can be constructed to suit your needs. I wanted to be able to reach into the middle of my beds from either side, so they are about four feet wide.



Submitted Photo by Dawn Rudnansky

Some gardeners construct them 36 inches wide so there is less of a stretch.

In my four beds, I have a pretty good crop rotation system going. Each crop does a slide to the next bed each year. That way it is four years before onions are grown in the same space.



Another interesting thing I have set up is that onions, for example, follow melons in my rotation. I grow the melons on black plastic. All season long the black plastic is limiting weeds from germinating, so that hopefully next year, the onions, who hate weeds, will see less weed pressure.

Raised beds warm up quicker in the spring, and stay warmer later into the fall. Sometimes the edging material helps with that.

My rock beds, for example, hold heat. So does the metal to some degree.

In mid spring, prior to the frost-free date, raised beds can be easily fitted with hoops on which plastic or polyester row covers can be draped to offer even more frost protection. They can also be covered with the black plastic I mentioned to grow crops like melons or peppers, who appreciate the heat.

With raised beds you will likely never need your rototiller. Beds can effortlessly be turned over by hand from either side. Typically, unless you walk all over them, the soil in the raised beds stays nice and friable, as well.

If I need to get into my beds, say to separate crops, sometimes I will position a plank across the width of the bed, and step on that to disperse my weight, therefore avoiding compaction. Plants always grow better in loose soil.

I almost forgot the obvious! Raised beds are easier to work with. Beds are typically a foot or so tall, sometimes a bit taller.

Bringing out a short stool to the garden and you can comfortably sit and work in the beds. No more long periods of stooping or crouching.

Well, I hope you enjoyed reading this luck of the draw column as much as I did writing it! And if you haven't gardened in a couple of years, give raised beds a try and maybe you will be as fortunate as my friend, with six foot tomato plants still going strong at the end of September!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 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.

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.

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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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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.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Register, please email theregister@turley.com.

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 than 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.

What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library

LUDLOW – To register for programs at the library, visit ludlow.cwmars.org, or call 413-583-3408 (extension 113).

Weather-related announcements for outdoor events will be made on the library’s Facebook page on the morning of the program.

Library Hours are Monday (9–5), Tuesday (9–8), Wednesday (9–5), Thursday (9–8), Friday (9–5), and Saturday (10–2).

The library is closed on Saturdays during the summer, as well as on Sundays and holidays.

The Friends of the Hubbard Memorial Library meet on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

FOR ADULTS

Chair Yoga for Adults: Oct. 10 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Chair Yoga is an accessible and inclusive movement practice that uses standard chairs to support gentle stretching, mindful breathing, and relaxation. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring water. Yoga mats are welcome. Please register.

Birding for Joy and Lifelong Learning: Sept. 26 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Birding is a popular hobby that can be enjoyed nearly anywhere, at any age, and at little or no expense. Learn more about this growing pastime, its benefits, and how to get started in this introductory program presented by members of the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, Massachusetts. Please register.

Creative Writing Group: Oct. 6 from 2-3:30 p.m. Drop in and get some writing done. The facilitator will provide prompts and a quiet space for writing. Please register.

Bats of Massachusetts: Oct. 15 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Ha-lie Larkin, of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, will present a fascinating introduction to the bats in our state. Learn what they eat, where they live, how they echolocate, and the mythology surrounding them, as well as challenges they currently face. A great way to mark Bat Appreciation Month. Please register.

Basic Seed Saving: Oct. 17 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Learn how to collect and use seeds from your own garden at this informative session given by Paulina Borrego, of the Mass Aggie Seed Library. A question-and-answer period will follow. Please register.

Adult Craft Workshop – Day of the Dead Glass Paint-

ing: Oct. 22 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Use a pre-drawn template and glass paint to trace a Day of the Dead skull image onto a framed piece of glass. Workshop taught by Mary Beth Silva. All supplies provided. Please register.

Chair Volleyball for Seniors: every Monday and Thursday at 1:30 p.m. No running or jumping required. Walk-ins are welcome.

Technology appointments are available at the library. Do you 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 (extension 114).

Additionally, the library is 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 (extension 113).

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. To sign up, please visit <https://www.massbook.org/readingchallenge-2>.

Who picked this book? Book Club meeting: first Thursday of the month at 3:30 p.m. Pick up a copy of this month’s book at the circulation desk.

