

THE NEWSletter

The Newsy Little Paper That Supplements Other Media

Volume 34 Number 6 September-October 2025

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Eileen W. Mooney, editor/publisher

Build New MMRHS?

Vote on High School Is Nov. 4 in BHRSD Towns

VOTERS in Great Barrington, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge will go to the polls **Tuesday, Nov. 4**, to decide whether or not to build a new high school on the campus of the present building on Route 7.

Polls will be open in Great Barrington from **11 a.m. to 7 p.m.** at the State Road Fire Station and Housatonic Community Center.

Absentee voting is allowed but early voting is not. The last date to register to vote in town clerk's offices in the three towns is **Oct. 24**; the last day to request an absentee ballot is **Oct. 28** at 5 p.m.; and the deadline to vote absentee in person is **Nov. 3** at noon.

Voters will receive two ballots. One, from the Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee, asks approval to "authorize the borrowing of \$152,067,064" to build and furnish a new high school.

A separate ballot, from the town in which people vote, seeks approval to avoid Proposition 2-1/2 limitations.

Both ballots are reproduced in this issue.

The most votes for either "yes" for a new school or "no" for no new school will decide the outcome, no matter in what town they are cast.

THE NEWSletter will send results when town clerks provide them.

Anticipated Reimbursement

As shown in a letter reproduced in the last NEWSletter, the state's School Building Authority wrote the school district Aug. 27 that it has approved an estimated maximum total facilities grant of \$59,983,482, which does not include any funds for potentially eligible owner's or construction contingency expenditures.

The letter adds that the amount could increase to as much as \$61,024,725 but it also cautions "The final grant amount may be an amount less than \$59,983,492."

School Would Be for 485 Students

As determined by the SBA, the school would be built for 485 students.

This October's enrollment was not available for this issue but THE NEWSletter last November reproduced the Oct. 24, 2024 enrollment that showed Monument was attended by 265 students from the three district towns, plus 121 who chose to attend from other towns and 49 who paid tuition to attend, for a total of 435 students.

Last year's information also shows that in 2019, the district's three towns enrolled 339 in the high school.

District officials have said that an added Chapter 74, or accredited, program in electricity will attract more students. Also, they have noted, students taking vocational courses will pay full tuition cost rather than the \$5,000 of school choice.

Superintendent Peter Dillon told THE NEWSletter that vocational tuition cost would be about \$25,000.

(VOTE continues on page 3)

New Town Manager Starts Here Nov. 3

LIZ HARTSGROVE, assistant town administrator of Bourne since 2022, is the unanimous choice of Great Barrington's five selectmen to be the next town manager.

She has accepted the position and will begin **Nov. 3**, first day of her contract, which ends Oct. 31, 2028.

She will be paid \$165,000 a year.

Former town manager Mark Pruhenski left in January. Chris Rembold, assistant town manager and director of planning and develop-

(Town Manager, cont. on p. 5)



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Meetings & More in Part of October and November

MEETING AGENDAS are posted on the town's website at townofgbma.gov and sent by THE NEWSletter. Agendas tell where to attend and provide a Zoom link, if needed. Not all meetings are on Zoom.

A meeting held with all members there in person may still be held even if a Zoom link doesn't work, according to the Attorney General's Division of Open Government.

Watch Past Meetings Online

Recordings of meetings are on Community Television for the Southern Berkshires at ctsbtv.org, YouTube and the Selectboard's website page. You can watch on your computer or on Spectrum cable television channels 1301 (public), 1302 (education) and 1303 (government).

Town libraries and some town boards have their own website.

The Berkshire Hills Regional School District's website is at bhrrsd.org. The

school district, town, Cultural Council, and police and fire departments also have Facebook pages.

The following meeting dates may change and more almost certainly will be added. These meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

October

- Selectboard meets Oct. 20, 6 p.m.
- Council on Aging meets Oct. 22, 1 p.m.
- Cemetery Commission meets Oct. 22, 3:15 p.m.
- Last day to register to vote on Nov. 4 is Oct. 24, town clerk's office.
- Zoning Board of Appeals meets Oct. 28.
- Last day to request absentee ballot for Nov. 4 is Oct. 28, 5 p.m., town clerk's office.
- Assessors' office closed Oct. 30.

Halloween Trick or Treat is Oct. 31 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.!

November

- Selectboard meets Nov. 3 and 17, 6 p.m.
- Last day to vote with absentee ballot for Nov. 4 ballot is Nov. 3 at noon.
- VOTE ON BUILDING A NEW HIGH SCHOOL IS NOV. 4, 11 A.M. TO 8 P.M., STATE ROAD FIRE STATION AND HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY CENTER.
- Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee meets Nov. 6, 20 and 23, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 11 is Veterans Day. Town offices and buildings are closed.
- Community Preservation Committee meets Nov. 12, 5 p.m., to begin reviewing applications.



Libraries, Senior Center, Bus Services, Recycling

THE LIBRARIES' website at gblibraries.org lists programs for many interests and different ages at both libraries.

THE NEWSletter sends the libraries' monthly newsletter to its email list.

The New York Times, New York Times Cooking, Berkshire Eagle, Washington Post and THE NEWSletter can be read free online.

Anyone with a Massachusetts library card can sign up for a Boston Public Library e-card.

Books, CDs and DVDs can be ordered by calling Mason Library at 528-2403 or emailing masonramsdell@gmail.com or bark.cwmars.org. Wifi is available on both libraries' lawns and Mason's parking lot. Museum passes are also available.

Mason Library

Mason Library on Main Street, Great Barrington, is closed Sunday and open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Its phone number is 528-2403.

Ramsdell Library

Ramsdell Library on Main Street, Housatonic, is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Thursday and Friday; open Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and open Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

Its phone number is 274-3738.

Ramsdell's knitting group meets Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Ramsdell has a loaning **Library of Things** that includes visual reality goggles, a sewing machine, a staple gun and a button maker.

THE CLAIRE TEAGUE SENIOR CENTER at 917 South Main St. offers activities and fitness classes, lunches and help with technology and applications such as SNAP, housing, fuel assistance. and more. Its phone number is 528-1881.

Its website lists lunch menus and is at greatbarringtonseniors.org.

Staff is available Mondays through Fridays to answer calls and offer counseling for

SHINE, Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone.

SOUTH COUNTY CONNECTOR, fka Tritown Connector, bus service has a new website, socoride.org.

The town transit program provides transportation for people who call 413-591-3826 at least 48 hours in advance.

With a Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation grant, the program offers free service until 11:30 p.m. Fridays for veterans, except for Pittsfield medical rides; and for seniors and people with disabilities needing transportation to local food pantries and free meal sites.

Berkshire Regional Transportation's website is at Berkshirertra.gov.

THE RECYCLING CENTER on Stockbridge Road, across from Monument Mountain Regional High School, is open Fridays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

How to Subscribe to THE NEWSletter

READERS: If your budget is increasingly tight, send what you can to subscribe. THE NEWSletter can make this offer only because some subscribers generously send extra when they renew. Thanks to them, THE NEWSletter can hold off on a rate increase, even as all its costs have increased.

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If YOUR face on the printed issue is **green**, your subscription ends with the next issue or the one after that.

If your face is **blue**, it's time to renew.

Red face? Your paid or free trial subscription ended and you're about to come off the mailing list.

How To Subscribe

Twelve issues (one year) are \$35 for the print version within the 012 zip code or \$30 for the emailed one anywhere.

Cost to get the printed TN by bulk mail outside the 012 zip code is \$40. Cost for first class for a year (12 issues) is \$55.

Cost to get THE NEWSletter in large type is \$40 for 12 issues, plus the annual print subscription.

Checks should be payable to THE NEWSletter and mailed to it at POB 567, Housatonic 01236.

Both the written and emailed versions include **free emails** — agendas, news updates, forwarded material — sent between issues. Your name and email address are kept confidential **unless** you're an elected or appointed public official.

You can forward everything to as many people as you want, but having THE NEWSletter send the emails between issues is \$5 a year for each name. -EWM

Proposed New School, continued from page 1

A tax calculator on the **MonumentBuildingProject.org** website shows how a homeowner's taxes might be affected if the school is approved.

That site also has information about why the school committee feels a new school building is needed.

Another website, **YesMountain.org**, tells why people should vote for a new school building.

No Longer Paying for Two Schools

People in the school district's three towns had been paying for construction of Muddy Brook Regional Elementary and W.E.B. Du Bois Regional Middle schools. Those payments ended this year.

