

**WYNAW-1230 1230 AM**  
**North Adams, Massachusetts**

**ISSUES A      NEEDS REPORT**

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JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH  
2016

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Gamma Broadcasting 2016

# WNAW - 1230 AM

North Adams, Massachusetts

## ISSUES AND NEEDS REPORT

JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH

COMMUNITY ISSUES IN THE 4TH QUARTER OF 2016

What were some of the issues in our community? Read on.

**DOWNING DECIDES TO NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION AFTER 10 YEARS:**

State Senator Ben Downing kept a promise he made to himself when he took office... and that was to not serve more than 10 years. He announced in January that he would not be seeking re-election. This started a whole slew of rumors and actual potential candidates coming out to consider running for the seat, including several sitting State Representatives. Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Adams Hines was the first to announce a run for Downing's senate seat.

**LONG-TIME NORTH ADAMS' SCHOOLS SUPER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT:**

North Adams Public Schools Superintendent James Montepare announced his retirement at a School Committee meeting in January. Montepare, who has served as the district's superintendent since his appointment in 2003, was employed in the district for more than four decades.

**MCLA HIRES NEW PRESENTENT:**

The Board of Higher Education voted in January to approve the new leader of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. The new MCLA President, Lee native James Birge, was previously the president of Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, N.H.

**PRICE CHOPPER IN NORTH ADAMS TO CLOSE:**

The Price Chopper on State Road in North Adams announced it would close by the end of February, putting some 57 mostly part-time employees out of work. Employees were informed that the nearly 60-year-old supermarket would close on February 27th.

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**NEWS**

**This is a sample of news copy presented on the air during a normal broadcast day.**

**The Berkshire News Network provides extensive and rounded coverage of stories throughout Berkshire County. Stories are shared between stations on a routine basis.**

**Gamma Broadcasting 2016**

NA 01-05-16

#### **NORTH ADAMS SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT JAMES MONTPARE TO ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT (NA)**

North Adams Public Schools Superintendent James Montepare will announce his upcoming retirement at a School Committee meeting today. The Berkshire Eagle is reporting that Montepare, who has served as the district's superintendent since his appointment in 2003, has been employed in the district for more than four decades. The timeline of his retirement was not immediately clear yesterday, and he declined to speak with the media until after the School Committee's meeting.

#### **COLEGROVE PARK ELEMENTARY WELCOMES STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL (NA)**

After about four years of vacancy and more than a year of an extensive \$30 million renovation project, about 340 elementary school students and about 80 faculty and staff attended their first day of school at Colegrove Park Elementary School in North Adams yesterday. North Adams Mayor Dick Alcombright says that the first day at the new school went well.

#### **ADAMS-CHESHIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IMPROVING (NA)**

Both Adams-Cheshire Regional School District elementary schools have seen increased standardized test scores. IBerkshires.com reports that last month, Superintendent Kristen Gordon was notified that Cheshire Elementary School moved from a Level 3 on the state's accountability rankings to a Level 2. In a press release, Gordon added that over the past few years, staff has been increasing efforts to raise standardized test scores. Although C.T. Plunkett received no level increase this year, Gordon reported that Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test scores have risen, including an 86 percent increase in fifth-graders scoring proficient or advanced in English language arts. The district as a whole remains at Level 3 because districts are leveled by their lowest performing school.

#### **NORTH ADAMS SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE'S MISSION FULFILLED (NA)**

After more than three years, the School Building Committee in North Adams adjourned last night from what may have been its final meeting. IBerkshires.com reports that its charge had been to shepherd an elementary school project, a mission essentially completed with the opening on Monday morning of Colegrove Park Elementary School." The process really began in 2009 with the closure of Conte Middle School; eighth-graders were sent to Drury High School and Grades 6 and 7 to the three elementary schools, causing overcrowding and space issues.

#### **WOULD-BE BERKSHIRE PROVIDER OF MEDICINAL MARIJUANA UNFAZED BY LEGALIZATION PUSH (All)**

A nonprofit group seeking state licenses for up to three medical marijuana facilities in the Berkshires is unconcerned that the proposed legalization of the drug might render such operations financially unsustainable. The Berkshire Eagle reports that according to Julia Germaine, a principal in Manna Wellness Inc., if recreational marijuana is legalized through an initiative on the 2016 state ballot, it shouldn't negatively impact her group's plans. She says rather that a section in the initiative gives an advantage to groups that have been involved in the lengthy state Department of Public Health licensing process for medical marijuana. Use of the drug for that purpose was legalized through a referendum on the 2012 state ballot, but only a small group of nonprofits have yet been fully license.

**NA 01-07-16**

**ADAMS SELECTMEN REACH COMPROMISE ON EMERGENCY DISPATCH REGIONALIZATION (NA)**

The Adams Board of Selectmen reached a compromise yesterday that will allow the town to regionalize its emergency dispatch services while still retaining two of its three full-time dispatchers. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the 25-year agreement, passed by a four-to-one vote of the board, will result in the town joining the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Center for its emergency communication and dispatch services. The transition is not immediate and is contingent on the town winning a grant to pay for it. The estimated savings to the town will be at least \$95,000 annually, according to Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco.

**MACY'S AT THE BERKSHIRE MALL WILL CLOSE (ALL)**

There is more bad news for the Berkshire Mall in Lanesborough with the closure of another anchor retail store. Macy's has announced that it will close its Berkshire Mall location in the next couple months. The store announced yesterday that it is closing 40 stores across the country and is cutting up to 4,800 jobs after disappointing holiday sales. Local employees were told on Wednesday that the store would close after nine years and that the formal announcement would come today. Macy's, with nearly 800 locations, is the largest department store by sales in the nation. But it's been battered over the last year by dropping sales and declining foot traffic at malls. The local closing comes after another major anchor store in the mall, Best Buy, closed at the end of October.

**SEARCH BEGINS TO REPLACE MONTAPARE (NA)**

The School Committee has begun the process of searching for a replacement for Superintendent James Montepare, who formally announced his retirement on Tuesday. The Berkshire Eagle reports that Montepare, who has 41 years of service in the district, will retire April 1st. The committee expects to have a replacement appointed by March 24 and have that person start work on July 1st.

**NORTH ADAMS ARTS COMMISSION LEARNING RESPONSIBILITIES (NA)**

The newly established Public Arts Commission in North Adams is feeling out its role as advocate and arbiter for public art displays. IBerkshires.com reports that the commission held its first meeting recently to review its establishing language and consider its next steps. Erica Manville was elected as chairman. The commission was created by the City Council at the request of Mayor Richard Alcombright, who had found himself making decisions on public art displays.

**ASBESTOS REMOVAL UNDERWAY AT WILLIAMSTOWN MOBILE HOME PARK (NA)**

Asbestos abatement is underway at the Spruces Mobile Home Park on Route 2 in Williamstown, which is scheduled to be fully decommissioned this year. IBerkshires.com reports that workers in hazardous material protective gear began work this week on the former recreation and apartment buildings in the community, which suffered severe flooding during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. The town acquired the park in 2014. The apartment building already has been torn down, and the recreation building will be demolished in the coming days, according to officials.

**NA 01-12-16**

**NORTH ADAMS XTRA MART VICTIMS OF UNARMED ROBBERY (NA)**

North Adams Police reported an unarmed robbery at the Xtra Mart on Ashland Street around 6:30 p.m. yesterday, in which a man snatched cash out of a clerk's hand and fled. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the man was described as 5 foot 10 inches to 5 foot 11 tall, with a scruffy appearance and wearing a brown baseball cap, brown Carhartt jacket and jeans. Anyone with information should call the police department.

**STRING OF ARMED ROBBERIES IN BENNINGTON (NA)**

The town of Bennington is reeling from a string of armed robberies, three since Friday night. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the first in the recent spate occurred Friday at the Subway Sandwich Shop on North Street. According to Bennington Police, someone entered the restaurant, pointed a gun at the two employees there, and demanded money. This was followed by an armed robbery at Paulin's, a gas station and laundromat, in North Bennington. Just before 7 p.m. someone entered that store waving a gun at the clerk, then fled on foot after taking cash from the register. Early yesterday, two employees of Martin's Mobil Mini Mart were robbed at gunpoint by two men while making a night deposit at a local bank.

**NORTH ADAMS MAYOR TO REQUEST TAX DEBATE DELAY (NA)**

North Adams Mayor Richard Alcombright is expected to request a postponement of debate today over a special tax agreement for the developers of the Greylock Mill. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the planned five-year tax deal with Greylock Mill developer Latent Productions was set to be heard by the City Council today, but Alcombright will ask that it hold off on a vote until the proposal is revised. Deviating from the original proposal announced last week, Alcombright said the developer will now ask for a longer timeline to fulfill its \$18 million investment in the mill.

**WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTMEN DISCUSS SAFETY OF MAIN STREET INTERSECTION (NA)**

The Board of Selectmen in Williamstown yesterday heard concerns about the safety of a Main Street intersection. |Berkshires.com reports that David Armet, who was injured in an accident at the corner of Main Street and Colonial Avenue, told the board that the site has issues that the town should address, possibly along with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. Armet was traveling west on his motorized scooter on Main Street when he was struck by a car pulling out of the side road. He told the Selectmen he returned to the intersection to look at it from the perspective of drivers coming from Colonial Avenue and determined that road elevation and obstructions combine to create a blind spot for motorists.

**NORTH ADAMS MAN ACQUITTED OF ASSAULT CHARGES (NA)**

A North Adams man accused of assaulting a woman several times has been acquitted on all charges. 31 year old Scott Kennedy was found not guilty yesterday on charges of assault and battery on a pregnant person and related assault charges. Jurors deliberated for about three hours yesterday after four days of testimony. Prosecutors alleged that Kennedy had engaged in a pattern of assaultive behavior against the same woman in incidents in April, March and September of last year.



**NA 01-21-16**

**BERKSHIRES, SOUTHERN VT. MAY SEE GLANCING BLOW FROM STORM (All)**

The first major winter storm of the season in the Northeast region is expected to hit the coast from New York City to Washington, D.C., this weekend. The Berkshire Eagle reports that for the Berkshires and southern Vermont, it could be a near-miss, according to a consensus of government and private forecasters. AccuWeather.com is forecasting only an inch or two of snow for Berkshire County on Saturday — a bit more south of the MassPike, a bit less north of Pittsfield. Southern Vermont is expected to see less than an inch in Bennington County, and about an inch in Windham County, which includes Brattleboro. If that is indeed the case, the area will continue far below normal for winter season snowfall thus far.

**NORTH ADAMS TRAFFIC COMMISSION REJECTS REQUEST TO MODIFY PARKING BAN (NA)**

The North Adams Traffic Commission yesterday dismissed a request from a resident to change the winter parking ban, saying it would open up a "Pandora's box" of problems. IBerkshires.com reports that Aleksandr Lisser of Veazie Street had requested the City Council revise parking regulations banning night parking on the street from Nov. 1st to April 31st because his home did not have off-street parking. The Traffic Commission noted that Lisser had purchased the house knowing that parking was an issue.

**BMC ADDS OBSERVATION BEDS TO SATELLITE EMERGENCY FACILITY IN NORTH ADAMS (NA)**

Berkshire Medical Center is adding two observation beds to its Satellite Emergency Facility in North Adams, which could potentially help avoid the need for inpatient care in some cases. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the additional beds will be used for monitoring patients with potentially serious illnesses for 12 to 16 hours before deciding whether to discharge or transfer them to Pittsfield. The two new beds will only be used for certain conditions and the emergency department doctor will decide whether or not to keep a patient in North Adams for observation, based on the severity of their condition.

**STATE APPROVES JAMES BIRGE AS MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS PRESIDENT (NA)**

The Board of Higher Education voted Tuesday to approve the new leader of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. The new MCLA President, Lee native James Birge, was previously the president of Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, N.H., and the interim president at Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, W.Va. Birge, who has agreed to a contract with the college and will start his new position as the school's 12th president on March 1st.

**FARLEY-BOUVIER PUSHING BILL TO AID RAPE VICTIMS (All)**

Third Berkshire State Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier is pushing a new bill that she says will aid rape victims. IBerkshires.com reports that according to Farley-Bouvier, 20 percent of victims who report the crime regret they did so because of the way they are treated in the justice system. She is pushing a bill in the State House to provide consistency across the state in how rape cases are handled. The bill received a hearing on the Judiciary Committee last Wednesday and the Pittsfield Democrat is hoping it'll make it to the legislative floor by the end of the year.

**NA 01-22-16**

### **STORM SHOULD GO EASY ON THE BERKSHIRES (All)**

The massive snow storm that is going to hit the Northeast Region beginning tomorrow is still, according to forecasters, looking like a near miss for the Berkshires. Most forecasts say that we will see some light snow starting tomorrow night sometime. Other places, such as New York City and Washington, D.C., are not going to be so lucky. The forecast in Washington D.C., according to the National Weather Service, is calling for up to two-feet of snow accumulations.

### **ADAMS WILL AGAIN SEEK FUNDING FOR MEMORIAL BUILDING (NA)**

The town of Adams will again try to secure funds to install a new HVAC system in the Memorial Building through this year's Community Development Block Grant program. IBerkshires.com reports that the Selectmen voted Wednesday to approve this year's CDBG grant program application of \$769,272 for the continuation of the housing rehab program and the installation of the new energy efficient heating and cooling system in the former middle school. Community Development Director Donna Cesari said \$298,000 out of the total grant amount will be used to replace the antiquated system that is inefficient and, because of building code, only allows partial use the building.

### **SKATE PARK, ARMORY BUILDING GETTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (NA)**

The continued development of a skate park on State Street North Adams and a final phase of improvements to the Armory Building on Ashland Street are among the projects the city has targeted for Community Development Block Grant funding. The Berkshire Eagle is reporting that at a public hearing on Tuesday, the city announced that it will seek \$276,000 in federal funding for the first phase of the planned skate park installation at Noel Field on State Street. The city will also use \$313,000 to continue renovations to the parking areas around the armory building.

### **BENNINGTON POLICE: GUN DISCHARGE AT CHILI'S AN ACCIDENT (NA)**

No one was injured, and no charges are being filed after a person's firearm accidentally discharged in the Chili's Bar and Grill, located at the Hannaford Square in Bennington on Tuesday. According to police, they responded to the restaurant at around 5:30pm, after an employee reported that a person had discharged a firearm inside the restaurant. The person had left by the time the matter was reported. Police spoke with people at Chili's and were able to identify and locate the person who had the firearm. Police said a piece of the person's clothing may have got caught in the trigger guard, engaging the trigger.

### **WILLIAMSTOWN WOMEN WINS UNITED WAY CAR (NA)**

A Williamstown woman listening to her voicemail Wednesday night heard the sound of 200 people yelling congratulations. Kathy Quinn, an employee of Berkshire Children and Families and donor to Berkshire United Way received the message saying that she had won a brand new 2015 Ford Fiesta provided by Johnson Dealerships. Quinn was not present at the drawing, which was held at Greylock Insurance Agency on Wednesday, so John Bissell, Greylock Federal Credit Union president and CEO, hopped on the phone and made the exciting call. Quinn's name was drawn from a raffle basket containing 8,000 entries, all containing names of Berkshire United Way donors.



**NA 01-27-16**

**IN BERKSHIRE SUPERIOR COURT, ADAMS MAN FACES HIS 5TH OUI CHARGE (NA)**

An Adams man, who police saw roll out of his vehicle during a traffic stop, is being held without bail on an allegation of a fifth drunk driving charge. 45 year old Steven Cote of East Hoosac Street Cote was arraigned in Northern Berkshire District Court on December 14th and, following a dangerousness hearing, was ordered held without bail until April 8th.

**NORTH ADAMS MOTHER'S JAIL TERM STAYED AS LAWYER ARGUES VERDICT (NA)**

A North Adams mother, 37-year-old Kelly Simonetta, was sentenced to a year in jail yesterday following her conviction last week on child endangerment and drug possession charges. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the child who overdosed is one of a pair of twins and had to be transported via air ambulance for treatment at a Springfield hospital. Simonetta's sentence will be stayed until at least March while her defense files a motion to have the verdict reconsidered.

**POWNAI COUPLE KEPT 2-YEAR-OLD 'LIVING IN SQUALID CONDITIONS' (NA)**

Two people are facing charges alleging they kept a 2-year-old child living in squalid conditions. The Bennington Banner reports that 25 year old Timothy Susee and 25 year old Karen Mattison, both of Pownal, pleaded not guilty Monday in Vermont Superior Court to one misdemeanor count each of cruelty to a child under 10 years old. They were released under conditions, including that they have no contact with the child outside the constraints of a Department for Children and Families care plan.

**NORTH ADAMS CITY COUNCILOR BONA PROPOSES TAX INCENTIVES FOR HOMEOWNERS (NA)**

North Adams Councilor Keith Bona introduced a proposal yesterday that would provide incentives for new property owners who renovate their homes, but the program may not be legal under state law. The Berkshire Eagle reports that Bona's plan envisions freezing the assessed value of a home as the owner makes improvements to it. The details of the proposal have yet to be worked out, and the council voted to refer the plan to its Community Development subcommittee.