Happy Hour Book Club meeting: last Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Pick up a copy of this month’s book at the circulation desk.

FOR YOUTH

Tween Graphic Novel Group, Thursdays (monthly). Sept. 24 at 5 p.m. For ages 10-14. Please register.

Youth Crochet Club: Tuesdays (biweekly). Sessions are held at 5:30 p.m. Intended for ages 10-17. Please register.

Anime Club: Tuesdays (biweekly). Sessions are held at 3:30 p.m. Intended for middle and high school students. Registration recommended.

Pokemon Club: Wednesdays (biweekly). Sessions run from 3:30-4:45 p.m. For students in grades 3-8. Please register.

Little Sprouts: (weekly on Thursdays). Sessions take

place from 9:45-10:30 a.m. For ages 0-2. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

Grow, Play, and Learn: (weekly on Thursdays). Sessions run from 10:45-11:30 a.m. For ages 3-5. Please register.

Sing With Me sessions are held every Tuesday from 10:30-11 a.m. For children ages 0-5. Feel free to drop in.

Lego Build Challenge: every Wednesday from 12-5 p.m. Feel free to drop in.

Online Gaming/Minecraft Club for young adults: every Thursday from 3:30-5 p.m. For ages 10-15. Drop in, first come first served.

Daily Drop-In Crafts: all ages. DIY crafts available in the Youth Room daily. A new craft is offered each week.

Young Adult Volunteer Program: ongoing. For students in grades 6-12. Volunteer one hour per week in the Youth Room. Please see the library’s website calendar for more information.

Quill the Therapy Dog meet and greet: Thursday, Sept. 25 at 3:45 p.m. For ages 3-8. Please register.

Stuffie Sleepover: Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 6:30 p.m. For ages 3-8. Please register.

Paper Making: Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 4:30 p.m. For elementary aged children. Please register.

Youth chess: Mondays (biweekly). For ages 9-17. Please register.

Math Everywhere: Mondays (weekly). Next program is Sept. 28 at 10 a.m. For ages 2-5. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

MCBA Book Group: Thursdays (monthly). Next event is Oct. 1 at 6 p.m. For youth in grades 4-6. Read, play, snack, and vote. Join us October through March to read MCBA (Massachusetts Children’s Book Award) book nominations and vote for your favorite with all the other youth in the state. Please register.

Epic Engineers: Thursdays (monthly). Next event is Oct. 8 at 5 p.m. For grades 2-5. Hands on STEM challenges. Please register.

Banned Books Scavenger Hunt: Wednesday, Oct. 7 (all day). For youth of all ages. Drop in.

Movie – Hotel Transylvania: Friday, Oct. 9 at 1 p.m. For youth of all ages and families. Drop in.

COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

from Page 1

ties include a VIP package for ten guests, website and social media recognition, reserved table packages for groups, and a corporate sponsor package.

Individual tickets are available at \$45 per person (includes dinner and the comedy show).

The evening will feature entertainment from Funny-Raising Comedy Shows, with doors opening at 6 p.m. Dinner will take place at 6:30 p.m., and the show will begin at 8 p.m.

Feed the Kids is a local nonprofit group consisting of volunteers from throughout the Pioneer Valley who are

committed to ensuring that children in the region don’t go hungry.

Through its annual charity golf tournament and auction, the group raises additional funds to support the local efforts of organizations. These include Square One, Holyoke Weekend Backpack Program, Pioneer Valley Power Packs, and Franklin County Technical School Food Pantry.

To learn more about the group and how you can help local kids in need, visit feedthekidsgolf.com.

Additional information about sponsorship opportunities and tickets can be obtained on the website.

Ludlow Country Club is located at 1 Tony Lema Drive.

KOC sponsors Matinee movie

LUDLOW – The Ludlow Knights of Columbus, Council 3535, is sponsoring a movie matinee on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 1 p.m. in the Pastoral Center.

The selected movie is “To The Top,” the inspiring story of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati. Filmed in Italy, this docudrama chronicles the life and spirituality of the young Italian activist who put his Catholic beliefs into practice to help the poor and downtrodden in his hometown of Turin, Italy. Free admission and free popcorn will be offered.

Knights to sponsor benefit dinner on Oct. 17

REGION – The Wilbraham Knights of Columbus Council 10195 will sponsor a fundraising benefit dinner to support the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard.