Will Send Letters Pro, Con School

THE NEWSletter will email letters pro and con the votes until noon on Nov. 3. The intent is for voters to see both sides of the issue, for and against

Discussed by Finance Committee

The Great Barrington Finance Committee discussed the school at its Sept. 16 meeting. A report is on page 9.

What Nov. 4 Ballots Say

The BHRSC ballot states, and THE NEWSletter broke the paragraph that starts "VOTED" into smaller parts for easier reading:

"Do you approve of the vote of the Regional District School Committee of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District, adopted on September 11, 2025, to authorize the borrowing of \$152,067,064 to pay costs of designing, constructing, originally equipping and furnishing a new District high school to be located at 600 Stockbridge Road, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, which provides, in relevant part, as follows:

"VOTED: That the Berkshire Hills Regional School District hereby appropriates the amount of \$152,067,064 for the purpose of paying costs of the Monument Mountain Regional High School Project in the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (the "District") to replace the existing Monument Mountain Regional High School with a new facility serving students in grades 9-12 on the site of the existing school at 600 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the School Building Committee and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District School Committee.

"To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount, under

(VOTE continues on page 5)

Cost Comparison | Repairs vs. New Building



	Repairs Only Existing Building Single story, 120,000 SF Preliminary Design Estimate (July 2024)	New School Hillside Site Location New 3-story, 142,800 SF Schematic Design Estimate (June 2025)
Construction Method	Construction Manager (Ch. 149a)	Design-Bid-Build (Ch. 149)
Total Project Costs	\$89,000,000	\$152,067,064
MSBA Reimbursement	\$0	(\$61,024,725)
MassSave Incentives (Estimated based on LCCA)	\$0	(\$1,585,000)
Total Local Share	\$89,000,000	\$89,457,339

Community Information Meeting | September 16, 2025 | 17

This screenshot of a comparison of costs was copied during a school committee Monument Building Committee's public information meeting Sept. 16.



This shows the back of the proposed school and faces Route 7. More drawings, including interiors, are on the websites provided in this issue..

For Clean-Heat Comfort

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Information from MMRHS Tour And Forum

By John Breasted

Mr. Breasted, a Great Barrington resident, is a free-lance news reporter.

I took one of the public tours of the 60-year-old Monument Mountain Regional High School building on Sept. 16 and remained for most of the Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee's building committee's subsequent presentation of its chosen plan for the building's complete replacement.

Having worked there frequently as a tutor from 1995 through 2005, I am very familiar with the building's architecture, but I took the recent tour because, since 2005, I've regularly seen only the auditorium, where the Great Barrington annual town meeting is held.

During the tour, we were divided into three or four groups. A 10th-grade student from Stockbridge led my group. He seemed to have been well briefed on the building committee's talking points. I did not fully agree with the spin of some of them, but it did not seem appropriate in that setting to voice any reservations about them.

Why Vote for a New High School

Every generation has an obligation to provide a quality education for its children. Berkshire Hills Regional School District voters understood and agreed with that proposition in voting to build a new high school in the 1960s, and once again by supporting the construction of an elementary school and a middle school in the early 2000s.

We are called upon once again to support funding for a new Monument Mountain High School to replace a functionally obsolete building.

I urge you to vote YES to build a new Monument Mountain High school, and YES to approve a debt exclusion resolution to provide the requisite funding for its construction.

Nearly 15 years ago I became a member of the Stockbridge Select Board at a time when the Town's infrastructure and public facilities were suffering from deferred maintenance and obsolescence. We were receiving notices from the MASS DOT that as many as six bridges were in a state of near collapse. Our town garage was in danger of

Why New Building Said Needed

As he led us through a sampling of classrooms, science laboratories, and shops such as the wood and automobile ones, two of his repeated points for the proposed replacement of the building were that the configuration of the rooms and their sizes do not comply with the current applicable state standards, and that many classrooms and the library have no windows to admit daylight.

He also repeatedly spoke of the incompatibility of the current building's design with current design practices to provide for what is now called — somewhat euphemistically — “school security,” meaning designs that provide fewer entrances to a school building than the ones at MMRHS.

Sadly, this consideration is one school architects have had to keep in mind after the many school shootings that have occurred since the one at Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999.

collapse, and our town office building's HVAC system was dysfunctional.

The Select Board and town administrator made the case to the Finance Committee and voters ultimately decided that a comprehensive plan for reconstruction of these facilities, and capital planning for the future, were necessary.

The two votes we are asked to cast on Nov. 4 for a new Monument Mountain High School are in keeping with the votes cast by large margins to fund the capital needs of our town.

I urge you to bring the same sense of commitment you have shown in voting to fund capital assets to the funding of our most important asset, the new Monument Mountain High School.

A former president once said: “Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.” We owe our children this investment in their education.

Stephen Shatz
Former Select Board Member
Stockbridge

Tariff Uncertainty

During the question-and-answer portion of the later presentation in the auditorium, I chose to focus on the cost estimates listed in the 19-page budget section for “Furnishings and Equipment.”

An interesting note that appears twice in those pages is a warning in all capitals in black type highlighted on a red background: “BUDGET DOES NOT INCLUDE TARRIFF [sic] ALLOWANCE.”

Architect Donna DiNisco said that note refers to the uncertainty of predicting the additional cost that tariffs will add to the cost of imported furniture.

Views at Recent Meeting

On Oct. 7, I attended the 90-minute informational meeting at Mason Library in Great Barrington about the plans for a new high school building. Twenty-six people attended most of the first hour of the meeting, including selectman Eric Gabriel and former selectman Ed Abrahams.

Some of the questions and comments for presenters BHRSD superintendent Peter Dillon and Ms. DiNisco were quite sharp. Two people expressed distress about how much their property taxes would increase due to the added cost of the 30-year bonding required to pay for the project.

At least two others spoke in strong support of the plan, while others said that the case presented by Dr. Dillon and Ms. DiNisco for the need for a new building was convincing.

Cost, Time of Renovation

Mr. Dillon and Ms. DiNisco said they understood that paying for the renovation and continued operation of the current building would cost town taxpayers more in the long run than approving the proposed plan for a new one.

Mr. Dillon said renovation would likely require 10 years of staged work and the added expense of renting temporary classrooms, with a result that would still not comply with current state standards for high school buildings.

If the plan is approved by district voters on Nov. 4, the project timeline calls for the new building to house students starting in August 2029.

Looking for a Home?

Call Tom Doyle

email: scarnaghtom@gmail.com
cell: 646-438-1329

Podcast Link: (best @38 minutes for real estate info)
<https://youtu.be/YATqYuLSVC8>

Bishop West Real Estate Inc. in Massachusetts, New York,

How To Reach Officials

STATE SEN. PAUL MARK has office hours in the Great Barrington Town Hall the first and third Monday of the month from 9 a.m. to noon.

His district office is at 773 Tyler St., Pittsfield. Telephone number is 413-464-5635 there and 617-722-1625 at the State House. His email is Paul.Mark@masenate.gov

STATE REP. LEIGH DAVIS has not scheduled office hours but is at 413-854-4623 or leigh.davis@mahouse.gov. Her aide, Serena Keenan, is at serna.keenan@mahouse.gov

Hi, Folks ...

About This Issue's Date, Size, Problems

THIS BECAME a September-October issue when I realized how late into October it was getting while waiting to learn whether Great Barrington has a new town manager.

Having an issue that's for two months doesn't affect the length of anyone's subscription. Subscriptions go by volume number, not the month.

Also, I tried to add Housatonic Water Works' reports but the computer stopped handling scanned material. It had been working but now only shows a scanned item's title — not a scan.

It's a new computer, which was planned, and a new printer, not planned. They are not getting along very well.

The old printer only needs a screw replaced. I have the screw taped to the printer's cover but don't know where it goes. The printer could also use a cleaning.

It's a two-tray Epson and free to a home or business that needs a printer. Just give me a call at 413-274-6100.

—EWM

School Ballots from p. 3

and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(n) of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority.

The district acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-five and fifty-hundredths percent (55.50%) of eligible, approved Project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA, and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA."

Town Ballot

Here's the town's ballot question:

"Shall the Town of Great Barrington be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay the Town's allocable share of the bond issued by the Berkshire Hills Regional School District for the purpose of paying costs to replace the existing Monument Mountain Regional High School with a new facility serving students in grades 9-12 on the site of the existing school, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto?"

