

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

HELP WANTED

PART-TIME SNOW PLOW DRIVERS NEEDED for the Town of New Braintree for the 2024-2025 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL license. If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at **(508) 867-2451** or email hwysupersecretary@newbraintree.org.

The Town of Oakham is seeking a qualified, experienced candidate to fill the **part-time position of TOWN CLERK**. The Town Clerk is the chief election officer for the town and the clerk of Town Meetings. For a full job description visit www.oakham-ma.gov/clerks-office. Salary negotiable based on experience.



Post your job openings in our classifieds.

We get results!
Call 413-283-8393

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

Further information can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday – Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthingtonhighway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

QUIET 1 BEDROOM IN LUDLOW, first floor, efficiency kitchen. \$925. Near Mass Pike. Parking, on-site laundry, no smoking, no pets. **413-543-3062**.

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

ELECTRIC BILLS

from page 5

The more you use the more you pay and this July was almost two degrees warmer than average."

"Starting August 1, our customers actually began experiencing a rate decrease in their supply charge compared to July's rates, and there had only been one smaller increase to any component of rates between February and July (~3% on the delivery side of the bill). But again, if customers are using more energy, that's ultimately still going to drive their bills up," Ress said.

It was clear to me from the comments on social media, talking to the solar reps and Eversource that before you start any solar investigation, you need to read your bill very closely. I have been paying electric bills for decades from both National Grid and Eversource and admit that I have never gotten into the very important weeds. The information is all there, you just need to read the fine print.

The most important part of the bill to notice is the difference between supply and delivery. Supply is what you are paying for the actual power and delivery is what it takes to get it here, plus maintain the lines. As Eversource's Ress said: "the delivery charge of an electric bill includes the costs of building, maintaining and operating the system that delivers reliable service to your home, as well as state and federally mandated charges for financial assistance, energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. Delivery charges are often broken down into several categories, including: Transmission, Distribution, Operations and Service, Public Policy."

As Marc Ferrante, the rep I met with a solar company said, "Climate change is having a huge impact on the delivery numbers and will likely increase them perpetually. We have a grid that dates to Thomas Edison in the 1880s and we are continually seeing poles and transformers down during high wind and storm events."

It made me think of that magical and scary storm we got in late March that turned the landscape into a frozen kingdom and the time this August when Rte 20 was closed for almost a day. Maintaining old poles and equipment in a rural area is super difficult. Compare this to an urban setting where much of it is underground, protected from the elements.

That delivery charge also relates to the fact that Massachusetts just doesn't make much energy anymore. "After 9/11 people got anxious about nuclear power and our two plants were shut down," says Ferrante. Now, our supply is coming from places you might not expect. If you look at your bill, you will see which yours comes

from. Mine is from Dynegy in Irving, Texas.

In Massachusetts, this lack of local production leads to us having the fourth highest rates in the country according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency. The cost per kilowatt hour in 2024 is \$28.34 on average, which is actually down almost 11% from the prior year.

Says Ress: "New England states historically have higher energy prices for various reasons including our geography and climate, location relative to supply lines, and a heavy reliance on natural gas for both electricity and heating, which impacts winter prices when natural gas supply is constrained."

"The energy supply rate is the largest and most volatile component of rates and currently accounts for about 45% of a customer's total bill," says Ress. "As a reminder, with the deregulation of the utility industry in New England, companies like Eversource do not generate power or produce energy supply. The energy supply price changes twice each year and represents the cost that Eversource pays generators for the power that customers use. Eversource only charges customers what it pays generators for producing the power – it does not earn a profit on the cost of electricity."

We are pretty stuck with high supply rates, but what are those other charges seemingly sneaking onto your bill? If you read the back column of what goes into delivery charges, you see ones for renewable energy, energy efficiency and the electric vehicle program. These added up to an additional \$31 on my bill. But wait, I don't own an electric vehicle, why am I paying for it?

This fee was just added this summer, and was authorized by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities in December 2022, as a way to encourage the building of more electric vehicle charging stations. Eversource, National Grid and Unitil committed to spend a combined \$400 million on charging infrastructure and their customers are paying for it.

Is it fair for us all to pay, especially if you have no intention of getting an electric vehicle? The state says the only way to meet its carbon goals is to get more people to switch to EVs and to do that, the state needs to build more chargers and make it easier to charge your car at home.

After my discussions with Eversource and that deep dive into my bill, I was convinced that solar was my best option for ever-increasing electric bills. In the next column, I will cover best practices in choosing a provider and system with interviews with Hilltowners who have gone solar.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P1889EA
Estate of:
Donald Blier
Date of Death: 05/22/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Brendan Blier of Plainville, CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Brendan Blier of Plainville, CT** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/03/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS INFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Represent-

tative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 06, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
09/19/2024

TOWN OF CHESTER MASSACHUSETTS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Notice of Public Hearing
Pursuant to Mass General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Chester Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 30, 2024 at 5:00 P.M.**, in the Town of Chester's Town Hall Auditorium Room on the first floor, on Notice of Intent submittal # 1767311 filed by Vanna Maffuccio and Representative, Pete Westover of Conservation Works L.L.C., on behalf of Chester Elementary School for proposed trail improvements/alterations along the Riverfront Area in a Rare Species Habitat. The application is on file and is available for public inspection. To review please contact the Chester Conservation Commission Office Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
09/19/2024

Town of Huntington Invitation for Bid Replacement of Windows at Town Library

The Town of Huntington seeks sealed bids from qualified contractors for the replacement of windows at

the town library. The complete invitation for bid package is available by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us or at the Selectboard/Town Administrator Office located at Huntington Town Hall, 24 Russell Road in Huntington by appointment. Sealed bids must be submitted by **Thursday, October 17, 2024 by 2:00 p.m.** by mail to Town of Huntington Selectboard, PO Box 430, Huntington, MA 01050; or delivered to the Selectboard/Town Administrator office. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids if it is deemed in the best interest of the Town. The Town of Huntington Selectboard will be the contracting authority.
09/19/2024



Send Us Your Photos!

countryjournal@turley.com

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.

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
- 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