

TOWN
Hill
Climb
approved
Page 3

SPORTS
Girls
basketball
gets win
Page 15

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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.

EMS calls now make up more than 75% of calls to the WFD and so firefighters are prepared for all kinds of emergencies. This year, they were recognized for helping a child kicked by a horse, delivering a baby, saving a cardiac arrest patient and aiding a police officer who was shot.



Captain Anthony Arventos received a stork pin for delivering a baby with Firefighter Jeffrey Witek.

Families and friends crowded the station to applaud for the firefighters, while Chief Michael Andrews thanked their spouses for supporting their partners in their work.

"You make all of us proud," said Fire Commissioner Edward T. Rigney, Jr., as he began the ceremony.

Please see **FIREFIGHTERS**, page 5



Turley photos 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.

Hampden resident spreading kindness through kindness coins

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

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."

For anyone interested in picking up a kindness coin, they can visit the library's front desk.

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, 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 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.

"When Teresa had to go to one of her doctor's meetings, we came across the receptionist and she was very kind and I gave her one. The nurse who was very kind to Teresa, I gave her one of the kindness coins. So, trying to spread a little kindness around with a coin. A wooden coin," Gonzales said. "The kids, I go, 'It's a magical wooden coin.'"

Reflecting on the world today, Gonzales added that was also one of the inspirations to create the coins, thrilled people are taking them and appreciating them.

"I'll keep trying to expand," Gonzales said.

For Gonzales, it's all about

Please see **KINDNESS**, page 9

WPL welcomes Lisa Berezin as assistant children's librarian

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Assistant Children's Librarian Lisa Berezin, best known as Mrs. B to her past students and current patrons, joined the WPL staff over four months ago and is introducing her own fresh spin of programs.

After one of Berezin's Saturday Storytimes, she talked about her journey that led her to the library on Jan. 18.

Walking around the library and showing off the billboards she made earlier that week, further expressing her creativity she wanted from her new position, Berezin was happy to share more about her programs, including

emphasizing on wanting to see more attendance at the library's Saturday programs.

"We are really excited to get people in here for Saturday programs. We need the people to come and enjoy them. They are a lot of work and I don't mind doing it. Anybody that signs up is important to me. Just whether it's two, five or twenty. Every single patron is really important and you don't know what they are going to take away from a program. I would like to have everybody participate to the best of their ability. If it's a little one and they want to crawl around, they're still here and still hearing the book, that's what's important," Berezin said.

Specializing in storytimes,

Berezin has big plans for future programs that highlight her education trait she would like to share with the WPL patrons and families. Following a successful Lego event that exceeded her own expectations, Berezin enjoyed talking about her new WPL community.

"This is my fourth month. I have a fabulous supervisor and team here, I felt at home right away. My background is in education, I'm not a librarian by trade, so they're teaching me. I work at the reference desk and I learned so much. I am very lucky and live locally. I degreed in elementary education and I am a certified preschool lead teacher.



Turley photo by Amanda Munson

Assistant Children's Librarian Lisa Berezin, also known as Mrs. B, reads to children during her recent Saturday Storytime at the Wilbraham Public Library.

Please see **WPL**, page 7

Planning Board continues ADUs public hearing to Feb. 12

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WILBRAHAM - The Planning Board continued a public hearing on a proposed zoning bylaw amendment for accessory dwelling units to Feb. 12.

The Jan. 8 decision comes after a public hearing on a proposed zoning bylaw amendment to regulate ADUs by amending several sections to conform to the state's new ADU law that goes into effect in February. This incoming law affects all communities in Massachusetts and is not unique to one specific town or city.

The proposed amendments can be viewed in full on the town website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board.

An accessory dwelling unit-or ADU-is a self-contained housing unit such as an in-law apartment or backyard cottage, for example, that is inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities on the same lot as a principal dwelling.

The new requirements would be an ADU needs to be "clearly subordinate in size to the principal single-family dwelling," meaning it cannot be no larger in gross floor area than half the gross floor area of the principal dwelling unit on the property, or 900 square feet or smaller.

Any additional size restrictions or other restrictions and requirements include adequate

water supply and sewer or septic service, one parking space for the ADU, not to be used as a short-term rental, a mobile home or any temporary structure to not be used or classified as an ADU and obtaining site plan approvals by the Planning Board.

Memo Notes

In a memo from Planning Director Michelle Buck to the Planning Board members ahead of the meeting, it was explained how communities can limit ADUs to one per lot and "if a community chooses to allow more than one, it shall require a special permit."

"Therefore, I recommend that the Board consider amending section 4.10.2.I, which currently reads 'Only one ADU is allowed as a matter of right on any property. Additional ADUs may only be allowed with the issuance of a special permit by the Planning Board.' by replacing the existing text with the following: No more than one ADU may be placed on a lot," Buck wrote.

Buck's memo also cautioned the board on Section 4.10.2.D., which addresses the appearance of ADUs in light of regulations from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

"The Board may not impose design standards that don't apply to single-family dwellings. Similarly, the Board will have to use caution with site plan requirements," Buck wrote.

Community feedback

After clarifications and comments from the Planning Board members, several residents shared their thoughts.

JP McGrath had several questions, including if there's going to be a preset requirement that people can go to, like for architects for example, clarification on the minimum low size requirements and thoughts on short-term rentals.

"I feel like, especially with housing near the (Wilbraham & Monson) Academy, would benefit from maybe having a special zoning area to allow them to offer short-term rentals for when they have move-in, move-out and graduation, stuff like that," McGrath said.

After McGrath clarified this would be something to support families of students at WMA who are traveling, Planning Board Chairman James Rooney said that's something that could be looked at.

"Let's not lose track that what we're doing now and right now is to fill a gap the state has forced on us. Something like what you're suggesting would be down the road and that could be worth a discussion," Rooney said.

Jessica Hurley offered this suggestion on the mobile home or temporary structure not being classified as ADUs restriction.

"My thoughts on that. Maybe adding some more detail about what you are calling a temporary

structure. Like we all see the ones on Amazon, they're portable houses. You pop them up and the homeowners can move it themselves," Hurley said. "Is that a temporary structure? What exactly are they?"

Rooney replied it would be up to the state code.

Among the several thoughts he shared, Michael Squindo, in his interpretation of the bylaw, felt a site plan review wasn't necessary and the language in the bylaw was pretty clear.

"When I renovated my home, there was no site plan review. So, if I put in an accessory dwelling within the footprint of my existing principal dwelling, does it actually need a site plan review versus if I did a standalone--a backyard cottage--that might need a site plan review for a lot of reasons that has been talked about tonight that I think could separate two those functions of an ADU in the bylaws if you're going to do a site plan review?" Squindo said.

Planning Board Clerk Tracey Plantier noted past housing issues that had come before the board "where an abutter gotten used to what's next to him, comfortable with it, but all of a sudden there's a new in-law apartment going up."

"There's a lot of tension with neighbors who are really good friends. Honestly, really good friends. So they haven't talked about it, they're really stressed about it. They come in here and they talk about it and all of a sudden, that person's putting up that in-law apart-

ment is more than willing to do screenings, more than willing to change might where the door's located or a window is located," Plantier said. "So, that's what that provides. It provides us a better relationship amongst those neighbors versus just 'Okay, I'm just going to do it. Ignore my neighbors and they're ignoring me and they're not talking to me' and it gets put in and everyone's a little bit unhappy."

Squindo understood the perspective and shared how he had tried to do a site plan review.

"But I think the way the law's written, it's not a matter of trying to be good neighbors, it's a matter of can you or can you not legally do that," Squindo said.

"We can. We can legally do it," Plantier said.

This led to further discussion of the site plan review topic along with lingering questions of restricted items and requirements.

Other topics throughout the hearing included working architects relaying they wanted to work with the Planning Board on coming to a solution for the bylaw, along with further clarifications.

Post-meeting, Rooney said the Planning Board has been hard at work on this bylaw.

"The Wilbraham Planning Board has worked very hard to create a bylaw that allows us to preserve the beauty and desirability of our great community. We will finish up the public hearing on Feb 12 and then we will present it to the town at our Annual Town Meeting," Rooney said.

Ways to protect yourself this winter

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - Should our communities see significant snowfall this winter, clear a three-foot circumference around fire hydrants on or near your property.

This helps firefighters locate them quickly and establish a water supply in case of emergencies. Heavy snowfall can block the exhaust of your heating system if it vents through an exterior wall. Make sure to clear away any snow to prevent carbon monoxide from entering your living space. Continue to stay safe and warm this winter!



A message from Wilbraham and Hampden Fire & Life Safety Educators.



The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District

We will be taking applications for our early childhood programs for district residents for the 2025-2026 year. Programs are for 3 and 4 year olds. If your child will be three by September 1, 2025 you may obtain an application at hwrdsd.org website under "Departments," "Student Services." "Early Childhood Program" or call Corinne Roberts, Student Services at 279-3863.

Applications will be available starting January 1, 2025. Priority screening and placement will be given to applications received prior to January 31, 2025, but we offer a rolling admission.

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Wilbraham Select Board approves 2025 Hill Climb 2-1

Bunnell and Ducey voted in favor; Squindo opposed

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – The 2025 Wilbraham Hill Climb was officially approved by the Select Board on Jan. 13.

Board Chair Susan Bunnell and Clerk Marc Ducey voted in favor of the event, while Vice Chair Michael Squindo voted against it.

As it stands, the Hill Climb will occur on Saturday, May 10, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with vintage cars racing up Monson Road's steep terrain, recreating a historic tradition.

From food vendors to car shows, there will be several events occurring in the area simultaneously. Organizers Jeff DeMarey and Ed Cenedella, who presented to the Select Board last Monday, anticipate up to 2,500 spectators.

"The Hill Climb is only about 25 cars going up and down the hill. The rest of the climb is about social interaction. It's all people, it's all food, it's all collector cars," DeMarey said.

Hill Climb organizers are working with other community groups to make sure that their events don't overlap. Cenedella said that the Townwide Tag Sale won't be held on the same day; it will likely occur the following week-end during the town election.

Cenedella promised that the Hill Climb will promote the Townwide Tag Sale to best ensure their event is successful as well.

DeMarey said he spoke with members of the Garden Club several months ago. The club will have a table at the Hill Climb to do preorders. Deliveries of the flowers will occur later in the month.

"Again, that's a business we're supporting, and they're supporting us to go on and keep it moving and make it successful for them," DeMarey said.

DeMarey added that organizers will limit the number of collector cars that can park on Main Street because it was an issue last May. This year, there will be presold tickets.

Wilbraham & Monson Academy has offered its facility as a site for several hundred more vintage vehicles to park.

"We've compartmentalized the hill climb to a lot of different pieces," DeMarey said.



A photo of a classic car from the 2024 Hill Climb in Wilbraham.

Turley photo by Jason DeGray

DeMarey said. "Like all the food vendors are handled by Shannon [Field] at Fieldcrest Brewery. She's taking care of all the permitting. She's going to collect it all."

Town Administrator Nick Breault announced that any vendor selling food or beverages must fill out an application with the town's Health Department. It is also required that all Hill Climb permitting and paperwork must be filed with the town by April 1.

According to DeMarey, the Vintage Sports Car Club of America will handle making sure the race cars are safe. The club has rules and requirements ranging from the helmets to the seatbelts to the harnesses and other critical components of the car.

"Understand, these cars go to 10 or 15 events a year, and that's every single event that the car [must pass the tests]. And every car is insured," DeMarey said. "There're three insurances that cover the town. There's the car that's insured, there's the VSCCA carries a special specific racing policy for the cars that are timed, and then Springfield to Boston carries a liability policy for the rest of the entire event."

DeMarey said that the town of Wilbraham is listed as an "additional insurer."

Shuttle buses will be back for this year's event to take attendees to different locations such as Monson Road and Wilbraham & Monson Academy. Organizers said they will do television and newspaper interviews to alert people where they can park, and signage will be posted too.

