



TIMES

PSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PALMER, MA
PERMIT NO. 22

ECR-WSS
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

Dedicated to Improving the Quality of Life in the Communities We Serve

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

JANUARY 1, 2026

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

2025 Year in REVIEW

Goodbye 2025,
Hello 2026!

Happy New Year everyone! It seems like this year flew by because here we are once again taking time to look back on the past year.

News-wise, it's been a very busy one. From a special election in Hampden and moving to the new Town Hall at the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School to the retirement of WPL Director Karen Ball and welcoming her successor, Melissa Harter, there's definitely been tons to cover in all aspects of life in both communities.

We also welcomed some new faces with Angelina Acevedo and Natalie Proulx becoming correspondents and doing amazing work! It's been such a privilege to welcome the next generation of reporters as they learn the ropes and get to know our communities on a much deeper level.

And of course, some things have remained steadfast through our friend Charlie Bennett's monthly historical columns—a

crowd-favorite—to Noelle Hisgen and Patti Sullivan continuing to shine as they share the news of the week. Also, my predecessor, Dalton Zbierski, popping in to cover meetings.

As I write this, I am also filled with gratitude because the friendships I have formed with many of you have also sustained me whenever I have a bad day, moments of self-doubt or during recent difficult times. I will NEVER forget the kindness, support, hugs and love many of you have bestowed on me as it truly carried me when I needed it most.

I'm not sure what 2026 will bring for Wilbraham and Hampden, but one thing I do know is there will always be stories to cover, moments to share and opportunities to learn and grow.

I hope you enjoy this look back on 2025 and again, thank you all for your continued support of what we do here at the Wilbraham-Hampden Times.

August 2025



Noelle Hisgen, your 2024-2025 correspondent.

Hisgen reflects on the Times

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The time has come for me to say goodbye to the Times. I will be embarking on a new journey this fall as a college student - heading off to Keene State, majoring in communications, and continuing my athletic career on the cross country and track teams.

Working with the Wilbraham-Hampden Times was a unique experience that I am so grateful to have gotten the opportunity to do.

Please see **HISGEN**, page 4

June 2025



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Sophie Pariseau, her father Mark Pariseau, Tiera Wright, communications director for the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, and Diana Guzman, vice president of Human Resources at the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, pose for a group photo.

3.3 Miles for Change Walk honors Sima and Dylan Pariseau

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Several hundred residents, community members, family and friends and many more gathered at Fountain Park on June 14 for the 3.3 Miles for Change Walk.

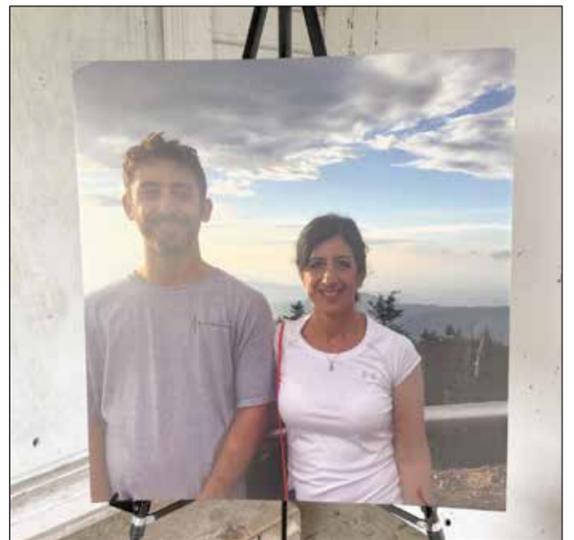
The walk honored Sima and Dylan Pariseau, two community pillars taken too soon in June 2024 and also raised awareness for domestic violence, with proceeds going towards the YWCA of Western Massachusetts to support its domestic violence assistance and awareness programs.

YWCA Board President Eileen Leahy thanked Theresa Finnegan, general counsel at the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, for connecting the YWCA and Sophie Pariseau to help them "make a difference together."

"Sophie, your dedication over the past six months has been nothing short of extraordinary. Relentless hard work and unwavering commitment have transformed this event into a remarkable success," Leahy said.

Sophie Pariseau said the turnout is "a true testament of how many lives my mom and my brother have touched and continue to touch, even in the beyond."

"While the thought of anyone ever forgetting my mom and my brother is impossible to me, I wanted to make sure that no one would. I wanted their names to be everywhere.



A photo of Dylan and Sima Pariseau, two community pillars of Wilbraham who will never be forgotten.

I wanted people to be talking about them. I didn't want them to go away just because they've physically gone away. I wanted to create something that left no room for anything but remembering," Sophie Pariseau said.

She said the walk wasn't just about honoring her mother and brother's memories, but raising awareness for domestic violence and her way "of standing up not just for my mom and my brother, but for every family, every survivor and every victim who has not yet found their voice and every life we still have the power to protect."

After the walk, she hopes more people know about the YWCA's name, mission and who they are.

Mark Pariseau said he would never forget the community's support and all those who touched his life, his daughter's life and Sima and Dylan Pariseau's lives.

He also echoed his daughter in saying this: "Don't be afraid to speak up."

"Somebody's always going to be there to help you. Speak up," Mark Pariseau said.

On Oct. 1, the Pariseaus presented the YWCA with a check for over \$100,000 raised from the walk, with father and daughter sharing they plan to start a foundation, the walk will now become an annual event and there will be more community events to come.

SB approves Wilbraham Hill Climb for 2026

Contingencies are in place, however

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Select Board approved the Wilbraham Hill Climb for May 2026 contingent upon the receipt and completion of all application documents, inspections and fees in a 2-1 decision on Sept. 8.

Please see **HILL CLIMB**, page 2

September 2025



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

The starting line at this year's Wilbraham Hill Climb. The Select Board made their decision on next year's event during their Sept. 8 meeting.

November 2025



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

From the left, Selectboard Member Don Davenport, New Hampden Police Chief Daniel Bruno, Selectboard Chair John Flynn and Selectboard Member Erik Vanderleeden in a group photo.

A new era begins at the HPD

Bruno sworn in, Trombly honored

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - A new era officially began at the police department after Daniel Bruno was sworn in as the new police chief of Hampden during the Selectboard's Nov. 10 meeting.

Outgoing Chief Scott Trombly, who retired on July 17 after 31 years of service,

was also honored by the board.

As he shared during his candidate interview, Bruno, a Hampden resident for nearly 20 years, was a detective/sergeant with the East Longmeadow Police Department for nearly his entire 28-year career.

"It was just something that I always aspired to. I am the first person in my family to be in law enforcement," Bruno said. "It was just something that I was always drawn to."

He emphasized the service piece of law enforcement is what "this career, this profession, is about."

"This is a service-oriented profession first. The protect piece goes along with it," Bruno said.

On community policing, Bruno said, to him, it was always felt in small towns like Hampden, Wilbraham, Longmeadow and East Longmeadow.

"I'm fortunate, I know most of these guys, I've worked with them. Just by the nature of mutual aid calls and working together over the years, this is what they do best in Hampden. I think

Please see **CHIEF**, page 4

Hampden marks Valentine's Day in festive luncheon

February 2025

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Love was in the air during the Valentine's Day Luncheon at the senior center on Feb. 14.

Throughout the afternoon, attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch comprised of chicken cordon bleu, parsnip carrots, garlic mashed potatoes, wheat dinner rolls and a chocolate mousse for dessert that was provided by the Greater Springfield Senior Services.

Baird Souls served as entertainment and there was also a 50/50 raffle.

Pat and Paul McDonald were among the many couples in attendance, sharing they are regulars at the senior center and have attended prior holiday-themed luncheons too.

The couple will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary on March 17 on St. Patrick's Day.

"I was home on leave from Japan, got in a car accident in Iowa, spent a month in the hospital in Iowa and I got transferred to North Dakota," Paul McDonald said.

"My friend's fiancé was in North Dakota—they were both in the Air Force—and he got in a car accident there and was transferred to the Air Force hospital in Minot. So, I



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Volunteers Caryn Greco and Claudia Kapinos join Pat and Paul McDonald for a group photo during the Valentine's Day Luncheon on Feb. 14.

said I'd go out with her to be with her," Pat McDonald said. "He was just real amazing."

Paul McDonald said he was assigned to the same hospital room as the fiancé of his now-wife's friend, which is how they first met.

"So, we had met in August. We only had letter writing because we didn't have tech and all that and we got married on St. Patrick's Day," Pat McDonald said.

"Met in August, got engaged in November, got mar-

ried the following March," Paul McDonald said.

Later, the McDonalds lived in Iowa and then moved to Massachusetts, where Pat McDonald grew up.

On the secret to a long and happy marriage, the McDonalds said this.

"Laughing," Pat McDonald said. "We have to have a sense of humor."

"Having fun," Paul McDonald said. "Being close with friends and family."

April 2025



The Easter Bunny takes a photo with Lionel, Cora, and Lena Green. As well as Molly and Evelyn MacEachern.

GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club hosts Bunny Breakfast

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On April 12, the GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club hosted their annual Bunny Breakfast at St. Cecilia's Church.

The over 30-year annual event was filled with colors and cheer.

Children and their families enjoyed a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausages and bananas and they also could get temporary tattoos and their faces painted by volunteers. Children and their families could even get a picture with the Easter Bunny.

There were also raffle baskets where families could

buy tickets in hopes of winning various themed baskets in the following week.

The club members were all very active in their work that morning, including Event Chair and Vice President Lorie Bonavita.

"Seeing all of the smiles on the kids' faces and the families having a good time, it's just a wonderful event," Bonavita said.

Also in attendance was President Brenda Willard, who has been the president since January and has been involved with the club for 21 years.

"This event is really special because of the kids. The kids adore seeing the bunny and it's a safe place for the kids and the parents to

come. Have a nice breakfast, have some activities, do face painting, temporary tattoos, and all the crafts they would ever want and then sit and have free pictures with the bunny," Willard said.

Serving the food at the Bunny Breakfast was Cate Duquette, the Junior Women's Club treasurer, who has been with the club for 9 years.

"We like this event because it's a great way for all the kids to come out and have a good time, they always have so much fun. We've been doing it for over 30 years, and it's just always very well received," Duquette said.

June 2025

Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

From the left, on stage, Class President Ian Wall, Vice President Tiffany Nguyen, Secretary Victoria Gonzalez, Salutatorian and Class of 2025 Communications Officer Antonia Mascaro, Graduation Speaker Ryan Oldread and MRHS Graduating Senior Joseph Butts.



MRHS 2025 class celebrated at graduation

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Minnechaug Regional High School's class of 2025 was celebrated on graduation day on June 6 at Symphony Hall in Springfield.