**NORTH ADAMS' BLACKMER ELECTED TO TOP POST IN MASS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION (NA)**

North Adams City Councilor Lisa Blackmer will lead the Massachusetts Municipal Association this year, the first city resident to do so. IBerkshires.com reports that she's also the first from Western Massachusetts to hold the office of president in more than two decades. Blackmer is hoping that through her leadership, she'll be able to ensure that Western Mass communities will have a strong voice in Boston.

**WILLIAMSTOWN DOG PARK PROPONENTS WITHDRAW PROPOSAL (NA)**

The Williamstown Board of Selectmen on Monday opened its meeting by announcing the close of a debate that has snarled another town body this winter. IBerkshires.com reports that the proposal touched off lengthy discussions at the year's first meetings of the Community Preservation Committee. Although a relatively modest request for CPA funding of \$3,500 was made, the application touched off the first public discussion of the dog park idea.

NA 01-28-16

#### **NORTH ADAMS DRIVER WHO STRUCK PEDESTRIANS CHARGED WITH OUI (NA)**

A 26-year-old Davenport Street man has been charged with drunk driving after he backed into two pedestrians near a Union Street bar early Tuesday morning, according to North Adams Police. The Berkshire Eagle reports that four friends told police that they were drinking at the Crystal Hard Hat when they heard a car honking its horn shortly after midnight. When they went outside to check on the driver — later identified as Steve Whitney — in a nearby parking lot, he shot into reverse and struck two pedestrians, according to a criminal complaint filed by a North Adams Police Officer. Whitney's SUV rolled over the legs of one victim, who was later transported to Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, according to the report. The victims told officers that the driver had fled the scene. Whitney was later arrested and showed signs of intoxication.

#### **NORTH ADAMS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO COCAINE CHARGE, HAS CASE CONTINUED (NA)**

The case of a North Adams man, facing a cocaine possession charge from 2014, was continued without a finding yesterday. The Berkshire Eagle reports that 26 year old Robert Scutt Jr., pleaded guilty to the lone count in Berkshire Superior Court before Judge John Agostini. The case will be continued for one year, during which time Scutt must avoid illegal drugs, submit to testing and continue with counseling. The charge stems from a motor vehicle stop in North Adams on Nov. 13, 2014.

#### **MSBA OKS MOUNT GREYLOCK BUILDING PROJECT BUDGET (NA)**

As expected, the Massachusetts School Building Authority yesterday gave the green light for the Mount Greylock Regional School addition/renovation project. IBerkshires.com reports that the MSBA Board of Directors unanimously approved a grant of \$32,491,074 for the project, Mount Greylock School Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Greene reported in a Facebook post. The Williamstown Board of Selectmen on Monday authorized a warrant for the debt exclusion vote on Tuesday, March 1st. The Lanesborough select board set its debt exclusion vote for March 15th. In addition, Lanesborough will hold a Feb. 23rd special town meeting to discuss the school building project.

#### **WILLIAMSTOWN PLANNING BOARD TABLES WAUBEKA OVERLAY PROPOSAL (NA)**

The Williamstown Planning Board on Tuesday night voted to table an idea to create an overlay district to allow a hotel in South Williamstown — effectively ending the chance the body will bring a bylaw change proposal to annual town meeting. IBerkshires.com reports that the board had an agenda item to continue refining a bylaw it drafted along with Town Planner Andrew Groff to address a request by the owner of Waubeeka Golf Links. Before such consideration could begin, board member Ann McCallum moved that the board set aside the issue until Waubeeka owner Michael Deep bring the body more information.

#### **IMPROPER DEMOLITION PROCEDURE COULD MEAN TROUBLE FOR ADAMS (NA)**

Two Adams town boards are expressing concerns over what they say was the improper demolition of two outbuildings on the Hoosac Valley Coal & Grain property. IBerkshires.com reports that Conservation Commissioner Thomas Robinson told his commission last week that a citizen had called him about the building on Cook Street the town took for back taxes. Demolished was a coal shed with a metal roof and a building that had already collapsed. He said the demolition took place within a resource area, but the commission never signed off on the demolition.

NA 01-29-16

### **FARLEY BOUVIER WILL NOT SEEK SENATE SEAT (All)**

State Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier made the announcement yesterday that she will run for re-election for 3rd Berkshire District, and will be forgoing a run for state Senate. The Democrat said recently that she was considering the possibility of running for the seat that will be left vacant when Ben Downing's term expires at the end of the year. Downing announced this week that he is not seeking re-election. Pittsfield City councilor Christopher Connell, meanwhile, recently announced that he will also be running for the 3rd Berkshire Seat. As for Downing's Senate seat, State Rep. William "Smitty" Pignatelli, of Lenox, who is finishing his sixth term, told Masslive.com this week that he was seriously considering a run.

### **GENERAL ELECTRIC FILES LETTER OBJECTING TO EPA'S PLANS (All)**

The legal confrontation between GE and the Environmental Protection Agency has escalated this week as the company outlined in stark detail its strong objections to the government's proposed "Rest of River" remedy. The Berkshire Eagle reports that in a letter to EPA officials, GE Vice President of Global Operations Ann Klee offered an olive branch, saying that GE remains committed to a common-sense solution that is fully protective to human health and the environment. But Klee wrote that unfortunately, the EPA's intended Rest of River Remedial Action is not such a common-sense solution. The company declared that it is formally adopting a legal strategy called "formal dispute resolution" in an effort to bridge the considerable gap between the EPA's plan and GE.

### **RESIDENTS AFRAID TO GO ON RECORD (NA)**

People with information on serious crimes in the town of Bennington are afraid to come forward and they should not be, according to a local detective investigating the recent string of armed robberies there. The Berkshire Eagle reports that according to Bennington Police Detective Larry Cole, people that come forward with excellent information don't want to get involved, don't want their name on anything, and won't go to court. Detective Cole speaking Wednesday at a Bennington Neighborhood Watch meeting, said they're afraid. He said there is little police can do with information people are not willing to stand behind. There have been an unusual amount of armed robberies in Bennington over the past year.

### **CHESHIRE WATER USERS VOTE TO BUY TRUCK FOR SUPERINTENDENT (NA)**

Cheshire's water users are recommending the purchase of a new three-quarter ton pickup truck with a plow for the Water Department at a cost of nearly \$35,000. Iberkshires.com reports that the advisory vote took place Wednesday night after a lengthy and often heated conversation with the water commissioners. Those who were in attendance at the informational meeting at the Community Center overwhelmingly agreed to the purchase of a bigger truck with a plow.

### **BROCKOVICH TO SPEAK AT BENNINGTON COLLEGE (NA)**

Erin Brockovich, the famous environmental and consumer activist, will speak at Bennington College tomorrow about water contamination in nearby Hoosick Falls, N.Y. The town hall meeting, announced Thursday by the New York City law firm Brockovich consults with, will be at the college's Greenwall Auditorium between noon and 2 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public, but seating is on a first come, first serve basis and subject to capacity.

NA 02-03-16

#### **PIGNATELLI SEEKING RETURN TO HOUSE; NOT RUNNING FOR SENATE (All)**

Apparently, none of the Berkshires' House of Representatives delegates are looking to move to the Senate. 4th Berkshire District Rep. Smitty Pignatelli said yesterday that he will not seek the Senate seat being left vacant by state Sen. Benjamin Downing, who is not running for re-election. Pignatelli will instead seek another term in the House. IBerkshires.com reports that none of the four representatives in the Berkshires will seek the Senate position. Third Berkshire Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier and Pignatelli had both expressed interest in the Senate seat; Farley-Bouvier said last week she had instead decided to seek re-election. State Reps. Gailanne Cariddi, of North Adams, and Paul Mark, of Peru, both confirmed bids for re-election to the house while denying interest in the Senate seat.

#### **PRIMARY VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE COMING UP (All)**

City and town clerks are beginning to remind Berkshire County residents that Wednesday, February 10th is the deadline to register to vote if they want to participate in the Massachusetts Presidential Primary on March 1st. It's also the deadline for registered voters who wish to change their party enrollment either to another party or to "unenrolled." Unenrolled voters can ask for any party ballot on Primary Day, but someone registered in a party can only vote on that party's ballot. If a voter wants to vote for a candidate in a different party from the one they are registered in now, they must switch to the other party or to "unenrolled" status by 8 p.m. on February 10th. Your city or town hall may have special hours to accommodate you, so you may want to check ahead.

#### **CLARKSBURG PURSUING GREEN COMMUNITIES STATUS (NA)**

Clarksburg is moving forward with policies that will allow it to become a state-designated Green Community. IBerkshires.com reports that among the first steps is instituting an anti-idling policy for vehicles, doing an in-depth energy analysis of town buildings and updating zoning bylaws. The state has set five criteria that needs to be met.

#### **GREYLOCK MILL PROJECT ACCEPTED INTO STATE BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM (NA)**

The North Adams Greylock Mill project has been accepted by Attorney General Maura Healey into the state's brownfields program, providing liability protection as the property is redeveloped. IBerkshires.com reports that Greylock Works LLC is proposing an \$18 million revamping of the 140-year-old former textile mill on State Road. The property contains a number of additions and was used after the textile mill closed for other industrial concerns, including an aluminum anodizing plant and a machining company.

NA 02-04-16

#### **NBCC DIRECTOR ADAM HINDS MAKING RUN FOR STATE SENATE (All)**

It didn't take long after all four members of the Berkshire Delegations confirmation that none of them would run for State Senate, for a candidate to emerge for State Senator Ben Downing's soon to be open senate seat. Adam Hinds is tossing his hat in for state Senate. Hinds, recently the Shannon Grant coordinator for the City of Pittsfield and currently executive director of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition in North Adams, formally announced for the seat yesterday afternoon at the Hotel on North in Pittsfield. The invitation event included some 50 friends, colleagues and supporters, and local media. Both state Reps. Tricia Farley-Bouwer and William "Smitty" Pignatelli had considered running before deciding to instead seek re-election.

#### **OFFICIALS, PARENTS EXTOL 'OTHER SIDE OF EAGLETON SCHOOL' (GB - interest)**

Eagleton School in Great Barrington was described as a high-functioning and "intensely regulated" operation by school officials and parents on yesterday, just days after five staffers were charged in connection with the alleged abuse of students. The Berkshire Eagle reports that at a press conference in the school, Boston attorney Eric MacLeish attempted to fight off what he referred to as "unfounded rumors" and "accusations" of systemic problems, instead offering "the other side of Eagleton School." He also questioned the scale of the law enforcement raid of the school Saturday night and took issue with the Berkshire district attorney's suggestion that a "terrible situation" had been uncovered there, which MacLeish said led to an outsized "media frenzy." Federal, state and local law enforcement officials descended on the campus on Saturday to execute a search warrant in connection with the investigation of the alleged abuse of students at the school.

#### **MOUNT GREYLOCK ADVISORY COUNCIL SEEKS SUMMIT-CAM OPTIONS (NA)**

The Mount Greylock Advisory Council will look for creative ways to return the summit camera to the mountain. IBerkshires.com reports that Mount Greylock Supervisor Alec Gillman told the Mount Greylock Advisory Council last week that because of funding challenges, the summit cam has not been operational for several months. He said the issues cannot be quelled by a onetime grant, but rather a constant stream of funds. He added that it is difficult to bring a vendor on board. State Rep. Gailanne Cariddi, of North Adams, meanwhile said the proposed state budget is not good news for the Department of Conservation and Recreation and other such agencies. She said the governor's retirement program also hit the parks hard and many employees who opted in have left positions that may not be filled.

#### **CHESHIRE TAKES NEXT STEPS IN ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION (NA)**

Cheshire will begin the process of choosing a preferably green electricity supplier through Colonial Power Group. IBerkshires.com reports that Mark Cappadona, a Colonial Power Group representative, told the Selectmen on Tuesday that the state Department of Public Utilities has approved the town's ability to join an electrical aggregation other than what National Grid provides. This will allow Cheshire to choose an electrical power supplier from the marketplace.



NA 02-09-16

#### **PRICE CHOPPER IN NORTH ADAMS TO CLOSE (NA)**

The Price Chopper on State Road in North Adams is expected to close by the end of the month, putting some 57 mostly part-time employees out of work. |Berkshires.com reports that employees were reportedly informed yesterday morning that the nearly 60-year-old supermarket would close on February 27th. Mayor Richard Alcombright said that after learning of the closure he spoke with Golub about opportunities for employees. He said it was a sad day for the workers and the many residents of the West End who have depended on the grocery for years.

#### **POWNAI MAN ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE (NA)**

A Pownal man is being held at \$10,000 bail after being accused of sexually abusing a child over a period of years. The Bennington Banner reports that 36 year old Frank Burdick, of Pownal, is being charged with the repeated aggravated sexual assault of a child, according to Vermont State Police.

#### **BENNINGTON MAN FACING SECOND DEGREE MURDER CHARGE (NA)**

A Bennington man is facing a second degree murder charge after police say he sold heroin to another man who died from the resulting overdose. The Bennington Banner reports that 36 year old Trevor Shepard, of Bennington pleaded not guilty yesterday in Vermont Superior Court to second degree murder, two counts of aggravated assault by administering a drug, one count of trafficking heroin transported into the state, and several other drug related charges.

#### **CLEAN ENERGY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED (All)**

Fighting climate change and alleviating hunger and homelessness were a few of the big issues discussed at Thursday night's kick-off meeting of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts' MASSPIRG chapter. The Berkshire Edge.com reports that this semester the student advocacy group is focusing its efforts on climate change. MASSPIRG's campaign to repower Massachusetts with 100 percent clean and renewable energy comes at a time when public concern about climate change is a prominent issue of discussion.

#### **NORTH ADAMS LIBRARIAN TO RETIRE AFTER 30 YEARS (NA)**

Longtime library employee in North Adams, Robin Martin, intends to retire in early May and library officials say they'll feel her absence keenly. |Berkshires.com reports that not only are they losing an experienced employee of 30 years, but her departure as adult reference services librarian may lead to a cascade of staffing issues. Library Director Mindy Hackner told the trustees Monday that there are a lot of patrons who would like to honor her service. Hackner said she plans to advertise the position even though the current children's librarian is qualified.

#### **BERKSHIRE SCENIC RAILWAY PLOTS SUMMER COURSE (NA)**

As the Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum continues to plot a course for the coming summer, it's looking for help from the community to get the final mile of rail built to complete the route to the new Adams station in fiscal 2017.



NA 02-15-16

#### **WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY STORY (All)**

The national weather service in Albany has issued a winter-weather advisory for the Berkshires calling for freezing rain... sleet and snow that is in effect from 1 pm today until to 10 am tomorrow. We could see snow and total sleet accumulation of 1 to 4 inches, along with a tenth to a quarter of an inch of ice over the course of the advisory period. Forecasters say that snow will develop from south to north this afternoon and transition to sleet and freezing rain this evening before changing to all rain tomorrow morning. A winter-weather advisory means that periods of snow... sleet... or freezing rain will cause travel difficulties. Be prepared for slippery roads and limited visibilities... and use caution while driving.

#### **STATUS OF ADAMS-CHESHIRE SUPERINTENDENT UNCLEAR (NA)**

The Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee is keeping mum on the recent absence of its superintendent. IBerkshires.com reports that Kristen Gordon has not been at her post for at least a week or more. School officials have declined to clarify if she is still employed by the district. The School Committee held an executive session on Thursday, February 4th, at Cheshire Elementary School to discuss a personnel matter, using standard wording in the agenda that included the possibility of someone being disciplined or dismissed. School Committee Chairman Paul Butler would not say if Gordon was the subject of that meeting or if a vote had been taken.

#### **NORTH ADAMS COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS AIRBNB, UBER REGULATION (NA)**

Visitors looking for a hotel in North Adams will only find a few options. The Berkshire Eagle reports however that those who expand their search to include Airbnb — an online platform that connects renters and homeowners with people seeking a place to stay — will find more than 150 nearby choices. The North Adams City Council has agreed to form an ad hoc committee to discuss how to address new phenomena such as Airbnb and similar Internet-based, "shared economy" services like the ridesharing apps Uber and Lyft. Prompted by Council President Benjamin Lamb, the proposed five-member committee will discuss two main points: the safety regulations and taxation of these services.

#### **LAWMAKERS DISCUSS BALANCING BUDGET PRIORITIES (All)**

The Berkshire delegation said Friday that the decrease in state income tax will make it difficult to fully fund programs. IBerkshires.com reports that Massachusetts voters approved in 2000 a formula that reduces the income tax if state revenues hit certain targets. The state income tax has dropped from 5.85 percent to now, in 2016, 5.1. The decrease translates to less revenue going to state coffers with this year's losses estimated at \$75 million.

#### **WILLIAMSTOWN SCHOOL BUDGET LOOKS AT STAFF REDUCTIONS (NA)**

Williamstown Elementary School is looking to cut three teachers to offset rising health insurance costs. IBerkshires.com reports that citing a 14 percent increase in health insurance cost and a need to make the district's budget more sustainable, School Superintendent Douglas Dias told the School Committee on Wednesday his preliminary fiscal 2017 budget includes a reduction of three teachers from current staffing levels. Two teachers in the preschool program, called Side by Side, urged the committee to reconsider that cut.