The benefit dinner will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 5 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Parish Center (42 Main Street in Wilbraham).

The meal will feature homemade chicken parm and a pasta Italian dinner, complete with a salad, bread, coffee, and cannoli.

The event will include several raffles and musical entertainment, with sing-alongs and a strolling violinist.

Tickets are limited and cost \$20 per person. They

may be purchased by contacting George Reich at: ticketkoc10195@gmail.com. Tickets may be picked up after Mass in the Saint Cecilia rotunda, starting on Sept. 26.

The Community Survival Center helps feed and clothe over 400 individuals each month in Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow, and Indian Orchard.

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SWSC CHANGES

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countability, and basic representation. If our residents are paying into this regional system, they deserve a seat at the table. I’m grateful to Senator Jake Oliveira and Representative Aaron Saunders for their leadership in pushing this long-overdue reform forward and standing up for the communities that have been left out for too long.”

Added Longmeadow Select Board Chair Josh Levine, “The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is a vital regional resource, and Longmeadow residents have a direct stake in its long-term success. We support this legislative change because it provides our community with a seat at the table and a voice in decisions that affect rates, infrastructure, and the future reliability of this essential public resource.”

In addition to expanding regional representation, the Senate proposal would strengthen transparency and accountability by requiring public hearings on proposed budgets and rate changes, of-

ficials said.

The reforms would also establish an independent ombudsperson to analyze finances and advocate for ratepayers.

The push for regional representation comes as the Commission undertakes major capital investments, including the approximately \$363 million West Parish Water Treatment Plant project.

“Projects like the West Parish facility highlight why this reform is necessary,” Oliveira said. “When communities are helping fund critical infrastructure, they deserve a voice in decisions around costs, planning, and long-term priorities.”

The Mass Ready Act is a sweeping environmental bond bill focused on clean water, climate resilience, environmental protection, and infrastructure across Massachusetts.

The Senate passed its version of the legislation in April, and the House passed its version in June. A six-member House-Senate conference committee is now negotiating the differences between the two bills.

“This is a structural change that has been needed for a long time,” Oliveira added. “It ensures that the voices of all communities served by this system are heard, and that decisions are made with greater transparency, accountability, and regional collaboration.”

The SWSC did not respond to requests for comment by press time.

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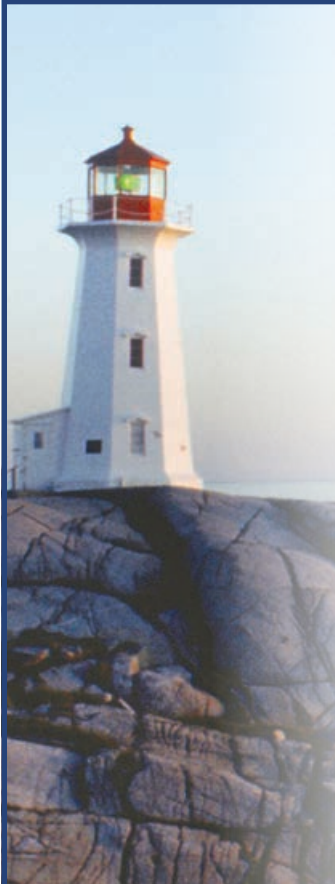
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Crafters wanted for St. Nicholas Craft Fair

LUDLOW – Crafters are wanted for the Rosary Sodality’s St. Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle to be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, at Christ the King Church, located at 41 Warsaw Avenue, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is a non-refundable \$40 fee for an eight-foot table, which will be provided by the church. Light refreshments will be available during the fair. To reserve a table or for more information contact Debbie Martell at 413-547-8739 or Lorraine Bernier at 413-519-7658.

Freedom Credit Union offers free Fall Shred Days

LUDLOW – Freedom Credit Union is giving area residents a free way to safely dispose of sensitive documents this fall as identity theft and financial fraud remain serious concerns across Massachusetts. The Ludlow branch, 645 Center St., will hold a shred day on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9-11 a.m. A shred day will also be held on Saturday, Sept. 26, 1976 Memorial Drive, Chicopee from 9-11 a.m. Residents can bring unwanted paperwork containing personal or financial information, including bills, bank statements, tax returns and other sensitive documents. The shred days are open to the public and free of charge. Each vehicle may bring up to five file boxes or paper shopping bags of documents.