It appears that there will be parking availability – with shuttle bus access – at both Minnechaug Regional High School and the old Memorial School.

Squindo, however, is hesitant regarding the Hill Climb. He voiced his reservations before voting "no" on several items connected to approving the event.

"It's been raised that this event started as a representation of a historical event. Running it every year places a significant burden on the neighborhood that is impacted by it. In fact, folks have noted they weren't able to get out their driveways or up that road until 45 minutes after the event was over," Squindo said.

DeMarey responded that a hotline is available that residents can call. Upon receiving the call, the organizers will stop the event to let people enter or leave their homes.

Ducey voiced some reservations as well, although he would ultimately vote in favor of the event.

"I wonder if there's a way that we can survey the community? Would they rather have it every year or every other year? We could get some feedback from community members," Ducey said. "There're two sides of the coin, and I'm just wondering where the residents lie because it is disruptive to some people, and we need to account for that. But I'm willing to offer disruption if there's a wide support for it."

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Select Board holds first set of Building Utilization Comm. interviews

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Select Board held their first set of interviews for the Building Utilization Committee on Jan. 13.

The first six candidates were Ernest Smith, Scott Drumm, Stanley Soja, Brad Senft, Joshua Mullen and Jeff Smith, with seven more to be interviewed at the next meeting on Jan. 27 due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday on Jan. 20.

The Building Utilization Committee will be a nine-member committee comprised of six citizens and one member each from the Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee and the Planning Board.

Ernest Smith has lived in town since he was 18 years old and has worked on commercial HVAC systems, as an aircraft mechanic and has nearly eight years in real estate.

Smith also oversees a civics camp with the American Legion at Stonehill College.

"My interest here is to do anything I can to help the town bleed a little bit less money or get a better return on investment on some of the buildings we have around here," Smith said. "I drove by three of them tonight on my way here that, I think, could be utilized better. But, until somebody like us gets in there--and the rest of the folks behind me--we have to see it to figure out what it's going to need. On the real estate side, I've found some pretty creative ways to repurpose places and, obviously, in my other work, creativity is very important. So, you have to look at a lot of outside stuff."

Drumm lives on Glendale Road and has over 30 years of construction experience from single-family homes up to higher education. He currently serves as a senior project manager for a national construction company with two projects at the University of Massachusetts Amherst currently in

the works.

"My interest in the job is to do with being a taxpayer as the other gentleman mentioned, instead of playing Monday morning quarterback on the Open Forum, I'd like to see if I can help out and offer my expertise," Drumm said.

Drumm said he has extensive knowledge of building systems, contracting and writing scopes of work and has worked with municipalities as well.

"So, I have a lot of experience I would like to offer in my line of work and see if I can be of help with this committee," Drumm said.

On particular thoughts about the committee, Drumm stressed the importance of working to "be a little bit more proactive upfront on something that's going forward" with the logistics and paperwork as, "you're not only building a building, but to build it on paper" to make sure everything matches up.

Soja, a resident for the past 25 years, is a retired federal quality control reviewer from the state and now works in the ski industry in sales. He also served 12 years on the Parks & Recreation Commission and currently serves on the Community Preservation Committee, which he's been on for over 12 years.

"Any service that I had in the past, I always--hopefully--performed with the idea of hopefully making life better for the citizens of Wilbraham as well as for the town itself," Soja said.

Soja hopes he can "offer some insight."

"I attend all the meetings. I think I've had a really good attendance schedule for each commission that I've been on and I think I can contribute," Soja said. "Also, I don't have any set agendas, so I tend to listen to everything and hopefully the decisions I make--or give input on--I do so with the betterment of the town as a whole."

Senft has been in town for three and a

half years and his wife was born and raised in Wilbraham, currently working in real estate advisory and transactions for commercial real estate and also holding a real estate salesperson license in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

"We do a lot of work with municipalities, quasi-government agencies and private developers as well, working as kind of a third-party consultant to help deals get done with towns and help them reposition problem properties," Senft said. "I work mostly on the finance and market research side. I also work closely with government committees, on municipal committees and municipalities themselves. We do a lot of on-call economic development work. We have contracts with over 40 municipalities across Connecticut."

On his interest in the committee, Senft explained he works a lot with land use and repurposing properties.

"I thought it would be a good fit. I never served in a public capacity, but I work with a lot of public committees, so I thought it was a good time to get involved with the community," Senft said.

Mullen came to Wilbraham with his family after the 2011 tornado and has been working for the fire department since 2001, sharing he saw the opportunity to join the committee pop up and wanted to volunteer his time.

He is also interested in efficiency. "I'm always looking for ways to make

things more efficient, make things operate more smoothly. So, looking at the town's sort of portfolio of properties, I think this is a great opportunity to find some areas where we could--let's be fair--save some money for the town. Whatever that might look like and provide the townspeople with, hopefully, some really good, useful properties moving forward. I have young kids. They're going to be growing up and hopefully utilizing these buildings over time," Mullen said.

Jeff Smith has been in the community for 40 years and previously served on several boards and committees from the Open Space Committee to the Planning Board, Community Preservation Committee and Rice Nature Preserve Stewardship Committee.

He currently serves as vice chair of the Economic Development Committee, has an engineering background and currently works with his wife.

"I'm very involved in as much as I can be with the town at the moment. But, very involved in this community work and the opportunity came up for this committee, I thought I'd be a good fit for it. I think I could offer a lot with my knowledge of the town," Smith said. "I'd love to be a part of it."

Several of the candidates also said they would be open to serving on other committees if they were not selected for this committee.

Fathers Grief Support Group Jan. 30

WILBRAHAM - Rick's Place is pleased to announce the launch of a free, peer-based Fathers Grief Support Group designed specifically for fathers grieving the loss of a partner or child. This unique group recognizes the distinct challenges fathers face in their grief journey and aims to create a safe, understanding community to help navigate a difficult time.

The group will meet weekly for six consecutive weeks at our Wilbraham location, beginning January 30, 2025. Facilitated by Rob Zucker, a highly skilled grief counselor and author of "The Journey Through Grief and Loss: Helping Yourself and Your Child When Grief Is Shared," the evening sessions will provide fathers with tools and strategies to cope with their loss while connecting them with others who share similar experienc-

es. "We know that grief can feel isolating, and fathers often face unique pressures in coping after a death," says Rick's Place Executive Director, Therese Ross. "This group offers a space where they can connect and find support with peers who truly understand."

Rick's Place is committed to fostering grief-informed communities and providing accessible resources for those navigating loss. This new support group is an important step in expanding these efforts to ensure that no one grieves alone.

For more information or to register for the Fathers Grief Support Group, please contact Rick's Place at info@ricksplace-ma.org or call Program Director Betsy Flores, at 413-279-2010.

Cookbook Club at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library Cookbook Club is meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

This month's selection is "Barefoot Contessa at Home" by Ina Garten.

Please let the library know what you're bringing when registering so we do not duplicate recipes. Cooking is encouraged but not required for attendance.

Copies of the book are available now at the Service Desk.

The Cookbook Club meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public, and registration is required. For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.



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Submitted photo Patrick Farrow
Fire Captain Patrick Farrow celebrated his promotion with his wife, Stephanie, and daughters, Emrey and Kayleigh.

FIREFIGHTERS from page 1

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.

He modernized the fire prevention office by building an electronic database for all inspections and permits.

“Mat has hit the ground running and has already taken on numerous projects,” Andrews said. “I have full confidence in him.”

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.

New Firefighters Join the Force

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. Noto is a paramedic; Grimes and O’Donnell are in paramedic training.

O’Donnell was pinned by Deputy Chief Mike Hatch of the Northampton Fire Department. Thrilled to have her badge, she said she has thought about becoming a firefighter since she was in high school and loves the work.

“People see us on their worst and most vulnerable days,” O’Donnell said. “They trust us to give them the help they need and hopefully we get a positive outcome.”

Grimes was pinned by his father, Gary Grimes, and joins his brother, Ian Grimes, in the Wilbraham Fire Department.

“I like the interaction with people, helping people,” Grimes said after his pinning.

Firefighter of the Year

Firefighter/Paramedic Joshua Sterling was recognized 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 devel-

opment 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 on-line medical reporting system. Sterling is his shift’s union steward and serves on the union’s labor relations and public relations committees.

He is also involved in the department’s public education efforts.

Sterling’s mother was a paramedic and he took his brother Matt’s place on the WFD when Matt retired in 2022. The brothers shared a childhood dream of becoming firefighters.

“It’s a family business. We can’t get enough of it,” Sterling said. “I love helping people. I was a Boy Scout and that carried through to my adult life. I love the adrenaline. I got older but I never grew up.”

A Year of Lifesaving

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 life-saving interventions while awaiting the air lift and during the transport.

Captain Anthony Arventos and Firefighter Jeffrey Witek received a stork pin for delivering a healthy baby girl in December 2024 in an ambulance on Interstate 291 en route to the hospital. With almost 40 years of experience between them, this was the first time either had delivered a baby.

“You go back to your instincts and training,” Arventos said. “The mom really did all the work. There were no complications; it was seamless. We were



Wilbraham Firefighter Nichole O’Donnell was recognized for receiving her WFD badge.



Wilbraham Firefighter Evan Grimes with his proud girlfriend, Jade Blake.



Submitted photo Joshua Sterling
Firefighter/Paramedic Joshua Sterling (left) receives the Firefighter of the Year award from Deputy Chief Mathew Walch.



Turley photos 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.

able to keep the ambulance going and didn’t have to pull over.”

“We see a lot of bad things,” Arventos added, “so a feel-good story like this really keeps us going.”

A group of firefighters was recognized for treating a Wilbraham police officer—Ofc. Cameron Proseri—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.

Andrews described the incident.

“On arrival firefighters were confronted with a chaotic scene. Police officers brought the seriously wounded officer to the paramedics while other officers were trying to confirm the location of the shooter. Medics quick-

ly accessed the officer and realized the bullet had missed his vest and he had serious wounds. They immediately began life-saving interventions and transported the officer to the hospital, arriving within 20 minutes of the shooting,” Andrews said. “The officer was immediately brought in for surgery and was stabilized. Although the officer has a very long road ahead of him, we are relieved that after approximately three weeks in the hospital, he returned home.”

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.

“The patient was transported to the hospital where we are happy to report that days later they walked out of the hospital with no long-term effects,” Andrews said.

Chief Andrews also praised members of the WFD for completing extensive training, securing vital grants and keeping the department running smoothly.

At the end of the ceremony the crowd dispersed quickly to spend valuable time with their families, return to duty or prepare for their next 24-hour shift serving Wilbraham and surrounding communities.

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VIEWPOINTS



Prepping for this years' big garden

again? I feel this way especially as I get older. I used to have a friend who was a bit morbid as he aged, and he'd say, "if I'm lucky I'll get another 10 gardens." While that used to depress me to hear that, I guess it's a good point to make.

Once I've got the seed package pile figured out, the fun begins. I'll get my seed orders in early, to beat the rush, especially if I want to grow transplants that take a lot of time to size up.

Onions are best started indoors around Valentine's Day. For flower lovers among us the fun starts earlier.

Wax begonias can be sown now! Yes, now! Coleus and petunia are not long after.

While many decades of growing have approximate dates burned into my brain on some things, others I will have to look up, especially since I am trying to grow more of our food with vegetables coming in as soon as possible and without gaps.

There are some fantastic resources out there for custom tailoring your growing/sowing schedule. Seed catalogs are just one. I love Johnny's Selected Seed (www.johnnyseeds.com) for this reason. Because they cater market growers as well as home gardeners, this catalog is packed with useful tips.

Online you will find a treasure trove of topics that will get you excited and well-equipped. Speaking of equipped, it's also a great time to take inventory of your supplies. Do I have enough seed starting mix on hand, and did I like it enough to use again?

One year I bought germinating medium that had such little fertility. My plants were on the yellow side and stunted.