**NA 02-16-16**

**ICY AND SLUSHY START THIS MORNING (All)**

It's an icy and slushy start to the morning commute in the Berkshires. Yesterday's snow turned to frozen rain overnight, but with the Berkshires deep-freeze now on hiatus, heavy rains and warmer temperatures in the 50's today will make for slushy and messy roads. Side streets and residential streets will be especially messy until road crews have had an opportunity to get to them all.

**NORTH ADAMS RESIDENTS INJURED IN VERMONT CRASH (NA)**

Two North Adams residents were injured on Sunday when their car slid off the road and crashed into a tree. The Berkshire Eagle reports that 34 year old Joelle Peterson was driving a 1999 Subaru Legacy on Main Road in Stamford when it slid on an icy patch of snow, according to Vermont State Police. Peterson was unable to maintain control of the vehicle and it veered off of the road and struck the tree. Her passenger, 36 year old Zachariah Chaffy suffered a broken hip in the crash, according to police. Peterson escaped with minor abrasions. Both were transported to Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield.

**ADAMS-CHESHIRE SUPERINTENDENT SAYS STILL ON THE JOB (NA)**

The Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee is keeping mum on the recent absence of its superintendent. But Kristen Gordon says she's still in charge. Gordon has not been at her post in the district for at least a week or more and school officials have declined to clarify if she is still employed by the district. Gordon told iBerkshires.com yesterday, that she is most certainly still employed by the district. She said in a letter to the publication that she is the Superintendent and has been working from home and also from afar for personal reasons that she did want to discuss because some are of a sensitive nature to others.

**ADAMS CEMETERY COMMISSION QUESTIONS MONUMENT INSPECTIONS (NA)**

No money has been placed in the Adams Cemetery Maintenance account over the past few months because contractors have not applied for permits for memorial foundation pouring. iBerkshires.com reports that commission member Lawrence Clairmont told the Cemetery Commission on Thursday last week that the three contractors who pour the memorial foundations are required to pay the \$15 inspection permit. This money goes directly into the account. Chairman Bruce Shepley said he will send letters out to contractors reminding them that they have to apply for permits.

**HIGHLAND WOODS TO ACCEPT FIRST TENANTS TUESDAY (NA)**

Williamstown's new senior housing project threw open its doors on Friday to current and former town officials who helped make the project a reality. iBerkshires.com reports that it begins welcoming its first crop of residents today. Highland Woods is a 40-unit affordable housing project built partly with town funds on land donated by Williams College. This week, it begins welcoming the dozen former or current residents of the Spruces Mobile Home Park. Most Spruces residents have long since found new homes since Tropical Storm Irene devastated the park in 2011.

**NA 02-17-16**

**2 DRIVERS SERIOUSLY HURT AFTER HEAD-ON CRASH ON ROUTE 8 (NA)**

A 19-year-old North Adams woman driving on Route 8 in Lanesborough yesterday morning collided head-on with a box truck and was later transported to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the crash caused serious injury to both vehicles' drivers. The crash occurred around 9:30am near the Route 8/Old State Road intersection. Samantha Scutt, the woman later transported to Baystate, required extrication by first responders. 50 year old Carl Gasco, of Millbury was also sent Berkshire Medical Center, suffering broken legs and possible internal injuries, according to police. Scutt will be issued a marked lanes violation for veering into the opposite lane.

**PITTSFIELD MAN FACING OUI DRUGS CHARGE IN NORTH ADAMS CRASHES (NA, P)**

A Pittsfield man is facing charges that he was under the influence of drugs this weekend when he who drove into a parked car and a streetlight. The Berkshire Eagle reports 29 year old Lloyd Vanderbaugh Jr. was seen driving a pickup truck erratically around 5pm Saturday as he turned from Main Street onto Marshall Street in North Adams, before striking a vehicle near the Brewhaha cafe, according to North Adams Police. A bystander tried to prevent Vanderbaugh from driving away —but he did anyway, striking a streetlight about a tenth of a mile away, according to witnesses. Vanderbaugh allegedly told police he was unaware that he had struck the vehicle and continued driving. His blood-alcohol level was below the legal limit, but he appeared close to falling over, according to the police report. He admitted to taking four sleeping pills that are not prescribed to him about an hour prior to driving the vehicle.

**FORMER STATE WORKER IN BENNINGTON ADMITS TO SELLING HEROIN (NA)**

A former state employee has received a suspended sentence for dealing heroin. 35 year old Kacey Caprari, of North Adams, pleaded guilty in Vermont Superior Court to a felony count of selling heroin, and violating release conditions. She was sentenced to serve between two and four years in prison, all of which was suspended. She will be on probation until February of 2018. As part of the agreement she cannot be discharged early. The Department of Corrections will have to approve where she lives, can restrict whom she associates with, and can impose a curfew.

**FORUM DETAILS PLANS, COSTS OF NEW MOUNT GREYLOCK SCHOOL (NA)**

Fourth graders in Williamstown and Lanesborough this year will be the first class to start a school year in newly renovated classrooms at Mount Greylock Regional School – that's if the two towns vote to approve funding the project. IBerkshires.com reports that Williamstown residents will vote on the debt exclusion question on March 1st when they go to the polls to vote in the presidential election primary. Lanesborough residents, also voting in the presidential election primary will be asked to return to the polls on March 15th for a separate vote on the debt exclusion. Prior to the ballot vote, the Board of Selectmen in Lanesborough will also hold a special town meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**NA 02-18-16**

### **30 ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES (NA)**

Police say they have arrested 30 people, many between Bennington and Rutland Counties, for allegedly selling heroin and cocaine. The Bennington Banner is reporting that according to the Vermont Drug Task Force, many of the arrests were conducted Tuesday and that 19 people are cited to appear in Vermont Superior Court, either in Bennington or Rutland counties. Ten more are facing federal indictments, these being from arrests that have taken place over the past weeks. One person from Bennington is still being sought by police. A release from the task force says that all of these arrests were the culmination of enforcement efforts over the past year, specifically targeting individuals involved in the distribution of illicit drugs.

### **DRIVER OF SUV THAT HIT BRTA BUS IN CHESHIRE CHARGED WITH OUI DRUGS (NA)**

An Adams woman is facing charges for allegedly being under the influence of drugs when she drove head-on into a bus in Cheshire last December. 35 year old Anne Harrington, of East Hoosac Street, was arraigned yesterday on three misdemeanors and a civil infraction in the crash. She pleaded not guilty in Northern Berkshire District Court to single counts of operating under the influence of drugs, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, and a marked lanes violation. She was released on personal recognizance and is scheduled to return for a pretrial hearing on April 4th.

### **ADAMS GETS GREEN COMMUNITIES CHECK (NA)**

The town of Adams has gotten a \$166,865 Green Communities check from the state to undergo clean energy and energy efficiency projects. Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco presented the "big check" to the Selectmen at Wednesday's meeting. |Berkshires.com reports that the state designated 19 cities and towns last December as new "Green Communities." On Friday, Gov. Charlie Baker awarded roughly \$1,087,000 for six towns in Western Massachusetts, including Adams, Egremont and Stockbridge. Some 155 communities in the state have become Green Communities under the program.

### **SOLID WASTE DISTRICT MAY RECEIVE FREE SENIOR HELP (NA)**

The Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District may utilize the senior worker program to ease the transition to a new program coordinator. |Berkshires.com reports that Program Coordinator Sandy Totter told the commissioners last week that the district may be able to hire a senior that she can teach before her retirement at the end of the year. This senior would still be on board when the district hires a new coordinator. Totter said the program is federally funded and the district could have extra help for 20 hours a week.

### **MARKETS IN ADAMS TO BE PRIVATELY RUN (NA)**

The Adams Farmers and Artisans Market will continue this summer thanks to a group of private citizens who have agreed to run the event. The Berkshire Eagle reports that after the town announced recently that it would no longer provide financial support for the weekly market, Adams residents Ashley Priestler, Kelly Field and Glen Field announced this week that they will take the reins. A post on the market's Facebook page noted that Priestler has a background in organizing local events and the Fields are avid farmers.

NA 02-22-16

#### **CLINTON, SANDERS CAMPAIGNS KICK OFF LOCAL SUPER TUESDAY PUSH (All)**

Campaigns for Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton have begun the local push in anticipation for Super Tuesday. |Berkshires.com reports that on Saturday, volunteers from the Sanders campaign began canvassing efforts while volunteers from the Clinton campaign opened an office to serve as a local headquarters. Both candidates are seeking the nomination for the Democratic Party in the presidential race. 100 or so volunteers knocked on doors in North Adams, Great Barrington, Adams, Pittsfield, and Dalton this past weekend. This week the national campaign is expected to bring in additional resources.

#### **DEMOCRAT BERNIE SANDERS TO HOLD RALLY AT UMASS-AMHERST (All)**

Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders is making a campaign stop in Massachusetts. The Vermont senator will hold a rally today at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. The rally will be held at the Mullins Memorial Center. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. The program begins at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public, but admission is on a first come, first served basis. The event comes about a week ahead of the state's presidential primary, scheduled for March 1st.

#### **HISTORIC GOULD FARM IN ADAMS LISTED FOR SALE (NA)**

Gould Farm, a historic town farmhouse sitting atop more than 200 acres adjacent to the Greylock Glen in Adams, has been listed for sale by Steepleview Realty after earlier marketing attempts by the owner failed to generate interest. The listing names an asking price just shy of \$780,000. The farmhouse dates back to the early 1900s.

#### **BAIL LOWERED FOR NORTH ADAMS STABBING SUSPECT AMID SELF-DEFENSE CLAIM (NA)**

A North Adams man accused in a stabbing last April had his bail lowered his week after his attorney argued the incident was in self-defense. The Berkshire Eagle reports that Keith Larrabee has been held on \$50,000 bail since the altercation, which began with the 20 year old Larrabee assaulting a 16-year-old before stealing his hat and necklace after a marijuana deal gone bad, prosecutors allege.

#### **DONOR BRINGING THE SUN'S POWER TO THE WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER (NA)**

A private donor is teaming up with Williams College to fund a solar installation project on the roof of the Williamstown Youth Center, which is expected to save the center as much as 90 percent on its power costs. The Berkshire Eagle reports that according to David Rempell, the youth center's executive director, one of the center's supporters was interested in paying for a solar project over a 5-year period. The "very generous donor," Sheila Stone, wanted to fund the \$350,000 project with five annual installments, but for such a project, the costs are paid up front. One of the center's Board of Directors brought the matter to the attention of Williams College. College officials then offered to pay the up front-cost in the form of a no-interest bridge loan, and the donor would pay the loan back with annual installments.



NA 02-23-16

#### **ADAMS TEEN CRASHES CARGO TRUCK AFTER FAILING TO STOP (NA)**

Three Adams residents were injured on Friday after rolling a Budget rental cargo truck. The Bennington Banner reports that Rutland County Law Enforcement attempted to stop the truck southbound on US Route 7 while the operator, 19-year-old Matthew Megaro, allegedly drove erratically in and out of merging traffic, passing vehicles and crossing into the northbound lane. The truck then flipped and slid onto the shoulder of the road and down an embankment. Two occupants were brought to Southwestern Vermont Medical Center for treatment and were released. Megaro was transported to Albany Medical Center by Bennington Rescue to administer leg and facial injuries. He was charged with attempting to elude, excessive speed, grossly negligent operation and reckless endangerment.

#### **ADAMS-CHESHIRE STRUGGLING TO MEET BUDGET GOALS (NA)**

The Adams-Cheshire Regional School District is attempting to cut more than \$360,000 from the fiscal 2017 school budget to meet the expectations of its two member towns. IBerkshires.com however reports that different state formulas for calculating the towns' assessments are making it difficult to figure how much to cut. Business Manager David Hinkell that to meet the towns' targeted assessment increases the budget must be cut by approximately \$369,000.

#### **CLARKSBURG FINDS NEW TOWN ACCOUNTANT (NA)**

The Clarksburg Select Board last week found a new town accountant. Donna Estes was selected for the 10-hour post after meeting town officials. She has the municipal experience and is currently town accountant for Williamstown.

#### **RUPTURED PIPE DAMAGES WILLIAMSTOWN SENIOR HOUSING PROJECT ABOUT TO OPEN (NA)**

Damage from a burst pipe has set back by months the opening of half of the \$8.5 million Highland Woods senior affordable housing project in Williamstown as new tenants were set to move in. The Berkshire Eagle reports that during a recent stretch of frigid temperatures, a 2-inch pipe in the attic froze — and then ruptured — damaging walls, insulation and other infrastructure in half the 40-unit building. Officials say it may take three months or more before that half is repaired and again is ready to occupy.

#### **POWNAL SELECT BOARD MULLS ADDING TOWN ADMINISTRATOR (NA)**

Should elected officials in Pownal consider creating a town administrator or town manager position? The Berkshire Eagle reports that is one question set to go before voters at the annual Pownal Town Meeting on February 29th. Select Board members seemed to be in agreement Thursday that it's something worth studying. The article asks whether the town should approve hiring a town administrator or manager to work under the Select Board. Members agreed they needed more information, including what specific duties the administrator would be responsible for.



NA 02-25-16

#### **APARTMENT COMPLEX CONDEMNED AFTER 'UNLIVABLE' CONDITIONS DISCOVERED (NA)**

Rats, months of uncollected garbage, faulty heating and electrical systems, roof leaks, mold and more prompted North Adams regulators to condemn an eight-unit High Street apartment complex yesterday afternoon. The Berkshire Eagle reports that sources who asked to remain anonymous say the apartments at 35 and 37 High St. had been "unlivable" for months, but it took numerous reports, reaching all the way to Mayor Alcombright, before a 3pm city inspection confirmed the circumstances. It resulted in condemnation of the building and prompt efforts to relocate the affected tenants. A total of 24 people — 13 of them children — were living inside the eight units.

#### **NOT ALL NORTH ADAMS COUNCILORS HAPPY WITH COMMENTING RULES (NA)**

Two North Adams city councilors are concerned that keeping a forum for audience members to speak will cause problems. IBerkshires.com reports that the new Rules of Order restore hearing of visitors at the beginning of City Council's meeting, allowing visitors to speak for up to two minutes on agenda items or matters. City Councilor Keith Bona said his concern is that visitors may refer to individuals or businesses who would not be able to respond and that the changes in Open Meeting Law limit councilors' ability to speak on issues.

#### **UP TO 4 1/2 YEARS FOR NORTH ADAMS MAN WHO HID DRUGS IN PC (NA)**

A North Adams man caught stashing about 95 grams of heroin inside a computer tower in his Union Street home last year has been sentenced to up to 4 1/2 years in prison. 27 year old Christopher Therrien was arrested August 18th after the Berkshire County Drug Task Force found a plastic bag with the drugs stashed inside the locked computer tower. Judge John Agostini sentenced him to 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 years at the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Cedar Junction.

#### **NORTH ADAMS MAYOR JOINS STATEWIDE ANTI-STIGMA CAMPAIGN (NA)**

North Adams Richard Alcombright is a passionate advocate for people with mental health and substance use issues. IBerkshires.com reports that the mayor of North Adams is taking his advocacy a step further, signing on to "CEOs Against Stigma", the statewide workplace campaign created by the state chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Alcombright is the first municipal leader in the commonwealth to join the campaign.

#### **LANESBOROUGH TOWN MANAGER PRESENTS \$10.5M BUDGET (NA)**

Lanesborough Town Manager Paul Sieloff's propose budget calls for a \$129,271 increase over this year. IBerkshires.com reports that the largest driver to the budget is employee benefits with some \$132,221 worth of increases for health insurance, retiree benefits, Medicare, and school employee health insurance. School health insurance is penned in to see a \$64,348 increase while retirement benefits are expected to increase by \$28,420; group insurance up by \$36,773, and Medicare expenses by \$2,680. Sieloff says the overall budget is up a little over \$120,000 from last year's budget.

**NA 02-29-16**

**WILLIAMSTOWN COUPLE CHARGED IN HIT-AND-RUN CRASH THAT LEFT WOMAN IN COMA (NA)**

A Williamstown couple is facing multiple charges in the hit-and-run incident earlier this month that left a woman in a coma. 71 year old Sally Gould, and 69 year old John Gould, both of White Oaks Road in Williamstown, were arrested at the Williamstown Police Station at about 12:45 p.m. Sally Gould was charged with leaving the scene of a personal injury accident; and misleading, impeding and obstructing a police investigation. John Gould was charged with misleading, impeding and obstructing an investigation. 54 year old Cheryl LeClaire, of White Oaks Road in Williamstown, was struck by a vehicle February 9th while walking her dog along the 1000 block of North Hoosac Road. A passing motorist found her lying in the road unresponsive about 6:30 p.m.