This year's valedictorian is Marissa Bontempi with a 4.87 GPA and who will be attending Clemson University and the salutatorian is Class of 2025 Communications Officer Antonia Mascaro with a 4.81 GPA and who will be attending the University of Connecticut.

Class President Ian Wall encouraged classmates to reflect on how far they've come this year and the varying ways people have shown and found strength.

"As we stand here tonight, dressed in caps and gowns, surrounded by friends, family and the people who've shaped us-- it's easy to think this is the end of something. And in a way, it is. It's the end of early morning alarms, lunchroom drama and walking the same halls we've grown so familiar with," Wall said. "But more than that, this is a beginning."

Graduation Speaker Ryan Oldread's speech focused on how the class was "constantly reminded how we would not live up to the expectations set by those ahead of us and soon would be replaced by those behind us," but faced criticisms head-on.

"I see people who will continue to prove those who doubt and underestimate them wrong. Put yourself in

a position where you're responsible. Take control of your life before life takes control of you. Reach for the stars, 2025, because if you fall, at least you'll land on the clouds," Oldread said.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost emphasized how "change is not easy."

"In moments where I am able to be still, I start to sense that maybe what makes us most human is actually that we share with our fellow creatures," Provost said.

Principal Stephen Hale ended the ceremony with this.

"We hope you enjoy the celebration of the Class of 2025. We keep it focused on the kids, we have a little fun and we keep to the tradition of the ceremony," Hale said.

HILL CLIMB from page 1

The decision comes after several meetings featuring community feedback, co-organizers Jeff DeMarey and Ed Cenedella addressing concerns and questions asked and thoughts shared by members of the board.

The most recent discussion on this topic took place on Aug. 11, which comprised a nearly 90-minute discussion where the board agreed on a goal to review information—including legal feedback—for a decision on the event by that Sept. 8 meeting.

After Police Chief Ed Lennon shared information on the no racing on a public way law and that the Hill Climb would not be impacted by this, Vice Chair Marc Ducey later said he thinks "it's a work in progress."

"But, it was clear to me that the large (amount of) people that we heard from—the town—support the event, want the event to continue and I think we need to make that happen, assuming the safety requirements are met that we think are appropriate," Ducey said.

Clerk Sue Bunnell agreed with Ducey.

"I certainly appreciate the work that was done—we have records of in our folder—with regard to, for example, the handicap access and the like," Bunnell said. "I thought that was really well-handled."

Chair Michael Squindo explained why he would be voting no.

"I will share, probably, for the public's benefit, that there is a question that I sent via Nick (Breault) to our legal team regarding an act from 1908 and whether

or not that act remains on the books, which actually expressly outlines the permissions to run things like the Hill Climb and involves a public hearing process, so I don't know that that law's still on the books, but I have questions about that. So, for those reasons, I'll be saying no," Squindo said.

Squindo's other reason went back to Ducey's earlier points on contingencies.

After Ducey agreed to amend the motion to include the contingencies, he added this.

"I think Ed and Jeff were pretty good with working with us and I expect that to continue, so I'm not too alarmed by that. I think that's there's some things we need to work on, but it's clear to me the community wants to do that. We just need to make sure it's safe," Ducey said.

Scan today to book a consult! * 2026 *

POPO

ORTHODONTICS

75 Post Office Park
Wilbraham
413-675-7570
www.mypoportho.com

Dr. Ana Serrenho

100% locally owned and operated

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

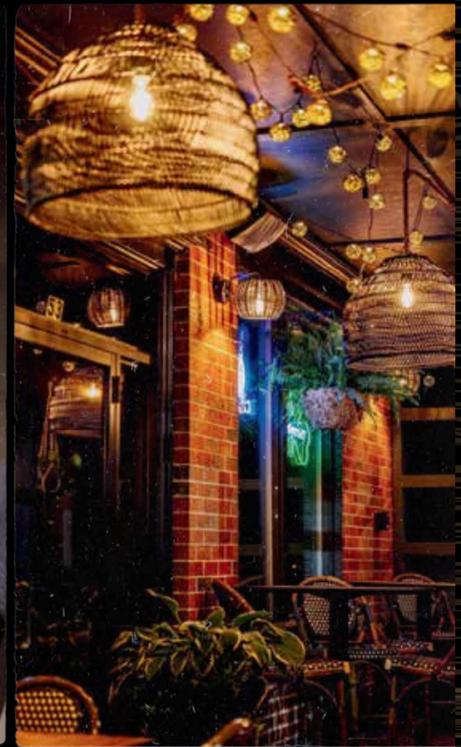
18 Park Street (on the Common) Belchertown
Weekly Mass Saturdays 4 p.m.

Rev. Thomas T. Stockton • Rt. Rev. Brian R. Marsh

stbarnabasbelchertown.org
~ All Are Welcome ~



Eat. Drink. Gather.
East Longmeadow, MA



Open Daily - Brand New Patio!
www.EastVillageTavern.com



ALSO BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SULLIVAN GROUP



Lakeside Inn - Boutique Hotel | Coming Soon!

WPL Director Karen Ball retires after 32 years

August 2025

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Library Director Karen Ball is officially retiring after 32 years of service to the community.

A Retirement Open House with coffee and donuts was held on Friday, Aug. 29, for the community to express best wishes to Ball on her last day.

Ball began her career at the library as a part-time library assistant, with her first job pulling the card sets from the old card catalog from books being deleted and adding card sets for new books coming in.

"I used to check books before they went out for overdue notices. We don't do that anymore in person, that now happens automatically through CWMARS," Ball said.

Ball noted other changes over the years included renovations to the mezzanine level when Christine Bergquist was director, forming a one-service desk model and adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic through virtual programming and events; also expanding home delivery services and adding curbside pickup during that time.

The biggest project she's proud of is the StoryWalk, crediting Melissa Graves, DPW Director Tonya Caparello and Bill Sperrazza for their help.

"We have families that use it constantly. We have people



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Wilbraham Public Library Director Karen Ball is officially retiring after 32 years serving the town of Wilbraham at the library.

that come and just walk their dogs, but it's a great use of the wooded space that we have near us that had not been used otherwise. So, it's a great walking trail," Ball said.

Also, the Board of Trustees and Hampden Master Gardener Toi Graham for improving the landscape around the library.

"I think everything at the library here is always a team effort," Ball said. "We always work together to make things happen."

Her message for her successor, Melissa Harter, was this.

"Enjoy it! This is a great town to work in. There are a lot of exciting things in libraries. I think it's a nice-size community to be able to explore new services. We certainly have historically been well-funded, so I think she'll have a lot of opportunities to try new things, and I hope she does," Ball said.

First Responders Appreciation Dinner

LUDLOW - The First Responders Appreciation Dinner is coming up.

January 8, 2026, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Gremio Lusitano Club

THE CHIEF GAMES - WINNING DEPT RECEIVES \$1,000.

Raffles, toys for all kids attending. Dine in and take-out available.

For more info contact esegundo@vfwma.org, 413-893-8800

Proudly Hosted by: PV Financial Group and the VFW.

Free Throw Competition sign ups open

WILBRAHAM - Sign-ups are currently open for the Free Throw Competition on January 3, 2026 at the St. Cecilia Parish Center.

The event takes place from 10 a.m. to Noon and is hosted by the Knights of

Columbus 10195. On-site registrations also welcome.

The event is open for boys and girls ages 9 to 14 years old.

To learn more, contact Jared Demetri at 413-279-1023.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



- Sump Pumps
- Footing Drains
- Gravity Drains
- Landscape Drainage
- Crawlspace • Bulkheads

Basement Waterproofing

(413) 279-9133
drynestllc.com

FREE ESTIMATES
HIC #216492

CHIEF from page 1

that's one of the strengths of Hampden PD is community service," Bruno said.

His goals include recruitment and retaining police officers—such as collaborating with the local high school and colleges to get the word out—and more community engagement with officers.

"I feel like if we cultivate this agency to be a place where people are happy to come to work, it starts with good leadership," Bruno said.

After Selectboard Chair John Flynn thanked Trom-

bly, he presented a plaque recognizing his many years of service.

"Thank you for your dedicated years of service to the Hampden Police Department and the community," Flynn said. "And I think the community, it should be in bigger letters because what you've done for the town of Hampden can't be overstated."

The board then unanimously approved appointing Bruno as the new police chief.

Town Clerk Eva Wiseman then led the official swearing-in of Bruno, who took the oath to serve.

HISGEN from page 1

I met the Times Editor, Kristin Rivers, by coincidence last year, both of us covering the Wilbraham United Players' production of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" for two different purposes: While she was previewing the production for the newspaper and I was creating content for WUP's social media pages.

The next day, I happened to recognize her at Minnechaug's Career Fair, and that was the start of something special. I gave her my email and soon began working for the Wilbraham-Hampden Times as a correspondent. Working with the Times

has been amazing, but it wouldn't have been as special without Kristin Rivers. Working with her has been an absolute joy. Having her as my mentor on my writing journey inspired me and also pushed my writing abilities further.

As a correspondent, there were surprises around every corner, which helped me hone my communication and public speaking skills. I was grateful to meet so many people at both towns' many events who were gracious and willing to talk about their causes.

While I will be going off to Keene State, I hope to continue writing for you all over school breaks.

Thank you to Turley Publications for the valuable experience. I love writing and being granted the opportunity to share that with others is something that I am fortunate to do.

Thank you to everyone in Wilbraham and Hampden that have supported my writing journey.

LUDLOW MEMORIAL COMPANY INC.

Celebrating over 60 Years in Business ~ The Trusz Family

- ◆ Benches ◆ Statues ◆ Monuments ◆ Custom Design Work
 - ◆ Plot Maintenance ◆ Bronze Plaques ◆ Cleaning ◆ Markers ◆ Vases
 - ◆ On-Site Lettering ◆ Restorations ◆ Cemetery Signage ◆ Granite Signs
- 201 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 ◆ www.ludlowmemorialcompany.com
413-589-7564 Office ◆ 413-589-7588 Fax ◆ 413-531-5360

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS.....	\$1.82 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPLOIN CUT FREE.....	\$7.77 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND ROAST OR STEAKS.....	\$5.99 lb
USDA INSP. FOZEN BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN.....	\$1.77 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS.....	\$6.29 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG.....	\$1.66 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN BABY BACK PORK RIBS.....	\$3.25 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB. BAG.....	75¢ lb	USDA INSP. HOT POCKETS STEAK & CHEDDAR 18 OZ.....	\$3.99 ea
SLICED IN OUR DELI		USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN • 12 OZ. BOX TEMPURA BREADED SHRIMP.....	\$3.99 ea		
USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST.....	\$4.99 lb				
USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE.....	\$4.44 lb				
TAILGATE SPECIALS					
USDA INSP. STORE MADE PORK MARINATED BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS.....	\$3.79 lb				
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN.....	\$2.99 lb				

90 Meat Outlet
90 Avocado St. Springfield
413-737-1288
www.90meat.com
We reserve the right to limit quantities.

SALE DATES: 1/1/26-1/7/26

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

Palmer U-Haul

D & M Auto

MEGAN JENSEN • NATE JENSEN

Make your reservation with us and earn \$\$ back!!
Best price guaranteed!!!