I try to grow organically as much as possible,

and this soil nearly made me run for the blue water. I ended up mixing that lousy soil with some good soil, and added some fertilizer to the whole batch before using it in bigger container plantings.

Many soil bags will actually state that supplemental fertilizer is necessary after three-four weeks. And I should say that I do find it worth the investment to buy potting soil that is geared specifically to seed sowing, ie the germinating medium or seed-starting mix I speak of. It is milled finer for tiny seeds and will not stay too damp, or too dry, leading to a higher success rate.

In addition to assessing your soil, take a look at your stash of containers and labels. If you are re-using, make sure to wash both well, so that any diseases or pathogens won't infect this years' efforts.

You really don't need fancy, purchased containers.

The plastic boxes that mushrooms come in work great as sowing packs; just drill holes in the bottom. Cut up yogurt tubs make wonderful labels, and clear lidded salad boxes are perfect to place the seed packs in until germination occurs.

Low budget and earth friendly!

Next week we'll look at the role heat and light play in indoor seed starting.

Roberta McQuaid graduated 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.

Last week I wrote about the desire to go back to my roots, so to speak, and embrace my homesteading self this New Year.

It's funny how when you are young and inexperienced you just "have at it" without much thought or planning. Sure, I had a general idea when it was best to sow my seeds indoors so that my transplants would be a good size come Memorial Day, but beyond that I sort of gardened when and how I felt like it.

These days I find it's good to have a plan of action. Here is where I will start in the coming weeks.

The first thing on the agenda is to go through my seed stash and decide what to keep and what to chuck. I usually throw out any seed that is older than three years, except for maybe tomatoes. I have had 5 or even 7-year-old tomato seeds germinate.

The three year rule does not apply to hybrid onions, carrots or parsnips. Those I get rid of at the two year mark.

If you are into growing herbs, I rarely have luck with lovage, dill or valerian after the first year. After I've whittled down my stash based on age, I will then look at what I have left in the envelopes and if I like that particular variety enough to buy more, or if I'd better start off with a new type altogether.

If it didn't work last year, why grow it



Dear Rusty

I'm 72 years old with 20 years of military service. I am retired collecting Social Security, my military pension and State retirement benefits. According to my SSA statement, over my working lifetime I paid \$14,302 into Medicare, but I never used that medical plan. I only bring in \$33,000 in annual income. Can I get those Medicare taxes back somehow? I've run into dead ends at SSA, Medicare and IRS websites.

Signed Veteran Seeking Answers

Dear Veteran Seeking Answers

First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. You may find the "For Veterans" section of our www.amacfoundation.org website of interest.

I use only VA healthcare; can I get back Medicare taxes paid?

Regarding the contributions you have made over the years to federal Medicare, I'm afraid you cannot get any of those taxes back even though you have never used Medicare healthcare services. That's because Medicare, like Social Security, is a "pay as you go" program where all contributions received from workers are used to pay for benefits for current beneficiaries; contributions aren't put into a separate account to pay for your coverage.

It's also important to know that your Medicare taxes were used only to fund Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Those contributions via payroll taxes did not entitle you to outpatient healthcare services, as provided by Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium.

FYI, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A to collect Social Security benefits after age

65. Medicare Part B isn't mandatory to collect Social Security, but assuming that, as a retired military veteran, you now receive healthcare benefits under the military's TriCare-for-Life program for retired veterans, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to maintain your TriCare-for-Life coverage.

Your military TriCare coverage coordinates with Medicare to pay for your healthcare costs. Thus, even though it may not be transparent to you, you may be benefiting from your current enrollment in Medicare.

Note that some non-career veterans can use VA healthcare services based on their service years instead of TriCare-for-Life for retired military veterans. Non-career recipients of standard VA healthcare services are not re-

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 9

Election letters to the editor welcome

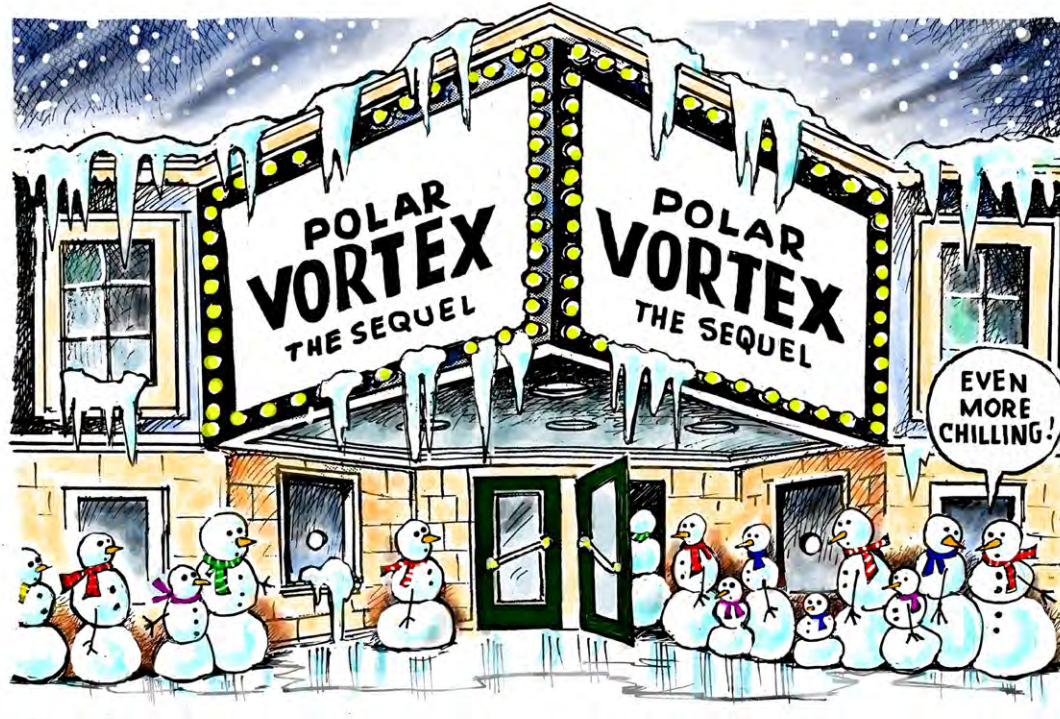
The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden 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.



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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.

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Fathers Grief Support Group to launch at Rick's Place Jan. 30

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Rick's Place is launching a free, peer-based Fathers Grief Support Group to support fathers who are grieving the loss of a child or spouse.

The group meets for six weeks beginning on Jan. 30 and will be facilitated by Robert Zucker, a grief counselor and author of "The Journey Through Grief and Loss: Helping Yourself and Your Child When Grief Is Shared."

The sessions will take place on Thursday evenings.

Zucker expressed excitement ahead of the group launch.

"Everybody has a significant loss, obviously, but they also have a living child. Whether they had one child that died, they also have a child living. So, they're really parenting alongside their own grief," Zucker said. "That's really the essence of this is to have a place to hold the challenges and to support men who are both

grieving and also caring for their children. Some men have a living spouse and they're co-parenting of their children who are also grieving and some of the men have a spouse that died."

Zucker shared he was donating his books to Rick's Place when a conversation was struck about how many men could benefit from a group like this.

"I've led support groups for men now for several years and I said, 'That sounds like something that I'll be really excited to do.' So, that's how that came about," Zucker said.

Throughout the course of his career, Zucker has worked with bereaved parents, widows and widowers and, extensively, with children. Also, overseen other fathers bereavement groups in the past and, currently, oversees a Men Living with Cancer Support Group.

"I also work a lot with illness and loss, so whenever there's an identifying need with regards to men's grief, I'm really interested

in that--being a man myself--and also realizing that a lot of men are more uncomfortable, perhaps, of sharing their feelings in a group setting. It certainly can help having a male facilitator," Zucker said. Zucker stressed a group like this can bring men together who, otherwise, may be hesitant to connect or struggle to share their feelings of grief.

"Knowing you can come to a group and feel safe and you can get to know each other and the more you get to know each other in these circumstances, you feel an affinity with one another and people really get the support that they need," Zucker said.

On his book, Zucker said it's about the challenges of grief and providing knowledge and support whether for parents and/or children.

He added working with families with the death of a child at Baystate for 9 years and the loss of his own wife to pancreatic cancer--having become a caregiver during that time--and later re-

marrying also impacted the book along with his work.

"They learn about how children grieve, what developmental factors come into play in terms of a child's understanding of death and dying and how children express themselves and how they process their feelings. Again, with age-appropriate information to understand how your child might be grappling with a loss," Zucker said. "But, also, the book is also geared to the adult learning to understand their own grief and how to take care of themselves. So then, when the

knowledge of an adult is really enhanced with regards to their own loss and grieving and their child's grieving, there's an opening to a possibility of better communication as a family."

Zucker hopes anyone coming to the group "discover the power of sharing together with other men" and "learning from men who are going through something similar to them."

It, also, is designed as a wel-

coming group, fostering trust, connection, opportunities to listen deeply, exuding kindness and confidentiality.

"Helping other men and being helped by other men," Zucker said.

Zucker wants the community to know the free resources Rick's Place provides and to take advantage of what they offer.

"I think the community is so fortunate to have Rick's Place available," Zucker said. "It's a unique opportunity to have a family grief support center in your midst. It's worth checking out and supporting because so many families--someday--could very well have a need for the support that's available there. So, being aware that Rick's Place is in your neighborhood."

To learn more about the Fathers Grief Support Group and to register, contact Rick's Place at info@ricksplacema.org or Program Director Betsy Flores at 413-279-2010.

WPL from page 1

er. I waxed and waned around my children's schedule. I have a child with special needs that needed homeschooling, who eventually got her masters in library science, who actually worked at Wilbraham library for a time. She's been a great help to me, whether I have a question on the software I am using at work

or something else, she's been fabulous," Berezin said.

Through her support at home and at her past job, Berezin found her own way that she is proud to share with the public. While highlighting her feelings for the people who have supported her, she expressed her gratitude to the patrons who have given her a chance and are utilizing the library that's there for them.

"I was working at the assessor's office, I took a position there and liked my job there. I didn't get to be as hands-on so much with people as much as I like to in the community. But I am very loyal and didn't have plans to leave," Berezin said. "The librarian position came up and my boss Marianne asked if I saw the position, encouraging me to apply. She gave me the

recommendation, interviewed and got the job!"

To the town of Wilbraham and library who have opened their arms to her, Berezin ended saying this.

"Thank you so much for supporting the Wilbraham library, we enjoy presenting programs for them to enjoy. They make it so much fun. Just seeing people having a great time and knowing

you have a little part of it, thank you. The librarians, I can't thank them enough," Berezin said. "When I came in this morning, two of the other librarians came in asking if I needed help setting up knowing that they had their own programs to set up. It's a real team effort here."

To learn more about the library and more upcoming events, visit wilbrahamlibrary.org.

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

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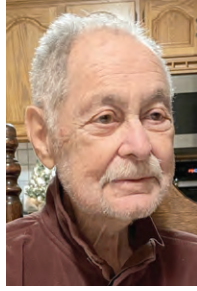
OBITUARIES

Death Notices

Lawrence J. Emerle
Died Jan. 12, 2025
Services private

Lawrence J. Emerle 1941 – 2025

WILBRAHAM - Former longtime Wilbraham resident Lawrence J. Emerle, 83, died peacefully on Sunday, January 12, 2025, at home surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Camden, NJ to the late Edward and Marie (Statdler) Emerle. He earned a Bachelor of Science and Master's degrees from Villanova University and a Ph.D in Chemical Engineering from the University of MA. He worked as a chemical engineer at Monsanto until his retirement in 1993, after 23 years of service. Larry owned and operated Emerle's Café in East Longmeadow.



He was a member of the Wilbraham Rotary Club since 1985 where he was a past president, board member and a Paul Harris Fellow recipient. He is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years Joyce P. (Felter) Emerle, their son Matthew Emerle of Chicopee, two daughters; Susanne Jones of Winchendon, MA and Rebecca Emerle of Louisville, CO and one cherished grandson Michael Oyler.