Continued from page 1

Liz Hartsgrove Is Town Manager

ment, has been serving as both interim town manager and planning director since then.

Three finalists were interviewed in April but the selectmen decided to keep looking. They offered the position to a new finalist in July but he declined. That led to the present search.

Ms. Hartsgrove, Jonathan Elwell and Marie Ryan were interviewed Sept. 30. The interviews can be seen on CTSB-TV.

The selectmen voted unanimously Oct. 6 to offer Ms. Hartsgrove the position and voted Oct. 14 to sign her contract.

Ms. Hartsgrove's Background

Ms. Hartsgrove has been assistant town administrator of Bourne since December 2022. The town has "21,000 year-round and 50,000 seasonal populations, \$85+M operational, capital and debt services," she wrote.

She added that she has been "Directly responsible for annual-fiscal-cycle managing short- and long-range capital needs, forecasting, planning and implementing over \$300M valued projects including sustainability analysis."

She was with Barnstable from August 2014 through December 2022, leaving as deputy director of asset management/licensing director. Before that, she was executive assistant to the town administrator of Yarmouth from June 2009 to August 2014, and in the same position in Wellfleet from September 2006 to June 2009.

She was licensing agent in Provincetown from 2002 to 2006.

Ms. Hartsgrove received a master's degree in public administration and a master's certificate in local government leadership and management, both from Suffolk University.

She received her bachelor's in fine arts — dance performance — from Southern Methodist University and graduated from high school in Chevy Chase, Md.

Ready for a "New Chapter"

During her Sept. 30 interview, she noted that her husband just retired so they were ready for a "new chapter."

She works with other communities to identify resources, she said, adding that towns need to think collectively.

She is hired to do what the community wants, and she is "very good" at delegating and helping people, she stated.

Mr. Elwell's Background

Mr. Elwell was general manager of the Lyndon, Vt., electric department from March 2022 to February 2025. Earlier, he was manager of Enosburg Falls, Vt., from 2004 to 2022.

He was town manager of Manchester, Maine, from 2002 to 2003; community development director of Rockingham, Vt., from 1998 to 2002; and in grant administration for Clarkdale, Ariz., from 1997 to 1998.

He graduated from Brattleboro Union High School in Brattleboro, Vt., in 1985 and from Prescott (Ariz.) College in 1996. He received a master's degree in public admin-



This screenshot of new town manager Liz Hartsgrove was taken during her interview Sept. 30.

istration from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz., in 1998.

Marie Ryan

Ms. Ryan has been town administrator of West Stockbridge since 2019. She was Great Barrington's town clerk from June 2007 to August 2019 and from May to August in 2024.

She was also town clerk of Richmond from April 2017 to August 2019 and of Monterey from December 2018 to May 2019.

She graduated in 1985 from North Adams State College.

Present Job Market Is 'Competitive'

Bernard Lynch, head of Community Paradigm Associates, helped the Town Manager Screening Committee interview candidates and select the three finalists.

The present market is "competitive," he said Sept. 30. About 30 people have applied for the post, 13 this last time.

The selectmen had interviewed three finalists earlier but decided to seek more applicants.

Screening Committee Members

Screening committee members, appointed by the selectmen, were former selectmen Ed Abrahams, Kate Burke, Sean Stanton and Peter Fish, and residents Erik Bruun, Frederick Clark and Thomas Blauvelt.

Mr. Blauvelt was appointed after Ms. Ryan left. She had been on the committee but resigned when she decided to apply for the position of town manager.

How To Get Finalists' Resumes

The six finalists' resumes should be on the town website. If they are not, people could call a selectman or Mr. Rembold. The telephone number for that office is 413-528-1619 ext. 2900.

'Fall Into Your Libraries'

MASON LIBRARY will hold a gathering for all ages with food, crafts and guest readers Sunday, **Oct. 19**, from noon to 2 p.m.

Berkshire Ukulele Band will perform.

Plan Presented for Ramsdell's Renovation

SHOWN ON THIS PAGE are drafts of redesigned first and second floors of Ramsdell Library, with additions on each floor proposed by the architectural firm of Perry Dean Rogers Architects (PDR) of Boston.

THE NEWSletter included existing and proposed square footages with each plan.

The Board of Library Trustees voted Oct. 9 that "provisionally, the B-3 design is the next logical step" for renovation of the library.

Members agreed they want more information about parking and costs before they consider a more definite vote.

The library's proposed driveway goes to the Universalist Unitarian Meeting of South Berkshire, which is next door. The Ramsdell Building Committee, which recommended the design, has not formally discussed using church property for parking.

Trustees' chairman Sharon Shaloo said she is concerned about evening parking and considers this an "issue of prime importance."

She is also concerned that the plan creates dependency on availability of a neighbor's parking lot. What happens if the neighbor changes? she asked.

"How do we guarantee accessibility to parking for 30 years?" she asked.

At the Oct. 7 Ramsdell Building Committee meeting, its chairman, library trustee Dr. Ruby Chang, asked about using the library's front area for parking. Michael Bellefeuille of PDR said that probably could not happen because a recently added walkway is needed.

The draft plan, which he is still preparing, proposes two parking spaces available near a new entrance on the side.

Trustee Sandra Pantorno wondered how people feel about library parking in front of their houses, as now happens.

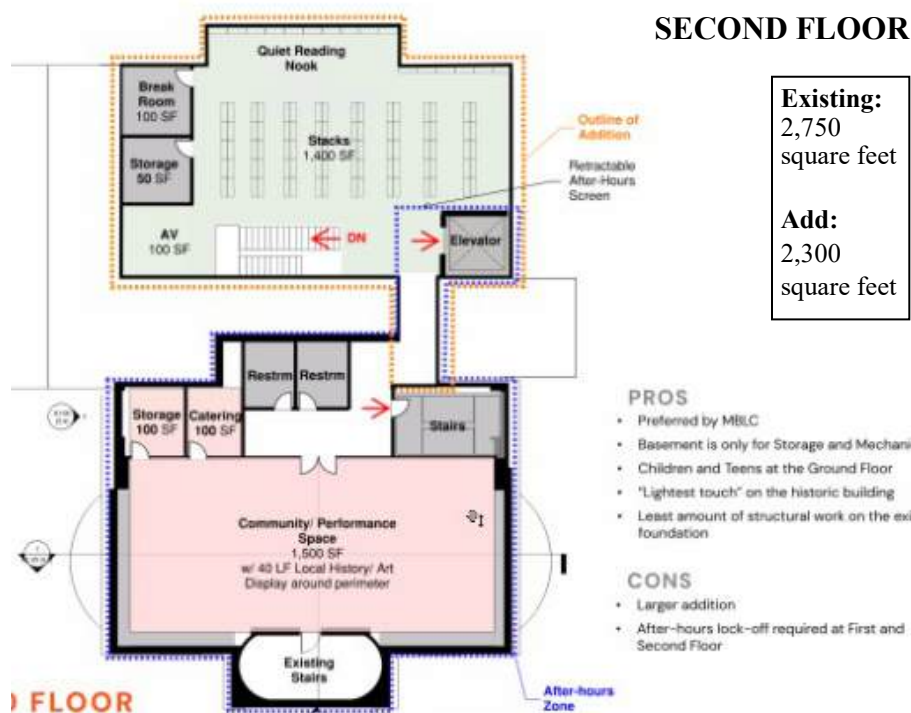
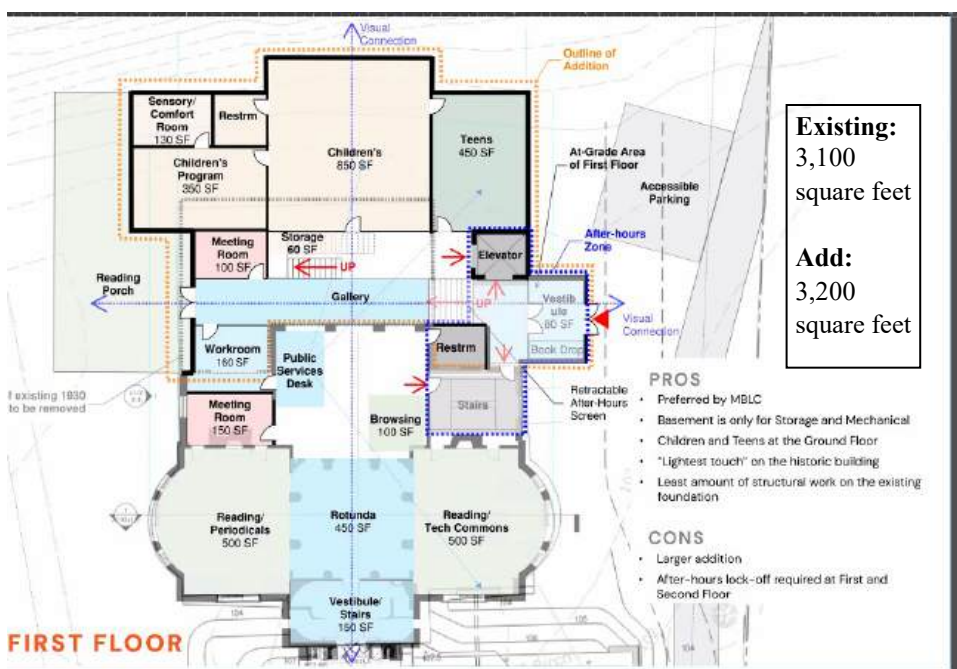
This is "a long ways from being done," noted Patrick Hollenbeck, who is both a trustee and on the building committee. The church wants more parking, too, he said.