Ask Us How!

413-283-6882
413-636-2929



DMAutoRepair88@gmail.com

1422 Park St. • 1116 Park St.
PALMER, MA 01069

Police Chief Scott Trombly retires



July 2025

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Police Chief Scott Trombly has retired from the police department after 31 years of service.

Trombly first entered policing in the late 1980s as an auxiliary officer with the Palmer Police Department and then got hired part-time in Monson and Warren. He then had an opportunity through the Monson Police Department to become a full-time cadet training.

He had also gone into the police academy as a

Please see **TROMBLY**, page 8

Turley photo by Kristin Rivers
Hampden Police Chief Scott Trombly is retiring from the police department after 31 years of service.



WMS hosts International Week Celebration

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Middle School came alive with color, culture, and camaraderie as it celebrated International Week, an event that brought the school community together to honor diversity and global connections. The week-long celebration, held from November 17-21, was packed with activities that educated and inspired students while showcasing the richness of cultures worldwide.

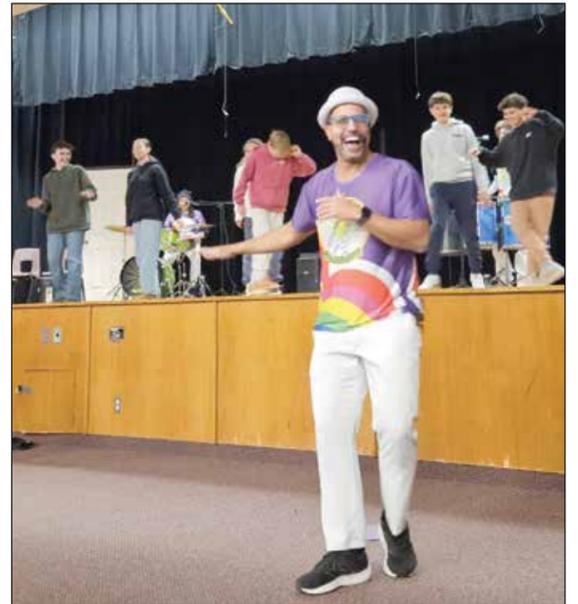
Throughout the week, students and staff shared information about cultures and languages during the Morning Show news program, broadcast at the start of each day. In classes, students participated in a variety of activities including competing in geography trivia contests, looking at inventors from around the world and exploring world languages. Students enjoyed listening to international-themed music during lunch in the WMS cafeteria.

Special assemblies featured performances by acclaimed percussionist, educator, and Grooversity maestro Marcus Santos, who led an ensemble of drummers and dancers in a high-energy survey of Brazilian drumming styles. Students were introduced to soul-stirring Afro-Brazilian spirituals, jazz that street soloists make with instruments as humble as plastic buckets, the thunderous and gleeful drumming of festival marching bands, and the modern sounds of Samba Funk. They were able to join

in on the fun with call-and-response chants and funky dance moves. Volunteers were called upon to get up on stage and help make some music.

Additionally, students participated in a door decorating contest, where the decorations served as clues to help them discover more about countries that are the locations of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and cultures from across the globe. This activity fostered creativity and curiosity among the students.

Support and participation from staff and students made International Week a memorable experience for all. The celebration was generously funded by the Wilbraham Middle School PTO and The Wilbraham Cultural Council.



Nomination papers available

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Town Clerk's Office is announcing that nomination papers are now available for placement of your name as a candidate on the Saturday, May 16, 2026 Annual Town Election ballot.

The last day to obtain nomination papers is Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

The positions being voted that day are:

- 1 Select Board member for 3 years
- 1 Assessor for 3 years
- 2 Regional School Committee members for 3 years
- 1 Cemetery Commissioner for 3 years
- 1 Cemetery Commissioner for 2 years
- 1 Water Commissioner for 3 years
- 2 Library Trustees for 3 years
- 1 Planning Board Member for 5 years
- 1 Wilbraham Housing Authority member for 5 years.

The deadline for submission to the Registrars for certification is Friday, March 27, 2026 at 5 p.m. Fifty (50) signatures from registered Wilbraham voters are required to have a name listed on the ballot as a candidate.

We suggest calling our office to set up an appointment to pick up the papers. Contact the Town Clerk's Office at 596-2800, ext. 200 if you have any questions.

Office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WPL's Winter Reading kicks off Jan. 1

WILBRAHAM - Get a head start on your 2026 reading resolutions with our annual

book to earn a ticket. Children through Grade Five will earn raffle tickets by tracking the minutes they read each day.

All reading and reviews must be submitted by Feb. 28. Kids and teens can pick up participation rewards starting March 3.

Raffle winners will be notified starting March 4.

Questions? Give the library a call at 413-596-6141 for more info.

Winter Reading Challenge!

Starting Jan. 1, record your reading for a chance to win gift cards, books, and other cool prizes. If you've participated in our seasonal Reading Challenges in the past, get started by logging into your Beanstack account and selecting the challenge for your age group.

First-time participants can create an account by visiting wilbrahamlibrary.beanstack.com, or by downloading the Beanstack Tracker app. Paper logs and review forms will also be available in the library.

Teens and adults will receive one raffle ticket for each book read. Participants must log and review each

ROBERTS ROOFS
SPECIALIZING IN
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing
Snow Removal
Snow/Ice Damage Repair
Tel. 413-283-4395
Cell 413-237-9434
www.RobertsRoofsInc.com Trusted Name Since 1982

BUILDING LOTS IN WILBRAHAM, MA
ACREAGE, SOME BACK TO RIVER
SOLD AS LOTS OR WILL BUILD TO SUIT

CHICOPEE RIVER RESERVOIR

VERGREEN DESIGN • BUILD
AT RIVER'S EDGE

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Wheway Group

Pat Wheway, Realtor
C: 413-478-1166
patwheway@gmail.com

ROBINSON TREE SERVICE LLC
Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured
Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery
All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available
162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

VIEWPOINTS

Guest Column

Feeling SAD?

There are ways to improve your mood

By Bonnie Lane, M.S.

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is recognized as a recurring major depressive disorder, typically starting in the fall and winter and spontaneously improving when spring arrives. It's usually associated with less sunlight and shorter days. Some people attribute the symptoms to stress surrounding the winter holidays, but that's more of a seasonal coincidence.

It may look like it, but it's not just the blues.

Individuals with SAD may have difficulties with memory, thought processes and motor abilities. SAD can evolve into something more serious if left untreated, particularly if you already have a diagnosis of a mental health disorder. SAD may occur alongside other disorders such as bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and alcohol use disorder, but it can be a diagnosis by itself.

While anyone can develop SAD, some groups are more prone to it. Seniors with health issues or who live in social isolation are more at risk, and SAD can worsen feelings of isolation. Conversely, seniors who live in communities have a lower incidence of SAD because there are social activities to keep them engaged after the sun goes down.

SAD seems to be most prevalent among women, usually showing up in someone's 20s and early 30s.

It's important to understand, though, that SAD is not the same as clinical depression. If your mood was fine all summer but you're starting to feel low as winter approaches, it is likely SAD. If you feel this way all the time, you need to look into treatment for clinical depression.

SAD and depression share many of the same symptoms. Here are some of the most common:

- Changes in eating habits (eating more or not enough)
- Increased alcohol consumption
- Not being able to get out of bed
- Lack of motivation, feeling hopeless and/or helpless
- Problems focusing at work
- Loss of interest in socializing
- Household chores remaining undone (laundry, dishes, etc.)

Current research is focusing on better understanding the underlying biology of SAD and improving long-term treatment strategies. Findings so far indicate that SAD may be caused by changes in brain chemistry or inflammation. Fortunately, treatments are better understood.

One of the most com-

mon front-line treatments is bright-light therapy (BLT), also known as phototherapy. It involves exposure to bright light with the use of a light box, which can be purchased at stores or even online for as low as \$150. Getting outdoors in the morning sunlight for about 20 minutes can also help.

It's not completely understood why light therapy seems effective for many people. Researchers think it boosts serotonin, sometimes called the "happy chemical" because it increases feelings of calm, contentment and happiness. Exposure to certain light also has a positive effect on melatonin, a hormone that helps regulate the sleep-wake cycle. Better sleep can ease symptoms of SAD.

Another form of treatment is cognitive-behavioral therapy, which focuses on challenging unhelpful thoughts and beliefs – "negative self-talk" – and replacing them with positive self-talk. In the case of SAD, the therapy targets "seasonal beliefs" that express negative attitudes about the seasons, light availability and weather conditions. Studies have found that this type of therapy is more effective and longer-lasting than phototherapy.

Almost everyone can feel a little down at some point or another. These feelings may evaporate within a few days. But if they persist or keep recurring, it's time to ask your primary care provider about being screened for SAD. A physical exam should be part of a screening as well because symptoms can arise for a variety of health reasons related to hormones, medications, or a bacterial or viral infection.

SAD may bring on thoughts like "Everyone would be better off without me." Do not ignore those thoughts. If you or a loved one is in crisis, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. You can also call the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988; veterans can reach specialized help at 998, press 1, or text 838255.

When we're feeling SAD or depressed, it's easy to retreat into feelings of helplessness and hopelessness this fall and winter. Recognizing the symptoms of seasonal affective disorder, and knowing where to turn for help, are the first steps toward a more enjoyable winter season.

Bonnie Lane, M.S., is principal consultant with Family Support Services, specializing in supporting families whose loved ones suffer from severe mental illness or substance use disorder. Contact her at 847-651-1554 or bonnielane@thefamilysupportservices.com.

Animal bites, even from pets, can be dangerous

Summertime and the warming climate in general usually bring about an increase in the number of animal bites reported to health authorities. As you might expect, the main culprits are dogs, but while cats are responsible for fewer bites, they are responsible for more infections.

And as people spend more time outdoors, they may be more likely to encounter wildlife, such as raccoons, skunks and foxes.

All this is to say that animal bites are nothing to be ignored. In the United States, there are between 2 million and 5 million bites each year, the vast majority of reported bites being caused by dogs, with the remainder caused by cats (5 to 10 percent) and rodents (2 to 3 percent). Children are bitten more often than adults.

Of course, most animal bites aren't reported to authorities or treated in the ER or doctor's office, so there are likely many more.