Larry's Funeral Service will be private and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club Foundation, PO Box 682, Wilbraham, MA 01095.

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.*

School Committee reviews attorney feedback for regional agreement

Option three is later approved

By **Kristin Rivers**
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The School Committee reviewed feedback they received concerning the regional agreement on Jan. 9.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost explained it was advice from their attorney on a question raised at the previous meeting about "possibly assuming the middle school as a district's property," with three options outlined.

"Basically, one would be to--status quo--one would be to assume the building and then one would be to make a modification to the leasing agreement," Provost said.

Later, the motion for option two for the district to purchase Wilbraham Middle School failed one yes, six no. The motion for option three, meanwhile, which was making a modification to the leasing agreement, carried 6-1.

The Discussion

Vice Chair Sean Kennedy noted, "There was a couple interesting things in there" regarding the options, especially a footnote in the memo "that said that as a regional school district, we can take loans out for building new buildings."

"I thought that that had to be done through the town. I didn't know that's something that we can actually take loans out for repairs and stuff like that," Kennedy said.

Douglas Slaughter, assistant superintendent for Finance, Operations and Human Resources, confirmed Kennedy was correct.

"One of the things with the creation of regional school districts is that it allows them to have this sort of full authority to borrow. But we can't borrow for a building we don't own. We can borrow to buy a building and we can borrow to fix a building we own, but we don't own Wilbraham Middle School right now, so we couldn't borrow for the purposes of fixing the middle school if we don't own it as a district," Slaughter said. "So, you can borrow for the purpose of things you own but not for things you don't own."

Michael Tirabassi was not sure the town would want to give the district the building "even if we wanted to assume ownership of it."

"I think our only option probably is to have a modification of the lease to the building that would allow there to be some sharing of capital expenses," Tirabassi said.

Kennedy later suggested sending a letter to the town about the committee looking at different options and asking if they would be willing to give the building to the district for an assessed value, which led Tirabassi to emphasize this.

"I think if the town were to sell us a building--to the school district--they would want to get fair market value for the property, so that the cost of the purchase, so that Hampden would be buying their share of the property," Tirabassi said.

Provost later stressed the timeline on making a decision.

"We have to reach agreement on what we're doing. We have to send it back to the state, it has to go through legal review again, then it has to come back to us. Then we have to vote on whatever it is we want to--we have to change--based on their legal review. Then it has to get to the towns in time to get on the warrants," Provost said. "As you saw even from this, it can take a long time to get an answer for a very discreet question."

Provost's proposal at the time was if the School Committee makes a decision on one of the three options, they would present it to the towns and the attorney can work on the language "so that if it's agreeable to them, we can move forward, get that to the state and start the review."

"Because this is the last thing that's remaining for us to get a final, revised regional agreement," Provost said.

On the question of taking out a loan to buy the building, Slaughter said they would have to.

"Because if the regional district is going to own the building, you would have to have a loan and then it would be assessed to the towns and, of course, this would be part of the purchase and sale agreement because Wilbraham already owns its 75, 80%," Slaughter said. "It's, really, the negotiation would be around what would be Hampden's piece to essentially buy their piece for the district. So, would be a situation where we, the regional district, would take the loan and then Hampden would be assessed to pay off that loan. Unless they want to pay cash for the whole thing."

After reviewing the memo and noting how Kennedy said option three is "kind of like a happy medium," Chair Michal Boudreau said this.

"So, purchasing Wilbraham Middle School--if we voted to do that, which is option two--then it's more permanent and then when you look further down the road, it kind of handcuffs us," Boudreau said.

Tirabassi said option three "allows many more options to remain open."

"It won't handcuff us into a predicament in the future," Tirabassi said.

After Kennedy asked if Hampden should be asked about this before making a decision, Secretary Lisa Murray stressed sticking to the timeline.

"We're picking the one that has the most options or we're not going to make it," Murray said.

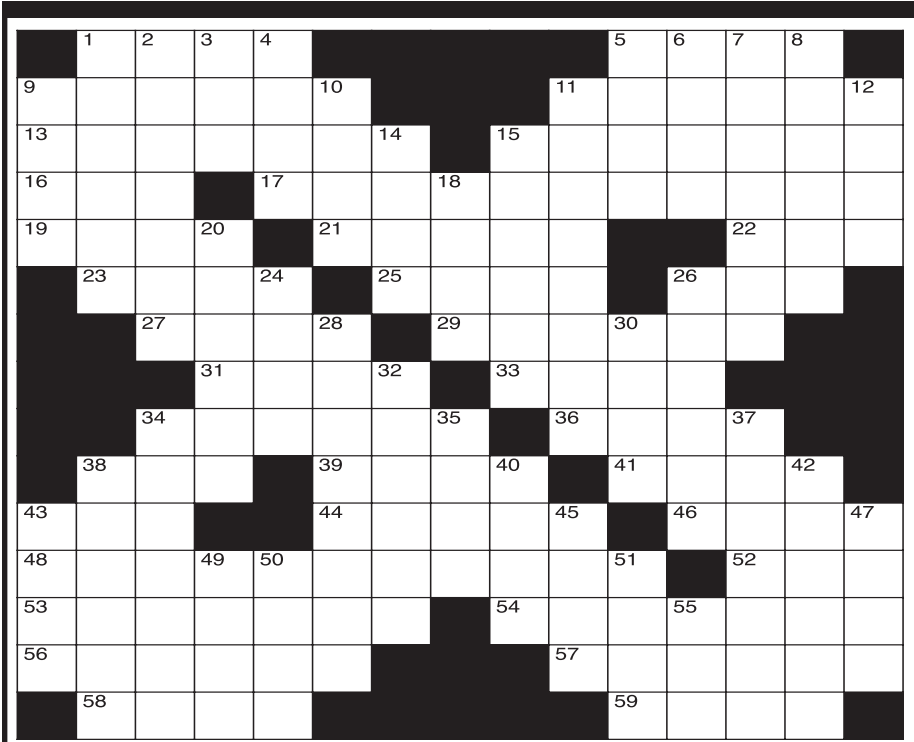
When Kennedy expressed concern about rushing the decision that night and feeling, in his view, there wasn't "much of a time crunch," Boudreau emphasized how "this is the final decision that has to be made as part of the amendment to the regional agreement that we are trying to bring to both towns."

"I mean, as it is, we're in mid-January. We also have to kind of quote this to both towns. They have to have exposure to this and understand what these changes are, how it will affect them," Boudreau said.

Kennedy then asked about waiting two weeks and again asking Hampden for their input along with Wilbraham, which Murray responded, "We want to pick what we want to float to them."

"Yes, we want to pick what we want to float to them, but what if that's not what they want and they're going to be against it and then it doesn't pass?" Kennedy said.

"I would rather float to them what we decide first and then they can say no to us and we discuss it again," Murray said.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. "Loser" rocker
- 5. Partner to relaxation
- 9. Mixing
- 11. Winged nut
- 13. Expression of blame
- 15. Vast ocean
- 16. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 17. Multiply
- 19. Meat from a pig (French)
- 21. Related
- 22. Rocker Stewart
- 23. Surprise completely
- 25. Loon
- 26. Canister
- 27. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 29. Takes forcefully
- 31. Oil cartel
- 33. Palmer and

- Hepburn are two
- 34. More than one purposefully
- 38. Pitching staccato
- 39. Type of sword
- 41. Witnesses
- 43. Body part
- 44. Mixes slowly
- 46. Satisfy
- 48. Strong belief
- 52. One's physique (slang)
- 53. More frightening
- 54. Soup cracker
- 56. Teaches
- 57. One who carries something
- 58. Actor Sean
- 59. Changes

- 3. Type of gene
- 4. Door handle
- 5. Competition
- 6. Muslim ruler title
- 7. Hunting expeditions
- 8. Large mollusk
- 9. Bind securely
- 10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
- 11. 2-point plays in football
- 12. Breezed through
- 14. Type setting
- 15. Felt for
- 18. Codified rules
- 20. Small dome
- 24. Chevrotain
- 26. Male reproductive gland
- 28. Controversial beliefs
- 30. Z Z Z

- 32. One who confines another
- 34. Bishop
- 35. Garlands
- 37. Bird that flies by the coast
- 38. Optical device
- 40. Greek goddess of discord
- 42. Some are "Rolling"
- 43. Formerly (archaic)
- 45. Thrust a knife into
- 47. German river
- 49. Atomic #26
- 50. Make a grotesque face
- 51. Primordial matter of the universe
- 55. Chinese philosophical principle

Open Burning Season has started

HAMPDEN - The Open Burning Season started on January 15, 2025 and runs through May 1, 2025. Homeowners may burn brush, branches and forest debris between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily through the season.

Other restrictions apply and burning may not be allowed on certain days due to recent lack of precipitation and strong winds. A permit from our department is required which you can obtain online from the following link.

To obtain burn permit visit <http://www.hcburnpermits.com>.

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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

The Kindness Coins display on the front desk at the Hampden Free Public Library.



A close-up of a kindness coin reading "Receive Kindness." The other side reads "Give Kindness."

KINDNESS from page 1

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. "And some of those women would actually tear up a little bit receiving the coin, so it was great giving and receiving."

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. So, there's a flyer up there and it mentions Paul in the flyer because he kind of started to get the ball rolling with all of that," 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 said she also started following a YouTuber who does monthly videos about all the good news happening all over the world.

"It's so inspiring, it gives me hope and most of the stories and videos are about young people doing amazing things. Creating a better world for all of us. A lot of very smart young people," Moriarty said. "They're really going to change the world."

Gonzales encourages the community to come and pick up the coins to continue spreading the message of kindness.

"I'll make sure I have plenty here," Gonzales said. "But, just to reflect each day, to think of kindness because we do need more kindness in the world and this is a connection to help think about giving and receiving. It's a two-way street. It's a great, emotional feeling and it's a wonderful thing."

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.

Monthly Highlights for January at the Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN - The following programs will occur at the senior center on Allen Street in the coming weeks.

The AARP Tax-Aide Program
returns for 2025
by appointment only

Appointments can be made starting Monday, Jan. 6.

If you call to schedule an appointment and get the answering machine, please leave a message with your name and phone number and that you are interested in a tax appointment. Calls are returned in the order in which they are received.

Taxes will be completed on Tuesdays. You will be mailed forms two weeks in advance to be completed and brought in with you on the day of your appointment along with all pertinent documents such as:

- Forms 1099-R, 1099-SSA, W-2, Previous Year (2023) Tax Return, copies of Social Security Card, Picture I.D., all Real Estate Tax Bills (for ages 65+), Water and Sewer Bills (if applicable), etc.

On your appointment date, you will meet briefly with a counselor to review your paperwork, then leave and wait for a phone call to pick up the completed return. Same-day pick-up is required.

We are happy to have this program in Hampden and look forward to a successful season.

Common Threads Led by Joan Tompkins, PhD

New Time, Mondays from 11 a.m. to Noon

We invite you to join us as we share many things such as:

- Loneliness vs Feeling Lonely
- Adapting to Life Changes
- Finding purpose for our life as Seniors
- Bereavement as well as Joyous Moments

There is no charge to join this group. All are welcome.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 1

quired to be enrolled in Medicare but, in any case, cannot receive their past Medicare Part A contributions back if they choose to decline Medicare. You may have interest in this article I previously published on the topic of VA benefits versus Medicare: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-i-have-va-cover

your seat.

Reiki, anyone?

Reiki (ray-key) is a safe and gentle therapy that involves placing hands on or near a fully clothed person to promote healing by improving the flow-of-energy in the body. Many benefits of this ancient Japanese practice include stress reduction, relaxation, pain relief, improved mobility, vitality, mental alertness, and better sleep quality. Lisa Zizza is a Level 3 certified Reiki Master in the Usui Tradition.

If interested, Lisa will be available by appointment at the Senior Center on a Friday (TBD).