**POLICE SEEK SUSPECT IN ARMED ROBBERIES IN WILLIAMSTOWN AND POWNAL (NA)**

Authorities are seeking the public's help in tracking down a suspect in armed robbery incidents Saturday in both Williamstown and Pownal. The Berkshire Eagle reports that about two hours apart. A masked man brandished a handgun in The Spirit Shop on Cole Avenue at around 8:22pm. The man fled the store after a brief argument with the clerk and without taking any cash or store merchandise. Vermont State Police are reporting a similar armed robbery at about 10:20 p.m. Saturday at the Stewart's Shop on Route 7, just north of the Williamstown line. No one was reported injured in either incident.

**AN OWNER OF THE HUB, NEW HAMPSHIRE MAN ARRESTED IN DRUG BUST (NA)**

One of the owners of downtown eatery The Hub in North Adams was arrested alongside a New Hampshire man after authorities allegedly found hard drugs on the pair during a motor vehicle stop. The Berkshire Eagle reports that 45 year old Matthew Schilling, of North Adams, co-owner of The Hub at 55 Main Street, and 33 year old Scott Kastner, of Manchester were arraigned in Northern Berkshire District Court on drug possession charges Friday. Schilling pleaded not guilty on Friday in Northern Berkshire Court to charges of possession class A, B and C substances with intent to distribute. Kastner pleaded not guilty to a charge of possession of a class B substance.

**ADAMS SHELTER WELCOMES NORTH ADAMS DOGS (NA)**

After years of looking for an alternative to its decrepit house on the hill, North Adams has a new temporary animal shelter — in Adams. The Berkshire Eagle reports that under a somewhat informal agreement in place for the last several months, the town has allowed North Adams to utilize its small dog pound on East Road as an alternative to the city's dilapidated shelter on Reservoir Road. Officials from the two towns say they'll reassess how sharing the service worked in the spring or summer and determine whether or not to reach a permanent, official agreement.

NA 03-01-16

### **PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON MASSACHUSETTS (All)**

Voters in The Berkshires, across the state, and in each of the Super Tuesday Primary states, are making their way to the polls today. Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are locked in a close race as they try to secure their party's nomination. While Clinton has much of the Democratic establishment behind her, Sanders is banking on strong support from the state's college-age voters to help keep his candidacy afloat. Republican voters will choose between the five remaining candidates — Donald Trump, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, John Kasich (Kay-sick) and Ben Carson. Although Trump has held a solid lead in most polls, Kasich is hoping for a strong second place finish. Tuesday's primaries are as much about rounding up delegates as winning individual states. Most polling locations in Massachusetts are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### **CLINTON REMEMBERS PITTSFIELD (Oh Boy!)**

Presidential hopeful, Hilary Clinton made a campaign stop in the City of Springfield yesterday. During a campaign event at the Wood Museum of History, the candidate mentioned Pittsfield's Colonial Theatre when referencing her visit to Pittsfield when she was First Lady to President Bill Clinton. The stop was one of handful for Clinton yesterday. Bernie Sanders also made campaign appearances around the state yesterday.

### **A RECORD NUMBER OF MASSACHUSETTS VOTERS EXPECTED FOR PRIMARY (NA)**

A record number of Massachusetts voters could cast ballots in today's presidential primaries, although most of those eligible to vote are not expected to do so, according to the state's top elections officer. The State News Service reports that according to Secretary of State William Galvin, interest in the Republican contest, which features multiple candidates could drive overall turnout north of 42 percent.

### **WILLIAMSTOWN VOTERS TO WEIGH IN ON SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT (NA)**

Presidential primary voters in Williamstown will also be voting on a debt exclusion proposal to allow funding for the \$64.8 million high school building project, for which the state would pay approximately 60 percent of the reimbursable cost, without impacting the town's 2 1/2 tax increase limit. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the Massachusetts School Building Authority has pledged \$33.2 million in state funding toward the cost of the project. The local share of the cost would be between \$31.5 million and \$35.3 million.

### **DISSOLUTION OF NORTH ADAMS HOUSING ORGANIZATION MOVING FORWARD (NA)**

Housing Authority Executive Director Jennifer Hohn reported yesterday that the dissolution of Housing Opportunities Inc. in North Adams is on track. IBerkshires.com reports that Hohn told the commissioners the 25-year-old affordable housing program that the board voted to dissolve and transfer assets to the city is "ongoing and moving forward." The board voted last year, after a three-year process, to disband the program that shared a board of directors and administrative staff with the Housing Authority.

NA 03-02-16

### **CLINTON SORES IN DELEGATES WITH MASS. VICTORY, TRUMP WINS (All)**

It was a hard-fought win for Hillary Clinton in Massachusetts yesterday, helping her solidify her overall delegate lead so far over Bernie Sanders. Donald Trump also won the Republican primary while also scoring big victories across the country on Super Tuesday. CBS News projected the win for Trump immediately after polls closed in the Bay State. Clinton was declared the winner just after 11:30pm. Earlier exit poll results showed Donald Trump was favored by Republican voters across the board in the Massachusetts primary while Democratic voters were divided, reflecting the close race between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. Clinton backers also cited her experience and potential to beat the Republican nominee in November.

### **MOUNT GREYLOCK SCHOOL PROJECT WINS DECISIVE VICTORY IN WILLIAMSTOWN (NA)**

Williamstown Voters yesterday overwhelmingly approved taking on more than \$20 million in debt to rebuild and renovate Mount Greylock Regional School. [IBerkshires.com](#) reports that the final tally was a decisive 2,226 to 351, with some 84 percent of voters choosing to approve excluding the debt from Proposition 2 1/2 restrictions. The entire project to renovate and add on to the 50-year-old school is pegged at \$64.8 million.

### **RICHMOND ATTORNEY SET TO RUN FOR SENATE SEAT (All)**

A Richmond woman says that she will enter the race for the Democratic nomination for the state Senate district seat now held by Sen. Ben Downing, who has decided against seeking re-election. The Berkshire eagle reports that Andrea Harrington, an attorney with a Great Barrington law firm, said she will make her formal campaign announcement 10am on March 8th at the Public Market in West Stockbridge, which is owned by her husband, Timothy Walsh. The 52-town Berkshire-Hampshire-Franklin district has been represented by Downing, a Pittsfield Democrat, for the past 10 years. The only other declared candidate in the race thus far is Adam Hinds, the former Shannon Grant Coordinator for the City of Pittsfield.

### **3 1/2 YEARS IN JAIL FOR MAN CAUGHT UP IN NORTH ADAMS DRUG RAID (NA)**

A Brooklyn man who got caught up in a North Adams raid last year has been sentenced to 3 1/2 years in jail on a trio of drug charges. The Berkshire Eagle reports that 37 year old Naim Moore admitted he was in the Bracewell Avenue home when members of the Berkshire County Drug Task Force executed a search warrant on November 3rd and found about 13.1 grams of crack cocaine, split into 26 individual packages, and approximately 23 grams of the stimulant ethylone.

### **WILLIAMSTOWN COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REJECTS 3 PROJECTS (NA)**

The Williamstown Community Preservation Committee has recommended that town meeting fund six projects to the tune of \$154,421. [IBerkshires.com](#) reports that the committee at its February 23rd meeting voted to send just six of nine active applications for Community Preservation Act funds to May's annual town meeting. The CPC rejected three projects outright and reduced the request of a third applicant by \$11,500. A 10th applicant, the South Williamstown Community Association, has withdrawn its initial application.

NA 03-04-16

### **UNITED INDEPENDENT PARTY ENROLLMENT THWARTED SOME AT POLLS (All)**

Not every voter who went to the polls on Tuesday was able to cast a ballot for their choice for president. The reason, reports the Berkshire Eagle... that the person's voter registration status did not allow them to vote in the party primary in which their candidate was competing — normally a problem for a few voters, according to North Adams City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau, but one compounded this year because of the appearance of the new United Independent Party. Gomeau said some voters showed up wanting to cast ballots in one of the major party contests only to learn that they were registered as a UIP voter and could only receive that ballot, which had no candidates listed. Gomeau said those voters insisted that they were not registered with any party. The problem affected other voters across the state, not only in North Adams.

### **WILLIAMSTOWN LOOKING AT REVERSE 911 NOTIFICATIONS (NA)**

A little more than an hour after an attempted armed robbery on Cole Avenue, in Williamstown Saturday night, a text alert from Williams College warned members of its community, but the town does not have a reverse 911 system to alert townspeople about similar incidents. IBerkshires.com reports that on Sunday, Police Chief Kyle Johnson said the idea of instituting reverse 911 has been discussed in town in the past, and those discussions continue.

### **ADAMS TO CLEAN UP LITTERED SYRINGES (NA)**

The Board of Health in Adams is looking at options to keep syringes and other sharps off the streets. IBerkshires.com reports that board member Bruce Shepley reported at Wednesday's meeting that the discarded sharps and syringe problem in Adams may be more severe than originally understood. Shepley had initially wanted to establish a safe place for residents to drop off their medical sharps, but after a call from a public health nurse in Pittsfield and contacting the Adams Police Department, he found that stray syringes in Adams are an ongoing issue.

### **CLARKSBURG SCHOOL DRAFT BUDGET AT \$2.6M FOR FISCAL 2017 (NA)**

School officials in Clarksburg are reviewing a preliminary budget for fiscal 2017 that is up 3 percent over this year. IBerkshires.com reports that the proposed budget is \$2,564,996, up about \$77,000 over fiscal 2016. Like many governmental districts, health insurance has continued to rise. Clarksburg is looking at about \$331,000. Lev said the district's insurer had cautioned that if the town continues its current insurance plan there will be a 5 percent increase. The budget also adds in a teaching assistant position expected to be needed for the next school year.

### **All BRAYTON ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TO GET FREE BREAKFAST (NA)**

After being piloted in a select number of classrooms, free breakfast will now be served to every student at Brayton Elementary School North Adams. The Berkshire Eagle reports that district officials said this week that the initial launch of the program was successful enough that it will be expanded next week — just in time for National School Breakfast Week.



NA 03-08-16

#### **NO BAIL FOR NORTH ADAMS MAN ACCUSED OF STABBING OUTSIDE BAR (NA)**

A North Adams man is being held without bail for allegedly stabbing someone outside the Key West Lounge early Saturday. The Berkshire Eagle reports that 23 year old Jesse Camacho, Jr., of Willow Dell, stabbed Donald Tatro during a large fight outside of Key West at about 1 a.m. Saturday, according to a police report. He pleaded not guilty in Northern Berkshire District Court to one count of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon that causes serious bodily injury.

#### **ACCUSED KILLER OF NORTH ADAMS WOMAN SEEKING PLEA DEAL (NA)**

A Russian national who is accused of killing his ex-girlfriend from North Adams in Arizona last year is reportedly seeking a plea deal. The Berkshire Eagle reports that 26 year old Igor Zubko wants to offer a guilty plea to incur a life sentence on the first-degree murder charge and avoid the death penalty in the slaying of Shayley Estes, according to an Associated Press report. Zubko said he wanted to spare Este's family a painful jury trial, according to the report. Zubko was arrested soon after at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport after purchasing a one-way plane ticket to San Francisco.

#### **NORTH ADAMS SCHOOL ADDS NEW BREAKFAST PROGRAM (NA)**

North Adams Children at Brayton School are getting a healthy head start on their day by getting breakfast in the classroom. IBerkshires.com reports that the pilot program began a few weeks ago and was be rolled out to the entire school this week, just in time for "National School Breakfast Week." The children often have adults eating with them, and it's a smoother transition into the school day than eating in the cafeteria. The equipment for transporting the meals came from a grant from the New England Dairy Council.

#### **ADAMS-CHESHIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE SEE PRELIMINARY BUDGET (NA)**

The Adams-Cheshire Regional School District budget is down for fiscal 2017 — but only after slashing nearly \$1 million, including a dozen positions. IBerkshires.com reports that Business Manager David Hinkell yesterday presented a nearly \$19,000,000 preliminary budget to the school committee that represented a .58 percent decrease, or drop of \$110,767, from this year's budget. This budget includes a \$5,446,707 assessment to the town of Adams, which is a reduction of \$74,763 from this year. Cheshire's assessment is \$2,640,064, which is a \$53,587 increase from this year. Both assessments include the debt exclusion from the Hoosac Valley High School renovation.

#### **NORTH ADAMS COMMITTEE BEGINS SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (NA)**

North Adams is looking for a new superintendent of Schools who will prioritize instruction and finances and maintain an open dialogue with parents and the public at large. And residents very much want someone from outside the district. IBerkshires.com reports that, that was the upshot of a online survey posted by the North Adams Public Schools to garner input from the community. The survey's results will be used during the interview process as school officials determine the city's next educational leader.



NA 03-09-16

#### **ALCOMBRIGHT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS MADE YESTERDAY (NA)**

North Adams Mayor Richard Alcombright expressed confidence that the city is emerging from its long downturn over the past decade. IBerkshires.com reports that declaring "growth will be our savior," the mayor in his State of the City address yesterday said it was imperative the city court growth by engaging with the major developers arriving on the scene. Alcombright said that on the economic development front, the city has seen more private and public sector investment over the past two years than has been seen in decades. He went on to say that the city will continue working with private investors and government partners.

#### **ADAMS RELEASES PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR FISCAL 2017 (NA)**

The preliminary town of Adams fiscal 2017 budget shows an increase of 3.7 percent over this year. IBerkshires.com reports that the draft town budget, released Monday afternoon on the town's website, shows a total spending plan of \$14,808,782 - a \$527,872 increase over this year's budget. According to the early budget, personal expenses will decrease 1.67 percent to \$5,574,992.

#### **ADAMS-CHESHIRE SCHOOL BUDGET WOULD CUT 12.5 POSITIONS (NA)**

To keep spending nearly flat in the coming year, Adams-Cheshire Regional School District could face sizable cuts, including 12.5 full-time positions districtwide. The Berkshire Eagle reports that among the positions to be cut, are six teachers and three administrative positions that were created in the current budget. The proposed \$18.99 million budget for fiscal 2017, presented Monday before the School Committee, represents a decrease of \$110,767 from the previous year. After 10 straight years of increases to the towns' combined assessment, officials felt it was time to reverse that trend.

#### **ADAMS-CHESHIRE SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT (NA)**

The Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee will explore the possibility of bringing on an interim superintendent for a year after Superintendent Kristen Gordon leaves later this year. The Berkshire Eagle reports that Chairman Paul Butler suggested bringing on an interim leader for the next school year, following Gordon's resignation, effective June 30th. Gordon has cited the long working hours of her current position as a reason for her departure, after which she will seek to find a job as a building administrator. She served as the principal at C.T. Plunkett Elementary for nearly a decade before accepting the superintendent position in 2012.

#### **GOV. PETER SHUMLIN VISITS NORTH BENNINGTON OVER WATER CONTAMINATION ISSUE (NA)**

Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin said he and state environmental and health officials will push to connect homes impacted by water contamination with the village and town public water systems. Shumlin, who visited the village of North Bennington yesterday morning, pledged his administration's commitment to have the water main extension and cleanup costs paid for by those responsible for the potentially harmful, man-made chemical recently found in private wells. The governor's stop in town marked the first time he visited the area since a man-made chemical was found in the water two weeks ago.

NA 03-14-16

#### **ADAMS-CHESHIRE OFFICIALS APPROVE 'DEVASTATING' BUDGET (NA)**

The Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee voted last week to approve a nearly \$19,000,000 school budget that cuts a dozen positions. IBerkshires.com reports that after review of the 14th iteration of the spending plan that accounts for nearly \$1 million in reductions, committee members decided they had no choice but to pass a budget they did not feel was educationally sound. Last year school officials stumped for a higher budget, which forced a Proposition 2 1/2 override in Cheshire, in an attempt to keep teachers, staff and programs. Instead, next year's budget drops \$110,767 from fiscal 2016.

#### **CLARKSBURG HAS OPEN SELECT BOARD SEAT; 10 OFFICES ON BALLOT (NA)**

There will be an open seat on the Select Board in the Clarksburg annual town election. IBerkshires.com reports that William Schrade Jr. has indicated he will not run for re-election to the three-year term. He was elected in 2014 to fill out the final two years of Carl McKinney's term after McKinney stepped down to apply for town administrator. Chairman Jeffrey Levanos listed the 10 positions on the ballot during Wednesday's televised meeting.

#### **FATE OF NEW INN RESTS WITH PLANNING BOARD (NA)**

A proposal that would allow Williams College to build a new Williams Inn on Spring Street depends on a favorable recommendation from the Planning Board. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the board is holding a public hearing tomorrow to make recommendations on several zoning amendments that are proposed for the annual town meeting in May. One of them is an extension of the Village Business District to include two Spring Street parcels where the college is considering building a new Williams Inn. The meeting takes place at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the Williamstown Elementary School auditorium.

#### **HOOSAC VALLEY BOYS ANF GIRLS MOVE ON (NA)**

The Hoosac Valley Boys and Girls Basket Ball teams are moving on to the State Tournament after winning their respective Western Mass Division 3 Final's at UMass. The Boys team defeated East Hampton 54 to 51 on Saturday. They will take on Oxford in the State Semi-finals tomorrow afternoon at 4pm. The Girls team defeated Drury 51 to 40 on Saturday. They will face Littleton in the State Semi-finals tomorrow at 2:15pm. Both games will be played at the DCU Center in Worcester.