Sept. 26 run/walk to end domestic violence

HOLYOKE – Lace up your sneakers on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Ashley Reservoir, where the community will come together with purpose, and for a sweet finish of cider and donuts. The 5K starts at the Elks Club, 250 Whitney Avenue, with runners starting at 10 a.m. and walkers at 10:05 a.m. A 1.5 mile fun run will also be held. Following the race there will be cider donuts, fresh apple cider, music and community connection. The Alianza 5K: Cider Donut Dash brings people together to raise awareness, support survivors, and help build a future free from domestic violence. Run fast, walk with friends, or bring the whole family to cheer on the community. There’s a place for everyone at the start line (and plenty of donuts waiting at the finish). Held just ahead of October’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month, this event serves as a meaningful kick-off by bringing the community together to show up and stand with survivors. Registration fees now through Sept. 24 are \$45 for adult 5K runners/walkers. Prices increase at 1 a.m. on Sept. 25 to \$55 for adult 5K runners/walkers and \$35 for youth under age 18. Online registration closes at 9 a.m. on Sept. 26. To register, visit www.runreg.com/Alianza. Proceeds support Alianza DV Services, whose programs provide free and confidential advocacy, shelter, prevention, and support services to survivors of domestic violence and their families throughout our region. For more information about Alianza DV Services, visit www.alianzadv.org/.



Victor Strama (left) and Julie Serafini



Police Officers (from left) Isaac Santana, Derek Smolinski and Jhon Wielblad provided information for Karen Robison (right).



Erin McMurray works with Mill Towns Public Health



Dan Kinne told visitors about upcoming Scouting events.

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RESOURCE FAIR,

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ans Center, McMurray said it is not exclusively for veterans, and that anyone interested in getting their flu vaccine is welcome to walk in and receive a 65+ vaccine or a normal flu vaccine.

McMurray said the vaccine clinic will also offer Tdap and RSV vaccines, by appointment.

The church’s Head of Social Outreach, Karen Robison, said that they were satisfied with the turnout at the fair.

“The people that have come are satisfied,” Robison said. “We’ll reach out again at another time, and see if maybe the fair needs to be at a different time of day or a different time of year.”

If you’d like to learn more about what’s going on at the First Church in Ludlow, you can visit its website at LudlowFirst.com, or Facebook page, under “First Church in Ludlow.”



Reverend Darcy Borden of the First Church in Ludlow, UCC.

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Annette Gordon from Eastern Hampden Shared Public Health Services talked to visitors about preventative healthcare.

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Ludlow girls edge Agawam

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— Entering the third week of the regular season, the Ludlow girls' varsity soccer team had a 3-1 overall record and a 2-1 mark against Kurty/Fielding Division opponents.

Junior forward Geia Guzman, who's a second-year member of the varsity squad, played a key role in two of the three Lady Lions victories.

In the first meeting of the regular season against league rival Agawam, Guzman delivered a goal in each half, as the Lady Lions began their home slate with 2-1 victory, last Thursday afternoon.

"It feels really good to score two goals and help my team win a game," said Guzman, who scored only two goals for the varsity team as a sophomore. "I couldn't have done it without the help of my teammates."

Guzman also scored a pair of goals in Ludlow's season opening 2-0 win at South Hadley on September 8.

She was credited with an assist in a 3-2 road loss against Northampton, which was the Lady Lions only setback.

The Brownies (1-4, 1-2),



Geia Guzman attempts a penalty shot.

who haven't beaten the Lady Lions since 2019, lost their fourth consecutive match after beginning the 2026 campaign with a 2-0 non-league victory at Chicopee Comp.

The home side was given a penalty kick by the referees a minute into the opening half following a foul in the box.

Guzman took the PK but Agawam junior goalie Kayleen Sullivan made the save.

"I was shocked when I made the save on the PK be-

cause goalies usually don't make them," said Sullivan, who made a total of nine saves in the road match. "Even though we lost, it was still a very competitive game."

After making the initial save on the PK, the ball slipped away from the Brownies' keeper. Guzman pounced on the rebound and her shot attempt clanged off the right post leaving the contest scoreless.

The Lady Lions had a couple of other scoring

chances during the first twenty minutes of the opening half.

Down at the other end of the field, Ludlow senior goalie Maddy Riley (10 saves) made a save on the Brownies first shot attempt taken by sophomore Grace Curto in the 27th minute.