The cost is \$30 for a 30-minute session or \$60 for a 60-minute session (recommended).

Lisa is offering \$10 off your first session.

Please call the senior center at 566-5588 if you are interested.

Living Stronger... Longer... with Lamar Moore

New 12-week session begins Jan. 8 through March 26.

Tuesdays, 2:15 to 3 p.m.

Learn about balance and how it impacts overall health and wellness. Get tips on strength training and cardiovascular endurance to increase mobility and flexibility.

Cost is \$60 for the session if paid in full and receive two free classes or \$6 per class (call ahead for availability). Space is limited. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

"African Drumming" with Jason"

New 12-week session begins Jan. 3 through March 21.

Fridays, 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. - Accepting New Students

Cost is \$70 for the 12-week session if paid in full and receive two free classes or \$7 per class (call ahead for availability). Space is limited. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

Making Music with Sue

New 12-week session begins Feb. 24 through May 19.

Mondays, Noon to 1 p.m. - Beginner Ukulele and Recorder

Mondays, 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Ensemble Class (Ukulele, Recorder, Percussion, & Vocals)

Cost is \$60 for the 12-week session if paid in full and receive two free classes, or \$6 per class (call ahead for availability).

Please pay cash or make checks payable directly to: Susan McHand Space is limited. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

"Come What May" Boutique...

is open in our lobby for all to shop during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We accept donations of new or gently used clothing, outerwear, accessories, and footwear.

All proceeds from Boutique sales will benefit the needs of The Senior Center.

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Liquid Hand Soap!

Thank you to those who donated toothpaste last month. Every month we will target a different item to help fill our shelves to provide non-food items to SNAP recipients.

WARMING HEARTS PROGRAM for Homebound Older Adults in Hampden

Do you know an older adult in Hampden who is homebound, and could use some mid-winter cheer?

Our warming hearts deliveries are a small way to let people know we are thinking of them and that we are here should they need anything. Deliveries will take place in February and include soups, treats, games, and more. Interested in delivering? Please call 566-5588 and speak with Wendy.

Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

We cannot recommend Maureen enough to any potential buyers who are looking for a reputable realtor. She made homebuying such an easy process for us and was there every step of the way no matter what day or time we needed her. She found us our dream home in less than a month and we couldn't be happier with our purchase. She answered all of our questions, and if she didn't have the answer, she found it. She's humble, kind, trustworthy, and reliable. If you're looking for someone who will fight for you and is looking out for your best interest, she's the one. Even after closing she checked in every single day and offered her assistance in anyway we needed. We are proud to not only be a client of hers, but also friends.

- Alexandra L. & Dremus W.



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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Manger on full display

Submitted photo
Don Flannery

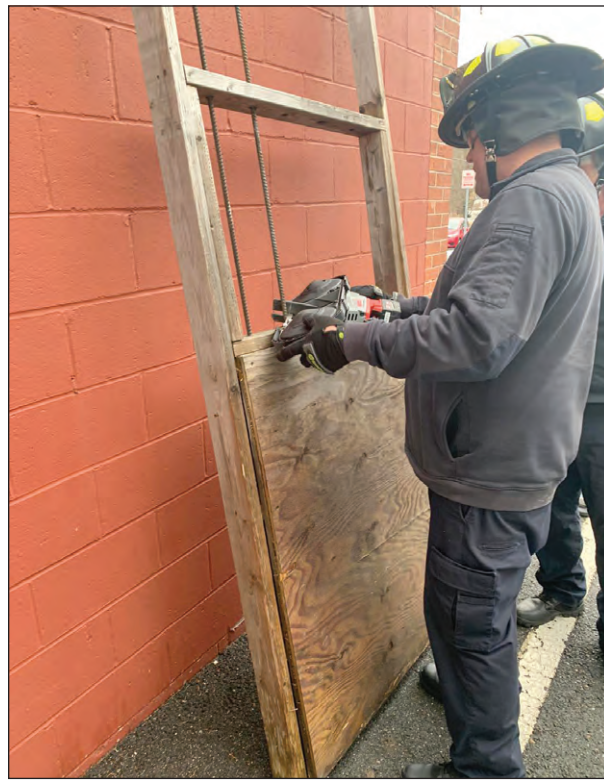
The manger scene was on full display at Gazebo Park in Wilbraham during the recent holiday season. It was set up by Wilbraham Boy Scout Troop 359.

Life in &

Readers are encouraged to send in medium to high resolution photos for this page by e-mail to dzbierski@turley.com or mail to TIMES, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Please note that if you send us a photo of the Times in different parts of the world, please include a recognizable landmark in the background. Examples: Eiffel Tower; castle in Spain.

WIL HAM

HFD does metal cutting training



On December 10, 2024 the duty crew trained on different types of metal cutting tools using our metal cutting prop. The crew discussed the different attributes each tool offers at an incident.

Photos and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department



Hampden Federated Community Church supports HPD

The Hampden Police Department thanked Pastor Kwan Kim, family, and friends from the Hampden Federated Community Church for the lovely card and appreciated meal they received on December 10, 2024.

Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Police Department

Soule Road School thanks community for support

Thank you to the Soule Road School Family for your kindness and generosity!! The Community Survival Center, DCF of Springfield and Soule Road School Library are tremendously grateful for your donations! You made the holidays special for many families and our students! Thank you St. Cecilia Church and the Wilbraham Junior Women's Club for the tremendous food and household items donations! We were overwhelmed!! No words can express our gratitude!!!



Amelia I collecte



Cody Erskine and Aidan Lee organized the Food Drive for the Communi

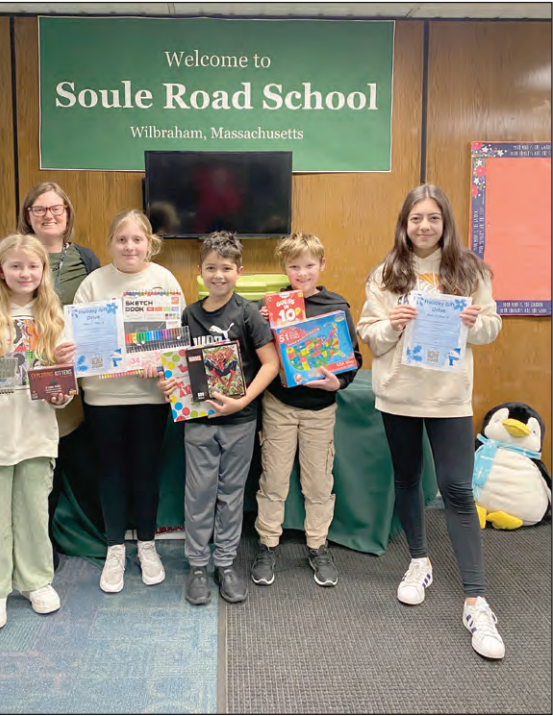
THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU



A New Home For A New Year!



WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



Kellogg and Jack Favata organized the Holiday Gift Drive for the DCF of Springfield. 73 items were collected!!



Fire Cadet Logan Howard recognized



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department
We would like to congratulate Cadet Member Logan Howard on being awarded his Eagle Scout on Jan. 5. Logan has worked hard to achieve this goal!

HFD responds to car into garage fire

At 7:22 a.m. on Jan. 7, the fire department was dispatched by Wilbraham Regional Emergency Communications Center to 174 Wilbraham Rd for a car into a garage with fire. E-2 arrived and quickly extinguished the car fire and prevented further fire spread to the garage. All occupants were able to safely exit the vehicle prior to our arrival and refused transport to the hospital. The garage suffered severe damage from the crash. The crash is currently being investigated by Hampden Police Department. Mutual aid was provided by Wilbraham Fire Department and East Longmeadow Fire Department.



Submitted photos and captions Cheryl Erskine
Food Survival Center located in Indian Orchard. 231lbs of food was collected.



The Library Gift Giving Program received 45 book donations!!

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Members of the Fire Department stood by the sign thanking the sponsors for this weekend's First Responders Appreciation Dinner.



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

First Responders pictured together from Wilbraham, Anthony Cerini and Patrick Farrow, and from Hampden, Joseph Borowiec and John Fitzgerald.

Seventh Annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner

Pioneer Valley Financial Group and Veterans Affairs Department host appreciation dinner for first responders from Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Hampden

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – This past weekend, Pioneer Valley Financial Group and the town's Veterans of Foreign Affairs department hosted the seventh annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

For the last seven years, PV Financial and Veterans Services have held this event to recog-

nize the dedication of local first responders. On Thursday, Jan. 9, the community was invited to share food, games, and prizes with first responders from Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Hampden.

"It was a collective effort between myself and our employees," said Karen Nogueira, Director of Client Relations at PV Financial. "It's something we've been doing for last seven years, and a really great event that we get to do every year for our First Responders."

Nogueira said that the First Responders Appreciation Dinner began as a partnership with the VFW, crediting Director of Veterans Affairs Aeric Segundo.

"It's a partnership we've had with them over the last seven years. We enjoy doing it with them and hope to continue with the shared continued mission of serving our community," Nogueira said. "They do so much for the community, so this

falls in line with who we are and our philosophy here at PV Financial."

Nogueira said that PV Financial coordinated with the venue and caterers to service the over 300 first responders and their families who attend the event. Mill's Tavern donated food and staff for the event, and PV Financial covered the costs.

"We gather in the fall and start planning for the event, which is usually the first Thursday in January," Nogueira said. "We put it on and soak up all of the cost. We donate to the VFW and do this event for the first responders."

"It's a lot of planning, but we partner with local organizations and people are kind enough to come back every year to coordinate with us and donate," Nogueira said.

The event included a visit from Boomer from the Thunderbirds, and toys and gifts for

all kids that attended with their families. There was also a game for departments to compete for a \$1,000 donation to their department, which was awarded to the State Police this year.

"We think it's important to support our local first responders," Nogueira said. "They dedicate their lives and their family's lives to support and take care of the community. They're the first people we call when we need help, and we (at PV Financial) feel they should be honored some way. We want to celebrate them and their families, and we feel it's important to give back."

The event brought together first responders and their families from Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Hampden, including police, firefighters, EMTs, state police, emergency dispatchers, the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and retirees from all departments.

"We really think highly of

our men and women in uniform and we really appreciate that they do," Nogueira said. "This is just one small way to continue to honor them. We truly enjoy hosting it, and plan to do so for years to come."

"It just seems like the right thing to do, and it's something we really enjoy doing. They give up so much every day, so in essence it's one small token for what they give up, which is so much larger," Nogueira said.

PV Financial also sponsors the Slide Into Summer event that is held near the last day of school. This year will be the 10th anniversary of the Ludlow celebration that is regularly held at the Boys and Girls' Club, while Wilbraham will hold its third annual Slide Into Summer at Spec Pond in Post Office Park.

If you'd like to learn more about PV Financial Group, you can visit their website at PVFinancial.com.



Crossing the dining hall, (from left) VFW Post 3236 Commander Paul Chrzan and Hampden Police Officer Sean Auclair.



A night of dinner and games was hosted in honor of local first responders at the Gremio Lusitano Club.



Officer Mark Shlosser (right) and his daughter Rachel enjoyed the appreciation dinner at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

Nomination papers available in Wilbraham

WILBRAHAM – The 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 17, 2025 Annual Town Election ballot.

The last day to obtain nomination papers is Wednesday, March 26, 2025. The positions being voted that day are one Select Board member for three years, one Assessor for three years, one Regional School Committee member for three years, one Cemetery Commissioner for three years, one Water Commissioner for three years, two Library Trustees for three years, one Li-

brary Trustee for one year, one Planning Board Member for five years, and one Wilbraham Housing Authority member for five years.

The deadline for submission to the Registrars for certification is Friday, March 28, 2025 at 5 p.m. and 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.