Financial Information Sought

The lack of any financial information bothered trustees Lauren Clark, Laura Mars, Ms. Shaloo and Ms. Pantorno.

A cost range should be known about Oct. 22, Mr. Bellefeuille said.

Ms. Shaloo also noted that the stacks — the library's books available for loan — would be in a second-floor addition. She wants to know how they'd be monitored.



The basement has water problems and should only be used for storage, Ms. Shaloo stated.

Landscaping should be discussed with the Department of Public Works' representative on the building committee because the library is a town building, she said during the discussion.

Joe Aberdale, DPW head, had been on the building committee but resigned. Steve Larkin, the DPW's highway and facilities manager, succeeded him on the committee but was not present Oct. 7 when representatives of G2 Collaborative presented landscaping options.

Unanimous Vote To Recommend B3

The vote to recommend B3 was unanimous, although Frederica Sigel said she wanted more information about costs. During discussion of the options, Mr. Hollenbeck and library director Dawn Jardine preferred option B2 (to be shown in next NEWSletter if people request).

Committee members John Nelson and architect Pam Sandler also voted for it.

Dr. Chang said she thought B3 was more elegant and "This library will be the gem for Great Barrington."

Building committee meetings are recorded for anyone wanting to watch a meeting.

News: ZBA, HIC, Planning Board, Finance Committee

THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS voted unanimously Oct. 7 that Peter and Ginhee Ungar of Somerville have no standing to request a farm-to-table restaurant at 87 Alford Road.

The restaurant would be accessory to the property's agricultural use, which would start when the Ungars buy the land, their attorney, Kate McCormick, told the ZBA.

The property has been known as Great Pine Farm. Much of it is in a conservation restriction.

Ms. McCormick filed with the ZBA after building commissioner Matthew Kollmer did not respond to her June 16 request asking whether "the accessory use of a 48-seat integrated farm-to-table restaurant on a 200-acre farm [is] exempt from use regulation."

She also asked how many accessory dwelling units would be allowed to house farm workers. That request for ADUs has been dropped.

The Ungars have a purchase-sale agreement for the property, which is not now being used for agriculture. They planned to build a 48-seat year-round restaurant, with parking, on the property.

The farm would be called Tasting Counter Berkshires.

Fifty of the 168 available acres would be used for farming, Connor Stedman, a farm business planner with Appleseed Permaculture of High Falls, N.Y., told the ZBA.

During the public hearing, continued from Sept. 2, nine people spoke, with one seeming to favor the restaurant. The final speaker, Claudia Shapiro, suggested the restaurant be opened on adjacent property that had been Simon's Rock, where restaurants are now allowed.

Where To Find, Read Submissions

Several letters were received, including some requesting that the restaurant be allowed. The letters are with minutes, agendas and other filings for the hearing and available to the public on the town website.

In discussion after the hearing closed, ZBA members indicated they doubted that a restaurant was appropriate.

No Standing To Make Request

The Ungars lack standing to request a restaurant because they don't have a "legally recognizable interest in the property," board chairman Peter Most, a lawyer, stated.

Even if they had standing, ZBAs do not issue advisories and can't approve a future use, he continued, reading from a written statement.

Massachusetts law specifies that "an appeal to a Zoning Board of Appeals may be brought only by 'a person aggrieved' by a decision or inaction of the Building Commissioner," he stated.

To qualify as aggrieved, "someone must demonstrate a legally cognizable interest in the property Mere aspirations or intentions to acquire property do not suffice."

Survey Seeks Views Open Space, Recreation

The Planning Board, working with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, has prepared a survey on open space and recreation for Great Barrington residents.

The survey is online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/GreatBarringtonOSRP

Paper copies are at the Town Hall, Claire Teague Senior Center, Mason Library and Ramsdell Library.

Surveys should be returned by **Nov. 15**.

The Planning Board intends to work on revising the present Open Space and Recreation Plan at its second meeting of the month. Community forums are being planned.

"The proper procedural action would be to dismiss the appeal for lack of standing rather than deny it on substantive grounds."

Also, he noted, "incidental uses must remain secondary to farming, not the other way around."

Now 'No Farm, No Yield'

At present, he concluded, "there is no farm, no yield, and no demonstrated agricultural enterprise to which a restaurant could be considered incidental."

The other ZBA members agreed. They voted unanimously to deny the request for a restaurant based on lack of standing.

David Doneski of KP Law, the town's legal counsel, suggested the board also vote that it was not reversing the action of the building inspector. The vote to do this also was unanimous.

No Standing So No Appeal

Mr. Most noted that because the Ungars lack standing, they can not appeal the ZBA's decision.

All ZBA members were at the hearing. They are vice chairman Michael Wise, secretary Madonna Meagher, Stephen McAlister, J.B. Brodeur, Mr. Most, and associate James Manning.

The board has a vacancy for a second associate member.

THE FORMER HOUSATONIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL on Pleasant Street, Housatonic, could start renting its 10 apartments in February, David Carter, manager of WDM Properties, told the **Housatonic Improvement Committee** Sept. 23.

Rents probably will be about \$2,000 a month, he said.

Renovating the building is taking longer than thought but should be done by next spring, Mr. Carter said.

WDM acquired the property from the town for \$1,000 in 2023. Earlier this year it received a building permit to convert classrooms to apartments.

The former school opened in 1907 and closed in 2003 when elementary-grade stu-

dents in the Berkshire Hills Regional School District began attending the former Williams High School in Stockbridge after its students moved into the new Monument Mountain Regional High School.

BHRSD students in prekindergarten through grade 4 now attend Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS at their Sept. 16 meeting seemed to differ in whether the proposed new high school is appropriate. (More about the school starts on page 1.)

The present Monument Mountain Regional High School is outdated, Milena Cerna noted, adding that she favors a new school but it must be the right size.

Proposed Size Not Seem Right

This school would be for 485 students and that's not the right size for us, she said. She noted that the high school has reported having 265 students with 120 attending through school choice and 49 through tuition.

She is also concerned, she said, that the new school would be all-electric but the cost of electricity is very high in Massachusetts.

The decision being made is for the next 30 years, she noted.

Aging infrastructure elsewhere in town is a problem, she commented later.

Monument was poorly constructed, with a flat roof, Michelle Loubert stated, noting that she graduated from it in 1972.

She continued:

"Now we have high water costs and an aging population. Is the proposed project right-sized? No."

Madonna Meagher said the school is outdated and it's "time to get another school."

Anne O'Dwyer wondered what the long-term borrowing issues would be. Finance Committee chairman Rich Geiler agreed more information is needed.

"We are all struggling, but the school probably will pass," resident James Garzon said. He would like the Finance Committee to say what the impact is to the three school district towns.

Libraries Said To Need More Funds

Also during the meeting, Board of Library Trustees' chairman Sharon Shaloo and library director Dawn Jardine presented information about the needs of the town's libraries, Mason in Great Barrington and Ramsdell in Housatonic.

Going downward in library budgets, as has been happening, is not sustainable, Ms. Shaloo stated.

More Financial Reports Sought

Finance Committee members agreed with financial services coordinator Allison Crespo that they should see more financial reporting.