#### **LANESBOROUGH FACES TOUGH VOTE ON \$64.8M HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT (NA)**

Lanesborough residents are getting set to cast ballots on the proposed \$64.8 million Mount Greylock Regional High School renovation project that has been years in the making. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the polls will be open from 10am to 8pm tomorrow at Town Hall on the debt exclusion proposal, which would exempt spending on the project from the limits of Proposition 2 1/2. Williamstown voters already approved the measure. A recent town survey put out by officials and responded to by nearly half of residents saw a majority urging the Select Board to "not support" the project.

NA 03-15-16

### **BROTHERS HELD ON BAIL IN ALLEGED ATTACK BEHIND BIG Y IN ADAMS (NA)**

Two brothers were being held on \$5,000 cash bail yesterday for allegedly assaulting a man behind the Big Y supermarket in Adams on Saturday. According to a criminal complaint filed by Adams Police Sgt. Donna Malloy, 23 year old Tyler and Caleb Sherman allegedly followed a man on foot before assaulting him behind the store, where police found him bloodied at about 3:30 p.m. The brothers pleaded not guilty to charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, malicious destruction of property under \$250, and several other charges. Both were ordered held at the Berkshire County Jail and House of Correction in lieu of \$5,000 cash or \$50,000 surety bond.

### **STATE HEARINGS SET IN EFFORT TO COMPEL LANDOWNERS TO GRANT ACCESS (All)**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities has scheduled a public hearing in Pittsfield later this month — the first of six statewide — ahead of a ruling on whether to grant Tennessee Gas Co. eminent domain rights to survey properties for its proposed 412-mile, \$5.2 billion natural gas pipeline. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the order, if approved by the DPU, would give the Kinder Morgan subsidiary the power to force resistant landowners to grant access by taking land for right-of-way survey easements. The company has identified nearly 450 properties across the state — including 39 in Berkshire County — along the proposed Northeast Energy Direct pipeline route for compulsory land surveying because owners have refused access.

### **LOCAL DEVELOPERS PUT ADAMS' JONES BLOCK BACK ON TRACK (NA)**

The Jones Block development in Adams is back on track. IBerkshires.com reports that the Park Street building and the adjacent Carlow building were purchased last week for \$250,000 by real estate developers Peter West and Corey Bishop as Adams Park Street LLC. The three-story red brick Jones Block was vacant for years after a fire in 1996 damaged the first and second floors.

### **WILLIAMSTOWN OFFICIALS STAY COURSE ON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (NA)**

The Board of Selectmen in Williamstown yesterday declined to ask voters whether the town should continue participation in the Community Preservation Act. IBerkshires.com reports that in 2002, Williamstown voted to add a 2 percent surcharge on property valued at more than \$100,000. The funds are granted each year by annual town meeting to support projects in one of three areas: historic preservation, open space and recreation and affordable housing. Two current members of the town's Community Preservation Committee suggested yesterday that after 14 years, it is time for the town to decide whether it wants to continue in the program.

### **NORTH ADAMS PLANNERS OK B&B, SOLAR ARRAY, DOG FACILITY (NA)**

The Planning Board in North Adams yesterday approved a new bed & breakfast on Church Street. IBerkshires.com reports that Gianni Donati was approved to transform 164 Church Street into a B&B, with an owner's residence and common areas on the first floor. Four bedrooms on the second floor would be guest rooms with the possibility of opening up the third floor in the future for some related use. There are six parking spaces, four for guests and two for the owners.

NA 03-16-16

### **DESPITE JUMP, BERKSHIRE JOBLESS RATE DOWN FULL POINT FROM LAST YEAR (All)**

The Berkshire County unemployment rate traditionally increases in January, and this year was no exception. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the county's jobless rate jumped half a percentage point in January to 5.9 percent, the highest level in 10 months, according to figures released by the state Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development yesterday. The good news is that the Berkshire jobless rate is a full percentage point lower than the 6.9 percent registered in January 2015, and more than a point and a half lower than the 7.5 percent in January 2014. Unemployment in the Berkshires had jumped at least a half percentage point in January each of the last three years.

### **MOUNT GREYLOCK SCHOOL PROJECT WINS IN LANESBOROUGH (NA)**

Voters in Lanesborough have approved a \$64.8 million renovation and rebuild of the aged Mount Greylock Regional School by a 134 votes. IBerkshires.com reports that the tally yesterday was 633 to 499 with nearly 50 percent of the town's registered voters weighing in. The school project had already passed overwhelmingly in Williamstown two weeks ago.

### **ADAMS, CHESHIRE TO SEE RACES FOR BOARDS OF SELECTMEN (NA)**

Both Adams and Cheshire will see races for selectmen seats this election. IBerkshires.com reports that with 19 seats up for election on various boards and committees this year in Adams, the only battle will be for a position on the Board of Selectmen. Both incumbents Richard Blanchard and Joseph Nowak returned papers Monday alongside former Selectman Michael Ouellette. The Adams Annual Town Election is Monday, May 2nd with the polls being open from 7am to 7pm. The deadline to register to vote in the town election is April 12th.

### **LANESBOROUGH ASSESSMENT DROPS IN MOUNT GREYLOCK DRAFT BUDGET (NA)**

Despite the Mount Greylock Regional School District budget rising by nearly 4 percent, Lanesborough's cost to run the school is dropping. IBerkshires.com reports that the proposed fiscal 2017 budget presented by School Committee and administrative staff on Monday reduces Lanesborough's assessment by \$13,549, or a minus a half percent. Williamstown is expected to see a 4.79 percent change or an increase of \$237,328. Superintendent Douglas Dias said the driver behind the differences mostly comes from the state's required minimum contribution.

### **ADAMS PARKS COMMISSION APPROVES TICK SIGNAGE (NA)**

The Adams Parks Commission voted Monday to allow the Board of Health to place informational signs about ticks at town parks. IBerkshires.com reports that Board of Health member Bruce Shepley showed the commission a nationally distributed sign from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control that listed best practices on how to avoid and remove ticks to prevent Lyme disease. Shepley said that Lyme disease is becoming more and more prevalent and more and more of a risk to the population.

NA 03-17-16

**LARGE SCALE DRUG DEALER IN NORTH ADAMS GETS 2 1/2 YEARS IN JAIL (NA)**

A North Adams man charged with having 17 grams of heroin and access to nearly \$25,000 worth of drug proceeds last year has been sentenced to 2 1/2 years in jail. The Berkshire Eagle reports that 27 year old Jeffrey Hall was running a "pretty large scale operation for this area," according to Assistant Berkshire District Attorney Robert Kinzer. Hall pleaded to one count of possession of heroin with intent to distribute and was sentenced to 2 ¼ years in the Berkshire Jail and House of Correction with credit for 66 days of time already served.

**WILLIAMSTOWN PLANNERS ADVISE AGAINST WAUBEKA ZONING CHANGE (NA)**

After nearly two hours of discussion on Tuesday, the Williamstown Planning Board ended up in the same place it was six weeks ago: a 3-2 vote against proceeding with a proposed overlay district to allow a hotel at Waubeeka Golf Links. IBerkshires.com reports that Waubeeka owner Mike Deep has made clear on several occasions that his golf course is losing money — just as it did under the previous owner, who sold it to Deep for a rock-bottom price two years ago. Deep has told the board that he thinks a steady revenue stream from a hotel and banquet hall could maintain Waubeeka as a community resource and a business on the tax roll.

**HUNDREDS SPENT ON CAMPAIGN FOR, AGAINST MOUNT GREYLOCK PROJECT (NA)**

Former Lanesborough Selectman Robert Barton apparently spent more than \$500 opposing the proposed Mount Greylock Regional High School building project. IBerkshires.com reports that the project passed in Lanesborough by 134 votes on Tuesday and overwhelmingly two weeks ago in Williamstown. Both member towns had to pass debt exclusions for bonding the \$64.8 million project before it could move forward.

**ESTIMATE FOR CHESHIRE DAM REMOVAL AT \$568K (NA)**

It could cost more than a half-million dollars to remove the Kitchen Brook Dam. IBerkshires.com reports that Cheshire Town Administrator Mark Webber told the Selectmen on Tuesday that the state Department of Ecological Restoration had completed a survey and reconnaissance study on the West Mountain Road dam and its removal. The draft survey Webber handed out to the Selectmen is estimated the cost at \$568,000 to remove the dam.

**MOUNT GREYLOCK SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVES \$11M BUDGET (NA)**

The Mount Greylock Regional School Committee approved a fiscal 2017 budget of \$11 million on Tuesday night, up \$413,000 over this year. IBerkshires.com reports that the approval followed public hearings held on Monday in Lanesborough and prior to the regular School Committee meeting on Tuesday.



NA 03-18-16

#### **WILLIAMSTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADDS TO FY17 BUDGET (NA)**

The Williamstown School Committee has advanced a fiscal 2017 budget that restores most of the cuts discussed at last week's public hearing and seeks a 6.26 percent increase in the town's contribution to the school. *Berkshires.com* reports that the \$6.62 million budget includes \$6.13 million in appropriated funds – an increase of \$361,000 from last year's town appropriation. The 6.26 percentage increase is well above the 2.5 percent "placeholder" figure included in the town budget presented to the Finance Committee earlier this winter and 2.5 percent higher than the 3.9 percent increase in the initial budget presented in the School Committee's hearing a week ago.

#### **INSURANCE GRANT HELPS MOUNT GREYLOCK SCHOOL ADD SECURITY CAMERAS (NA)**

With some six dozen exterior doors, Mount Greylock Regional School faces a significant security challenge. The *Berkshire Eagle* reports that the task was made a bit easier with the help of a \$5,000 loss control grant from the Massachusetts Inter-local Insurance Association. The grant, issued last fall and announced this month, funded the installation of additional security cameras in the school, which already has benefitted from the surveillance. An initial set of cameras was installed in 2012.

#### **WILLIAMSTOWN TOWN, SCHOOL RACES SHAPING UP (NA)**

There will be at least two contested races in May's Williamstown election, but two offices currently have no candidates, and time is running out to get your name on the ballot. The deadline to return papers is Tuesday, March 22nd, at 5 p.m. Nomination papers can be acquired at Town Hall during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and just 28 signatures are required to make a candidate eligible. For two open seats, currently no one has taken out papers: a three-year term on the Library Board of Trustees and a three-year term on the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School Committee, from which James Gazzaniga is stepping down after three decades of service to McCann Tech. The contested races, so far, are for the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board.

#### **53-MILE PIPELINE PROTEST WALK (NA)**

Roughly 200 opponents of the proposed Northeast Energy Direct pipeline — including significant numbers of college students on spring vacation — have begun to walk all or some of the 53 miles between Windsor and Northfield. The *Berkshire Eagle* is reporting that the four-day trek, *Taking Steps to a Renewable Future*, is "designed to energize people" and "organize a broad base" ready to demonstrate against the proposed natural gas pipeline by Kinder Morgan subsidiary Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co., according to organizers. Walkers took off yesterday after an oatmeal breakfast at Windsor Town Hall.

#### **ADAMS TOWN HALL NEW HOME FOR CARVING OF K-9 KUMAR (NA)**

The Adams Police Department presented the town with a life-size wooden statue of the town's K-9, Kumar, in a special case. *Berkshires.com* reports that Police Chief Richard Tarsa, Officer Travis Cunningham, and K-9 Officer Curtis Crane brought the hand-carved and painted statue made by Berkshire Carousel to Wednesday's Selectmen's meeting. The Kumar statue is housed in a "dog house" designed and built by McCann Technical School students. The statue was initially created to be auctioned off to raise money to help sustain the K-9 program in Adams. At the auction held at the Bounti-Fare last November, a group of Adams residents pooled their money together in order to keep the statue at the Town Hall.



**WNAW –AM 1230**

**ISSUES AND NEEDS REPORT**



**January. February March  
2016**

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**This is a sample of public service announcements presented on WNAW during the 1st Quarter of 2016. Announcement are rotated twice hourly throughout the day from 6am – 7pm. On WNAW**

## **FEBRUARY 2016 WNAW COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

PSA KILL 2/6

The BOUTIQUE will be open this Saturday from 9- Noon at Stamford Community Church, featuring gently used clothing. Proceeds benefit the missions...Everyone's welcome. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/6

The DCR's Visitors Museum at Western Gateway Heritage State Park will present an illustrated lecture, "Snowflake Seminar" this Saturday at 3pm. This illustrated lecture will take you inside the world of a single snowflake where its beauty matches its might. The Park is located south of the Hadley Overpass on Route 8 in North Adams. The Visitors Museum is in building #4. Information: 663-6312. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/10

The City of North Adams reminds you that Wednesday Feb. 10 will be the last day to register to vote or make changes to the voter's lists to be used at the presidential primary election to be held Tuesday March 1. The City Clerk's office will be open from 8 AM to 8 PM on Feb. 10. To be eligible to vote a person must be 18 years of age or older on or before Election Day (March 1), a citizen of the United States and (if voting in the City) a resident of North Adams. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/24

Absentee ballots for the March 1st Presidential Primary Election are now available at the North Adams City Clerk's Office. If you are unable to vote on Election Day you may stop by the office and vote any time during office hours, which are Mon-Fri 8:00am to 4:30pm. If you cannot physically come in then you can send a request to have a ballot mailed to you. Please keep in mind that they must be mailed to you, so please allow ample time for this. Absentee ballots are available until Noon the day before the March 1 election. Ballots must be

returned to the City Clerk's Office before the close of the polls. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

## **JANUARY 2016 WNAW COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

PSA KILL 1/9

The Department of Conservation & Recreation's Visitors Museum at Western Gateway Heritage State Park will present an illustrated lecture: "Nothing" this Saturday at 3pm. This illustrated lecture will explore the often illusive and contradictory concept of nothing. Is nothing something? Western Gateway Heritage State Park is located south of the Hadley Overpass on Route 8 in North Adams. The Visitors Museum is in building #4. Info: 663-6312. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/11

Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist Dan Barry, who writes the newspaper's "This Land" column, will speak at Williams College at 4 PM Monday, Jan. 11. He'll be joined by Political science professor Justin Crowe for a conversation, billed as "Baseball, Bunkhouses and Burlesque: Travels Across America." The conversation will take place in Room 3 of Griffin Hall. The event is free and open to the public. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/18

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Committee welcomes everyone to join them on Monday, Jan. 18th for their 22nd Annual "Day of Service" to the community. The day begins at 9 AM with coffee and pastries at MCLA's Church Street Center. Participants will then start their choice of a community project, either on- or off-site. A free luncheon and community celebration begins at 12:30 at MCLA's Church Street Center, highlighted by the presentation of the Peacemaker Award to PopCares, Inc. The event is free and open to everyone. Contact Kathy Keeser at [Kathykeeser@gmail.com](mailto:Kathykeeser@gmail.com) or 664-4006 or Liz Boland at the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition at 663-7588. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 3/30

Through March 31, The Friends of Milne Public Library is accepting new or gently used book and media donations for its annual book sale.