Here are some things to know about animal bites.

Cat bites can be more serious than dog bites

That cute little kitten may look harmless compared to a snarling dog, but if it bites or scratches you, watch out. The likelihood of a cat bite becoming infected is double of that of a dog bite, according to the World Health Organization.

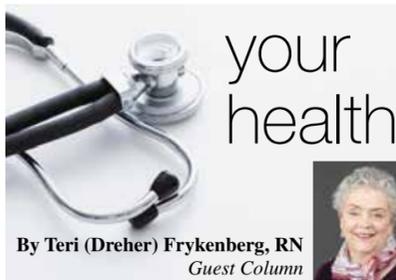
Dogs' teeth may be bigger, but cats' slender, sharp fangs can penetrate a wound deeper, causing damage to tendons or ligaments. Cats don't necessarily have more bacteria in their mouths, but, as self-groomers, their mouths are anything but clean. Women are the most frequent victims of cat bites.

Unvaccinated feral cats are dangerous, though they probably won't let you come near. Among domestic cats, the most common cause for a bite is when they're being medicated. If you've ever tried to get a cat to swallow a pill, you know this to be true.

If the vet prescribes a pill for your cat, have them

demonstrate how to administer it. Better yet, ask if the medication comes in a liquid form that you can administer

odd way; an unknown pet or one that's unvaccinated; or a stray or wild animal. In Massachusetts, any non-domestic animal biting or scratching a human must be reported to Department of Public Health Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

using a syringe.

Cat scratch disease is a thing

Cat scratch disease (CSD), also known as cat scratch fever or Bartonellosis, is a bacterial infection, most commonly transmitted through scratches or bites from cats, especially kittens, that have fleas carrying the bacteria. The bacteria can also be spread through exposure to cat saliva or flea bites.

CSD is rarely serious on its own, but those with weakened immune systems and children are more vulnerable. There are two telltale signs: swollen lymph nodes and bumps or cysts under the skin, usually near the wound. It usually goes away on its own, but if you develop fever or the infection seems to be spreading, get medical attention.

Rabies is nothing to laugh at

Rabies is a viral disease that is more common in wild animals (skunks, squirrels, raccoons, foxes) than domesticated ones, which are usually vaccinated. If you're taking a nature walk and encounter wildlife, even though it's cute and you want to share your granola, keep your distance. Rabies is also more common with a cat bite.

Though rabies cases in the U.S. are extremely rare, if you are bitten, you need immediate treatment.

Report animal bites

You should contact animal control or your local police if you are bitten by an animal that behaves in an

How to avoid animal bites

These tips seem like common sense, but they bear repeating, especially where children are concerned:

- Don't scream or run near an animal.
 - Avoid eye contact
 - Don't have food out when a strange animal is nearby.
 - Stand very still with your hands at your sides.
 - Don't pet or catch a wild animal.
 - Never bother an animal while it's eating.
 - Never tease or chase an animal or pull its ears, tail or paws.
 - Once the animal loses interest, slowly back away until you no longer see it.
 - Walk away if an animal is growling. Don't run.
 - If attacked, give the animal your jacket, book bag or anything you can put between you and it.
 - If you fall down, curl into a ball with your hands over your ears and don't move. Try not to scream and roll around.
- We love our companion animals, but keep this in mind: They are still just that – animals that may behave unpredictably.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NSHore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

An update on Connie's poinsettia

Connie, who wrote in this time last year about her mom's poinsettia, reached out with a follow up question and sent a picture to show her progress.

First, let me get you all up to speed with her first question: "We read your article about poinsettias in the Country Journal. I have been caring for my mother's poinsettia she purchased three Christmases ago. She is hoping you can help us as I never cut it back because I didn't know to do that. Now it is a small tree. There is bark on it. I had one red bract last Christmas but no yellow center. I did try to put it in a dark room but as you can see, it is too big now to do that. Any suggestions?"

Many years ago when I joined my brother on a trip to St. Thomas, I became fully aware of the poinsettia and its true, tree-like form. It looks like you are well on your way to replicating that in your house!

First, congratulations, from the picture you provided you are clearly growing a healthy specimen. The leaves are a beautiful shade of green. I would recommend that, if you want to make it more manageable in size, you do try to cut it back.

It looks as if there is a lower "tier" of leaves. If you can cut it back to those stems, I think that is a good place to start. Do that in April when it will be in active growth.



At that time I would also transplant it into a container one size bigger. So if it's in a six inch pot now, try one that is seven or eight inches, but not any bigger.

Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month. New growth should appear by the end of May.

After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks.

Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall in September.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encour-

age it to bloom. Bracts will turn red and the small yellow flowers in the center will form. Most people get on a 5 p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts.

Placing the plant in a closet or basement with no light interruption will work fine.

It is a commitment, that's for sure. Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

Good luck; I bet you will be successful this year!

Now, for her update: "I emailed you last year about our poinsettia. I did what you suggested. The only thing I couldn't do is move it into a totally dark room. It's too big to go through the door. You can see the trunk is getting bigger. More bark. It has certainly regrown to its size before I clipped it. I've fertilized it regularly, but no flowers. Any other thoughts? It is going into its fourth year soon."

Connie, the picture you sent of your poinsettia indicates it continues to be very healthy. Great job!

Please see **GARDEN**, page 8

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM



EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



@Wilbraham-Hampden Times

WEB

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Editorial Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Editor, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-682-0013 or via e-mail to krivers@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Thursday at noon.

Correction Policy

The TIMES will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper and can be substantiated. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on the editorial pages. To request a correction, send information in an e-mail or mailed communication to the editor at the above address listed above.

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc. One year out of town subscriptions are available at \$45, out of state \$50 by calling 800-824-6458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden Times, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to krivers@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Wilbraham-Hampden Times.

SEND US YOUR EVENT PHOTOS



As a free service for our readers we accept and will print when space allows community event photos and announcements. Just scan the QR code above and send us your photos and any information.

Life in &

Readers are encouraged to send in medium to high resolution photos for this page by e-mail to krivers@turley.com or mail to TIMES, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

December 2025



Santa and Mrs. Claus in a festive fire truck parade as they arrive in Hampden.

Turley photo by Natalie Proulx

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Send us in your announcements!
Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.

We will pick one each week to run here free of charge, please keep it to less than 50 words.

Please send to krivers@turley.com

Hampden holds Annual Tree Lighting at new town hall

By Natalie Proulx
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - On Sunday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m., Hampden's Annual Tree Lighting event was held at the new town hall.

The night consisted of caroling from Green Meadow's elementary school choir, a visit from Boomer, the Springfield Thunderbirds mascot, a parade for Santa by the police and fire departments, and, also, sweet treats and hot cocoa from the Green Meadow's PTO Bake Sale.

Cara Canedi, the choir teacher at Green Meadows Elementary School, was excited for the festivities.

"Hampden is such a close-knit community," Canedi

said. "And I think spreading a little bit of holiday cheer is great for its residents. It's a fun way for the whole town to come together in solidarity for a really nice holiday event!"

The final song before the tree lighting began, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," was sung just as the parade of fire trucks, dazzling with Christmas lights holding Santa and Mrs. Claus, came pulling into the new town hall's entrance. Little ones cheered seeing Santa come out with Mrs. Claus, walking up to the gazebo to begin the official tree lighting ceremony.

Selectboard Chair John Flynn shared his favorite part of the tree lighting.

"Having been in town decades and going to this many times, the lighting of the Christmas tree has always been something," Flynn said. "That's made the start of the Christmas season in the town of Hampden."

Flynn credits the citizens of Hampden, including the fire department, the police department, those who helped restore the gazebo, those who donated the lights, and everyone who attended, for Sunday night's production.

It should be noted the following folks, also, made this year's tree lighting possible: Paul Marcelina, Paul Picknelly, Valerie Santilli and her parents, John Chakalos and Rita B. Chakalos, Reverend

Mark S. Stelzer, pastor at St. Mary's Parish and co-vicar for clergy for the Diocese of Springfield and local business support from Lou's Bagel Nook, Nick Tournberg with East Meadow Enterprises, Kevin Sacco with KSacco Electrical, Sami Hajrizi from Green Stone Landscaping, Springfield Thunderbirds and Uno's Chicago Grill.

Santa said that his favorite part of the Christmas season for him is that "it's such a pleasure to talk to all the boys and girls and ask them what they would like for Christmas!"

And, his wish for this holiday season is that he would, "really love to see peace, and healthiness."

July 2025



Hampden Special Town Election Results

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The voters made their voices heard at the ballot box for the June 23 special election.

Erik Vanderleeden will be filling the Selectboard seat vacated by former Selectboard Member Craig Rivest after securing 405 votes, defeating Kathy Pessolano who received 181 votes. This was a difference of 224 votes.

Vanderleeden will now serve the rest of Rivest's term through May 2027.

As for the ballot question on the approval of the Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion override for the repair, renovation and expansion project of the fire station, this received favorable results from voters, with 339 yes votes over 252 no votes, a difference of 87 votes.

There are 4,196 total voters in Hampden, with 597 turning out for the special election, creating a voter turnout of 14%.

Wilbraham firefighters recognized

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Fire Department held a ceremony at the fire station on Jan. 15 to recognize its members for recent promotions and for outstanding service.

Mathew Walch received a pin for his promotion to deputy chief. Walch was hired by the WFD in 2010 and promoted to captain in 2019.

Patrick Farrow, who joined the WFD in 2011, was recognized for his promotion to captain of fire prevention. He is in charge of fire code inspections and permitting of all homes and businesses in town along with the department's public fire and life safety education programs.

Three firefighters, Evan Grimes, Nichole O'Donnell and Nick Noto, each completed their probationary training and were pinned with their Wilbraham Fire Department badges at the ceremony.

Firefighter/Paramedic Joshua Sterling was recog-

nized as Firefighter of the Year, presented to the firefighter who has done the most for the department. Sterling has served in the WFD for three years and on the Hampden Fire Department, where he is a lieutenant, for almost 10 years.

He was awarded for his dedication to professional development and for his many contributions to the WFD, including serving as a member of the EMS Committee, spearheading and overhauling the medication and storage inventory system and setting up an online medical reporting system.

Colin Morse received a Distinguished Service Bar for coming to the aid of a child severely injured from a kick by a horse. Morse helped set up a landing zone for a medical helicopter to transport the child to treatment and provided lifesaving interventions while awaiting the air lift and during the transport.

Captain Anthony Arventos and Firefighter Jeffrey Witek received a stork pin for deliv-



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

Wilbraham Firefighters were honored for saving a cardiac arrest patient. From left: Colin Morse, Joshua Sterling, Justin Senecal, Dane George and Scott Flynn. Missing from photo: Christopher Houghton.

ering a healthy baby girl in December 2024 in an ambulance on Interstate 291 en route to the hospital.