The Lady Lions took a 1-0 lead seven minutes later when a shot by Guzman slipped past Sullivan into the back of the net.

"I really didn't think I scored on that shot," Guzman



Maeve Carter starts up the field after making a stop on defense.

said. "The ball just bounced into the net."

Senior Maeve Carter was credited with the assist on the Lady Lions first goal.

With a minute remaining in the opening half, the Brownies tied the score following a free kick goal. The kick was taken by junior Gaby Ramos and sophomore Olivia Izzo put a shot into the net for her first goal of the season.

The match was tied 1-1 at halftime.

The Lady Lions retook the lead eight minutes into the second half.

The scoring play began with a long punt by Riley. Guzman gained possession



Sydney Pereira clears the ball out of Ludlow's end.

of the loose ball before lining a shot into the back of the net.

"Maddy always does a very good job punting the ball down the field," Guzman said. "I'm very glad that I was able to score another game winning goal."

Seconds after the field lights clicked on during the 62nd minute, Agawam freshman Mackenzie Lynch lofted a shot from about 25 yards out. Riley managed to knock the ball over the crossbar resulting in a corner kick and keeping the one goal lead.

Ten minutes later, Agawam sophomore Mena Stellato fired a shot attempt from the right sideline that skipped

Please see **LUDLOW GIRLS**, Page 8



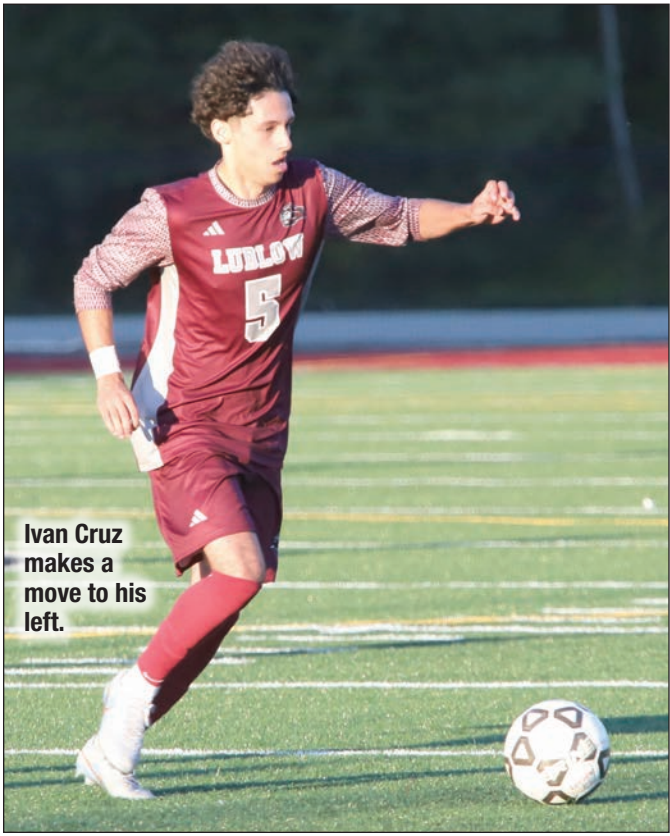
Mason Shute tries to power through an opponent.

Lions roar back in second half, earn tie

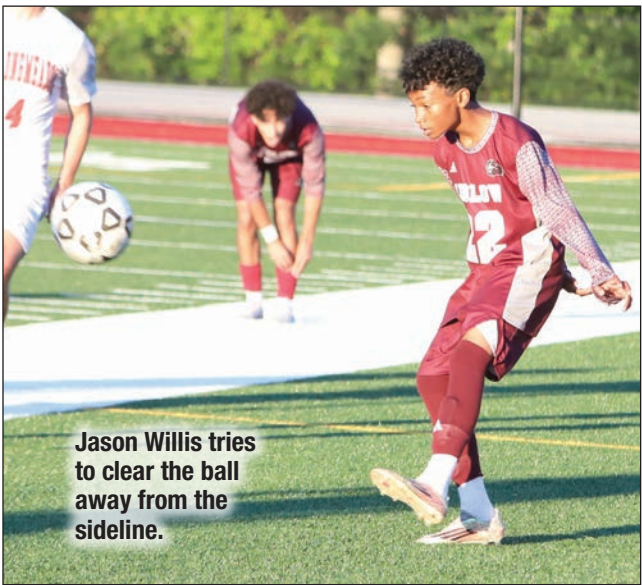
LUDLOW – Last Monday night, the Lions boys soccer team allowed a pair of goals in the first half and trailed. Ludlow would then come back with three goals in the second half and fin-

ished in a 3-3 draw with East Longmeadow.