Donations can be brought in bags or boxes to the library at 1095 Main St., Williamstown. To arrange for large donations, please call 652-2064 or 458-2276. For more information about donation guidelines, visit [www.milnelibraryfriends.org](http://www.milnelibraryfriends.org)

The 2016 book sale, silent auction, cafe and bake sale will be held Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23 at Williamstown Elementary School. For more info or to volunteer, e-mail [friends@milnelibraryfriends.org](mailto:friends@milnelibraryfriends.org) . If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/12

The newly-formed Berkshire Organization for Original Music, or BOOM, is holding an organizational meeting in the Robert Boland Theatre at BCC on Tuesday, January 12th at 7 PM. All area musicians who write and perform their own music, those who are looking to do so, and anyone who supports local music are encouraged to attend. For more information, visit the BOOM facebook page ([www.facebook.com/boomberkshires](http://www.facebook.com/boomberkshires)) If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/23

The Florida Council on Aging will be running a 3-day Diamond Tours bus excursion to New York City May 14-16. The weekend will feature a NYC Harbor Cruise and other guided tours, including time to visit the 9/11 Memorial. For more details and pricing contact Donna at the Senior Center: 662-2811 or email [floridaseniorcenter@verizon.net](mailto:floridaseniorcenter@verizon.net) . If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/29

The 2016 Annual Town Census is underway in Adams. Census forms have been mailed to all residents. Your participation is very important in helping the Town apply for state aid and grants. If you haven't received your form or if you wish to provide your census information by phone, contact Town Clerk Haley Meczywor at 743-8300 Ext.176, weekdays 8:30-4. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/21



The Teen Writing Workshop will be hosting a mid-year public performance at Gallery 51 on Thurs. January 21st starting at 5pm. The Northern Berkshire Community Coalition's Teen Writing Workshop will be presenting the work they have created this year, featuring poetry and short story fiction. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided. Gallery 51 is at 51 Main Street in North Adams.. For more information, please contact Adam Tobin, [atobin@nbccoalition.org](mailto:atobin@nbccoalition.org) or call 663-7588. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/15

The next Northern Berkshire Community Coalition monthly forum is this Friday, from 10am to noon at the First Baptist Church in North Adams (Eagle St. entrance). This month's forum is a follow-up to November's meeting and will focus on "Community Health Solutions", featuring the new Community Health Worker Corps. The organizers of the Friendship Center Food Pantry at 43 Eagle Street ask you to please bring along a non-perishable food item for donation to the pantry. For more info, please call Adam Hinds, at 663-7588, or email [ahinds@nbccoalition.org](mailto:ahinds@nbccoalition.org) . If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/16

The DCR's Visitors Museum at Western Gateway Heritage State Park will present an illustrated lecture, "Infinity" on Saturday January 16th at 3pm. It will explore the incomprehensible concept of infinity and how we have tried through the ages to apply its meaning to our existence and the universe. The Park is located south of the Hadley Overpass on Route 8 in North Adams. The Visitors Museum is in building #4. Information: 663-6312. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/17

There will be an All U Can Eat Breakfast, sponsored by Naomi Chapter No. 17, Order of the Eastern Star this Sunday from 8-11:30 AM at the Masonic Building, 172 Church Street, North Adams. Adults \$8 and Children (Under 10)-\$4. Enjoy Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Home Fries, French Toast and Pancakes, including their Special Pancake of the Month-Chunky Monkey, plus more! If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/18

BRTA regular bus service will not be running and their Administrative Offices will be closed on Monday Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Bus service will resume at 5:45 AM Tuesday and offices will reopen at 8 AM. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/17

The Maple Grove Civic Club meeting scheduled for this Sunday at the PNA Hall in Adams has been cancelled. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/28

MCLA will hold its annual "National Girls and Women in Sports Day" on Saturday, Jan. 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Amsler Campus Center Gym, on the second floor of the Center. The Trailblazers and the Department of Athletics invite girls and women to participate in various clinics to promote sport, followed at 1:00 by the MCLA women's basketball game against Worcester State. This event is open to the public and free to girls, \$5 for women. Those interested are encouraged to register now, at [www.athletics.mcla.edu/information](http://www.athletics.mcla.edu/information) . If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/20

A four-part series of yoga classes designed specifically for seniors will be held at the Clark Art Institute on Thursdays, January 21, 28, February 4 and 11 at 11 am. Classes will be in the Hunter Studio at the Lunder Center at Stone Hill, led by Certified yoga instructor Mary Edgerton. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one. The fee is \$40 for all four classes (\$30 for Clark members); the drop-in rate is \$12 per class (\$8 members). To register, visit [www.clarkart.edu](http://www.clarkart.edu) or call 413-458-0524. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/27

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Northern Berkshire will hold a free kickoff for the annual event on January 20 at 6PM at Freight Yard Pub, North Adams. Everyone is invited to the kickoff to learn about how to help the American Cancer Society save more lives

from cancer. Visit [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org) to learn more or contact Stephanie Bosley at 404-327-6560 or [stephanie.bosley@cancer.org](mailto:stephanie.bosley@cancer.org) . If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/2

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Berkshire County is holding its 2nd Annual Cupcake Wars Fundraiser at the ITAM Lodge in Pittsfield on Thursday, Feb. 4. Bakeries from throughout the Berkshires will compete for the best cupcake. There will be an Italian Dinner and cupcake tasting and auction. Tickets are \$30; call 413-433-1666 or go online to [www.namibc.org](http://www.namibc.org) . If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/11

"Both Sides Now", a first-time creative collaboration by sibling artists Lexa and Dan Walsh, opens at the Williams College Museum of Art on February 12 and will be on view through September 25. There will be an Opening Celebration with the artists on Thursday, Feb 11 at 5:30 pm. WCMA is located on Main Street in Williamstown, is open 10-5, Thursdays 10- 8, and closed Wednesdays. Admission is free. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/15

The UNO Community Center is open five days a week, 9AM-Noon Monday-Thursday and 9AM-4PM on Fridays. Folks are welcome to come use the space to meet up with friends, hold an informal gathering (like a knitting group), grab a cup of coffee or play with your kids in the play area. Keep in touch at [www.facebook.com/UNOCommCenter](http://www.facebook.com/UNOCommCenter) . If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/19

Parents and guardians of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in attending Hoosac Valley Middle and High School are invited to attend an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House next Tuesday Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the school. Please RSVP by Jan.19<sup>th</sup> by contacting Mrs. Butler at 743-5200 Ext. 5006 or email [butlerm@acrsd.net](mailto:butlerm@acrsd.net) . If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/23

The DCR's Visitors Museum at Western Gateway Heritage State Park will present an illustrated lecture: "Beyond Endurance" on Saturday January 23rd at 3pm. You'll relive Ernest Shackleton's great attempt of Antarctic journeying aboard his ship Endurance. Western Gateway Heritage State Park is just south of the Hadley Overpass on Route 8 in North Adams. The Visitors Museum is in building #4. Information: 663-6312. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/30

The 12th annual FAFSA Day Massachusetts is being held on Sunday, January 31st at 1:15 p.m. at Berkshire Community College. FAFSA is short for "Free Application for Federal Student Aid". Families are encouraged to visit [www.FAFSADay.org](http://www.FAFSADay.org) to register and to see a list of what to bring. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/25

On Monday (Jan.25) at 1:30 there will be a ribbon cutting at the new Colegrove Park Elementary School in North Adams. Also, there will be a Community Open House from 6-7:30 Monday night, when the school will be fully accessible for all to see. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/25

Common Folk Artist Collective presents Pitch Party, Monday January 25 from 7-9 PM at 18 Holden St. North Adams. Bring a new song to share, poems, stories, ideas – bring a friend who's interested in getting involved! Have a band you'd like to see play in North Adams? Bring a sample or website info to share. For more information, email [wearecommonfolk@gmail.com](mailto:wearecommonfolk@gmail.com) or find them on Facebook. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/27

North Adams Little League will hold an open meeting for all existing Little League/Minor League parents, potential new parents and anyone interested in youth baseball in North Adams and surrounding communities. It will be Tuesday Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 PM at the North

Adams Armory. Little League/Minor League registration and signups will be held following the meeting, and again Weds. the 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 PM at the Armory. Children age 7-12 are eligible. Please bring the child's birth certificate and proof of residency. The fee is \$40, and \$25 for each additional sibling. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/28

The theme of MCLA'S spring semester Green Living Seminar Series will be "Living with Wildlife: Conflicts and Conservation." The series will begin on Thursday, Jan. 28, at 5:30 PM, in room 121 of the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation, when Susannah Lerman from the USDA Forest Service discusses "Improving Relations between People and Urban Wildlife." The seminar, the first in an 11-week series, is free and open to the public. For more info, go to [www.mcla.edu/greenliving](http://www.mcla.edu/greenliving) or call 662-5303. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/28

It's a Polar Bear Picnic! A morning of stories and exploration at the Adams Free Library, 92 Park Street, Adams, on Friday, January 29 at 10 AM. Children and parents will enjoy an interactive frosty picnic and learn about basic math skills, counting, shapes and colors. Call 664-4821 to register. Space is limited. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/30

The Bay State Games Alpine Ski Races originally scheduled for this Saturday (1/30) at Bousquet Ski Area in Pittsfield, have been rescheduled to Sunday, March 6 at Bousquet. Registration for the alpine skiing competition remains open. For more information or to register, please visit [www.baystategames.org](http://www.baystategames.org) or call 781-932-6555. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 1/30

The DCR's Visitors Museum at Western Gateway Heritage State Park will present an illustrated lecture, "Impossible Journeys" this Saturday at 3pm. This program will explore some historic journeys that should never have been attempted or never actually took place. Western Gateway Heritage State Park is located south of the Hadley Overpass



on Route 8 in North Adams. The Visitors Museum is in building #4. Info: 663-6312. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/2

BART's 8th annual Science Fair is happening on February 4th and they're looking for volunteer judges! You don't have to be a scientist, just a thoughtful individual willing to follow the guidelines. The middle and high school fairs will be held at BART, One Commercial Place, Adams, beginning at 8:45 on the 4<sup>th</sup>. For more info or to volunteer, please contact the school at 743-7311 or Email: [info@bartcharter.org](mailto:info@bartcharter.org). If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/4

Northern Berkshire Retirees Club will meet at 10 AM Thursday February 4th at the Greylock Community Club on State Rd., North Adams. Steve Roy, Veterans Agent to will speak to the group on any changes in the veteran's program concerning pensions, medical and other areas. This meeting is open to the public. You'll be able to ask Steve questions and set up an interview with him if you'd like. There will be a question and answer period following the talk. Coffee and doughnuts will be available. Any questions call 743-9476 or 663-9263. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/4

PRESS Gallery will hold an opening reception for the exhibition "What Does #BlackLivesMatter Mean to You?", on Thursday, Feb. 4, from 5 to 7 p.m., in MCLA Gallery 51, 51 Main St., North Adams. It's free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. The exhibit includes drawing, painting and sculpture, video and artist books, and participatory pieces. It will be on display Feb. 4-28 at MCLA Gallery 51, open Mon- Sat 10- 6 and Sunday Noon-4. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/20

Escape the winter doldrums with free screenings of three movies set in sunny locales during the Clark Art Institute's "Midwinter Movie Madness" series on Saturdays, February 6, 13, and 20. All films will be shown at 2:30 pm in the Michael Conforti Pavilion. Feb 6: "Mamma

Mia"; Feb. 13: "Rio"; and Feb. 20: "Nim's Island". More info at [www.clarkart.edu/events](http://www.clarkart.edu/events) . If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/12

The Bay State Winter Games are returning to the Berkshires with an expanded schedule of events. On February 12-14, Figure Skating will be held at the Williams College Skating Rink in Williamstown and Masters Ice Hockey will be at the Peter Foote Vietnam Veterans Memorial Skating Rink in North Adams. Bowling will also be held at Greylock Bowl in North Adams on February 13. New this year: Freestyle Cross Country Skiing at Notchview Ski Touring Area in Windsor on Feb. 27, and Classical Cross Country Skiing and Snow Shoe Racing on Feb. 28 at Canterbury Farms in Becket. Also, there's the Alpine Skiing event at Bousquet, rescheduled to March 6. For more information or to register for skiing or snow racing events, visit [www.baystategames.org](http://www.baystategames.org) or call 781-932-6555. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/10

This year's Raymond James Monopoly Tournament will benefit Berkshire County Kids Place. It'll be at the Berkshire Hills Country Club on Thursday Feb. 25 from 5:30-10 PM. Sign-up individually or team up with friends for an evening of fun for a great cause. For full details go to [www.kidsplaceonline.org](http://www.kidsplaceonline.org) . If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/6

On Sunday, February 7 you're invited to a pancake brunch in Community Hall at the First Congregational Church, Williamstown, to celebrate Mardi Gras. Sausage and pancakes with delicious toppings like real maple syrup, homemade applesauce, blueberry sauce and whipped cream will be served from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. Gluten free pancakes and sausage will be available too. To add to the festive occasion, diners will be treated to Mardi Gras beads and background jazz. A donation of \$5 or more is requested to benefit the Williamstown Food Pantry. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

PSA KILL 2/12

"UNO" United Neighborhood Organization is holding a Valentine's Day Party for "UNO" children up to age 12 on Saturday, Feb. 13th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the "UNO" Community Center on 179 River St. in

North Adams. There will be light refreshments, games and prizes. For more info, please call Shirley at 663-5516. If it's happening in the Berkshires, you'll hear about it on WNAW Radio 1230.

### **KILL 3-4**

**Join the Hoosic River Watershed Association for a snowshoeing event, through a forests and along wetlands, ponds and streams within the Clarksburg State Park. The trip will offer the participants a great way to see animal tracks, beaver huts and cuttings, and possibly moose. Distance will be determined by the group and conditions; however the distances will be no greater than 3 miles. Bring beverages and snacks with you. Meet: At the Clarksburg State Park, entrance gate on Middle Road, Clarksburg by 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 5. The park is located approximately 900-feet west of the Rt. 8 and Middle road intersection. Leader: Call Andrew Kawczak at 413-664-9545 or email him by Thursday 3/2/02 at akawczak@yahoo.com for preregistration.**

### **KILL 3/8**

**The Adams-Cheshire Regional School District will be conducting a developmental preschool screening for Adams and Cheshire 3 and 4 year olds March 7 and 8 at the Clarksburg Elementary School. The purpose of the screening is to identify children who may have substantive needs in speech/hearing, cognitive/thinking, emotional/social or physical development. Appointments can be made by calling the Special Services Office at 413-743-5202 ext. 1107. The screening requires parents to bring their child and his/her birth certificate to the school.**

### **Kill 3- 12**

**Berkshire Nursing Families will hold its 13th annual Team Trivia Night fundraiser at the Williams Inn Saturday March 12 at 5:30 pm. This fundraiser allows BNF to provide professional breastfeeding consultations, childbirth classes, playgroups, the breastfeeding support hotline, and the Teen to 23 Project — all free of charge to Northern and Central Berkshire County residents. To register a team or an individual player, go to [www.berkshirenursingfamilies.org](http://www.berkshirenursingfamilies.org). For more information, call BNF Board Chair Suzy Holm at 413-652-1814 or email [bnf.teamtrivia@gmail.com](mailto:bnf.teamtrivia@gmail.com).**

### **KILL 3/11**

**C.T. Plunkett Elementary School will be holding Kindergarten registration for incoming children on Friday, March 11, from 8:30-2:30 in the office at C.T. Plunkett Elementary School, 14 Commercial St. Adams. Incoming children must be five years old by August 31, 2016. Parents registering their children must bring their child's birth certificate, immunization records and proof of residence. Please call the office at 743-0876 with any questions.**

### **KILL 3/12**

**The Clark Art Institute's popular Start with Art program, designed for 3- to 6-year-olds and their parents, will be held Saturday March 12, includes themed talks, gallery guides, and art-making activities specially designed for this age group. Start with Art is free and open to the public; no registration is required. Art project appropriate clothing is encouraged.**



The Milne Public Library in Williamstown will be presenting a program introducing Zentangle, the creative practice of mindful drawing, using repetitive lines and patterns to create beautiful images 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday March 13. Zentangle helps us to slow down and quietly focus the mind. No prior drawing experience is necessary; participants should be sixth grade and up. The workshop is free and all materials are provided. It is facilitated by Carol Egan of Bennington, Vt., a certified Zentangle teacher. Space is limited, so sign-ups in advance at 413-458-5369.

**3/10-3/TFN**

Now in its 9th year, Get BART Smart is an annual fundraising event designed to support BART's college preparatory program. Teams of BART supporters tour the school and compete in a trivia contest throughout BART classrooms to see who will make the grade in subjects like the SAT's, Vocabulary, and Pop Culture. Visit the event website for details and registration. Contact Leah Thompson with questions or to discuss sponsorship opportunities.

[leahthompson@bartcharter.org](mailto:leahthompson@bartcharter.org) or 413.743.7311 x.346

**3/10-TFN**

Join the Parent Café in the Haskins Center Gen. State Street, North Adams on Thursdays 5:30 - 7 p.m. for a nice meal and conversation with other parents about ways to play and read with your children. Each parent who attends will receive four new children's books to read with their young children. On-site child care and transportation is available if needed. Call 413-664-4821, space is limited

**3/10-TFN**

**Lego Group at the Library.** Thursday, on the third floor of the North Adams Library 6 - 7 p.m. The Family Center and the North Adams Library are joining forces to bring a Lego group to families with children ages 4 to 12 years old. They will provide Legos for you and your child to build and create. The group is FREE and drop in! Call the Family Center at 413-664-4821 for any questions.

**Kill 3/12**

Enjoy locally hand made goods at the 1st Annual Spring Sale at the Houghton mansion on March 12th. Browse items like soaps, jewelry, honey, knit wear, and so much more made by local crafters. There will also be a farmer's market. The event runs 9am to 3pm. Proceeds go to the Lafayette blue lotus association to maintain the Houghton Mansion building. For more information, call 413-743-1952

**Kill 3/12**

Maple sugaring season has arrived just in time for Hopkins Memorial Forest's annual Maplefest celebration Saturday March 12, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in Williamstown. This annual event, which exalts the time-honored Yankee tradition of producing home grown sweeteners from local maple trees, will give everyone a chance to observe and take part in the process of producing maple syrup, from the tree to the bottle. The event is free to the public and appropriate for people of all ages. It will be held regardless of the weather.

### **Kill 3/18**

**A Music and Movement Playgroup at Freedom Dance Studio**  
40 Main Street, North Adams, will be held Friday - March 18,  
10 – 11 a.m. Families with young children will enjoy creative  
movement, music, and free play. The group will end with a  
“Circle Time” of songs, finger plays and a story. Snacks will be  
served. Drop in or Call 664-4821 for more information.

### **Kill 3/19**

**Mt. Greylock RSD drama presents the musical "Nice Work If  
You Can Get It" at the '62 Centre for Theatre and Dance at  
Williams College, 1000 Main Street, Williamstown March 19 at  
7pm. Curtain time is 7:00 pm. Tickets available at the door.**

### **Kill 3/21**

**North Adams, Our Children, Ourselves** will be held Monday,  
at Haskins Center, State Street, North Adams 10 – 11 a.m. This  
is a **FREE** group for parents with children who have special  
needs or delays. Join other parents to share resources,  
challenges and joys. Snacks will be provided. Transportation  
and child care available. Please call 664-4821 to register for  
child care and or transportation. This group is focused on  
parents with children ages birth to eight years.