A group of firefighters was, also, recognized for treating a Wilbraham police officer—Ofc. Cameron Prosperi—who

was shot in a domestic incident in January 2024. Those cited were Captain Joshua Mullen, Captain Patrick Farrow, Jason Dimitropolis, Alan Hodges and Taran Savoie.

Another group was recognized for saving the life of

a cardiac arrest patient. Cited were Dane George, Chris Houghton, Scott Flynn, Justin Senecal, Joshua Sterling and Colin Morse, who worked for 45 minutes until the patient regained a pulse.

THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:

WISHING YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We're counting down and don't you know, that as the final minutes go, we're filled with joy and gratitude too, for friends and readers like all of you!

Town boards, School Committee hold joint meeting on WMS

December 2025

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Wilbraham Middle School continues to be a hot topic for the town boards in Wilbraham and Hampden and the School Committee. A joint meeting held on Dec. 2 discussed how to pursue the options on the table.

HAMPDEN - After the Wilbraham Select Board and School Committee met on Nov. 24 to discuss the options for Wilbraham Middle School, they met with the Hampden Selectboard on Dec. 2 to bring them into the conversation.

The hour-long-plus joint meeting focused on possibly withdrawing from the accelerated repair program and applying, instead, for the core building program through the MSBA.

Selectboard Chair John Flynn noted, "I hate to say it, this is Minnechaug all over again."

"I will say, personally, I think what you're talking about is the right course of action because, otherwise, you're just band-aiding it and we're going to be back in five years with more to do," Flynn said.

Selectboard Member Erik Vanderleeden asked about the accelerated repair program.

"Now, if we switch things and go to the core program, is that going to solve all the needs or is that just a band-aid or is it that you're going to be able to do redo classrooms and all that stuff or is this just kind of making it a little bit better longer versus kind of educationally as well as building-wise?" Vanderleeden said.

School Committee Vice Chair Dr. Michael Tirabassi replied, "That can be up

to us to decide with the state through the feasibility study if they invite us in."

When Selectboard Member Don Davenport asked about board approvals, Tirabassi said a letter of support from both boards "would be a tremendous help" to the core building program application.

Select Board Chair Michael Squindo noted Davenport's concerns are similar to his comments the week before on "there are still issues at the middle school that need to be addressed."

"I think we can get tighter about what repairs are necessary to prevent catastrophic failure, but if the building were to be closed, where do we educate those kids? Now and whenever the situation is?" Squindo said.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost said withdrawing from the accelerated repair program was a wise decision due to the issues that need to be addressed.

After further discussion, Davenport affirmed pursuing the core building program.

"I have to say the core program, I think, is probably what we need to do, but we need to decide how we're going to handle the five or six years of those kids that are going to be in there," Davenport said.

The following week, on Dec. 8, both boards unanimously approved letters of support for the School Committee to withdraw from the accelerated repair program and apply for the building core program.

TROMBLY from page 5

self-sponsor and came out of there a free agent, landing his first full-time job in Hadley.

Wanting to always work in the Western Massachusetts and Palmer and Hampden area, Trombly then began his career in Hampden in March 1993 as a reserve police officer and part-time dispatcher and was later appointed to a full-time police officer on June 1, 1994.

Looking back on his three-decade-plus career, Trombly emphasized caring about people and compassion being key to the job, also noting the department's growth over the years and becoming the town's first detective during

the pandemic.

"You got to treat other people with respect, the way you want to be treated. We have a great town here in Hampden. The residents are very supportive of their police, their fire, their highway, and I saw how supportive they were of me, in general, as one of their police officers," Trombly said.

Trombly said in his letter to the Selectboard announcing his retirement, he shared how "the opportunity that the town's given me" was very positive.

"That's just allowed me to continue on with this career," Trombly said.

Knowing he left a mark is what fulfills him most,

reflecting on his time as a School Resource Officer for Green Meadows Elementary School and how, several years later, when at Minnechaug Regional High School, he was recognized by two girls who said, "Officer Trombly! Holy cow, I remember you!"

"So, things like that really go, 'Wow!' It shows you that you meant something in somebody's life," Trombly said.

This was his message to the community.

"I just want to say thank you for allowing me to give a good part of my life--31 years--to you and you've been great to me," Trombly said.

GARDEN from page 6

Again, the color of your leaves is bar none! I do understand that it is a large plant and it would be difficult to move. So, why don't we create darkness?

I think if you purchased a contractor's size trash bag you could easily drape it over the plant next year and try to get the bracts to turn color.

Any light at all will foil this process, so be sure to tuck it around the bottom of the plant.

Your plant looks so good, I am not certain I would cut it back this year, but you can repeat the process I shared last year; it's up to you. Keep up the good work!

Roberta McQuaid grad-

uated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

February 2025

Wilbraham Select Board prepares for challenging budget season

Selectman Ducey said it's the most difficult one in 10 years

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Monday night meeting of the Wilbraham Select Board on Feb. 10 came to pass quickly, but a large chunk of the discussion was spent focusing on the town's budget.

Town Administrator Nick Breault said there will be multiple opportunities for town residents to see where things stand before the Annual Town Meeting this spring.

"I haven't spoken with the chair of the Finance Committee yet, but I think

I'm going to go make the town administrator/Select Board presentation maybe on Feb. 25 or possibly the following week on the first Wednesday of March. I think that'd be more effective," Breault said. "Beyond that, the chair of Finance also suggested that they would like to have another budget meeting much like they did at the senior center."

Members of the Select Board agreed it would be a sound strategy to seek more public information regarding the budget. Among them was Clerk Marc Ducey.

"I think this budget is one of the more difficult ones I've seen in at least a decade. At least it's been a while," Ducey said.

Ducey added that he still doesn't know what the Hampden-Wilbraham Re-

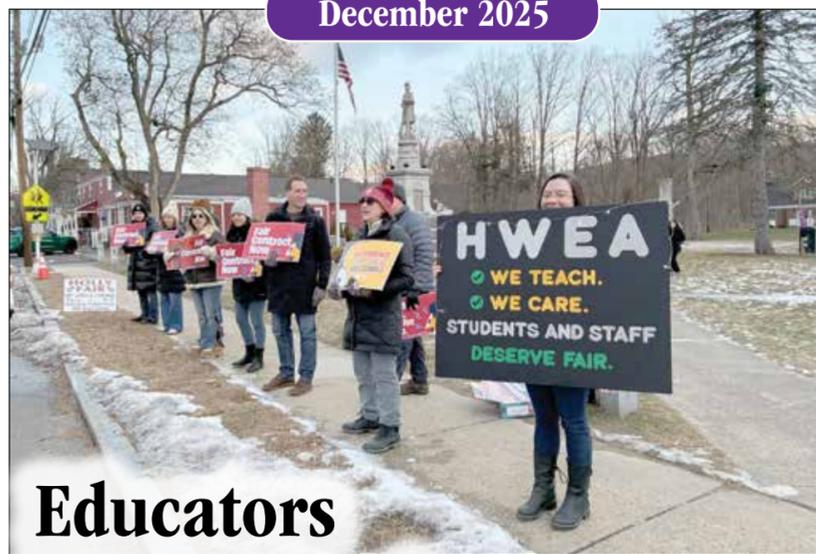
gional School District's final number will be, but he hopes to hear more soon.

"They were saying it had to be 45 business days prior to town meeting. It's 45 calendar days. They were planning on voting I think on March 6 or something like that," Ducey said.

Ducey noted that the town's current budget number does not reflect the school district's wants or needs, so it's currently off by a lot.

"I think we're going to need to make some difficult decisions," Ducey said. "And I think we're going to need to educate the public as much as possible to understand what their wants and desires are because I'm not sure how we get all this done within the confines of what we've done in the past."

December 2025



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

Educators Take a Stand

Educators assembled on Main Street in Wilbraham on Dec. 12.

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Educators from the Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District held five stand outs—two at the Wilbraham Middle School, two at Minnechaug High School and one on Main Street—in December to make the public aware that they have been working for months under an expired contract.

The current three-year contract expired at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Despite sustained negotiations over the past year, no agreement has been reached. The Hampden Wilbraham Education Association (HWEA), the union that represents more than 375 teachers, paraprofessionals and service providers, and the School District agreed that negotiations have reached an impasse and consequently jointly filed for contract mediation through the Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations on

Nov. 25. HWEA Union President Damian Konkoly, an English teacher at Minnechaug Regional High School, stood with the demonstrators.

"We want the public to be informed that we have been working under an expired contract," Konkoly said. "We hope that members of the public will let their elected officials, including the School Committee, know where they stand."

COLA adjustments have not kept up with inflation, says Konkoly, and pay for paraprofessionals does not take into account the full importance of the work they do.

The lack of paid parental leave in the district is affecting family decisions regarding whether or not to continue teaching or to remain in the district, Konkoly added.

Emma Pluta, a music teacher at Stony Hill and Soule Road schools, brought a sign reading: "We teach. We care. Students and staff deserve fair."

"There is more on our plates every year and we've been giving and giving," Pluta said.

The HWRSD School Committee did not provide a comment on the standouts when contacted via email, but both the union and the School Committee have expressed hope for a timely resolution of contract negotiations in a prior statement submitted to the Times.

"Our goal has been to settle these contracts quickly so we can provide well-deserved raises and keep the district focused on teaching and learning. We recognize that prolonged negotiations create uncertainty for staff and families....Both parties have concluded that we are at an impasse and have jointly requested mediation. We will participate fully and in good faith, with the shared goal of reaching an agreement that supports educators, protects students, and remains financially sustainable for both communities."

Hampden resident spreading kindness through kindness coins

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

January 2025

HAMPDEN - Paul Gonzales is spreading a message of kindness throughout Hampden with his kindness coins.

One side reads, "Give Kindness," and the other reads "Receive Kindness."

Gonzales explained the inspiration came after his wife, Teresa, took part in designing a table for the Springfield Garden Club in order to invite a guest. From the branches that were used for the table design, he realized that he had a lot of little slices from the wood.

"At 3 o'clock in the morning, I go, 'You know,



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Paul Gonzales, a resident of Hampden, shows off his kindness coins, a way to help spread a message of kindness throughout the town.

I could write something on each side.' So, I came up with give kindness, receive kindness," Gonzales said. "And I would tell people,

in the morning, put it on your coffee table, breakfast

Please see **KINDNESS**, page 10



Anatolian Kebab House

(413) 333-4744

THE UNIQUE TASTE OF TURKISH CUISINE IN AN AMERICAN ATMOSPHERE



DINE IN TAKE OUT DELIVERY

Mediterranean Pide (Flatbreads), Kebabs, Gyros, Seafood, Falafel, Wraps, Sandwiches, Salads & More

WE CATER ALL OCCASIONS!