More information is needed during presentations of a proposed budget, Ms. Loubert said.

Update on Prosperity Way Housing Off North Plain

THE FIRST SIX HOUSES are up on Prosperity Way, the affordable housing development being built off North Plain Road in Housatonic.

Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity will oversee the project, approved for 20 homes.

The last NEWSletter reported that Jim Bailly, whose mother's property is one of several abutting Prosperity Way, had questions about who was doing work and who was paying for it.

THE NEWSletter also had questions, including who owns the property — the town's Affordable Housing Trust Fund board or Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity, which the housing board had selected as the project's developer.

Transfer To Habitat 'Delayed'

Affordable Housing co-chairman Fred Clark told THE NEWSletter that the property had been assigned, or given, to Habitat. When THE NEWSletter couldn't find a transaction in the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds, interim town manager Chris Rembold confirmed that the Affordable Housing Trust still owns the property.

Conferring it to Habitat "is in progress but delayed due to some back and forth delays between the attorneys," Mr. Rembold wrote THE NEWSletter.

Habitat's website, BerkshireHabitat.org, states in part:

"In 2021, the Great Barrington Affordable Housing Trust Fund awarded the project development rights to CBHFH to develop a 7.25-acre site with up to 20 affordable homes. Habitat will eventually own the site, with units being owned by income-qualified first-time homebuyer households and we are excited to partner with the community and the Town of Great Barrington."

After Habitat lost federal funds this year, it closed its ReStore and laid off employees.

As intended when the project was proposed, a MassWorks grant administered by the town paid for infrastructure on the site. The town will continue to own the road, Prosperity Way.

However, Mass Works did not consider that its grant included paying for six foundations on the site. Thus, the town paid Rifenburg Construction, which had prepared the wooded site for housing, with \$103,320 from a Smart Growth incentive grant intended for town capital projects.

Payment Means Deed Restriction

THE NEWSletter asked interim town manager Chris Rembold whether Habitat will repay the town for this. He responded:

"There are no agreements with Habitat responsive to this question."

Mr. Rembold wrote:

"If the Town does not own the item (e.g. a foundation or a home) then the Town must have a permanent interest in it in order to use the grant funds. In this case that interest will

be in the form of a permanent deed restriction."

He explained:

"The road itself will remain town-owned, and the rest of the site will be transferred to Habitat. Then the individual homes within the site are purchased from Habitat by the homeowners."

"When there are enough homeowners I believe they will form an association to take care of common maintenance of the site. The Town through the Trust will retain the permanent deed restriction which guarantees the housing must always be affordable housing."

What Is 'Affordable Housing'?

"Affordable housing" is defined on the Internet as "homes or rental units where the housing costs, including utilities, do not exceed 30% of a household's gross income."

Rifenburg Construction, based in Troy, N.Y., built the sidewalks, sewer, earthwork and drainage and was paid from a \$3.2 million Mass Works grant.

That grant was awarded the town for infrastructure on the site, including the water, sewer, drainage, road and plantings. Plantings are scheduled to be done next spring.

Mass Works paid for sewer and earthwork components as additional scope for the project.

"This decision is based on our determination that the proposed work pertains to the public infrastructure project, not the private development (residential homes)," Jacquie McPherson, senior program manager of MassWorks, wrote Mr. Rembold July 30.

After change orders for sidewalks, sewer and earthwork drainage, the grant was \$92,404 over budget. Mr. Rembold paid that with funds from the Smart Growth grant.

The Mass Works grant also paid White Engineering \$70,000 for work with the project, including surveying.

\$285,000 Left in Smart Growth

According to an undated document that Mr. Rembold sent THE NEWSletter, after paying the \$92,204 deficit from the Mass Works grant, the Smart Growth grant has \$285,000 remaining.

Of that, \$7,395 will be used to mill and pave Main Street, Housatonic, leaving \$185,201. Shown on the document is:

"Balance of SmartGrowth grant poss. For Prosperity Way homes?? Or to assist with water filtration units in the homes? Save for 426 Park or Risingdale ballfield?"

Soils Removed, Replaced

Rifenburg, which also uses the initials "RCC," was also paid \$183,000 from the Mass Works grant for additional earthwork and drainage.

In a June 27 email to Mr. Rembold and Brent White of White Engineering, Greg Brawders, Rifenburg's project manager for this work, wrote (and THE NEWSletter broke his one paragraph into parts for easier reading):

Sign Up for Releases

SUBSCRIBERS CAN SIGN UP to receive minutes of Great Barrington board meetings, obituaries when THE NEWSletter receives them from the funeral home, and information listed below.

This is part of your NEWSletter subscription. There's no added cost. You can sign up for one or two or everything.

Items on List

On the list are:

-1Berkshire, BEAT, Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, Berkshire Black Economic Council, Berkshire Community Land Trust, CHP;

-Clinton Church Restoration/W.E.B. Du Bois Center for Freedom and Democracy, Community Development Corp., Construct, Cultural District,

-District Attorney, Dewey Hall, Great Barrington Historical Society;

-Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, New Marlborough Meeting House, RSY, Schumacher Center for a New Economics,

-Releases from area schools, including Berkshire Hills Regional, Lee, Lenox and Southern Berkshire Regional, Train Campaign, and Volunteers in Medicine.

Feel free to suggest more.

What Everyone Gets

Everyone gets information about town libraries and the Attorney General's Division of Open Government. That's because the libraries serve all ages and the Division oversees the Open Meeting Law, which helps ensure government transparency.

"During its site grading efforts, RCC encountered material deemed unsuitable for reinstallation due to the inability to properly drain and compact."

"Unsuitable soils were removed from site, requiring replacement with general fill. To provide the most cost effective replacement, RCC had carried the labor & equipment to obtain a portion of this material from on-site through excavation of foundation holes, in lieu of trucking new to site."

"Now understanding the private property delineations and funding, the value of this work has been removed from the revised earthwork proposal. Additional sub-drain lines were installed in low lying virgin soil areas where drainage concerns remained present."

THE NEWSletter has asked Mr. Rembold what was wrong with the soils, how much was replaced and if this was for the foundations or for other work.

He had not replied by THE NEWSletter's printing deadline.

THE NEWSletter has also requested more information about the SmartGrant.

THE NEWSletter unfortunately lacks the space to include all details and all survivors. It emails obituaries when it receives them to subscribers who requested them. THE NEWSletter does not charge to list an obituary.

Theodora Batacchi

Theodora "Teddi" J. Batacchi, 97, of Sheffield died at home Sept. 26.

The former Theodora Jost, she graduated in 1947 from A.B. Davis High School in Mount Vernon, N.Y. and worked in retail and real estate before moving to Sheffield.

She ran The Country Store at Jenifer House in Great Barrington and had an antiques shop, Westview Antiques, while raising her children.

Mrs. Batacchi was office manager and accountant for her husband Paul's paving and landscaping business and then was office manager and finance officer for her son's businesses, Pete's Sales and Service, Pete's Sweeper Service and Pete's Paving Inc.

She retired in 2021.

She sang in the choir of Old Parish Church and had raised golden retrievers. She also had made quilts and jewelry.

She was predeceased by her husband of 55 years, Paul S. Batacchi, and two sisters, Adelaide Prezzano and Barbara Tryon.

Mrs. Batacchi leaves her sons, Robert Lee of Palm Bay, Fla., Paul Batacchi II of Ashley Falls, and Peter Batacchi and Theodore, both of Sheffield; her daughter Patricia Percy of Clearwater, Fla.; her stepdaughter, Bya Batacchi of Great Barrington; 10 grandchildren; and three great-granddaughters.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Sheffield Fire Department.

Daniel Robert Bersaw

Daniel Robert Bersaw, 69, of Great Barrington died Sept. 7 at home.

He graduated from Monument Mountain Regional High School in 1974 and worked with his father in his lawn care business and then as a manager at Cutter Ceramics in Waltham.

He was a police officer in Great Barrington for 25 years before retiring in 2016.

Mr. Bersaw leaves his wife of 41 years, Carol; two sons, Brendan and Christopher; two daughters, Teresa Reynolds and Cecilia Somes; his brother, Douglas; four sisters, Dr. Eileen O'Leary, Carolyn Bersaw, Marian Hassett and Patricia Noonan; and four grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents, Robert and Barbara Bersaw, and his first wife, Mary Conway Bersaw.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to Saint Peter's building fund through the funeral home.