Searching Your Family History with Ancestry Library Edition

WILBRAHAM – Assistant Library Director Mary Bell will give a hands-on demonstration of Ancestry Library Edition at the Wilbraham Public Library on Wednesday, Jan. 29 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

She will give a brief introduction of how to use the online resource in the Brooks Room, followed by time in which participants use library computers or their own laptops to access the database and search for themselves. All participants will be given a starter kit with forms and tips for researching genealogy.

"Ancestry Library Edition includes records of the U.S. Census from 1790 to 1950, military records such as World War I and II draft cards, and other records worldwide. International records avail-

able include particularly good coverage in Canada and the United Kingdom," said Bell.

Images of original records, including immigration records and town records of births, marriages, and deaths can be saved to a flash drive or sent to your email from Ancestry Library Edition. It is accessible in-library only, but can be used through both library computers or personal devices connected to the library's Wi-Fi.

This program is free and open to the public. Space is limited, and registration is going on now.

For more information, contact the Wilbraham Library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar online at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.



From the left, Elijah Mathias and Hussien Saleh perform a duet on the violins.



Ella Gagliarducci puts on a vocal performance at the Candlelight Concert.



From the left to the right, Elijah Mathias, Ella Gagliarducci, and Hussien Saleh were the three performers of the Candlelight Concert on Jan. 16.

Photos courtesy of Emma Powell

MRHS IRCCC hosts Candlelight Concert

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Jan. 16, the Minnechaug Information Research Commons Community Committee hosted their first-ever Candlelight Concert in the school's IRC for the public.

The Information Research Commons Community Committee, also known as the IRCCC, is a group of Minnechaug students who bring their talents together and work directly with the schools licensed school library teacher, Dr. Georgina Trebbe, who is the advisor for the committee. These students create original content, plan events and are stakeholders in guiding the direction of the school's Information Research Commons, also known as the IRC.

The concert was beautifully

decorated as candles lit up the room and a space in the IRC that was created for this event. There was a variety of musical performances that were performed by three Minnechaug students Ella Gagliarducci, who is a sophomore, and freshmen students Elijah Mathias and Hussien Saleh.

The trio performed various classical pieces throughout history. Mathias performed "Violin Concerto No. 6 in A Minor" by Antonio Vivaldi from the Baroque Era.

Saleh, meanwhile, performed "Violin Romance No. 2 in F Major" by Ludwig Van Beethoven for the Romantic/Classical Era.

Mathias and Saleh also performed a Bach Double called "Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor" by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Gagliarducci performed

"Après Un Reve" by Gabriel Fauré and "Arabesque No. 1" by Claude Debussy from the French Imperialism Era.

A space was created inside of the IRC with chairs set up so people could sit comfortably and enjoy the concert. To add to their candlelight theme for the event, the IRCCC set up fake candles around the makeshift stage and on top of the piano that was used for musical performances that evening.

It was an hour-long classical music concert, with those in attendance for the event comprising of family, friends, staff members and people from the Wilbraham Senior Center.

After each performance, there were conversations about the history and historical aspects of each piece and why each musician chose to play it specifically.

Mathias and Saleh took a moment to speak about the concert and the importance of classical music as a whole.

"We wanted to help out with the music program and just the awareness of classical music at our school," Mathias said.

"Also, there are not many people who want to do this themselves. We just want to have as many people as possible and can contribute and support it," Saleh said

The IRCCC started up this year by Dr. Trebbe, who serves as the advisor, and Minnechaug senior Emma Powell, who serves as the club's president. The idea of the IRCCC was not new to Minnechaug, but Powell spent a marketing internship with Trebbe, who wanted to restart the club after a short hiatus.

Working together, they were

able to bring the club back with the goal to make people more interested in the IRC, its various events and activities and what they have to offer for the school community and overall public.

"It's a good club to join if you are looking to connect with the community or wanting to make an impact in the school," Powell said.

It was a great evening for people to come together under the interest of music, as well as expressing love for the classics. It was a unique event to show that the Minnechaug IRC is capable of many things, including hosting and performing in concerts for the public.

The IRCCC is currently planning to host another concert open to the public next month, hopefully on Feb. 13 and they are currently working on a theme.

Events & announcements schedule

WPD seeking owner of found cell phone

WILBRAHAM - The police department is asking for the public's help in finding the owner of a found cell phone, sharing this bulletin to their Facebook page on Dec. 31:

"An Android cell phone was recently found at Fountain Park. If it's yours, it will be at the Wilbraham Police Department, 2780 Boston Road.

You will need to provide proof of ownership. It appears to be functional and is currently charging."

Scantic River Artisans hosting Big Art Show of Small Works

HAMPDEN - The Scantic River Artisans will be hosting the Big Art of Small Works on Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Feb. 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A reception will be held on Feb. 9 from Noon to 2 p.m.

Folks can also clip out a coupon from the Wilbraham-Hampden Times and enter a drawing for an original piece of artwork.

This event will take place at 104 Allen Street, Hampden, MA (The Community Room at the Hampden Senior Center).

For more information, please visit: www.scanticriverartisans.com or email: info@scanticriverartisans.com

Wilbraham Hiking Club January Hikes

WILBRAHAM - Here are the January hikes for the Wilbraham Hiking Club and for the Wilbraham Senior Center Hiking Club. All hikes are "weather permitting".

- Sun., Jan. 26 - Easy -Thayer Brook, Wilbraham

- also Sun. Jan. 26 - a tentative high-moderate hike, location TBD

For more info on the hikes above (and possibly additional hikes), use the club's TeamReach App or write to wilbrahamhiking@gmail.com

And...

The Wilbraham Senior Center Hiking Club has two January Hikes and is thinking about planning a multi-day hiking trip:

- Tu., Jan. 28 at 9:15 Avery Loop at Shenipsit SF easy 4 miles, 25 Galbraith Rd Stafford Springs

- The Senior Center is also gathering a list of folks who are interested in a three to 10 day regional/national hiking trip. The location and dates will be determined by those who express interest.

For more information, to register for Senior Center hikes, or to be added to the list for the multi-day hiking trip, contact Jen at 596-8379.

Wilbraham Men's Glee Club to Begin Rehearsals

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club, accompanied by Marcia Jackson and conducted by Ray Drury,

will begin rehearsals for the 2025 concert season on Monday evening, Jan. 6, at Christ the King Lutheran/Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will continue each Monday thereafter until 2 concerts in late April/early May.

While no audition is required, all interested should be able to "carry a tune" attend the majority of rehearsals, and be able to pay a nominal fee at the first rehearsal to cover the cost of sheet music.

Storytime at the Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM - Registration is now open for the winter session of Storytime at the Wilbraham Public Library. Join Mrs. B for a fun collection of stories, songs, and fingerplays geared for children ages three to six.

Kids must come in independently and parents/ caretaker must wait in the library. Sessions run for six weeks.

Winter session dates: Thursday January 9, 2025 to February 13, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Call the library at (413) 596-6141 or visit www.wilbrahamlibrary.org to register.

Hampden Winter Parking Ban Information

HAMPDEN - The Town of Hampden Winter Parking Ban will run from November 15, 2024, through April 15, 2025.

Any vehicles left on town roads may be towed at the owner's expense. All ve-

hicles that impede snow removal shall be towed at the request of the Highway Department.

Drop-In Tech Help at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM- Need help setting up an email account, updating your phone, or figuring out a new device? Volunteer students from Wilbraham & Monson Academy (WMA) will be available for technology assistance at the Wilbraham Public Library on select Fridays from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Assistance is available on a first come, first served basis. Please bring any relevant devices and/or log-in and password information. Contact the library at 413-596-6141, or visit www.wilbrahamlibrary.org, for more information about upcoming dates.

Ruth's House Assisted Living to Hold Parkinson's and Dementia Support Groups in January

Dementia Support Groups on Jan. 27 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

LONGMEADOW, Mass. - Ruth's House Assisted Living Residence, located on the JGS Lifecare campus and affiliated with Legacy Lifecare, will be holding specialized support groups for area residents and their families during the month

Saturday Family Storytime celebrates wintertime with Mrs. B



Turley photos by Amanda Munson
The group on Saturday were thrilled to throw pom poms in the air while posing for a fabulous photo.

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - “We love coming to the Wilbraham storytimes!” On a snowy winter morning, Mrs. B welcomed families to drop in this past Saturday for a relaxing story and space for their children.

With dual fireplaces played on the television sets, a cozy environment for listening, and several wintertime books read aloud, families left satisfied with a morning well spent at the WPL on Jan. 11.

Offered to the WPL patrons as a family storytime, Mrs. B read books, sang songs, and provided engaging activities for everyone to participate in.

Sitting down with one of the newest members of the library, Assistant Children’s Librarian Lisa Berezin, also known as Mrs. B, she talked about her aim in increasing numbers at her drop-in style programs and her go-to schedule for storytime events.

“For a story event, we always start with a song ‘The More You Get Together’ which is very nice. I always start with a book about a specific topic and then we’ll do a finger play or a song, the kids can’t just sit and listen to the stories, that gets boring. And it depends how engaging the book is and usually when I did a counting book, I would have somebody come up and point. This crowd today was very active, so I didn’t want to create more movement, so I pointed and they were able to count with me,” Berezin said. “Then it’ll be another book and then some type of movement, like today we used YouTube that showed a dance called ‘The Freeze Song’ and



Mrs. B introduces her creative side to the WPL team, exemplified with the billboards she made to introduce more programs to curious onlookers.

the kids were able to listen and practice spatial recognition. Then we will go back, make sure they have gotten their wiggles out, and I try to end with one to two more books.”

Berezin is committed to making sure the kids have a comfortable time at her programs, in which she highlights the importance of ensuring the kids know what to expect and understand what the event schedule will contain.

Before the storytime, Berezin made sure everyone knew what books she was going to read, what dance video she was going to show, and the fun pom pom activity that went along with the wintertime book theme.

“It has a lot of flexibility and I am extremely flexible with my programming. On one hand, the kids need to know what to expect. For example, on Valentine’s Day, I’m going to tell them right away we’re going to do things a little differently today. In the past it was run differently, so I am going to tell the kids we’re going to have a ‘mixed up backwards day’ and the kids will be fine,” Berezin said.

Around five families joined Mrs. B for the drop-in style storytime, a great style for busy parents who may need to step out or arrive after the event started. Berezin has multiple programs planned in the future, providing a helpful resource for working families who have an option to join an educational program, without the stress of committing to an event registration.

“As for programs, I am testing the waters. I am so happy that so many families came out today. We were learning about snow, penguins, and snowball fights with



Saturday Family Storytime was offered for the entire family, a laid back setting offering songs and activities, appropriate for young children to get their energy out.

the books I read. During the dance activity, I wasn’t sitting down and saying ‘Go dance’ I was up and dancing along with them. I’m a role model and example,” Berezin said. “I love making it fun and having children this age that this is their first taste of an organizational program. I can’t wait to see what’s next and hope families come visit the library soon.”

To learn more about upcoming programs in the new year, visit wilbrahampubliclibrary.org.

EVENTS from page 13

of January.

The Alzheimer’s and Dementia Support Group will be held on Monday Jan. 27 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Hosted By Scott Weiss, a Certified Support Group Facilitator and Certified Dementia Practitioner. This dementia support group offers a safe space for caregivers to share experiences, receive emotional support, and gain practical tips for managing the challenges of dementia care. Scott is a compassionate facilitator with extensive experience supporting caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease.

Admission is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Light refreshments will be served. To reserve a spot, request more information or find out about additional upcoming support groups, please contact Mary-Anne Schelb at 413-935-1791 or email MSchelb@legacylifecare.org. Ruth’s House Assisted Living is located at 780 Converse Street in Longmeadow.

Women’s Club February General Meeting/Pasta Party

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham Women’s Club will be holding their next meeting and a Pasta Party on Thursday, Feb. 13.

11:30 a.m. is for social time with a Noon lunch at the St. Cecilia Parish Center.

The guest will be with Erin from the Wilbraham Senior Center who oversees Fit After 60.

Erin will provide lots of tips for keeping fit and healthy after 60. She will be incorporating some cognitive and balance exercises in her demonstration.