186 MAIN STREET, INDIAN ORCHARD
OPEN 7 DAYS 12-9PM
www.anatolian-kebab-house.square.site

ORDER ONLINE DELIVERY WITH UBER & DOORDASH

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS orts.turley.com

Minnechaug hockey falls to Westfield

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD— It has been almost two years since the Minnechaug Regional hockey team defeated Berry Division rival Westfield.

After winning both regular season matches last year, the Bombers posted a 4-2 victory in the Western Mass. Class A semifinals, which ended the Falcons season.

Minnechaug had a 3-0 record entering the first meeting of this season with Westfield, which took place on Dec. 20. Things didn't start out very well for the Falcons, who were trailing, 4-0, early in the second period.

The Falcons players did give their supporters something to cheer for during the final period and a half, but the Bombers hung for a 5-4 victory at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

"We won our first three games of the season, but the players can't have the mindset that they're just going to just show up at the rink and think they're going to win games. We just need to play well for all three periods," said Minnechaug head coach Kyle Bousquet. "We didn't play very well at the beginning of today's game."

The last time that the Falcons hockey team beat the Bombers was a 2-1 win on January 25, 2024.

Former Minnechaug goalie Gage Vedovelli made 21 saves in that match.

The Bombers won the second meeting of the 2023-24 season, 4-0, which began their winning streak.

The Falcons, who out-

scored their first three opponents of this season, 25-4, fell behind the Bombers 2-0, less than two minutes into the opening period.

Westfield's first goal, which was unassisted, was scored by senior Tyler Godreau 55 seconds into the contest.

Then following a faceoff less than a minute later, junior Treygan Lemanski fired a shot from the right circle into the net past Minnechaug sophomore goalie Chase Foli (38 saves). The Bombers' second goal was assisted by senior Brady Corliss.

With less than five minutes left in the first period, Minnechaug had two shots on goal from junior Cam Faneuff, and sophomore Billy LaPalm. Westfield senior goalie Chris Shea (24 saves) made the saves on both attempts.

The Bombers, who out-shot the Falcons, 43-28, scored two more goals in the first three minutes of the second period.

Westfield senior Brody Hollister scored eight seconds into the second period giving his team a 3-0 lead.

Then Lemanski assisted on a goal by senior Joe Maffia with 12:24 remaining in the period.

At that point, Bousquet called a time-out.

Minnechaug junior Jason Abeid netted a power-play goal, which was assisted by senior Dom Fiorentino five minutes into the second period.

The Bombers answered with a goal by senior Cody



Jack Gagner sends the puck up the ice.



Enzo Hrycay eyes an open teammate.



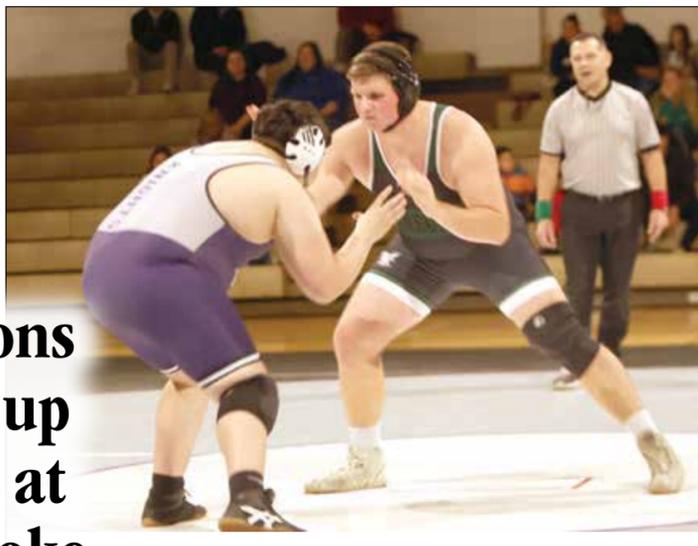
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Matt Lafley sends a wrist shot toward the goal.



Kelly Balog focuses on the puck and heads up the ice.



KK Ledvina looks for a takedown.



Ryan Jacobsen competes for the Falcons wrestling team.

Falcons pick up wins at Holyoke



Yusuf Gunaydin avoids being brought down by his opponent.



CJ Duby locks up.

Falcons girls basketball out to 3-0 start

WILBRAHAM – Last Tuesday evening, Minnechaug Regional High School girls basketball reached 3-0 on the young season with a 57-44 win over Longmeadow at home.

The Falcons started strong and overcame some pressure in the middle of the game by the Lancers before pulling away at the end.

Kelly Cronin led the Falcons with just 12 points. Ava Manning would have 11 points and Zahara Wilson and Elizabeth Woytowicz had eight points each.

The Falcons also have wins over Westfield and Northampton to start the season. They have big matchup with South Hadley this week and are back in action on the road on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 6 p.m.

HOLYOKE – On Wednesday, Dec. 17, Minnechaug Regional wrestling participated in a tri-meet at Holyoke, facing the host Knights and Frontier Regional. Following some tournaments during the holiday weeks, Minnechaug returns to dual meet action with a big meet against Agawam at home on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m.

SPORTS

Candidates for 2026 HoopHall announced

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the list of eligible candidates for the Class of 2026, featuring several high-profile first-time nominees.

Notable new candidates for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2026 include the 1996 USA Basketball Women's National Team, Mike D'Antoni, Jamal Crawford, Elena Delle Donne, Blake Griffin, Joe Johnson, Candace Parker, Bruce Pearl, and Kelvin Sampson.

"The candidates for the Class of 2026 have each left an indelible impact on the game of basketball," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

The first look at the list of eligible nominees was provided by "NBA Today" on ESPN, hosted by Malika

Andrews, with Ramona Shelburne, Tim Bontemps, Kendrick Perkins, and Shams Charania in studio. A complete list of eligible candidates can be found below.

Finalists chosen from the applicable Category Screening Committees for the Class of 2026 will be announced at a later date. The entire Class of 2026 will be unveiled during a nationally televised broadcast on Saturday, April 4, during Final Four Weekend.

The Finalist and Class Announcement times and broadcast networks will be announced by Monday, Feb. 9.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, Aug. 14, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, followed by the Enshrinement Ceremony the next day at Springfield's historic Symphony Hall.

All VIP Packages, single-event tickets to the Ceremony, Tip-Off Celebration, and Awards Gala, as well as other ancillary events, will go on sale on Saturday, Apr. 4. All packages and tickets will be available for purchase at hoophall.com.

The complete listing of events and pricing will be released on Monday, Feb. 9.

Thunderbirds get big comeback for win over Bridgeport

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (10-12-4-2) overcame a two-goal deficit with less than eight minutes remaining en route to a stunning 4-3 overtime win over the Bridgeport Islanders (11-14-2-1) on Sunday afternoon inside the MassMutual Center.

In desperate need of a pick-me-up, the Springfield power play drew first blood just seven seconds into their first opportunity, as Samuel Johannesson whistled a one-timer over Henrik Tikkanen's blocker arm at 6:33 of the first.

After a relatively quiet opening half of the period, T-Birds netminder Georgi Romanov was far busier in the closing six minutes of the frame, denying all 11 shots that came his way in the first 20 minutes.

Bridgeport's rugged pressure paid dividends at 4:30 of the second as Joey Larson chopped a net front shot past Romanov, tying the game at 1 apiece on

Larson's fifth goal in six games against Springfield.

In a period that saw the Isles outshoot Springfield 15-3, the visitors vaulted to the lead at 15:35 as Cam Thiesing intercepted a pass deep in the T-Birds end and whistled a wrist over Romanov's blocker to send the game to the intermission with Bridgeport in front, 2-1.

Sean Day further buoyed the Islanders' lead at 3:57 of the third, as he picked up a loose puck in the slot off a Thiesing faceoff win and snapped a forehand through Romanov's stick side, ballooning the Bridgeport lead to 3-1.

With the T-Birds in dire need of a jolt, the power play provided just that at 13:03 as Marc-Andre Gaudet gathered a puck inside the right-wing circle and wired home his first AHL goal under the crossbar behind Tikkanen, making it a one-goal game with 6:57 remaining.

With Romanov on the

bench for an extra skater, the T-Birds got payback on the Islanders, who tied a game last month under similar circumstances.

Luff cradled the puck along the right-wing circle and funneled a pass across the crease, where Dillon Dube steered it behind Tikkanen, tying the score with just 1:05 remaining.

As a result, the game went to overtime, and after coming up short in each of their prior six games that extended past regulation, the T-Birds did not allow a similar outcome this time. Just 43 seconds into overtime, Luff gathered the puck and scooted around a defender down the left wing, drove to his forehand side, and lifted a wrist past Tikkanen, picking up his third point and third game-winning goal to secure the come-from-behind victory.



Ski or Shop event set for Feb. 13

WILBRAHAM – Sign up for a Ski or Shop event on Friday, Feb. 13.

Depart Memorial School at 9 a.m., 310 Main Street, Wilbraham.

Arrive by 8:45 a.m. for a 9 a.m. departure. We will return to Memorial School by 4 p.m.

All prices are per person (gratuities included). Make checks payable to: The Wilbraham Senior Center.

Option 1: Ski Butternut 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (\$140)

We'll drop all skiers at the main entrance where you can pick up your equipment and lift pass. Then enjoy three uninterrupted hours on the mountain with an optional lunch on your own.

Option 2: Shop 'til You Drop 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (\$35)

After we leave our ski friends, we'll head to Great Barrington cultural district for those who prefer to shop + dine at their leisure.

Limited space available. Call 413-596-8379 to reserve your spot!



Jamie Murray charges toward the opposing goal.

HOCKEY from page 9

Bard making the score 5-1 with eight minutes remaining in the middle period.

With 58.5 seconds left in the period, senior Anthony Garib scored an unassisted breakaway goal, which cut the Falcons deficit to three goals entering the final 15 minutes of the match.

Two Westfield players were sent to the penalty box less than three minutes into the final period.

With a 5-on-3 advantage, Cam Faneuff scored his team's second power-play goal, which was assisted by senior Kelly Balog, with 11:45 remaining in regulation.

Cam's twin brother, Liam, is also a member of the Falcons hockey team, but he's currently sidelined with an injury. The twin's older brother, Brody, who's a senior, is a first-year member of the Falcons hockey team.

This is the first year that the Faneuff brothers have played on the same hockey



Anthony Garib heads out of Minnechaug's end of the ice.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

team together.