Wyeth True Curtis

Wyeth True Curtis, 20, of Great Barrington died Oct. 2.

He graduated in 2023 from of Berkshire Waldorf School and was assistant manager at Berkshire Bike and Board in Great Barrington.

Mr. Curtis leaves his parents, Todd and Jessica Haskell Curtis of Great Barrington; his maternal grandparents, Barbara and Donald Haskell of Jamestown, R.I.; his paternal grandparents, David and Jill Curtis of Stockbridge;

Recent Obituaries

his paternal grandfather, Paul Concemi of Millbury; and his sister, Sadie June Curtis, and brother, Oliver Tenzin Curtis.

He was predeceased by his paternal grandmother, Judith Carrithers Concemi.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to a scholarship fund being established with Berkshire Waldorf High School to help a student attend the school or support a graduate with trade or vocational post-secondary education. The school's address is Post Office Box 1706, Stockbridge 01262.

Shepley Wilson Evans

The obituary of his wife, Theresa Mango, is on the next page.

Shepley Wilson Evans, 84, of Great Barrington died July 18 at Baystate Medical Center.

He graduated in 1963 with a degree in psychology from Hamilton College, served with the Army in Korea and then received his master's degree from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

During the early 1970s, he lived in London and travelled extensively while working in international marketing. He then lived in the Berkshires, building a house in Lenox and working as a real estate broker and partner at Friday & Company.

Mr. Evans eventually moved to Stockbridge. He was president of the Laurel Hill Association from 2003 to 2005 during creation of its chestnut breeding program and the LHA-Stockbridge Land Trust purchase of property at the intersection of Routes 102 and 183 to protect the western entrance to town.

He was Great Barrington's conservation agent from 2013 until his death.

Mr. Evans wrote much of the Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act, which in 2006 became state law.

He and Teresa Mango were married Feb. 21, 1998.

Mr. Evans leaves his children, S. Edward Evans of Jackson, Wyo., and Heidi Girardoni of Venice, Calif., and their families, and his sister, Govane Lohbauer, of Lee.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Great Barrington Land Conservancy or Berkshire Natural Resources Council.

Richard Gardella

Richard J. Gardella, 88, of Great Barrington died Oct. 1 at home.

He graduated in 1954 from the former Searles High School and then went to Westfield State College. After college he served in the Air Force.

Mr. Gardella was a police officer for 30 years and then a detail officer for the Town of Great Barrington for more than 20 years.

While a police officer, he also was a contractor installing Alcor Gutters.

Mr. Gardella leaves his daughter, Rina Gardella, and his nephews, Mark Gardella and Mike Gardella.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Charles A. Gardella and Louis J. Gardella, and his sister, Norma Palmer.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Great Barrington Police Association through the funeral home.

Harry Garrett

Harry Garrett, 88, of Mount Washington died Sept. 5 at home.

After his Army discharge in 1962, he worked as an arborist, officially retiring last year.

He had served in several positions in Mount Washington's government.

Mr. Garrett leaves his wife, Elizabeth "Betsy" Whitbeck Garrett, days before their 65th wedding anniversary; three children, Vicki Torrico, Orvie Garrett and Laddie Garrett; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and his brother, Alfred C. Garrett.

He was predeceased by his eldest brother, Thomas C. Garrett Jr.

Finnerty-Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to HospiceCare in the Berkshires, Fairview Hospital, Mount Washington Church of Christ, St. John in the Wilderness, or the South Egremont Fire Department.

Laura M. Keefner

Laura M. Keefner, 70, of Great Barrington died Sept. 25 at her home.

The former Laura Roche, she graduated in 1973 from Pearl River (N.Y.) High School.

She was a founder and past president of the Great Barrington Fire Department Support Group.

Mrs. Keefner had been a clerk for the Great Barrington Water District and S&A Supply for many years. After retiring in 2021, she was a personal housekeeper.

Mrs. Keefner leaves her husband of 50 years, Kenneth Keefner; two brothers, Daniel Roche and Dennis Roche; and two sisters, Susan Borchers and Joyce Vining.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home is handling arrangements, to include a celebration of her life Nov. 8 at 4 p.m. at the Cove at 109 Stockbridge Road.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Berkshire Humane Society through the funeral home.

Ruth Jean Kulas

Ruth Jean Kulas, 95, formerly of Housatonic, died Sept. 19 at Lee Healthcare.

The former Ruth Jean Rourke, she graduated in 1948 from the former Searles High School.

Her husband of 41 years, Victor Kulas, died in 2011. She was also predeceased by her son Lee Martin.

Mrs. Kulas leaves two sons, David Martin and Bruce Martin; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to Berkshire Humane Society through the funeral home.

(OBITUARIES cont. on next page)

Teresa Mango

The obituary of her husband, Shepley Wilson Evans, is on the previous page.

Teresa Mango, 67, of Great Barrington, died Aug. 21 at Fairview Hospital.

She had a degree in applied music from William Paterson University of New Jersey and a master's of music in harp performance and music theory from Manhattan School of Music.

Ms. Mango performed solo programs and with symphony orchestras, chamber groups, choruses and in churches during a 35-year career throughout the Northeast.

She also taught at several colleges and schools, including Hotchkiss, Deerfield, Taft and Bard College at Simon's Rock.

From December 1994 to 2023, she was the Red Lion Inn's Christmas musician and was featured in Yankee Magazine in 1995.

She released two albums, "Christmas in Stockbridge" and, in 2006, "Peace."

She and her husband, Shepley Wilson Evans, were married Feb. 21, 1998. They resided in Stockbridge and moved to Great Barrington about 25 years ago.

They shared the birth date of Feb. 9.

Ms. Mango leaves her parents, Richard and Ann Mango, and her brothers, Steven, Thomas and Christopher.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Teresa Mango Memorial Fund or Berkshire Humane Society.

Robert J. Rausch

Robert J. Rausch, 78, of Monterey died Sept. 5 at home.

He graduated in 1968 from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in biology and a year later was drafted and served stateside as a phlebotomist.

After his discharge, he taught at several alternative schools. In 1978, he came to Gould Farm, a therapeutic community in Monterey, where he spent the next 46 years.

Mr. Rausch became head of the gardens and grounds department. In 2005, he helped place a 200-acre agricultural preservation restriction on about a third of Gould Farm's property. A year later, the Forest Stewards Guild designated the Gould Farm woodlands as a model forest.

He and Diane Schechter were married in 1983. She died in 1992.

Mr. Rausch leaves his partner, Barbara Swann, and his sister, Carol Rausch.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to Gould Farm.

Rhonda Marie Render

Rhonda Marie Render, 60, of West Stockbridge died Sept. 13 at Berkshire Medical Center.

The daughter of Attilio Zanconato and Francine Beebe, she graduated from Monument Mountain Regional High School and received an associate's degree from Albany (N.Y.) Business College.

She was a receptionist for more than 19 years for Dr. Albert Bravo.

Obituaries Continued

Mrs. Render leaves her husband, Bruce Render; her mother, Francine Beebe; her stepfather, Gordon Beebe; her brother, Brian Zanconato; her half-brother, Gordon Beebe III; and her half sister, Stephanie Genzabella.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to Berkshire Humane Society or Sonsini Animal Shelter through the funeral home.

Patricia Ann Blair Ryan

Patricia Ann Blair Ryan, 92, of Great Barrington died at home Sept. 5.

She graduated in 1950 from Watertown High School, then worked at Raytheon with post-World War III refugees and Holocaust survivors before attending Beth Israel Hospital's School of Nursing.

After graduating in 1954, she graduated magna cum laude in 1957 from Boston University, where she also studied photography.

In 1958, she was a registered nurse in the Bennington College infirmary and at Putnam Memorial Hospital. She went on to be a psychiatric nurse at United Counseling Services.

She also made many of her clothes and her children's and sold clothes at a Camden, Maine, boutique.

Mrs. Ryan received a master's degree in clinical social work in 1973 from the Smith College School of Social Work. She became a psychotherapist at Berkshire Mental Health Center in Pittsfield.

Mrs. Ryan performed in local theater productions in Bennington and Pittsfield, where she performed with the Town Players.

In 1979, she and Harold Schragger started Psychotherapy Associates on South Street.

Mrs. Ryan moved in 1983 to Great Barrington, where she was on the Planning Board and the board of the Great Barrington Historical Society.