Alex Linna had two goals for the Lions while Evan Dias scored the other. Ludlow is now 2-1-1 on the season.



Ivan Cruz makes a move to his left.



Jason Willis tries to clear the ball away from the sideline.



Luke Stejna makes a quick pass.



Darren Lambert looks to settle the ball.



Nicholas Falcetti goes after the ball for a save.

Lions sweep opening meet

LUDLOW – The Ludlow High School cross country teams swept their opening meet held at Ludlow High School on Sept. 8.

For the boys, Ludlow defeated both Central and SICS. Tyler Tatrow was the overall winner of the meet with a finish of 17:54. Jakub Bulatweicz was third at 18:26, Liam DeGobbi was fourth at 19:32, and Rafael

Ferreira rounded out the top five at 21:01.

On the girls side, the Lions also defeated Central and SICS with Alexandra Tomaszewski winning the race overall at 26:50. Avelin Sargent was second for Ludlow at 27:59. Tierney Stratton had a 28:11 finish, and Alannah Saloio came in not far behind for fourth place at 28:21.

Owls football gets first win

WESTFIELD — Westfield State University football rolled up 463 yards of offense and got a pair of long TD receptions from electric first-year receiver Malachi Hymes (E. Hartford, Conn./East Hartford) as the Owls downed Dean College, 26-8 at Alumni Field on Westfield State's Family and Champions Weekend.

Westfield improves its record to 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, while Dean is now 0-3 and 0-2 MASCAC.

Hymes finished with four catches for 166 yards and touchdowns of 61 and 46 yards. His day could have been bigger as a reverse that looked like a 89-yard score was called back by a penalty, and later he stepped out of bounds while avoiding a tackle on 53-yard reception that initially looked like a 73-yard score.

Westfield opened the scoring with a 1-yard TD plunge from QB Quinn Sumner (Dayville, Conn./Killingly), who finished 6-11 passing for 180 yards and the two TD tosses to Hymes.

Hymes caught a go route down the left side for the 61 yarder, out sprinting the full defense, then out-leaped his defender around the five-yard line to with the ball on the 46-yard grab before waltzing into the endzone.

Westfield set up the big passing plays with the run as sophomore fullback Manny Mengata (Tewksbury, Mass.) battered the Bulldogs for 136 yards on 18 carries, and Cole

Ingham (Agawam, Mass.) added 69 yards on five carries.

Westfield senior PK Andrew Currier (Attleboro, Mass./Foxboro HS) booted a pair of 33-yard field goals and a pair of extra points to account for the final score.

Dean's lone TD of the game came midway through the second quarter on a 12-yard touchdown pass from Chris Donahue to Yasir Moses. The Bulldogs tried to feature a short passing attack with Donahue connecting on 32 of 45 attempts for 186 yards with one TD and one INT. His longest completion of the day went for 12 yards.

The Bulldogs totaled just 33 yards rushing. Tay Scholtz finished with nine catches for 75 yards and seven catches for 62 yards.

Westfield's defense bent but rarely broke, allowing 219 total yards on the day. The Owls sacked Donahue eight times for a loss of 61 yards.

LB Aydan Verba (Albany, NY/Colonia Central) led the Owls with eight tackles and 2.5 sacks. Tedi Hunt (Littleton, Mass.) made eight stops and had 2.5 TFLs. Eight different players had a hand in the sack column. First-year Caedan Burns (N. Grafton, Mass.) picked off the Bulldogs late to help seal the win. Colin Brady and Herman Esquivel Menzdez led the Bulldogs with eight stops each.

Westfield State will travel to Worcester State for a conference matchup next Saturday, Sept. 26 with a 1 p.m. kickoff at Alumni Field.



Valentina Molinari eyes a teammate up the field.

LUDLOW GIRLS from Page 7

wide of the net.

While the scoreboard clock ran for whole 40 minutes in the first half, the referees had the clock turned off with three minutes remaining in regulation.

Sullivan prefers the clock to keep running throughout the entire match.