### **KILL 3/25**

**The UCP Life without Limits Benefit concert featuring the  
band KANSAS is on March 26, 7-10 at the Colonial Theatre.**  
Tickets can be purchased through the box office at 413-867-  
4444 or [www.berkshiretheatregroup.org](http://www.berkshiretheatregroup.org).

### **KILL 4/3**

**Sprout Film Festival** co-sponsored by **Berkshire County Arc** and the **Berkshire County Arc Down Syndrome Family Group** is a chance to experience short films related to the field of developmental disabilities will be held Sunday, April 3, 2010. Tickets are \$5 per person.

For more information or to reserve tickets, contact Jessica McNair at 413-464-7262, ext. Tickets can also be purchased at the door, as well as conveniently and securely online at [bcarc.org](http://bcarc.org).

### **Kill 4/23**

**Houghton Mansion** located at 172 Church Street in North Adams, presents "Messages from Heaven" with psychic medium Rebecca Anne LoCicero Saturday, April 23, 7-9 pm. Tickets for this event are \$30. For more information email [houghtonmansion@gmail.com](mailto:houghtonmansion@gmail.com). Must be 18 years or older unless accompanied by an adult. Houghton Mansion is

### **KILL 4/23**

**Houghton Mansion** at 172 Church Street in North Adams, presents a special paranormal investigation with author and paranormal investigator David Raby. The event begins at 9:30pm and includes a brief presentation of the Houghton Mansion and the Houghton family before a light-and-sound paranormal investigation throughout the mansion. There are limited tickets available for this event. Tickets are \$30. For more information on this event, please email [Hughtonmansion@gmail.com](mailto:Hughtonmansion@gmail.com). Must be 18 years or older unless accompanied by an adult. Houghton Mansion is located

## **KILL 4-9**

**Cycle For Life at Cutting Edge Fitness, 73 Summer St, Adams, Monday, May 9. Choose from 2 sessions: 4:30PM or 6:30PM. Cost is \$25, all proceeds will be donated to Relay For Life. To register email: [hotspotsin@gmail.com](mailto:hotspotsin@gmail.com) or stop in to the gym: 73 Summer St, Adams, MA.**

## **Kill 4-8**

**The YLP teens are putting together a Community Coloring Book and they are looking for local artists to submit artwork. The coloring book is their way of providing a tool for the community to use, to build community pride, create something positive, and color away some of the stresses in life.**

**Submission deadline is April 8th. Submissions can be original art or they can be original quotes, lyrics, poetry, or any other kind of writing prompt. For more information contact Jessica Sweeney, [sweeney@nbccoalition.org](mailto:sweeney@nbccoalition.org), or call Jess at 4-301-758-7588.**

## **4-3-TFN**

**The Family Place in North Adams will host A Time To Talk, a support group for parents to share their experiences with other parents. With topic-based conversations amongst parents throughout the year, parents will be able to express their feelings, beauties, and struggles that go along with being a parent. This group is held at The Family Place every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 10:30am-12pm.**



#### 4-3-TFN

**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren** group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 5:30pm-7:30pm at The Family Place. If you or know of any grandparents who are caregivers to their grandchildren and need a support group to discuss the struggles around parenting a second time around and would like to meet other grandparents who share the same struggles, do not hesitate to call the Parents Place and join!!!

#### 4--tfn

The Nurturing Father's Program at The Family Place in North Adams and the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department welcomes you to attend the FREE, 12-16 session program, "Nurturing Father's©" in North Adams. The Nurturing Father's Program© is offered at different times throughout the year at The Family Place. For more information please call us at 413-663-7588.

#### Kill tfn

**Let's Get Healthy Together!** It's the 2016 Mayor's Fitness Challenge - It begins Thursday and runs through July 15th. Form a team, all ages are encouraged. Register at [berkshiremfc.com](http://berkshiremfc.com) and click on the link to register for North Adams. Join the Mayor's Fitness Challenge Kick-off on Friday, May 6th at 5:30pm at 66 Main St. (formerly Sleepy's). Check out local health and wellness practitioners that will be offering free opportunities during the Challenge and get your 1000 packets! For more information and updates visit our website at [www.berkshiremfc.com](http://www.berkshiremfc.com) and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NorthAdamsMayorsFitnessChallenge](http://www.facebook.com/NorthAdamsMayorsFitnessChallenge). For questions, contact Amanda Chilson at (413) 663-7535. [achilson@nbccoalition.org](mailto:achilson@nbccoalition.org).

#### **KILL 4-14**

**“Berkshire Community College will host an Info Night on Thursday, April 14th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at McCann Technical High School, 70 Hodges Cross Road in North Adams.**

**Prospective students will receive On-the-Spot assistance with Admissions, Academic Advising and Financial Aid.**

**A Financial Aid overview session begins at 5:30 p.m. and from 6:00-7:00 there will be a hands-on FAFSA Help Workshop in the computer lab. To reserve a seat or learn more, call 413-236-5201.”**

#### **KILL 4-14**

**The Harper Center in Williamstown is recruiting 20 women (ages 50+) to participate in a FREE 10-week educational program on Thursdays, April 14 through June 16 from 10:00am-2:30pm at The Harper Center, Williamstown. The Aging Mastery Program encourages participants to make small changes to improve their health and live better lives. A different speaker each week will provide information and tips so participants can get started mastering the art of Aging. A delicious healthy snack will be served weekly. Each participant will receive a \$10 gift card. For more information or to sign up: 458-8250.**

#### **Kill 5-4**

**The Spring 2016 Neighborlies will be held on Wednesday, May 4th from 5:00 to 6:30 pm at the Congregational Bethesda located at 53 Lois Street in North Adams!! Celebrate individuals and groups who have made a positive impact on our community. Enter information to nominate someone now. Categories include: Neighborly Acts, Groups Making a Difference, Youth Taking the Lead, Business/Agency Support and Community Health and Wellness. Please make sure to include your nominee's address or email they can be sent an invitation to attend this event! For information go to [nhccallition.org/](http://nhccallition.org/)**

#### **KILL 5/4**

**The Clark Art Institute's "First Sundays Free" program runs on the first Sunday of the month 10Am till 5PM through day 4. Admission to the Clark is always free for members, children under age 18, and students with a valid ID. To learn more, visit [clarkart.edu](http://clarkart.edu) or call 413-458-0425.**

#### **KILL 4-14**

**Berkshire Community College will host an info evening on Thursday, April 14th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at McCann Technical High School, Hodges Cross Road in North Adams. Prospective students will receive On-the-Spot assistance with Admissions, Academic Advising and Financial aid. A Financial Aid overview session begins at 5:00 p.m. and from 6:00-7:00 there will be a hands-on FAFSA Help Workshop in the computer lab. To reserve a seat or learn more, call 413-236-5201."**

#### **KILL 4-17**

**There's an All You Can Eat Breakfast Sponsored by the 9th Chapter No. 17, Order of the Eastern Star this Sunday 4-17-8:00-11:30 AM at the Masonic Building 172 Church Street North Adams. A-\$8.00 C(Under 10)-\$4.00 Menu: Scrambled Eggs Home Fries Bacon Sausage French Toast Pancakes and the Special Pancake of the Month-Strawberry plus more. For \$8 dollars adults and \$4 dollars for the kids.**

#### **KILL 4-30**

**Saturday April 30, North Adams' Windsor Lake will transform into a wondrous playground of interactive artworks and performances for curious people of all ages to explore. FIGMENT North Adams is a community forum for the creation and display of free, public, accessible participatory and interactive art by emerging artists across all disciplines and creative experimenters alike. It's free from 3-9 PM A Saturday April 30.**

#### **KILL 5-9**

**CYCLE FOR LIFE with Cutting Edge Fitness, 73 Summer St, Adams, MA Monday, May 9. Choose from 2 sessions: 10:30-11:45 or 5:30PM Cost is \$25, all proceeds will be donated to Relay for Life! To register email: [hotspotspin@youth.com](mailto:hotspotspin@youth.com) or stop into our gym: 73 Summer St, Adams**

**KILL 5-18**

**Master puppeteer David Lane brings his expertise to the Clark Art Institute Monday, April 18 through Friday, April 22 from 9 am to 12 pm with a spring break workshop for children ages 10 to 15. Students draw inspiration from the Clark's collection and spend the week creating their own rod puppets, an art form dating back to ancient Egypt. This type of puppet is constructed with wires that may be attached to various parts of the body in order to manipulate it. Tuition is \$130 (\$110 Clark members). For more information, call 413 458 0410.**

## FCC CALENDARS

The UNO Community Center is open five days a week, 9AM-Noon Monday-Thursday and 9AM-4PM on Fridays. Folks are welcome to come use the space to meet up with friends, hold an informal gathering (like a knitting group), grab a cup of coffee or play with your kids in the play area. Keep in touch at [www.facebook.com/UNOCommCenter](http://www.facebook.com/UNOCommCenter) .

The Clark Art Institute's "First Sundays Free" program runs on the first Sunday of the month 10Am till 5PM through May 4. Admission to the Clark is always free for members, children under age 18, and students with a valid ID. To learn more, visit [clarkart.edu](http://clarkart.edu) or call 413-458-0425.

### KILL 9-25

"Both Sides Now", a first-time creative collaboration by sibling artists Lexa and Dan Walsh, will be at the Williams College Museum of Art on February 12 and will be on view through September 25. WCMA is located on Main Street in Williamstown, is open 10-5, Thursdays 10- 8, and closed Wednesdays. Admission is free.

### KILL 3/30

Are you a local singer or rapper? You could be crowned the next Relay Idol! Auditions are open to ALL! Contestants are asked to prepare a four minute audition. Free auditions will be held at the '6 House Pub Cold Spring Valley Williamstown, in March. Contestants who make it to the finals will perform on the MAIN STAGE at Relay For Life of Northern Berkshire. Winners of the competition will win prizes that include performance opportunities. This contest is open to ALL. You do not need to be a Relay For Life participant to be apart of Relay Idol! For more information on Audition Dates and Relay Idol visit: [www.relayforlife.org/northernberkshirema](http://www.relayforlife.org/northernberkshirema).



### **KILL 3-22**

**Nomination papers for the May 10 annual town election are currently available in the Williamstown Town Clerk's office. Candidates may pick up papers in the Town Clerk's office Mon.-Fri between 8:30- 4:30. They must be returned by Tuesday March 22. Also, absentee ballots are available for the March 1st Presidential Primary and Mt. Greylock Regional School Building Debt Exclusion.**

### **KILL 3-31**

**In celebration of Youth Art Month, the Clark Art Institute will hold after-school artmaking sessions on Thursdays in March FROM 3-5 PM. The themed workshops, designed for fourth- to eighth-graders, will be held in a special Young Artists Space on the lower level of the Clark Center. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Activities are free and no registration is required; The Clark is located at 225 South St. For more information, visit [clarkart.edu](http://clarkart.edu) or call 413-486-5303.**

### **KILL 3/31**

**The Clark Art Institute offers its popular New Parents Gallery Talk series, free, informal gallery talks held in the permanent collection galleries At 10:15 am. This program is best suited for parents with pre-toddlers; strollers and front-style baby carriers are permitted. Reservations are not required.**


#### **KILL 4-14**

**“Berkshire Community College will host an Info Night on Thursday, April 14th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at McCann Technical High School, 70 Hodges Cross Road in North Adams. Prospective students will receive On-the-Spot assistance with Admissions, Academic Advising and Financial Aid. A Financial Aid overview session begins at 5:30 p.m. and from 6:00-7:00 there will be a hands-on FAFSA Help Workshop in the computer lab. To reserve a seat or learn more, call 413-236-5201.”**

#### **KILL 4-14**

**The Harper Center in Williamstown is recruiting 20 adults (ages 50+) to participate in a FREE 10-week educational program on Thursdays, April 14 through June 16 from 1-2:30pm at The Harper Center, Williamstown. The Aging Mastery Program encourages participants to make small changes to improve their health and live better lives. A different speaker each week will provide information and tips so participants can get started mastering the Art of Aging! .A delicious healthy snack will be served weekly. Each graduate will receive a \$10 gift card. For more information or to sign up: 458-8250.**

#### **Kill 5-4**

 **The Spring 2016 Neighborlies will be held on Wednesday, May 4th from 5:00 to 6:30 pm at the Congregational Beth Israel located at 53 Lois Street in North Adams!! Celebrate individuals and groups who have made a positive impact in our community. Enter information to nominate someone now. Categories include: Neighborly Acts, Groups Pulling Together, Youth Taking the Lead, Business/Agency Support and Community Health and Wellness. Please make sure to enter**

**4-3-TFN**

**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 5:30pm-7:30pm at The Family Place. If you or know of any grandparents who are caregivers to their grandchildren and need a support group to discuss the struggles around parenting a second time around and would like to meet other grandparents who share the same struggles, do not hesitate to call he Parents Place and join!!!**

**4--tfn**

**The Nurturing Father's Program at The Family Place in North Adams and the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department welcomes you to attend the FREE, 12-16 session program, "Nurturing Father's©" in North Adams. The Nurturing Father's Program© is offered at different times throughout the year at The Family Place. For more information, please call us at 413-663-7588.**

**Kill tfn**

**Let's Get Healthy Together! It's the 2016 Mayor's Fitness Challenge - It begins Thursday and runs through July 15th. Form a team, all ages are encouraged. Register at.berkshiremfc.com and click on the link to register for North Adams. Join the Mayor's Fitness Challenge Kick-off on Friday, May 6th at 5:30pm at 66 Main St. (formerly Sleepy's). Check out local health and wellness practitioners that will be offering free opportunities during the Challenge and get your MFC packets! For more information and updates: Visit our website at [www.berkshiremfc.com](http://www.berkshiremfc.com) and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NorthAdamsMayorsFitnessChallenge](http://www.facebook.com/NorthAdamsMayorsFitnessChallenge). For questions, contact Amanda Chilson at (413) 663-7588 or [achilson@nbccoalition.org](mailto:achilson@nbccoalition.org).**

**your nominee's address or email they can be sent an invitation to attend this event! For information go to [nbccoalition.org/](http://nbccoalition.org/)**

#### **KILL 5/4**

**The Clark Art Institute's "First Sundays Free" program runs on the first Sunday of the month 10Am till 5PM through May 4. Admission to the Clark is always free for members, children under age 18, and students with a valid ID. To learn more, visit [clarkart.edu](http://clarkart.edu) or call 413-458-0425.**

**WNAW -AM 1230**

**ISSUES AND NEEDS REPORT**



**January. February . March. 2015**

**Public Service Programs**

**WNAW presents a public information half-hour program every Sunday called INFO Trak from 7:30- 8:00 am.**

## QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT, JANUARY-MARCH, 2016

Show # 2016-01

Date aired: 1-3-16 Time Aired: 7:30 AM

**John A. Eterno, Ph.D.**, Professor, Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Studies in Criminal Justice at Molloy College, former Captain with the New York City Police Department, co-author of *"The Crime Numbers Game: Management by Manipulation"*

Dr. Eterno conducted the first scientific examination of crime statistics manipulation in the New York City Police Department. He explained how increasing pressure to show decreasing crime rates by any means necessary has affected police departments throughout the United States. He discussed how this affects crime victims and explained what citizens can do to ensure that their local police department is reporting crime statistics in an honest manner.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:47

Crime

Government Policies

**Kristen Copeland, MD**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

75% of young children in the US are in some form of pre-school or daycare outside the home. Dr. Copeland conducted a study that found that most children in daycare get far too little exercise. She explained the reasons behind this trend and why parents should be concerned. She outlined the types of questions parents should ask when they are looking for a pre-school or daycare center.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:24

Children's Health

Parenting

Education

**Phil Reed**, Senior Consumer Advice Editor at Edmunds.com

Today's cars no longer need to have their oil changed every 3,000 miles. Mr. Reed talked about design improvements in recent years, and how drivers can decide when it really is time for an oil change. He talked about the positive effects of this rapidly advancing technology for both the environment and consumers' pocketbooks.

Issues covered:

Length: 4:52

Environment

Consumer Matters



Show # 2016-02

Date aired: 1-10-16 Time Aired: 7:30 AM

**Jane Bryant Quinn**, personal finance journalist, syndicated columnist, author of *"How To Make Your Money Last: The Indispensable Retirement Guide"*

Even with her decades of experience in the field, Ms. Quinn found planning her own retirement overwhelming, so she set out to find answers. She explained how to determine how much money may be needed for retirement, how to greatly simplify investment decisions, and why communication between a husband and wife is so important in retirement planning.

**Issues covered:**  
Retirement Planning  
Personal Finance

**Length:** 9:06

**Kate Carr**, President and CEO of Safe Kids Worldwide, a nonprofit organization working to prevent childhood injury

Last year, more than six million car seats were recalled for a safety defect, yet fewer than half of them were fixed. Ms. Carr outlined her organization's concerns and explained why so many recalled car seats were not repaired. She noted that 80 percent of parents believe car seat registration cards are important, but only 42 percent return the card.