Her paintings, weathervanes and collages have been shown at the Norman Robckwell Museum, Hotchkiss School and other locations. She also traveled throughout the world.

She was a practicing therapist until 2020.

Mrs. Ryan leaves three daughters, Eileen of Watertown, Gillian of Monterey and Jessica Lapinski of Florence; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her former husband, Charles Joseph Ryan Jr., and her second husband, James Secundy; her sister, Nancy Blair Dota; and her infant son, Adam Blair Ryan.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Great Barrington Historical Society or WAMC public radio.

Nicole Hagen Siomos

Nicole Schiaffino Hagen Siomos, 83, of Great Barrington died Sept. 28.

She grew up in Great Kills, N.Y., and was a cheerleader at New Dorp High School.

She graduated from Wagner College and Richmond College and taught elementary school for more than 30 years.

She travelled several times to Paris and Italy in search of her ancestry.

Mrs. Siomos leaves her son, Matthew Hagen; her daughter, Jessica Cappelli; four grandchildren; a great-grandson; and her ex-husband, Paul Hagen.

She was predeceased by her ex-husband, John Siomos, and her brother, Michael Schiaffino.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to Berkshire Humane Society.

Marcia Lawrence Soltes

Marcia Lawrence Soltes, 90, of Stockbridge died Sept. 17.

An educator and author, she had also been a board member of Berkshire County for Justice and was on the board of Construct.

Mrs. Soltes leaves her daughter, Suzanne Walker, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband, Rabbi Avraham Soltes, her son, Dr. Douglas Levy; her grandson, Benjamin Levy; and her sister, Diana Freed.

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Memorial donations are suggested to the 529 Education Fund of Stacy Carvalho, administered by her son-in-law, Edward Walker, at 14 Jackson Road, Belmont.

Peter John Spadaccini

Peter John Spadaccini, 76, of Housatonic died Sept. 19 at home.

He attended local schools and served in the Army in Vietnam. He was later stationed in Germany. After his service, he was a mason for many years.

He also was a fisherman, hunter and, in his youth, trapper.

Mr. Spadaccini leaves his wife, Susan; two daughters, Marie Norcia and Amanda Mendoza; and two grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents and his sister, Joan Holmes.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangement, which included burial with Military Honors.

Memorial donations are suggested to HospiceCare in the Berkshires through the funeral home.

Matthew Tomich

Matthew Tomich, 91, of Great Barrington died Sept. 17.

He graduated from Long Island Agricultural Technical Institute in Farmingdale, N.Y., where he studied landscape design and met Don Ward. Then he enlisted in the Marine Corp. And served for three years.

After his discharge, he and his wife, Gannella Jean Grayson, moved to Great Barrington where he and Mr. Ward opened Ward's Nursery and Garden Center in 1957.

(OBITUARIES cont. on next page)

Police Report for August

GREAT BARRINGTON POLICE can be reached by calling 911 for an emergency or 528-0306. Police also handle ambulance dispatch. The station is at 465 South Main St.

The department's website is greatbarringtonpolice.com and its Facebook page is [facebook.com/GBPDMA/](https://www.facebook.com/GBPDMA/)

Police officers wear cameras to help document investigations and incidents.

The department participates in the state Disability Indicator Program. Forms are at mass.gov/doc/disability-indicator-form.

August Police Report

The following is from the month's police report. It does not include all police actions. Police respond when the fire department is called. Those calls are reported in the Fire Report elsewhere on this page.

One three-car collision and 30 involving two cars were reported in August, including two hit-and-runs. All persons in a two-car collision on Old Stockbridge Road on Aug. 30 were taken to Berkshire Medical Center.

Arrests from those collisions are reported under Arrests and Summons in this report.

Vehicles hit deer on Seekonk Road and, three times, on South Main Street. Bear were hit on Old Stockbridge Road, Park Street and Old Stockbridge Road.

Police ran radar on 21 public ways. That included 10 times on North Plain Road; nine times, Division Street; and eight times, Egremont Plain Road;

Also, six times each, Van Deusenville Road and East Street; four, Gilmore Avenue; three each, Old Stockbridge Road and Park Street; twice each, State and Monterey roads and Pleasant and South Main streets; and once each, Taconic Avenue, Alford Road, Main, Front and Depot streets.

Police stopped 78 vehicles, including five that were logged.

Police responded to reports of nine disturbances. Two people reported hearing gun shots in Lake Mansfield woods. A window on Christian Hill Road was apparently cracked by a BB gun.

SBAS Report

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE AMBULANCE SQUAD is based at Fairview Hospital and serves Alford, Ashley Falls, Egremont, Great Barrington, Housatonic, Monterey, Mount Washington and Sheffield, with mutual aid agreements with six other municipalities.

Great Barrington police handle dispatch for this town at 911. The SBAS number is 413-528-3632. Its website is sbvas.com/

Of the 236 calls in August, 70 people were transported from one hospital to another; 134 people were taken to a hospital; 28 people refused transport; and four calls were canceled.

Great Barrington had 64 transfers and 68 people taken to a hospital, one refusal and 11 cancellations.

Sixteen vehicles were unlocked.

Police helped get payment for a taxi driver who drove someone to Great Barrington from Bradley Airport in Hartford, Conn., and discovered that the credit card used to pay him was invalid.

At a mother's request, police explained to a child potential dangers of reenacting sexual positions and actions online.

Someone reported twice finding a nail in her car tire in the Taconic parking lot.

Hungry Bears!

A bear tried to get into garbage on Lewis Avenue. A young bear was in a tree on West Avenue. That bear, or perhaps a different one, was reported on Maple Avenue.

A bear tried to get into garbage on Bernard Gibbons Drive.

Police removed a bat from a West Avenue apartment.

Arrests and Summons

Arrested or given a summons to appear in court were the following:

-Richard Minacci, 61, homeless, court-issued warrant.

-Angelina Mary Schutt, 34, Salisbury, Conn., assault and battery on a police officer and resisting arrest.

-Jerome Rumley Jr., 32, Waterbury, Conn., two charges of domestic assault and battery on police officer and resisting arrest; also, assault and battery.

-James Toby Zucco, 54, Great Barrington, domestic assault and battery.

-Robert P. Parsons, 31, Sheffield, court-issued warrant.

-David C. Magadini, 78, Great Barrington, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

-Katherine Libby, 37, West Cornwall, Conn., court-issued warrant.

-Jennifer Martinez-Pablo, 21, Lee, operating under influence of liquor, marked lanes violation.

-Mary Alicia Morey, 32, Great Barrington, assault and battery on child with injury and child endangerment.

-Nkechi Ihuom, 56, San Francisco, trespass at Decker Auto Body.

-Jennifer May Betty, 47, Housatonic, failure to appear in court.

-Makilya S. Levy, 24, Austerlitz, N.Y., shoplifting from Agway.

-Roman Spataro, 25, Austerlitz, N.Y., shoplifting from Agway.

-Kenny Exahu Fajardo Bonilla, 37, West Stockbridge, operating under influence of liquor, possession of class B drug, negligent operation of motor vehicle.

-Derek B. Hafner, 21, Pittsfield, unlicensed operation of motor vehicle, license not in possession.

-Michael J. Miller, 31, Great Barrington, assault and battery.

-Susan Marie Cibelli, 67, Great Barrington, domestic assault and battery.

-Brett R. Simmons, 50, homeless, violation of abuse prevention order.

Fire Report

GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT'S headquarters at 37 State Road, Great Barrington, is open from 8 to 11:30 a.m. weekdays.

Its telephone number is 528-0788, its page on the town website is www.townofgbma.gov/332/FireDepartment and its Facebook page is www.facebook.com/gbfiredpt.

Firefighters responded to 119 calls in August, including helping EMS crews 48 times plus five calls for vehicular accidents.

They responded to a cooking fire confined to a container and a woods fire. Further information of their locations was not provided.

Firefighters were called 49 times for false alarms for release of hazardous materials or carbon monoxide or fire alarms activated because of malfunction or unintentionally.

Building Permits, cont.

-John E. & Caitlin M. Hotaling, install 20 solar panels on roof at 12 Fairview Terrace, \$34,000, Trinity Solar.

-Craig & Judith Panzano, rebuild deck, adding three feet on both side, on front of house, adding single gable porch roof above deck, replace front door and vinyl siding on south, west & north walls at 3 Dehon Road, \$44,000; Thomas Candee Jr.