Join us for pasta, salad and dessert. All welcome.

Please give Linda Raffa a call if you will be joining us as a guest at 413 596-8245 before Feb. 6.

Teen Painting Workshop at the Library

WILBRAHAM - The Teen Department at the Wilbraham Public Library announces a teen painting workshop on Tuesday, Jan. 28 from 5 to 6:30 pm.

Erin Boughamer, owner of Paint Sip Fun, will lead grades 6–12 through creating their own individual painting.

“Our Teen Advisory Board chose the painting ‘Northern Lights’ which Erin created specifically from our teen suggestions,” said Teen Services Librarian Rachel Hapgood. “Our Teen Paint Sip Fun events fill quickly and it is one of our most popular teen programs.”

All supplies will be provided; and lemonade and water will be available for refreshments. This program is free to attend and sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Registration is required as space is limited. The painting choice of “Northern Lights” can be seen when registering online.

Register at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org, “Teens”, “Event Calendar” or call the library at 413-596-6141.

Library Winter Reading Kicks Off Jan. 1

WILBRAHAM - Get a head start on your 2025 reading resolutions with our annual 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 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.



This Week in Rec

Dan Beauregard, Program Coordinator

WILBRAHAM - Basketball season is in full swing here in Wilbraham! Kids of all ages in town have the joy of playing basketball as we have Kindergarten through 8th grade recreational basketball, 5th – 8th grade suburban basketball, along with boy’s high school rec basketball. When attending any of our teams’ games remember, to cheer on all the participants and thank all the coaches who volunteer their time. Without them we wouldn’t be able to offer all of the sports programs that we do.

While at these basketball games please be respectful towards all table staff and officials. The officials are people too and they are doing their best, you aren’t going to agree with every call and that is okay. Across all sports, officials are becoming harder to find as more are leaving the profession than are joining. So, remember that we are at these games to cheer on our friends and family, let the coach’s coach, let the referee’s ref and enjoy the game.

On the horizon, registration for baseball and track and field are right around the corner. Recreational Baseball registration begins February 4th and Track and Field program registration begins February 11th.

As always keep an eye out for our emails and check out our website (www.wilbrahamrec.com) for information about our upcoming programs!

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Minnechaug girls score pair of wins



Alani Botas tries to muscle her way to a shot.



Ainsley Holden makes her way down the court.



Ava Manning attempts a three-pointer.



Elizabeth Woytowicz heads down the court.

WILBRAHAM – Last week, it was two wins at home for Minnechaug Regional High School girls basketball. The big win for Minnechaug was over rival Chicopee High 63-34 last Monday night. In the win, Minnechaug was led by Ava Manning with nine points. Three others had eight points scored in the win and 10 different players for Minnechaug registered points in the victory, which makes the Falcons 5-2 for the season. Chicopee was led by Kiyah Price with 13 points. Cassidy Pytel had 10 points for the Pacers. Unfortunately, Chicopee is now 0-10 on the season.



Ava Ofcarcik passes into the arc.



Cailin O'Brien tries to dribble her way out of pressure.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Falcons hockey suffers tough loss to Auburn

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD— When the MIAA released the state power rankings for the first time last Friday morning, the Auburn hockey team were the 10th ranked team in Division 2.

The following day, the Rockets showed why they were one of the top ranked teams in Division 2 after dispatching the Falcons of Minnechaug Regional, 8-1, in a non-conference match held at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

“This is a fun group of guys to be around, and they always work very hard,” said Auburn

head coach Glen Bombard, who’s planning to retire from coaching at the end of this season. “We were able to score a bunch of goals in today’s game, but this wasn’t our best performance of the season. These guys can play a lot better hockey.”

Bombard, who has been a part of the Auburn hockey program for the past 35 years, took over as the varsity hockey coach in 2002. He also played high school hockey at Auburn, along with his two brothers.

The road victory improved the Rockets overall season record to 7-2. It was the second time that they scored at least eight goals in a game this season.

They posted an 8-2 home win against Westborough two days before Christmas.

During the past two seasons, the Falcons, who are ranked 35th in the Division 2 power rankings, celebrated one goal victories against the Rockets.

“Auburn is the best hockey team we’ve faced so far this season,” said Minnechaug head coach Kyle Bousquet. “They do have a several talented players and have a little more depth than us.”

Auburn’s two losses so far this season were against Wachusett Regional, who’s ranked 21st in Division 1, and Whitman-Han-



Matt Lafley gets low for a block.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Please see **HOCKEY**, page 17



Mason Heward tries to use an arm takedown.



Demetri Pappanikou grabbles with his opponent at 113 pounds.



Jordan Dietz looks for a takedown.



Kai Ly scores a takedown and the leverage.



William Vezina gets a headlock on his opponent.



Liam Maher gets into trouble with a leg-lock.

Brownies squeeze by Falcons

AGAWAM – It was a playoff atmosphere at Agawam High School as the Brownies wrestling team hosted league rival Minnechaug for a dual meet last Wednesday night. It came down to the last couple of matches, but Agawam eeked out a 36-32 win. The Brownies dominated the early part of the meet, winning the first three matches and going up 21-0. But Minnechaug made its way back in the meet with some wins in the middle weights. The meet got very contentious at times, even resulting in the ejection of a Minnechaug coach due to excessive arguing with the referee.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Thompson Speedway to feature 10 events

THOMPSON, Conn. – After weeks of careful planning, the American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Star Series (PASS) have finalized and released the 2025 schedule for Thompson Speedway. Beginning in late March through Columbus Day weekend in October, rolling thunder returns to the ‘Quiet Corner of Connecticut’ for ten individual dates in 2025 including the annual Icebreaker and Sunoco World Series weekends along with a return to monthly Wednesday night racing.

Everything begins on Saturday, March 29 with the first of two days celebrating the 51st Icebreaker weekend to kick off the 2025 New England racing season! Saturday is headlined by the return of the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series for the first of two spectacular showings on the Thompson high-banks in 2025 plus the PASS Super Late Models, Evolve Bank Pro Truck Challenge and R&R Race Parts NH Open Street Stock Series! Saturday’s showcase also kicks off the 2025 track championship season for the Sunoco Modifieds and Mini Stocks plus the introduction of Thompson Speedway’s newest division, the Thunderstock Crown Vic Division!

Sunday, March 30 is headlined by the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Icebreaker 150 plus the second Sunoco Modified event of Icebreaker weekend along with the Thompson Late Models, Street Stocks and SK Light Modifieds for a spectacular closer to the season’s rip-roaring start!

The Monaco Modifieds return to headline the first Wednesday night action on May 14, complete with all six Thompson track championship divisions before the fan-favorite Dash for Cash Series returns for the first of three Wednesday Night programs on June 18, complete with the Evolve Bank Pro Truck Challenge and six Thompson divisions. The Dash for Cash 50 lap sprints will also return with the NEMA Lite special on July 9, the Wednesday, September 17 showdown and the Friday of Sunoco World Series weekend.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is back for their traditional midweek showdown on Au-

gust 6 headlined alongside the New England Supermodified Series and six Thompson Speedway divisions for a thrilling midweek special that cannot be missed!

The 63rd Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing begins on Friday, October 10 headlined by the Dash for Cash \$5,000 to win sprint plus the R&R Open Street Stocks and Senior Tour Auto Racers (STAR) alongside track championship finales for the Late Models and Mini Stocks. The Thunderstock Crown Vics will also run on both Friday and Saturday of World Series weekend.

Saturday afternoon is headlined by the incredible 75th annual Race of Champions 150 held for the first time at Thompson Speedway with a \$12,500 prize headed for the winner of the iconic Al Gerber Memorial trophy! Saturday also features the championship finale for the New England Supermodified Series, along with the Evolve Bank Pro Truck Challenge and Harry Kourafas Memorial 22 for the New England Pro-4 Modifieds. The Sunoco Modifieds will compete in their first of two days during the Sunoco World Series and the SK Light Modifieds will crown their 2025 track champion.

Sunday, October 12 will feature the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Sunoco World Series 150 with the Sunoco Modifieds and Street Stocks crowning their track champions with the NEMA Lites rounding out the season-closing program.

“We’ve built up a schedule we think works for everyone,” said PASS President Tom Mayberry. “There’s a little bit of everything for each event that we believe works for both fans and racers alike.”

“Both Tom and I have had quite a few conversations with competitors and 2025 looks promising,” said ACT managing partner Cris Michaud. “The return of the Dash for Cash races and expanding the Crown Vic races are something we’re looking forward to seeing grow at Thompson next season.”

T-Birds get win at Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (17-15-2-1) had six players record multiple points in a 6-4 triumph over the Bridgeport Islanders (8-25-2-2) on Saturday night at Total Mortgage Arena.

The T-Birds and Islanders’ netminders had all the answers in the opening 20 minutes, as Colten Ellis picked up where he left off from his shutout performance on Wednesday with 10 more stops in the opening frame. In the Bridgeport net, Hunter Miska made his first AHL start in nearly three years and was up to every Springfield challenge with 11 first-period stops.

The night marked the much-anticipated debut of Blues’ 2023 first-round pick Otto Stenberg, and the 19-year-old wasted little time in period two making his mark on the game, taking a drop feed from Hugh McGing in the left circle and roofing a wrister short-side on Miska for his first AHL goal on his first shot at 2:43.

Unfortunately, the excitement of Stenberg’s opening tally was quickly tempered when Chris Terry evened the slate with a power play goal at 3:29 for Bridgeport, snapping Ellis’s shutout streak of over 83 minutes.

The T-Birds returned fire at 8:56 when Hunter Skinner leaned into a one-time slapper off a Matthew Peca drop pass, beating Miska over the stick hand to give Springfield a 2-1 advantage.

Once again, however, the Islander power play had a rebuttal. This

time, a Samuel Bolduc point wrister eluded Ellis and got the game back even, 2-2, at 13:50.

Springfield continued to be just a tick faster than the Islanders in the see-saw second frame as Stenberg let a wrister fly from the left side at 15:45, creating a rebound for McGing to bury behind Miska and restore the T-Birds’ lead.

Finally, the Islanders could not get the game back to a stalemate, and Alek Kaskimaki lifted a backhand under the crossbar on a net-crashing play up the left side at 19:20 to send Springfield to the second intermission dressing room ahead 4-2.

Bridgeport still did not keel over, and with the teams skating 4-on-4 in the opening minute of the third, Liam Foudy capitalized on a rebound outside the paint to make it a 4-3 contest.

MacKenzie MacEachern further bolstered the Springfield advantage when he picked the puck off from Bolduc and cruised in on Miska before beating the netminder glove side on a breakaway to make it a 5-3 game at 7:33.

McGing capped off his best night of the season with his second goal of the evening in the dying seconds of a power play at 11:13 of the third to up the lead to 6-3.

Eetu Liukas would get one back for the Islanders with 1:03 to play, but it was too late for the home team as Springfield cashed in its fourth straight win and second in four nights over Bridgeport.

Railers grab point in OT loss

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers beat the Wheeling Nailers, 3-4 in overtime, Sunday afternoon at the DCU Center.

Not a typo, no. It is just that all things considered, the point Worcester earned was one of the best points a Railers team will ever get out of a hockey game.

They trailed the best team in the league, 3-1, with less than five minutes to go in the third period. Then, at 15:23, Jordan Kaplan converted a shorthanded breakaway to make it a one-goal game.

With goaltender Hugo Ollas on the bench, Worcester took it down to the limit and Anthony Repaci scored with four seconds to go in regulation. He converted a pass from Griffin Loughran and beat Taylor Gauthier from the

bottom of the right circle with a low shot.

It was the latest game-tying goal in franchise history.

“I actually thought we had a lot more time than we did,” Repaci said, “maybe something like 20 seconds. That was cutting it close but it was an exciting finish.”

Yes, you might say that.

That Matt Koopman scored for Wheeling to win it just 49 seconds into overtime was a downer, but it did not ruin the day, all things considered.