**Issues covered:**  
Children's Health  
Parenting

**Length:** 8:14

**Roger Beckett**, Executive Director of the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio

For years, the teaching of history and civics has taken a back seat to STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education. Testing has found that only 18 percent of 8<sup>th</sup> graders are deemed "proficient" or better in history; only 23 percent in civics or government. Mr. Beckett explained why he believes the founding documents of our country should be essential reading for every American, especially students.

**Issues covered:**  
Education  
Government Policies

**Length:** 5:04

Show # 2016-03

Date aired: 1-17-16 Time Aired: 7:30 AM

**Stephen Kohn**, attorney, Executive Director of the National Whistleblower Center, author of *"The Whistleblower's Handbook: A Step-By-Step Guide To Doing What's Right And Protecting Yourself"*

Every year, criminals and fraudsters rip off the federal government by committing tax fraud--stealing billions of taxpayer dollars in the process. However, it's becoming much more difficult to do so, thanks to a massive increase in whistleblower disclosures. Mr. Kohn discussed recent changes in laws that have made it much easier to report wrongdoing. He also explained what steps to take to weigh the plusses and minuses of blowing the whistle.

**Issues covered:**  
Whistleblowing  
Crime  
Government Regulations

**Length:** 8:53

**Mary Norris**, longtime copy editor at "The New Yorker," author of "*Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen*"

Ms. Norris discussed the most common mistakes in spelling, punctuation and word usage, and why it is so important. She explained how new technologies and changes in our nation's education system have made proper grammar less "cool."

Issues covered:

Length: 8:21

Education  
Career

**Kevin Fiscella, MD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community & Preventive Medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry

Dr. Fiscella discussed his groundbreaking research that found that the lives of nearly 8,000 black Americans could be saved each year if doctors could figure out a way to bring their average blood pressure down to the average level of whites. He talked about the reasons behind the gap between the races in controlling blood pressure, and the possible ways to reduce that gap.

Issues covered:

Length: 4:54

Personal Health  
Minority Concerns

Show # 2016-04

Date aired: 1-24-16 Time Aired: 7:30 AM

**Maria Konnikova**, journalist, psychologist, author of "*The Confidence Game: Why We Fall for It... Every Time*"

Ms. Konnikova explained how the world's most talented con men can so easily use persuasion and exploit trust to swindle even the most cautious consumers. She said human beings are hardwired to believe, no matter how educated they are about scams and ripoffs. She talked about the most common methods used by crooks to lure their victims in.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:04

Crime  
Consumer Matters

**Elizabeth Levy Paluck, PhD**, Associate Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University

Curbing bullying has long been a focal point for parents and schools, but Dr. Levy Paluck found that the answer may not lie within rules set by adults. Her team of researchers from Princeton, Rutgers and Yale found that students themselves, particularly those most connected to their peers, were able to reduce and resolve conflicts 30% more effectively than traditional methods used by adults.

Issues covered:

Length: 7:51

Bullying  
Youth at Risk

**Alex Hutchinson, PhD**, contributing editor at Popular Mechanics magazine, author of "*Big Ideas: 100 Modern Inventions That Transformed Our World*"

Mr. Hutchinson consulted 25 experts at 17 museums and universities to determine the 100 greatest inventions of the modern era. He talked about the long-term trends of scientific research and government's role in it.

Issues covered:

Length: 5:02

Science

Government Spending

Show # 2016-05

Date aired: 2-7-16 Time Aired: 7:30 AM

**Susan B. Roberts, Ph.D.**, Director of the Energy Metabolism Laboratory at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University in Boston

Most people think of fast food when they imagine the unhealthy effects of eating out. Dr. Roberts led a study that found that 92 percent of meals from both large-chain and non-chain local restaurants exceeded recommended calorie requirements for a single meal. She explained how to keep tabs on restaurant portion sizes and calorie information. She proposed local legislation to require restaurants to offer partial portions at partial prices.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:31

Nutrition

Personal Health

Consumer Matters

Government Regulations

**Marc Goodman**, law enforcement and counterterrorism expert, author of *Future Crimes: Inside the Digital Underground and the Battle for Our Connected World*

Technology has improved our lives immeasurably, but Mr. Goodman said that a new tidal wave of tech advancements—from implantable medical devices to drones to WiFi thermoses—are all susceptible to hacking, with disastrous consequences. He explained some of the greatest concerns for the average consumer and how to attempt to keep devices secure.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:45

Crime

Online Security

**Sissy Lappin**, veteran real estate agent, author of *Simple and Sold: Sell Your House Fast and Keep the Commission*

Selling a house can be expensive. Ms. Lappin said that sales commissions typically devour 40-60% of a home seller's equity. However, she believes that the Internet has made it far easier for a property owner to take control of their own home-selling process and save money. She outlined the basic steps and common pitfalls.

Issues covered:

Length: 4:57

Consumer Matters

Personal Finance

Show # 2016-06

Date aired: 2-14-16 Time Aired: 9:30 AM

**Brandi Britton**, District President of Office Team, a staffing service providing temporary administrative and office support staff

Ms. Britton discussed the most common social media mistakes that take job seekers out of the running for a position. She noted that negative or inappropriate comments and questionable photos are the most common social media issues. She said a job hunter should always assume that a company has combed through their social media profile before even scheduling an interview.

Issues covered:

Length: 7:28

Employment  
Career  
Social Media

**Jennifer Bradley**, co-author of "Make it Zero: The Movement to Safeguard Every Child"

Ms. Bradley discussed the issue of human trafficking in the U.S. She said five main factors contribute to the problem, including poverty, abuse and isolation. She explained the shocking role that the foster child system plays in the issue, and she offered suggestions for individuals to make a difference in preventing and stopping human trafficking.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:43

Human Trafficking  
Child Abuse  
Poverty

**Richard Thaler, PhD**, Professor of Behavioral Science and Economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, President of the American Economic Association

Prof. Thaler discussed what happens when economics meets psychology and how irrational human beings greatly influence the US and world economies. He explained how research is in progress to understand human miscalculations, with the goal of developing better decision making in business, government and life in general.

Issues covered:

Length: 4:49

Economics  
Consumer Matters  
Mental Health

Show # 2016-07

Date aired: 2-21-16 Time Aired: 7:30 AM

**Jamie Cooper**, Associate Professor in the University of Georgia Department of Foods and Nutrition

Prof. Cooper led a study that found that vacations often lead to small amounts of long-term gradual weight gain and contribute to 'creeping obesity'. She talked about the primary causes of weight gain during vacations and explained why it's important to lose the added weight as soon as possible upon returning from a trip.

Issues covered:  
Personal Health  
Obesity

Length: 9:31

**R. Douglas Fields, PhD**, Chief of the Section on Nervous System Development and Plasticity at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, a part of the National Institutes of Health, Adjunct Professor in the Neuroscience and Cognitive Science Program at the University of Maryland, College Park, author of *"Why We Snap: Understanding the Rage Circuit in Your Brain"*

Today's headlines are filled with examples of otherwise rational people with no history of violence or mental illness who suddenly snap in a domestic dispute, an altercation with police, or road rage attack. Dr. Fields explained the reasons behind these seemingly random episodes. He said every human has been hardwired with the potential to snap. He also said the same pathway in the brain that can result in a violent outburst can also enable us to act heroically and altruistically before our conscious brain knows what we are doing.

Issues covered:  
Mental Health  
Domestic Violence

Length: 7:46

**Thomas Nassif, Ph.D.**, Professorial Lecturer in American University's Department of Health Studies, researcher at the D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center

U.S. veterans often return home with multiple types of trauma, and suffer from one of the highest rates of chronic pain of any population in the U.S. Dr. Nassif led a study that found that veterans who practiced meditation reported a 20 percent reduction in pain intensity, and in how pain interferes with everyday aspects of life, such as sleep, mood, and activity level.

Issues covered:  
Military Affairs  
Mental Health  
Personal Health

Length: 4:46

Show # 2016-08

Date aired: 2-28-16 Time Aired: 7:30 AM

**Rashmi Shetgiri, MD**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Dr. Shetgiri led a study of what factors influence teens to get involved with weapons. She said emotional distress and substance abuse both increase the odds for white, black, and Hispanic youth to carry or use a gun or knife. She also discussed the importance of parents and positive role models in the prevention of youth violence.

Issues covered:  
Youth Violence  
Youth at Risk  
Minority Concerns

Length: 7:47

**Harold Pollack, PhD**, Helen Ross Professor of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago, where he researches health and urban policy concerns, nonresident fellow at the Century Foundation, co-author of *"The Index Card: Why Personal Finance Doesn't Have to Be Complicated"*

Dr. Pollack believes that everything Americans need to know about managing their money could fit on a single index card. He explained why his nine simple rules outperform more complicated financial strategies. He also discussed the most responsible way to select a financial advisor and why he felt one of his most important rules should be to support the nation's social safety net.

Issues covered:  
Personal Finance  
Charitable Contributions

Length: 9:33

**Maria Corkern**, reading specialist, teacher, author of *"Doris Thesaurus"*

Recent studies have found that since 1950, the average teenager's vocabulary has dropped from 25,000 words to only 10,000. Ms. Corkern said that a limited vocabulary translated into a reduced ability to think critically and communicate effectively, which results in poor educational performance. She offered suggestions for parents on how to help a child improve his vocabulary.

Issues covered:  
Education  
Teen Concerns  
Youth at Risk

Length: 5:02

Show # 2016-09

Date aired: 3-6-16 Time Aired: 7:30 AM

**Katy J. Harriger, PhD**, Chair and Professor, Department of Politics and International Affairs at Wake Forest University

Our nation's political climate is more polarized than ever, and voter turnout among young people is abysmal. But Dr. Harriger led a study that found that learning to talk about the nuances of issues while in college can inspire young adults to be more engaged citizens even ten years later. She explained what the students were taught and how it could be applied to voters of any age.

Issues covered:  
Civic Participation  
Voting  
Youth Concerns

Length: 8:34

**Matt Schulz**, Senior Industry Analyst at CreditCards.com

25 million credit cardholders haven't changed their go-to credit card in at least 10 years. Mr. Schulz said that people are missing many rewards because card issuers are fully optimizing for new customers and giving big sign-up bonuses. He outlined some of the methods savvy consumers use to get the most out of their credit cards. He also explained why many cardholders are reluctant to switch cards.

Issues covered:  
Personal Finance  
Consumer Matters

Length: 8:27



**Phil Reed**, Senior Consumer Advice Editor at Edmunds.com

Today's cars no longer need to have their oil changed every 3,000 miles. Mr. Reed talked about design improvements in recent years, and how drivers can decide when it really is time for an oil change. He talked about the positive effects of this rapidly advancing technology for both the environment and consumers' pocketbooks.

Issues covered:  
Environment  
Consumer Matters

Length: 4:52

Show # 2016-10

Date aired: 3-13-16 Time Aired: 2:30 AM

**Patty Ann Tublin, PhD**, author of *"Money Can Buy You Happiness: Secrets Women Need to Know To Get Paid What They Are Worth!"*

Dr. Tublin outlined ways women can close the gender wage gap and negotiate their true worth at work. She explained why women have a harder time accepting the emotional and financial value of money, and how to change that attitude. She also offered suggestions for women who would like to determine what the appropriate pay range is for a particular job.

Issues covered:  
Women's Issues  
Career

Length: 7:08

**Henry S. Gornbein**, attorney, author of *"Divorce Demystified: Everything You Need to Know Before You File for Divorce"*

Mr. Gornbein said next to the death of a loved one, divorce is one of the most traumatic life's experiences. He discussed the sometimes complicated steps to take when deciding whether to proceed with a divorce. He talked about the significant ways divorce has changed in recent years, including the surprising influence of social media and changes in child custody arrangements.

Issues covered:  
Legal Matters  
Marriage  
Parenting

Length: 9:57

**Jerry Brewer, MD**, dermatologist and researcher at the Mayo Clinic

Dr. Brewer led a study that found that the risk of developing the most dangerous type of skin cancer is now more than six times higher among young adults than it was 40 years ago. He talked about the likely reasons behind this trend and why women under age 40 may be especially vulnerable.

Issues covered:  
Cancer  
Personal Health

Length: 4:59

Show # 2016-11

Date aired: 3-20-16 Time Aired: 7:30 AM

**Brian Fleming**, combat veteran, co-author of *"Redeployed: How Combat Veterans Can Fight the Battle Within and Win the War at Home"*

Mr. Fleming discussed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other difficulties faced by combat veterans and their families. He noted that the suicide rate among veterans under the age of 60 has risen by 44% in the past several years. He said no one prepares veterans to successfully make the transition back home. He offered strategies for both vets and their families who are struggling with a return to civilian life.

Issues covered:

**Military Families Issues**  
**Government Policies**  
**Mental Health**

Length: 9:16

**Bradley F. Bale, MD**, heart attack and stroke prevention specialist, Medical Director of the Heart Health Program for Grace Clinic, Lubbock, TX, author of *"Beat the Heart Attack Clock: The Revolutionary Plan to Prevent Heart Disease, Stroke, and Diabetes"*

Heart disease affects 81 million Americans and is the culprit in one of every two deaths in the United States. Dr. Bale said most people think that they are not at risk of a heart attack if they control their cholesterol and blood pressure, but they aren't aware of other major risk factors. He outlined some relatively inexpensive lab tests that can uncover arterial inflammation and its underlying causes. He also talked about the importance of simple changes in lifestyle that can dramatically cut the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Issues covered:

**Personal Health**

Length: 9:16

**Alfie Kohn**, education watchdog, author of *"The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing"*

Mr. Kohn shared results of a study that found that more homework is being assigned to younger students each school year. He believes that homework provides no benefits in elementary school. He explained why homework is still so widely accepted, despite evidence against it.

Issues covered:

**Education**  
**Government Policies**  
**Children's Issues**

Length: 4:37

Show # 2016-12

Date aired: 3-27-16 Time Aired: 7:30 AM

**Richard Retting, MS, FITE**, transportation consultant for the Governors Highway Safety Association

Pedestrian fatalities in the U.S. jumped last year, the largest annual increase ever measured. Mr. Retting said numerous factors may have contributed to the spike, including an increase in the number of miles driven, alcohol consumption, and the growing use of cell phones among walkers and drivers. He believes states and localities can apply the right mix of engineering, education and enforcement to counteract this troubling trend.

Issues covered:  
Traffic Safety  
Government

Length: 7:09

**Brandon L. Alderman, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Exercise Science and Sport Studies, Director of the Exercise Psychophysiology Lab at Rutgers University

Dr. Alderman led a study that examined whether a combination of activities can effectively treat depression. Participants who were asked to meditate for 30 minutes before exercising for 30 minutes twice a week had 40 percent less depressive symptoms than they did before the study began. He explained the likely reasons behind these results. He said that even study participants who were not depressed received noticeable benefits.

Issues covered:  
Mental Health  
Personal Health

Length: 10:03

**Paul Redman**, Executive Director of Longwood Gardens near Philadelphia, one of the leading public gardens in the country, co-chair of the Seed Your Future initiative, which promotes horticulture as a career path for young people.

Mr. Redman is concerned about the increasing shortage of professional horticulturalists and horticulture programs at universities. He noted that enrollment in horticulture programs has declined dramatically at a time when the need for graduates of these programs is more important than ever. He outlined the wide variety of good jobs available and discussed possible reasons that horticulture is not considered by young adults preparing to enter college or the job market.

Issues covered:  
Horticulture  
Education  
Career

Length: 5:03

Show # 2016-13

Date aired: 3-31-16 Time Aired: 7:30 AM

**Michael J. Blaha, MD, MPH**, Preventive Cardiologist, Director of Clinical Research at the Ciccarone Center for the Prevention of Heart Disease at Johns Hopkins Hospital

Dr. Blaha recently led a study that suggests that people who exercise frequently are more likely to survive their first heart attack. He discussed the wide-ranging benefits of a fit and healthy lifestyle. He said even older people can get in shape and get the heart-protective benefits of physical activity. He also offered ideas for how to get started.

Issues covered:  
Personal Health  
Senior Citizens

Length: 9:03

**Janette Sadik-Khan**, transportation and urban transformation expert, former transportation commissioner of New York City, author of "Streetfight: Handbook for an Urban Revolution"

Ms. Sadik-Khan discussed the importance of incorporating innovative transportation ideas into modern urban environments. She explained how cities can add protected bike lanes, improve crosswalk space, and provide visual cues to reduce speeding. She said redesigning streets can reduce congestion and increase foot traffic, which often improves the bottom line of local businesses.

Issues covered:

Urban Planning  
Public Transportation

Length: 8:16

**Jason R. Wiles, PhD**, Associate Professor, Biology, Syracuse University

Dr. Wiles led a study that found that minority college students learn many science, technology, engineering, and mathematics lessons more effectively when they are taught by a recent minority student, rather than a traditional classroom instructor. He explained why STEEM subjects are so important for today's students, and the possible reasons why this alternative method of teaching works so well.

Issues covered:

Education  
Minority Concerns

Length: 5:05