“It was very stressful when they stopped the clock late in the second half,” Sullivan said. “I like to break-down the game in ten minute segments. I had no idea how much time was left when the turned off the clock.”

Sullivan made a save during the final minutes, but her teammates couldn’t score the tying goal.



Madelyn Riley makes a save.

The second meeting of the regular season between the two squads is scheduled to take place at Agawam High School at 6pm on October 8.

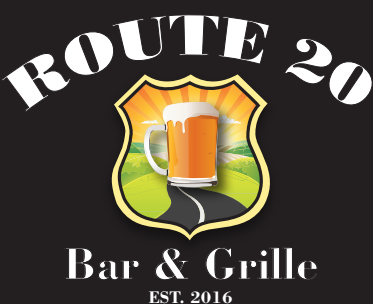


Lennox Schuko tries to stop her opponent's progress.



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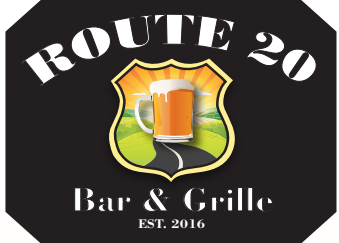
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OBITUARIES

Barbara E. Abair, “Barb,” 82

Barbara E. Abair, “Barb,” 82, of Ludlow, MA, passed away on September 6, 2026, after an illness. Barb was born in Springfield, MA and was a lifelong resident of Ludlow, MA.



Barb loved the outdoors – camping, fishing, and going to the beach. Barb’s other love was playing the lottery and going to the casino. Barb loved walking to the store near her house and was a customer for decades. Barb was sweet, kind, and always had a funny story or a kind word for everyone she met.

Barb is predeceased by her late husband Richard L. Abair, Sr., her daughters Karen Abair, and Kimber-

ly Dominique. Barb is the daughter of Howard C. Fay and Virginia M. (Warner). She leaves behind her partner of 39 years Ronald P. Jalbert, her son Richard L. Abair, Jr, wife Gail, her daughters Kathleen Higgins, husband Steven, Kristen Noyes and partner Jason.

Barb is the grandmother of 12 and great grandmother of 14. She was truly loved and will be missed by her entire family and all that knew her.

In lieu of flowers, a go-fundme can be found on Facebook for Barbara’s final wishes.

A celebration of life will be held at Tony and Penny’s in Ludlow on September 27 at 1 p.m.

Cynthia Machado Saleh

Cynthia “Cindy” Machado Saleh, 77, of Ludlow, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on September 18, 2026 at home – the date that would have marked the 106th birthday of her beloved father, Peter Machado.

A lifelong resident of Ludlow, Cindy was proud to call the community home for all 77 years of her life. She was a woman of remarkable strength who worked hard, loved deeply, and embraced life in her own way.

For more than 57 years, Cindy was a talented and devoted hairdresser. As a self-employed professional, she took great pride in her work and in the relationships she formed with her clients and employees. To Cindy, doing hair was never simply a job. It was part of her identity, a source of independence, and one of the many ways she connected with people. Even at 77, she was not ready to stop. She continued doing hair as recently as March of this year – a testament to her remarkable work ethic, strength, and determination.

But to those who knew her best, Cindy was so much more than a hairdresser. She was Mom. She was Grandma. She was a daughter, sister, cousin, aunt, and friend.

Her greatest joy was her family. She leaves behind her children, Nadia Saleh Dorval and Launa Saleh, and her beloved grandchildren, Kylah, Amira, and Camila Dorval. She also leaves behind her son-in-law, Michael Dorval, her granddog Torah, along with countless nieces and nephews, cousins, friends, and extended family members who loved her dearly.

Being a grandmother was a special part of Cindy’s life. Her grandchildren brought her a unique kind of joy, and she cherished watching them grow.

Cindy knew how to enjoy life. She loved going to the casino, spending time with friends at the Polish Club in Ludlow, volunteering at bingo, and enjoying good company. Cindy volunteered for the Veterans of American Wars and the Ludlow 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee. She loved being around people and appreciated a good conversation, a good laugh, and time spent with those she cared about.

Her Catholic faith was also an important part of

who she was. Cindy was a parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima Church, and her faith remained a meaningful part of her life.

Cindy was predeceased by her beloved parents, Ida Rodrigues Machado and Peter Machado; her brother, Paul Machado; and her son, Jeffrey Michael Stepanian.