Even before the opening puck drop the Railers were in a hole.

It was their third game in less than 72 hours, and it was against the team with the best winning percentage in the ECHL. Two of their defensemen, Matias Ra-

janiemi and Cam McDonald, were called up by Bridgeport before the game. Worcester replaced them with one defenseman, Anthony Hora up from the SPHL and making his ECHL debut. So the Railers dressed only 17 skaters.

With McDonald and Rajaniemi in the American Hockey League, there were no Bridgeport contract players in uniform. The only NHL contract player was goalie Hugo Ollas. He is assigned here by the Rangers.

Worcester responded with a great effort from the start although it took a while for everything to fall into place.

“For us playing a three in three, with the effort they put out, I just wanted them to play to the

wire,” coach Nick Tuzzolino said. “If the score had stayed 3-1 I probably would have been just as happy. I thought they played well. That’s a pretty gutsy effort against a really good team.”

Over the last two weekends Worcester took six of a possible eight points versus Wheeling. The Railers extended their overall points streak to eight games. They are 5-0-3 in those games. It is their longest points streak since they won nine in a row to open the 2022-23 season.

It was 0-0 after 20 minutes. David Jankowski scored for Wheeling at 8:55 of the second period. Cole Donhauser answered for Worcester at 14:26, snapping a 12-game goals drought. Manny De St. Phalie’s goal at 15:48

allowed the Nailers to take a 2-1 lead into the third period.

When Chris Ortiz made it 3-1 at 6:21, it seemed unlikely that the Railers would have enough petroleum in the tank to come back. Kaplan changed that perspective, then Repaci wound up rescuing the point.

It allowed Worcester to earn five of a possible six points on the weekend with all three games ending in 4-3 scores.

The All-Star break is here. It will give the Railers time to rest up from their dramatic weekend, but Tuzzolino isn’t going anywhere.

“I can’t,” he said. “I’ve got to go find some players.”



Laim Fancuff looks to clear the puck.



Joey Comes heads up the ice.



Nick Garib rushes up the left side.



Brayden O'Sullivan works away from the wall.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

HOCKEY from page 15

son, who’s the 12th ranked team in Division 2.

A year ago, the Rockets advanced to the elite eight of the Division 2 state tournament where they lost to top-seeded Tewksbury, 7-2.

Bombard is a fan of the state tournament format which began several years ago.

“I think the state tournament is one of the best things that the MIAA ever did. Instead of playing the same team three or four times like we did in the old play-off format, you’ll most likely be playing a team for the first time in the state tournament,” he said. “We’re hoping to win back-to-back Quinn Division titles and compete for a state title this year.

The Auburn hockey team, who won two state titles back in the 1970’s, co-ops with Millbury

High School, Shepherd Hill Regional, and Tantasqua Regional.

The Tantasqua players listed on the Rockets varsity roster are junior Nathan Dono, sophomore Daniel Miedona, senior Austin Dono, junior Jack Tully, junior Max Sealey, freshman Trevor Resener, and junior Ethan LaPlante.

The Tantasqua Athletic Director is Marcus Backlin, who graduated from Auburn and is a former member of the Rockets hockey team.

“We do have an outstanding relationship with Tantasqua,” Bombard said. “Marcus played hockey for me several years ago. Their principal and superintendent have also been very supportive of our hockey program over the years. It gives their students an opportunity to play hockey.”

LaPlante, who was the starting goalie against the Falcons, only had to make eight saves before being replaced by freshman

goalie Colin Gaston with 7:24 left in the third period.

“Ethan is just a great kid and is one of our captains this year,” Bombard said. “We’ve built an outstanding relationship since the first day he joined the hockey team three years ago. It’s a lot of fun being around a kid like him.”

When LaPlante came out of the game, Auburn was holding a comfortable 7-0 advantage.

The Rockets, who outshot the Falcons, 37-12, held a slim 2-0 lead after the first period. They broke the game wide open by scoring five goals in the second period and added another in the third. They also had another goal disallowed during that period because it was kicked into the net.

The Dono brothers are members of the Rockets first line, along with senior Ethan McDermott, who scored a second period goal.

“It has been a lot of fun being

a member of this hockey team during the past couple of years,” said Nathan Dono, who contributed offensively against Minnechaug with two goals and an assist. “All of the players on the hockey team get along with each other very well. The coaching staff was very welcoming when I was a freshman. It has also been a great experience playing on the same line with my older brother.”

Miedona, who’s a first-year varsity hockey player, is a member of the second line. He scored the Rockets fifth goal.

Tully is a defenseman and Sealey, who’s a forward, assisted on the Rockets first goal of the second period.

It was a memorable game for Auburn freshman Colson Caron, who scored his first career varsity goal with five minutes remaining in the opening period. He also scored the Rockets final goal of the second period.

Auburn’s other two goal scorers were sophomore’s Logan Rada and Mason Barbale.

One of the few highlights of the game for the Falcons (2-6) took place with 5:34 left in regulation. That’s when freshman Joey Comes scored his first career varsity goal on power-play. Junior Dom Fiorentino was credited with the assist.

“At the beginning of the season, Joey was a bubble player for us as a defenseman,” Bousquet said. “He has been a forward in the past. We used him at that position during the third period and he scored a goal in his first shift. It was a very good thing to see.”

Despite having a below .500 record, the Falcons are still hoping to qualify for both the Western Mass. Class B tournament and the Division 2 state tournament.

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HELP WANTED

Small church in West Brookfield seeking a **PART-TIME SECRETARY**. Approximately 5 hours/week. Candidate must have organizational and computer skills, social media experience, good communication and people skills a must. Starting paying \$16-18/hr. based on experience. Send resume to: fccwbworship@gmail.com.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Middlefield, MA.
Part-time, 960 hrs/yr,
\$36-40,000 range.
Email resume+ cover letter highlighting strengths/ flexibility to Administrative Assistant: middlefield.assistant@gmail.com

TOWN OF BLANDFORD

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills. Please visit our website TownOfBlandford.com or email Administrator@TownofBlandford.com for more information.

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH is hiring a sexton three evenings, 7-10 hours per week, \$16 per hour. Additional compensation for hours needed for weddings and funerals. Please send resume to admin@wilbrahmunitedchurch.org

More information found at www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

GREEN STREET, PALMER Newly renovated 1 bedroom apt. porch, off-street parking, coin-op laundry, \$1,500/ mo includes heat. No Pets. Call Tom 413-896-1555

Classified Advertising DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

Beyond Plastics film viewing Feb. 2

WILBRAHAM - Beyond Plastics: What the continued production of plastic is costing our planet.

With the plastic industry expanding like never before and the crisis of ocean pollution growing, FRONTLINE and NPR investigate the fight over the future of plastics.

Please join us at Christ the King Epiphany Church for the viewing of Plastic Wars on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 11:30 a.m. 758 Main Street, Wilbraham. Feel free to arrive at 11 a.m. for some pre-viewing refreshments.

Polish Food Sale Feb. 5

INDIAN ORCHARD – A Polish Food Sale with Golabki, Kapusta and cabbage, potato and cheese, sweet cheese and blueberry pierogi will be sold on Saturday, February 8, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church Hall, 25 Parker Street, Indian Orchard, MA.

All are welcome to come and purchase.

Great Decisions Discussion Group Returns

WILBRAHAM – Registration has begun for the 2025 Great Decisions Discussion Group at the Wilbraham Public Library. Starting Feb. 5, the group will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. through March 26.

Each year, Foreign Policy Association selects eight critical issues facing the country to be the subjects of conversation. The topics for 2025 include American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads, U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy, U.S.-China Relations, India: Between China, the West, and the Global South, International Cooperation on Climate Change, The Future of NATO and European Security, AI and American National Security, and American Foreign Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead.

Participants are encouraged to order a briefing book to read in advance so they can be informed and ready to engage. Briefing books are available on the association's website, fpa.org. One copy of the briefing book will be available at the Service Desk for in-library reading. To register and learn more, visit wilbrahamlibrary.org, or call the library at 413-596-6141.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2025.

The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural, and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid's IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

National Grid may utilize any of the herbicides noted the MA Sensitive Materials list. Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Cambistat as a tree growth regulator. Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way scheduled for herbicide treatments in 2025:
Hampden, Wilbraham

Treatment Periods

February 1, 2025 – May 30, 2025

CST
Basal
Dormant Stem

May 30, 2025 - Oct 15, 2025

Foliar
CST
Basal
Cut Stubble

Oct 15, 2025 – Dec 31, 2025

CST
Basal
Dormant Stem

*The exact treatment dates are dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-4:00 pm):
Mariclaire Rigby, National Grid,
939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01610.
Telephone: (781) 290-8310

or email: mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com
01/23/2025

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED INCREASE TO SEWER RATE

(Posted 1/16/2025)

The Wilbraham Select Board, serving as the Sewer Commissioners, in accordance with Chp.83, Sec.16, will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:05pm**, at the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA to hear public comment on proposed increased sewer rates to be effective April 2025. The new proposed rates are as follows:

Sewer Rates April 2023-April 2025

\$4.60/100 cu.ft. Residential
\$5.50/100 cu.ft. Commercial
\$552.00 Maximum Residential Bill with Cap (12,000 CF)
\$303.60 Flat Rate (6,600 CF)
\$69.00 Minimum Bill (1,500 CF)

Sewer Rates April 2025

\$5.00/100 cu.ft. Residential
\$6.00/100 cu. ft. Commercial
\$600.00 Maximum Residential Bil lwith Cap (12,000 CF)
\$330.00 Flat Rate (6,600 CF)
\$75.00 Minimum Bill (1,500 CF)

All those wishing to comment on the proposed new sewer rates will be heard. Copies of the proposed rates are available in the Select Board's office at Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham. This hearing will be conducted in person and virtually, see the Select Board's meeting agenda for virtual access).

WILBRAHAM SELECT BOARD
Sewer Commissioners

01/23/2025

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 6:00 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Derrin & Lynn Grimard for a Special Permit (SP25-01) to exceed the size and garage door limitations in Sections 3.9.2.2 and 4.4.8 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow construction of a 624 square foot (21' in height) detached accessory building (garage) with two garage doors on property owned by Derrin & Lynn Grimard located at 7 Kensington Drive as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham

website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/915564309> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 915-564-309).

James Rooney, Chair
01/23, 01/30/2025

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 6:15 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Joseph & Sharon Dussault for a Special Permit (SP25-02) to exceed the size and garage door limitations in 3.9.2.2 of the Zoning By-Law and Ridgeline &

Hillside District approval under 9.3 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to construct a 1,961± square foot attached garage with two garage doors on property owned by Joseph & Sharon Dussault located at 15 Valley View Drive as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/915564309> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 915-564-309).

James Rooney, Chair
01/23, 01/30/2025

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of All Energy Solar for a Special Permit (SP24-04) as required under Section 3.9.1.3 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law and Ridgeline-Hillside District approval under Section 9.3 of the Zoning By-Law to allow a ground-mounted solar energy system with a total footprint area exceeding 1,000 square feet to be installed and operated as an accessory use to the existing single-family residence owned by Andrew Marecki located at 655 Ridge Road as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/915564309> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 915-564-309).

James Rooney, Chair

01/23, 01/30/2025

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 02/06/2025 at 2:00 p.m. to satisfy our garage keepers lien thereon for storage and towing charges and expenses of Notices of Sale. Danielle Van Allen 26 Bristol St. Ludlow, MA 01056 2012 Ford Focus SE VIN# 1FAHP3F24CL179273 01/16, 01/23, 01/30/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **February 7, 2025** the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle :
2005 Mercedes E
VIN: WBAVLIC59EVY17128
COLOR: Gray
LKO: Ludero Monterio
67 Fuller St., Apt. 1
Brockton MA 02301

R & S Assoc. Inc

PO Box 543

Wilbraham MA 01095

413-596-4374

01/23, 01/30, 02/06/2025

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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