

# OBITUARY

## Miriam Wood Watkins, 92

BELFAST, ME – Miriam Wood Watkins, age 92, passed away peacefully at home in Belfast, Maine on Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, due to respiratory failure.

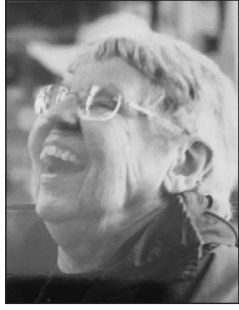
Miriam was born Sept. 16, 1931 in West Springfield, Massachusetts to Helen Moore and Berton Aubrey Wood. After living in West Springfield until age five, where her father owned a flower shop, she and her family moved to Huntington where Berton took up farming.

In 1944, at the age of 13, Miriam moved back to West Springfield and while taking on nanny jobs to support herself, graduated from West Springfield High School in 1949. This capacity for making decisions would take her through a life of many adventures. She showed an early capacity for gardening and growing flowers and many will recognize this in gardens she grew and tended.

She entered a Nursing Program at Massachusetts General Hospital. While studying there, she met James Watkins, serving at Fort Devens in Ayer, Massachusetts and seeing a secure future with James, asked to marry him. On March 23, 1952 they were married and the same year, she graduated from MGH. After a honeymoon at Niagara Falls, James was deployed to Germany, and Miriam traveled to visit him there. They spent three more years in Boston.

The young couple left Boston in 1956 eventually settling in Western Massachusetts, Miriam's childhood home. In 1960, eager to start a family, they purchased a small bungalow on Allen Coit Road in Huntington where they would live for the next 47 years.

Their family grew to include four boys, many cats and two dogs. The bungalow was enlarged to accom-



modate them. Miriam settled into her new role of raising the boys and keeping the household going.

One by one, the boys entered primary school with the last able to attend Kindergarten. Miriam continued to keep house, was active in church and other groups such as the Ladies Aid and the "CB's" or Community Benefit, a women's group in their neighborhood of Norwich Hill.

In 1975, with others, she and James co-founded the Fare-Thee-Well Wholeness Center, whose mission has been to support holistic practices of body, mind and spirit. They were active members of FTW until 2007.

As the boys grew up and left home, Miriam started to fill her time with vocations such as home health, and hobbies such as dried and pressed flower arranging. Many water colors she created may still be found in her portfolio. Her political life took the form of nine years on the Huntington Select Board and also on the Conservation Commission.

In 2007, realizing the burdens of keeping house in Massachusetts, she and James moved to the small coastal city of Belfast, Maine where she developed a great circle of friends through her active participation in such groups as The Peace and Justice Group of Waldo County, Raging Grannies and Heart Song. She could be seen often walking the streets of Belfast and her joy of walking carried her through to 2023.

Miriam will be remembered for her generous spirit, listening ability, big smile, and joyful laughter.

Miriam is survived by her sons Mark, Eric, Andrew, Todd and daughter-in-law Eliza.

## CHESTER

### Hilltown Hikers hold opening event of new property

CHESTER – Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers announce they will have a soft opening event of their newest property, the Chester Granite Saw on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. during Chester on Track.

Purchased in September of 2023, volunteers have worked endless hours cleaning up the "jungle." This lot was unmaintained for approximately 80 years. The volunteers have been removing invasive species, dead ash trees and trash for the past seven months.

The Granite Works was started in the early 1800s to cut and finish the granite that was extracted from local quarries including the Trustees of Reservations Becket Quarry. It features a 12 foot diameter saw blade, originally operated by steam power with some remarkable

mechanisms designed to handle the massive blocks of quarried stone.

Hilltown Hikers staff will be at the Granite Saw property main entrance from 9am to 4pm located at 7 Prospect Street across from the ball field. There is also a foot path entrance located across from the Chester Railway Station. This property is in phase one of its cleanup, preservation and presentation to the public, expect much more here in the next year.