-Collin Wayne Reiners, inground swimming pool with safety fence at 10 Lindas Lane, \$122,438, Amber Linke.

-Great Barrington Housing Authority, install shower surrounds & wall panels, 2 Bernard Gibbons Drive, \$48,500, Laroche Construction.

Obituaries from p. 10

In 1974, Mr. Tomich opened his own landscape design company with three of his sons and won a National Landscape Association award for landscape design at the GE Plastics complex in Pittsfield.

He received the award from Patricia Nixon at the White House.

In 1981, the Tomich family started a landscape design company in Venice, Fla. After Mr. Tomich retired in the early 2000s, he volunteered at Venice Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Tomich returned to Massachusetts in 2017.

Mr. Tomich leaves his wife of nearly 68 years; his sons, Christopher, Mark, Peter and Matthew, and daughter Lesliann Furcht; 14 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his sister, Theresa Miller.

Birches-Roy Funeral Home handled arrangements, which included Military Honors.

Memorial donations are suggested to Our Lady of the Valley in Sheffield through the funeral home.



THE SOUTH-ERN Berkshire Registry of Deeds is in the Great Barrington Town Hall and open from

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Documents are online at www.masslandrecords.com.

Following are recent transactions of \$35,000 or more in Great Barrington (including Housatonic), Egremont, Monterey, Alford & West Stockbridge.

-Carter Van Allen Forringer & James Matthew Earl to Phillip Gorth, 293 East Road, Alford, \$1.55 million.

-Thomas C. Wessel Revocable Trust, Thomas C. Wessel & Margaret M. McTeigue, trustees, to Mahican Meadow Trio LLC, Crooked Hill Road, Alford, \$999,999.99.

-Glassman-Yu Corp. to 12 Group LLC, 105 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, \$637,000.

-Amy Harran to Douglas Miller & Ruby Miller, unit 201, 34 Bridge St., Great Barrington, \$550,000.

-Thomas L. Brunner & Kathleen Ney Brunner to Merritt Home Solutions LLC, 66 Main St., Egremont, \$85,000.

-Gabriel Famiy Trust, Stephen A. Gabriel & Anne M. Fogarty, trustees, to 2 Depot St. LLC, 2 Depot St., Great Barrington, \$400,000.

-Sheila Estelle Bandyopadhyay to Kam Bellamy, unit 4, 12 Manville St., Great Barrington, \$375,500.

-RPM Properties Inc. & S&A Realty Inc. to TNM Holdings LLC, 40 Maple Ave., Great Barrington, \$594,348.36.

-Sandra Abbentante Lopez & Alana S. Lopez, trustees, Joseph Lopez Revocable Living Trust Dated Dec. 21, 2006, to Finbarr O'Donovan & Patricia O'Donovan, 4 Bott Hill Road, Egremont, \$128,000.

-Irene C. Goldman-Price, trustee, Irene C. Goldman-Price Revocable Trust, to Maureen A. Rocks & William Andrew Wynn, unit 1, 2 Copper Beech Lane, Great Barrington, \$775,000.

-Paul Isaacs & Meredith Frederick to Patrick S. Hafner & Lara Mittaud, 57 South St., Great Barrington, \$660,000.

-Ira Michael Solomon to Steven Trifon & Rebecca Amsel, 3 Stratford Lane, Monterey, \$1.15 million.

-Lauren Kate Lascar & Brian Michael Budak to Cara M. Carroll & Michael F. Carroll, 453 Main Road, Monterey, \$600,000.

-Gwyneth A. Connell to Georgene Poliak, 106 South Main St. North, Great Barrington, \$490,000.

-Sheila A. Steiner, trustee, Sheila A. Steiner Revocable Trust, to Sheila A. Steiner, trustee, Dominique S. Steiner Grantor Trust, 29 & 33 Art School Road, Monterey, \$1.665 million.

-Ethan A. Flynn & Sarah Ruth Flynn to Lenge L. Hong, 297 North Plain Road, Great Barrington, \$310,000.

Recent Real Estate Transactions

-Kathrynne L. Gogel Family Trust, Kathrynne L. Gogel, trustee, to Rebecca Heidgerd, 40 Main St., Egremont, \$630,000.

-Blake McDonald & Keith Asher, trustees, Blake McDonald Trust, to Bradley Rosenberg & Lauren Rosenberg, 52 Lenox Road, West Stockbridge, \$685,000.

-Lloyd H. Sachs Jr. & Beverly L. Sachs to Shanahan SC LLC, 271 North Plain Road, Great Barrington, \$439,000.

-Johanna Wise-Segatti to Christopher R. Kelley, 14 Commonwealth Ave., Great Barrington, \$500,000.

-Allyn Scura Jr., Scott Iseyama, trustee, & Scura-Iseyama Family Trust to Amy Gill & Judson Ehrbar, 49 South St., Great Barrington, \$938,250.

-Sean P. Major, trustee, Thomas J. Major Revocable Trust, to 80 Maple LLC, unit 5, 80 Maple Ave., Great Barrington, \$225,000.

-Irwin H. Brenner & Laura E. Brenner to Kenneth E. Ambach & Mary E. Kelsh-Ambach, 206 Hillsdale Road, Egremont, \$1.45 million.

-Edward R. Szwyd & Joanna A. Szwyd, trustees, Stanley Szwyd Testamentary Trust, to Alexis Brown Kennedy, 310 Park St. North, Great Barrington, \$388,000.

-Carter V. Forringer, James M. Earl, Rachel Ann Forringer, Carter Van Allen Forringer & James Matthew Earl to Michele L. Millon & David B. Shaw, 26 Prospect St., Great Barrington, \$703,000.

-Maxine A. Green to Myat Tun Naing, 19 Great Barrington Road, West Stockbridge, \$250,000.

Stockbridge real estate will return.

Building Permits in August

GREAT BARRINGTON IS PART of a four-town building department with Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge. Building commissioner is Matthew Kollmer, building inspector is Rian Dowd and administrative assistant is Jesse Self.

Their offices in the Town Hall are open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment. The telephone number is 528-3206.

The building inspector issues permits and inspects projects and is Great Barrington's zoning enforcement officer.

Inspectors; What Needs Permit

Other inspectors are gas, Robert Gennari at 274-0267; plumbing, Robert Krupski, 229-8019; and electrical, Theodore Piontek, 274-6605.

Permits are needed for siding, roofs, signs, foundations, fences, and temporary structures; to demolish structures; and to install chimney linings, alarm systems; new windows, wood stoves, insulation, sprinkler system, photovoltaics; tents, hot tubs;

Also, pools, spas, alarms, sprinklers, heds, solar installations, and home occupations.

Following are recent permits granted in August for projects valued at \$15,000 or more with the owner's name, reason for permit, applicant if not the owner, and estimated value:

-Christian Na, new windows at 8 Brookside Road, \$18,345, Robert LeBlanc applicant.

-Patino Sonnia, roof-mounted solar panels at 35 Division St., \$24,640, Joshua Borozny.

-Peter Whitehead, trustee, remodel kitchen at 5 Lucky Lane, \$27,000.

-Alyson B. Brandt, greenhouse at 200 Castle St., \$68,250, James Waldman.

-Karl & Ronna Zigmund, add dormer on north side of existing structure at 320 Park St. North, \$25,000, Anthony Troiano.

-David & Jill Maldonado, replace old deck & new roof at 35 Giddings St., \$17,300, Robert J. Bartini.

-Benjamin J. Schonbeck, replace roof at 225 Long Pond Road, \$15,000, Robert J. Bartini.

-John & Nina Lipkowitz, replace roof at 404 Monterey Road, \$46,700, Robert J. Bartini.

-Thomas E. & Patricia G. Dempsey, replace all windows, two sliding doors and oil tank at 117 Hurlburt Road, \$62,250, Alex Komlev.

-Jill Weinberg, install vinyl siding at 27 Wyantenuck St., \$27,000, Brian Wadsworth.

-Great Barrington Housing Authority, replace decks at 909 Main St., \$28,000, Taufiq Ossman.

-El Khoury Antoine, repair roof at 45 Taconic Ave., \$29,000, Jason Smegal.

-Fairview Hospital, selective demolition of part of hospital's ground floor at 29 Lewis Ave. with new infection control construction walls and new hallway to enable new emergency exit, to enable a new laboratory with a new building permit; \$88,000; Jason Maronde.

(Permits continue on page 9)



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