With a Westfield player still in the penalty box, Cam Faneuff netted the Falcons third power-play goal with a little more than eleven min-

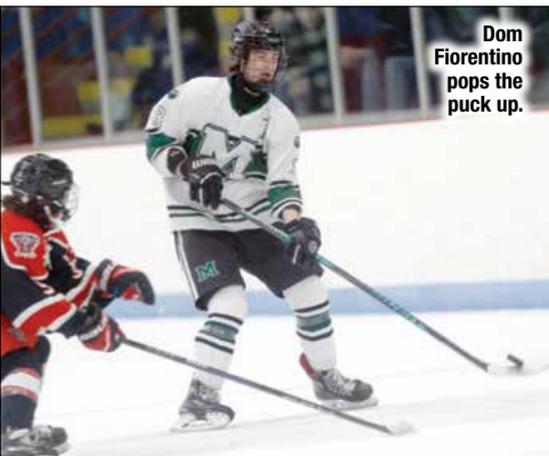
utes remaining on the scoreboard clock. It was assisted by Balog and Abeid.

Cam Faneuff netted his first varsity goal in the Falcons 8-2 win over West Springfield two nights earlier.

Minnechaug had several more scoring chances during the final ten minutes, but they couldn't score the tying goal.

"I think we're a talented team this year, but we just didn't execute in today's game, especially in the first period," Bousquet said. "It's still early in the season and we're trying to figure things out."

The Falcons will be looking to end their five-game losing streak against the Bomber in their second meeting of the regular season, which is slated to take place at the Amelia Park Rink in Westfield at 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 10.



Dom Fiorentino pops the puck up.

KINDNESS from page 8

table, on your desk and turn both sides over. And then, at the end of the day, reflect on who gave you kindness and who did you receive kindness from."

When the table design was on display, Gonzales gave out these kindness coins there and then to the library, Christ the King Church, book club members and more.

For Gonzales, it's all about spreading that message

of kindness.

"They're small enough you can keep them in your purse or in your pocket or leave them at home. It was so funny that I would give a coin to someone, explain what it is and then they would say, 'Well, you gave me kindness, let me give you a hug back,'" Gonzales said.

Library Director Ellen Moriarty shared the kindness coins have been "very well-received" by the community and inspired her too.

"It kind of snowballed into my idea for spreading good news," Moriarty said. "So, we're trying to say 2025 is about good news and kindness for the library because we need more of that and we want to promote that and remind people of it."

Moriarty's message was this.

"With everything going on in the world, we just want to spread a little kindness and some good news," Moriarty said.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues.

CLUES ACROSS and CLUES DOWN lists for the crossword puzzle.

October 2025



Turley photo by Angelina Acevedo

Callan Blanchard with his Jellyfish costume and ocean-themed trunk.

Parks & Rec host Trunk or Treat to great fanfare

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - Days before Halloween, on Oct. 25, local residents could attend the Hampden Parks and Recreation's very first Trunk Or Treat event.

Daniel Blanchard, the director of the Hampden Parks and Recreation, put on this event as a way to bring the community closer.

"The goal for this specific event was to have around 15 to 20 trunks, and we ended up with 19, which was perfect," Blanchard said.

Blanchard explained how he got the word out to the community.

"We put an ad in the newspaper and had some social media posts to gather interest for volunteers and for people to know about it," Blanchard said. "I'm really happy with the turnout for both volunteers and families coming to trick or treat. I've heard lots of good things

from parents and family members, everyone seems like they're having a great time."

Blanchard hopes more community events like this can happen in Hampden.

"I think we need to have more events happening for the community, even if it's just a few every season. Events for the whole family, that are free to attend, are things that help enrich the town and pull us all closer. Maybe in the future, we'll expand Trunk Or Treat to have other small Halloween-like things happening too, but the smaller event is nice because it's just one quick spot for families to hit," Blanchard said.

The Hampden Parks and Recreation's Trunk Or Treat was an overall success, with many families able to spend meaningful moments together, and create spooky, and fun, Halloween memories.

September 2025



Photo courtesy of John Flynn

A member of the Hampden Fire Department reads a poem to commemorate the 24th anniversary of 9/11. The ceremony took place at the fire station.

Hampden marks 9/11 anniversary in ceremony

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The town of Hampden was among many communities throughout Western Massachusetts to mark the 24th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks in a memorial ceremony on Sept. 11.

The ceremony took place at 9:45 a.m. at the fire station.

The attendees included local elected officials and members of the fire and police departments observing a moment of silence in memory of the victims who died at

the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville, PA, where Flight 93 went down as passengers fought back against the hijackers that day.

Following the moment of silence, members of the fire department then rang the bell and a poem was read to mark the anniversary.

Hampden joins many other communities that held ceremonies throughout that day including Wilbraham, Ludlow, Belchertown, Chicopee, Palmer, Springfield, West Springfield, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow and Granby.

Hampden's Memorial Day traditions endure

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - Just as they have for many decades, the people of Hampden and surrounding towns gathered along Main Street to observe Memorial Day with a parade and respectful remembrances of those who have died in service to the country. Jered S. Sasen, quartermaster of Hampden's Pat Ledoux VFW Post, spoke about the significance of Memorial Day.

"I've seen first-hand the power of this day, the weight of this day and the importance of this day....It's a day etched in blood, forged in sacrifice and hallowed by the memory of heroes. It's a day to walk among the rows of white stones in our national cemeteries to read the names etched in granite and to feel the profound absence of those who should be standing with us here today," Sasen said.

Hampden Selectboard Chair Don Davenport also addressed the crowd.

"Our gathering is not a lot but is one small way we can honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may live in freedom. Your presence here today—all of you—and that of the people gathering all across America is a tribute to those lost troops and their families," Davenport said.

Heath Joseph, commander of Hampden's VFW Post, who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, said: "I've had some friends of mine who didn't come home so I get to remember them today—I remember them every day, but this day is special."

Garden Club President Lil Fedora said the club will use the proceeds from the plant sale to plant trees in Hampden, support scholarships and fund another tradition—planting daffodils around town. Over the years, club members have planted well over 10,000 bulbs in Hampden.

As the crowd dispersed, Hampden Selectboard Member John Flynn walked home

May 2025



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

Hampden's antique 1937 Ford fire truck in the Memorial Day Parade.

with pumpkin bread and chocolate chip cookies to bring to the next day's Selectboard meeting.

"This was the biggest

crowd in years. We had a range of ages and perfect weather. It was really wonderful to see so many people come out today," Flynn said.

Wilbraham marks Memorial Day at Crane Park Veteran Memorial

May 2025

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The community gathered at Crane Park Veteran Memorial on May 25 to mark Memorial Day in an observance ceremony.

Patrick Renna, director of Veterans Services, reminded attendees to never forget the fallen who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

"Their legacy is not only one of war, but also of rebuilding, compassion and hope. Our responsibility doesn't end when the parade stops or the flags are folded. We owe it to the living as well, to the veterans who returned, carrying both visible and invisible wounds. They deserve not just our thanks, but comprehensive care, opportunities, dignity and a future that reflects the depth of their sacrifice," Renna said.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) thanked the community for continuing to remember and honor their

servicemen.

"As we look at our 250-year history that we're celebrating next year and we just celebrated the Battles of Lexington and Concord just last month right here in Massachusetts, whether your family was here 250 years ago or came this last week, we all come together on this weekend to pay respect for those families who lost loved ones and to honor those who gave their all for their nation," Oliveira said.

Select Board Chair Michael Squindo said that Memorial Day "is more than just a date on the calendar, it is a reminder of the cost of freedom and the enduring legacy of courage, duty and love for our country."

"As we stand beside the flag that they defended, we remember so their sacrifice was not in vain. These heroes gave their lives not only for our safety and security, but also for the ideals that define this great nation: liberty, justice and freedom for all," Squindo said.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Patrick Renna, director of Veterans Services, provides remarks on Memorial Day.

Renna hopes attendees take time to remember and reflect on this Memorial Day.

"Generations before them have gone off to war and have not made it home and it's be-

cause of those sacrifices that we have all the rights and freedoms that we have today," Renna said.

September 11 Remembrance

September 2025

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Firefighters held a ceremony on Sept. 11 to honor and remember the 343 firefighters who lost their lives in the terrorist attack in New York City 24 years ago.

Wilbraham Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Kristek pointed out that many firefighters who were on the scene have since died due to the toxic conditions at Ground Zero.

"It was the greatest loss of firefighters in our history," Kristek said.

"It's very important to continue to honor the people who died on that day," said Fire Chief Michael Andrews.

At 9:55 a.m., the Wilbraham firefighters rolled a truck out of its bay at the station to begin the remembrance ceremony.

At 10 a.m., Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Noto rang the station's antique 1928 Maxium Bell, which was used on Wilbraham's first motorized pumper. Noto rang the bell in four sets of five chimes.



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

Wilbraham firefighters observe a minute of complete silence on 9/11.

Firefighter/Paramedic Derrick Merrill then raised and lowered the station's American flag to half mast.

All firefighters present then observed a minute of silence.

Next, Andrews read a prayer that began: "Oh God, we remember before you this day our brothers and sisters lost on September 11, 2001. We thank you for their example of courage and sacrifice."

Kristek then read the Firefighters' Prayer.

Noto then struck the four fives once more to conclude the ceremony and firefighters returned to work.

Wilbraham has a long-standing reminder of Sept. 11 in Rick's Place at Post Office Park.

Wilbraham native Rick Thorpe, a 1984 graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School, worked as a vice pres-

ident at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods Inc. in Tower 2 of the World Trade Center and lost his life on Sept. 11.

Rick's Place opened in 2007 as a nonprofit that provides free grief support to children and their families after a loved one has died.

The Annual Rick's Place Golf Classic celebrates his memory and supports the center.

Wilbraham Men's Glee Club to begin 2026 concert season rehearsals on Jan. 5

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club (TTBB), accompanied by Marcia Jackson and conducted by Raymond Drury, will begin rehearsals for the 2026

concert season on Monday evening, Jan. 5, at Christ the King/Epiphany Church on Main Street in Wilbraham at 7 p.m.

Rehearsals will continue

each Monday thereafter and culminate with two concerts in the spring, one in Wilbraham and one in Longmeadow.

Drury has chosen an eclectic and compelling pro-

gram, consisting of classical pieces, contemporary works, folk songs, pop tunes with a few surprises along the way.

While no auditions are required, singers should be

able to sing a tenor, baritone bass part independently and comfortably within the context of traditional 2, 3 and 4 part choral music. A modest fee will be imposed to cov-

er the cost of sheet music. For more information, please visit us at Wilbraham Choral Society on Facebook.

Hope to see you there!