People may donate to keep this project and the Hilltown Hikers funded with more information available by visiting [www.hilltownhikers.com](http://www.hilltownhikers.com). People may email [westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com](mailto:westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com) or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions. They are a 501 C3 non profit. Donations are appreciated.

## DEATH NOTICES

### BISBEE, DAVID

Died April 26, 2024  
Celebration of Life May 18 at  
First Congregational Church of Chesterfield at 11 a.m.

### WATKINS, MIRIAM WOOD

Died Nov. 6, 2023

Country Journal

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

*Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon,  
Fridays noon for Monday holidays.*

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Goshen Conservation Commission Legal Notice

The Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **May 20, 2024 at 6:30** at the Goshen Town Hall for 54 Fuller Rd., Goshen, MA 01032. The work to be reviewed is installing four concrete piers for a rear deck attached to the north side of the house.  
05/09/2024

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD23P2337EA

Estate of:  
**Alfred L. Caron**  
Date of Death:  
**May 30, 2023**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Scott Caron of Westfield, MA**.

**Scott Caron of Westfield, MA** has been informally

appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
05/09/2024

**Town of Worthington Conservation Commission**

### Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Worthington Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing in response to a Request for Determination of Applicability regarding the resurfacing of Route 112 (Huntington Road), from Worthington Corners to the Worthington/Huntington Town line – all within the Town of Worthington.  
The Hearing will be held **Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 7 PM** in the Selectboard meeting room at Town Hall.  
05/09/2024

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts County of Hampden The Superior Court CIVIL DOCKET #2479CV0157

**RE: Farm Credit East, ACA f/k/a First Pioneer Farm Credit, ACA vs John Stopa a/k/a John O. Stopa a/k/a John A. Stopa, Robin A. Humphrey and Amy Distefano**  
**ORDER OF NOTICE BY**

### PUBLICATION

TO: John Stopa a/k/a John O. Stopa a/k/a John A. Stopa, and Robin A. Humphrey individuals with an address of 99 Reagan Road, Granville, Massachusetts 01034 and Amy Distefano an individual with an address of 183 Reagan Road Granville Massachusetts 01034 in the County of Hampden; all in said Commonwealth;

**AND TO ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SERVICE MEMBERS' CIVIL RELIEF ACT OF 1940 AS AMENDED 2003 as amended:**

**Farm Credit East, ACA f/k/a First Pioneer Farm Credit, ACA**, a banking institution with its principal office located at 240 South Road, Enfield, CT 06082

**claiming to be the holder of mortgage covering** property known as 99 Reagan Road, Granville, Hampden Massachusetts f/k/a 53 Reagan Road, Granville, Hampden County, Massachusetts and also encumbering

West Side Reagan Road, Granville, Hampden County, Massachusetts

**given by**, the Defendants, Stopa and Humphrey to Farm Credit East, ACA f/k/a First Pioneer Farm Credit ACA dated September 17, 2002

recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 12570, Page 120, has filed with said court a Complaint for authority to foreclose said mortgage in the manner following: by entry on and possession of the premises therein described and by exercise of the power of sale contained in said mortgage.

If you are entitled to the benefits of the Service Members' Civil Relief Act of 1940 as amended, and you object to such foreclosure you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said court at Springfield in said County on or before 6/6/24 or you may be forever barred from claiming that such foreclosure is invalid under said Act.

**Witness**, Michael D. Ricciuti, Esquire, Chief

Justice of the Superior Court, at Springfield, Massachusetts, this 24th day of April, 2024.

Laura S. Gentile,  
Clerk of the Courts  
By: **Lauramarie Sirois**  
Assistant Clerk  
05/09/2024

### LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON WATER AND SEWER

The Water and Sewer Commissioners will hold a public meeting regarding Water and Sewer FY 2025 rate increase and receive public input from the community on **Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 6:00 PM** at Stanton Hall, Huntington Massachusetts FY 2025.

Public input on the FY2025 rate increase is welcomed and encouraged by attending the public hearing.

Commissioners:  
Dan Oliveira  
Sue Fopiano  
Karon Hathaway  
05/09, 05/16/2024