Visitation for Cindy will be held on Wednesday evening, September 23rd from 5-7 p.m. at the Ludlow Funeral Home. Her Funeral Mass will take place on Thursday the 24th and friends and family are asked to gather directly at Our Lady of Fatima Church for an 11 a.m. Liturgy of Christian Burial.

Following mass, a funeral procession will commence to St. Aloysius Cemetery. The family is grateful for the love, prayers and support extended to them during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Cindy’s memory to the Angelman Syndrome Foundation. Donations may be sent to: Angelman Syndrome Foundation 3015 E. New York Street, Suite A2 #285 Aurora, IL 60504.

DEATH NOTICES

Abair, Barbara E. (Fay)
Died Sept. 6, 2026
Services
Sept. 27, 2026
Tony and Penny’s
in Ludlow

Saleh, Cynthia M.
Died Sept. 18, 2026
Services
Sept. 23, 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.

Car show to be held on Oct. 3

CHICOPEE – The All Makes and Models Car Show will take place on Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Chicopee Moose Club (244 Fuller Road, Chicopee).

Come on out and bring your classic to the annual show presented by the Cor-

vette Club of Western MA.

The event will include food, beverages, raffles, trophies, and live music provided by The Blue Groove Band. The entry fee is \$20 per car. Spectators may attend for free.

Cookbook Club held at WPL

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Public Library Cookbook Club is meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 6:30 p.m.

This month’s selection is “Martha: 100 Favorite Recipes,” by Martha Stewart.

Please let the library know what you’re bringing when registering so we do

not duplicate recipes. Cooking is encouraged but not required for attendance. Copies of the book are available now at the Service Desk.

The Cookbook Club meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m. This program is free and open to the public, and registration is required. 596-6141.

Freedom Credit Union collecting donations for Alzheimer’s Association

SPRINGFIELD – Freedom Credit Union is collecting donations throughout September to support the Alzheimer’s Association and its efforts to advance research, promote risk reduc-

tion and early detection and provide care and support for people living with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

Donations can be made at all Freedom Credit Union

branches throughout the month of September. The campaign gives all community members an opportunity to support individuals and families affected by Alzheimer’s and dementia.

The Alzheimer’s Association leads efforts to end Alzheimer’s and all other dementia by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection and maximizing quality care and support.

Freedom Credit Union encourages members and the community to stop by any branch throughout September to make a donation. Branches are located in Chicopee, Feeding Hills, Greenfield, Ludlow, Northampton, Turners Falls, West Springfield and two in Springfield, as well as a Loan Production Office in Enfield, Connecticut.

For more information, visit freedom.coop.

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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. Gosselin
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, Sept. 23: Daily Mass – 7:30 a.m.
(C), Holy Mother Choir – 4:30 p.m. (C), Bible Study – 6:30 p.m. (JR), Pack 180 meeting – 6:30 p.m. (FLBH/K).
Thursday, Sept. 24: Daily Mass – 7:30 a.m. (C), Adoration – 6:30 p.m. (C).
Friday, Sept. 25: Daily Mass – 7:30 a.m. (C).
Saturday, Sept. 26: Men’s Ministry – 7:30 a.m. (JR), K of C movie 1 p.m. (FLBH/K), Confessions – 2:30 p.m. (C), Saturday Vigil Mass 4 p.m. (C).
Sunday, Sept. 27: Sunday Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m. (C), Faith Formation pre-K through grade 2 – 10:15 a.m. (JR/ER/ZR/F), Lifeteen – 6 p.m. (JR).
Monday, Sept. 28: Daily Mass – 7:30 a.m. (C), Faith Formation grades 3-5 – 4:30 p.m. (JR), Faith Formation grades 6-8 – 6:30 p.m. (JR), Women’s Bible Study – 6:15 p.m. (ER).
Tuesday, Sept. 29: Daily Mass – 7:30 a.m. (C), Middle School Youth Ministry – 3:30 p.m. (JR), St. Rita Choir rehearsal – 6:30 p.m. (C).

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 office
Office hours Monday & Wednesday 10 am to 2 pm
Reverend Darcy Borden, Pastor
413-285-3069
Call her at other times to make an appointment
Sunday Worship at 10 am alternating weekly with Grace Union Church, Wilbraham
Check our Facebook page or website for the schedule of worship and events
<https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow>
Website: www.ludlowfirst.com



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