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$225.00
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**
New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit.
Call **(508)882-0178**

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul **413-206-8688.**

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls.
(413)563-0487

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

SERVICES

ELECTRICIAN

PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN
• Licensed & Insured •
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.

NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
Call today to schedule your appointment.
(413) 366-1703
(Lic. #24046-A)

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured.
Master Elec. #20773A.
Text/call Luis **413-218-3301.**

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.

Call John at **(413)206-6509**
Every customer gets a free gem stone.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

BUY LOCALLY
support our community!

Handyman Services

Walker Home Improvement

Licensed & Insured

Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!

(413) 687-5552

SERVICES

INSTRUCTION

NRA Certified Basic Pistol Course
with Live Fire for License to Carry permit \$140.
Matt Marcinkiewicz
muscione@hotmail.com
413-537-0620

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

PAINTING

KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES. Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call **413-896-8264.**

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

SERVICES

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL. Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

SNOWPLOWING

RESIDENTIAL Snowplowing Service. Wilbraham residential only Call or Text now. Limited space available. **413-519-5439**

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374.**

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212.**

TUNE-UPS

SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
Snowblowers, Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers & Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
Call Mike **(413) 348-7967**

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**

PETS

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS. Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F. Ready, w/shots. Now \$1,200. **413-218-2321**

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT PARA-EDUCATOR. Submit resume and letter of intent to: www.schoolspring.com

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT 1 PM

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT
413-219-6839

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE by babbling brook, l-shaped 2bdm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone **774-262-6667.**

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

HELP WANTED

ADVERTISING SALES

HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:

Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc.

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **FRIDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
 Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
 Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
 Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
Subscribe Today!

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM 2026 WASTEWATER PUMP STATIONS INSTRUMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICE NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Wilbraham invites sealed bids for the 2026 Wastewater Pump Stations Instrumentation and Communication Service. Bids must be made in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and Town laws and regulations and must comply in all respects with the instructions, conditions, specifications and other requirements in the Invitation for Bid packages.

Bid packages can be obtained from the Department of Public Works, Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 (413-596-2800 x208) on Thursday January 8, 2026. Bids must be in sealed, opaque envelopes shall be marked "2026 Wastewater Pump Stations Instrumentation and Communication Service Contract" and delivered to the above address by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday January 29, 2026 where they will be publicly opened and read aloud by the Chief Procurement Officer.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive minor informalities or irregularities in any bid, and to make an award in any manner consistent with the law and deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Wilbraham.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM 2026 WASTEWATER PUMP STATIONS MECHANICAL SERVICE NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Wilbraham invites sealed bids for the 2026 Wastewater Pump Stations Mechanical Service Contract. Bids must be made in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and Town laws and regulations and must comply in all respects with the instructions, conditions, specifications and other requirements in the Invitation for Bid packages.

Bid packages can be obtained from the Department of Public Works, Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 (413-596-2800 x208) on January 8, 2026. Bids must be in sealed, opaque envelopes shall be marked "2026 Wastewater Pump Stations Mechanical

Service" and delivered to the above address by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday January 29, 2026 where they will be publicly opened and read aloud by the Chief Procurement Officer. All bids must be submitted on the official Standard Bid Form (Exhibit C), included in the bid packages. Bids must include the signed Non-Collusion (Exhibit A) and Non-Discrimination (Exhibit B) paperwork.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive minor informalities or irregularities in any bid, and to make an award in any manner consistent with the law and deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Wilbraham.

Tonya L. Capparello, P.E. Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

LEGAL NOTICE Sale of Motor Vehicle Under G.L. c. 255 Sec. 39A

Bach Towing Inc., 165 Benton Drive, East Longmeadow, MA is holding a private sale of the following vehicle on 01/09/2026 at 2:00 p.m. to satisfy our garage keepers lien thereon for storage and towing charges and expenses of Notices of Sale.

Noemi Dalgado 7 Wallace St. Enfield, CT 06082 2011 Jeep Patriot VIN: J14NF1GB5BD282711 12/18, 12/25/2025, 01/01/2026

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM 2026 WATER PUMP STATIONS INSTRUMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICE NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Wilbraham invites sealed bids for the 2026 Water Pump Stations Instrumentation and Communication Service. Bids must be made in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and Town laws and regulations and must comply in all respects with the instructions, conditions, specifications and other requirements in the Invitation for Bid packages.

Bid packages can be obtained from the Department of Public Works, Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 (413-596-2800 x208) on Thursday January 8, 2026. Bids must be in sealed, opaque envelopes shall be marked "2026 Water Pump Stations Instrumentation and Communication Service" and delivered to the above address by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday January 29, 2026 where they will be publicly opened and read aloud by the Chief Procurement Officer.

B) paperwork. No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of forty-five days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, after the actual date of opening of the bids.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive minor informalities or irregularities in any bid, and to make an award in any manner consistent with the law and deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Wilbraham.

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. HD25P1774EA Estate of: Doris K. Johnson Date of Death: 02/28/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Katherine L Richard of Wilbraham, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Katherine L Richard of Wilbraham, MA 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 01/19/2026. 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 UNIFORM PROBATE A Personal Representative 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: December 22, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 01/01/2026

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM 2026 WATER PUMP STATIONS MECHANICAL SERVICE NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Wilbraham invites sealed bids for the 2026 Water Pump Stations Mechanical Service Contract. Bids must be made in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and Town laws and regulations and must comply in all respects with the instructions, conditions, specifications and other requirements in the Invitation for Bid packages.

Bid packages can be obtained from the Department of Public Works, Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 (413-596-2800 x208) on Thursday January 8, 2026. Bids must be in sealed, opaque envelopes shall be marked "2026 Water Pump Stations Mechanical Service" and delivered to the above address by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 29, 2026 where they will be publicly opened and read aloud by the Chief Procurement Officer.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive minor informalities or irregularities in any bid, and to make an award in any manner consistent with the law and deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Wilbraham.

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of January 16, 2026 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

- 2005 Kia Sportage VIN: KNDJE723457063817 LKO: Louis Cote 55 James Rd., Ware MA 01082
2003 Chevrolet Cavalier VIN: 1G1JC52F837212188 LKO: Christopher Edge 11 Chnura St., Apt. C Ludlow MA 01056
2006 Volkswagen Passat VIN: WVWMA23B9YP3015858 LKO: Rosa Fraga 37 Essex St., Ludlow MA 01056
2008 Nissan Versa VIN: 3N1BC11E48L363404 LKO: Brianna Babineau 4040 Main St. Thorndike MA 01079
R & S Assoc. Inc PO Box 543 Wilbraham MA 01095 413-596-4374 01/01, 01/08, 01/15/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of January 9, 2026 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien: Vehicle: 2017 Hyundai Elantra VIN#: KMHD74LF2HU433078 COLOR: Gray LKO: Joanne Hish 167 Kirkland Ave. Ludlow, MA 01056 Lein: Santander Consumer USA Fort Worth, TX 76161 R & S Assoc. Inc PO Box 543 Wilbraham, MA 01095 413-596-4374 12/25/2025, 01/01, 01/08/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Felix L. Santana, Jr. to Thames Realty, LLC, dated August 9, 2024 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25526, Page 548 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 3281 Boston, Road, Wilbraham, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

The land with the buildings and improvements thereon located at 3281 Boston Road, Wilbraham, Hampden County, Massachusetts being shown as a parcel of land identified as the Land belonging to Felix L. Santana on a Plan entitled "Plan of Land In Wilbraham, Massachusetts Surveyed and Mapped For Felix Santanta", said plan being dated July 19, 2024 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 400, Page 111.

The above parcel contains approximately 8,349.20 square feet or 0.19 acres according to said Plan.

Being the same premises conveyed by Manomednet LLC to Felix L. Santana, Jr. by Deed dated

September 26, 2022 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24797, Page 10.

Subject to a Driveway Easement between Give Them Sanctuary Inc. and Felix L. Santana, Jr. dated August 3, 2024 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25526, Page 545.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, including condominium fees and assessments, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

Terms of sale: A deposit of \$10,000.00 by cash, certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. This sale is subject to a 5% buyer's premium. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at the Mortgagee's law offices within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms will be announced at the sale.

Thames Realty, LLC, Present holder of said mortgage, By its Attorney,

Joseph J. Lange, Esq. Lyon & Fitzpatrick, LLP 14 Bobala Road, Suite 4 Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 420-4086 12/18, 12/25/2025, 01/01/2026



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 Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Wilbraham-Hampden Times OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a Paid Obituary, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice 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.

Knights of Columbus 10195 hosts St. Patrick's Day Dinner

By Kristin Rivers Editor krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Knights of Columbus 10195 hosted their Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the St. Cecilia Parish Center on March 15, raising \$6,544.88 with over 230+ people in attendance.

Throughout the evening, attendees enjoyed a traditional Irish dinner of corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rye and soda bread and cake for dessert, with the opening prayer led by Fr. John Connors.

Irish music and a sing-along were led by George Flanagan, Leo Morrissey and Music Director Dr. Todd Rovelli at the piano.

Edward Spear has been part of the Knights for 15 years, enjoying the camaraderie with the members. He hopes more



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Grand Knight Mike Mazzuca joins volunteers from Minnechaug Regional High School for a group photo as the guests arrive.

people--especially young people--also check out the church and join the organization.

"I think it's very important to get the young people involved because they're the next generation before us," Spear said.

Rose Langone was one of

those volunteers, helping serve the meal to attendees.

"It was really fun, honestly. There were so many nice people that I saw that I haven't seen in a while and I just love watching people enjoy themselves and this really brought everybody together and I love

that because this church is right by my house," Langone said. "I just love how communal everything is, especially involving the church."

Todd Lisowski was the dinner's chairman, explaining besides bringing the community together, the event helps raise more awareness about the Knights, adding kudos to Deputy Grand Knight Josh Mitchell for enhancing the organization's social media presence.

Lisowski wants the community to know how thankful the Knights are for their support.

"The underlying message is just thank you for coming out and supporting what we do. We feel very strongly in what we do, we feel strong in the organizations that we support for that many people to come out and say, 'We're with ya.' It's heartwarming," Lisowski said.

Grid of letters: M E R E S P R A U E L B A S L O A N P R A U E L B A E D A M S O N A R R A S P C A R E T A K E R S A B E R S O R E S M E G N A M E M G O B N Y A L A E P O S S E L E C T I V E T I N E A R A W S O A K S C O R D U R O Y S S H E M D E I T Y O I L I D A S C N E E A R R A S M A C A U N A K E D N E S S A M I D A S H E S A L E E S E R E S E E R O C E A N H O E S L C D S K A L D

DL&G TREE

Tree
Removal



Structural
Pruning



Crane
Service



Storm
Damage



Stump
Grinding



Lot
Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate
and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



INSURED AND CERTIFIED