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Markel is moving on

Town Administrator reflects on time in Hampden

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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HAMPDEN – When Town Administrator Bob Markel arrived in Hampden in September 2019, he expected his tenure would only last several months.

More than four years later, Markel is finally preparing to move on.

Brian Domina was named the town's next town administrator on Jan. 29, and he will arrive in town around March 1, at which time Markel will leave the position where he found great success and made many memories.

"I will leave without complaints and a bit melancholy," Markel said. "I genuinely like the people; not just the (Selectmen). I think the board reflects the people here. It's a nice town with nice people, and I have rarely encountered somebody that I didn't like or had difficulty with. It makes the job much more attractive. The best thing about working here is the people."

Markel was recruited to the part-time position in Hampden after serving as an interim town administrator in multiple communities in the commonwealth over the span of several years. His last full-time position was as town manager of Ipswich from December 2004 to January 2012.

As Markel began in Hampden in late 2019, he was under the impression he would only be in town for three or four months. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he was asked to



Town Administrator Bob Markel will be leaving Hampden in the coming weeks, as he joins the state's Joint Labor Management Committee.

stay another year before eventually being asked to stay several more.

"I've been here a lot longer than I expected. I'll be moving on. I'm not retiring. I have a state job that I'm going to start on Jan. 29," Markel said.

While he will stay on in Hampden until Domina arrives, Markel has begun his new role as a member of the state's Joint La-

bor Management Committee. He explained the part-time position.

"It is the state's system for resolving contract disputes with police and fire," Markel said. "Obviously, police and fire aren't allowed to strike. You can't have cops striking; you can't have firefighters striking. When they reach an impasse, this committee

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Brian Domina named next Hampden Town Administrator

Board unanimously selects current Whately TA

By Dalton Zbierski
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HAMPDEN – The Board of Selectmen unanimously selected Whately Town Administrator Brian Domina to be Hampden's next town administrator. The decision was made during the Jan. 29 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Domina has a clause in his contract that requires him to give one month notice to Whately before departing. It is expected he will arrive in Hampden around March 1.

Overview

The town narrowed its search to three candidates with the assistance of Community Paradigm Associates, LLC. Each candidate interviewed for approximately 45 minutes on the afternoon of Jan. 18.

Domina beat out Christopher Caputo and Ryan McNutt. Domina has served as Whately's town administrator since 2016 and was previously a senior planner for the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Caputo currently serves as Agawam's treasurer/tax collector and had previous expe-

rience serving in the same role in Springfield. McNutt served as Palmer's town manager from July 2019 until November 2023 and was previously the city manager in Claremont, N.H. from February 2017 to February 2019.

The Decision Process

The Selectmen began Monday's meeting by thanking outgoing Town Administrator Bob Markel for his four-plus years of service to the town. The board also expressed gratitude to each candidate who interviewed.

Board Chair Donald Davenport praised the three department heads who weighed in on the selection process, although he would have liked to see more participate.

"I'm a little disappointed that more didn't (weigh in), but for the three who did – the Chief of Police, the Highway Superintendent and the Building Commissioner – we appreciate their comments on who they thought might be the best candidate," Davenport said.

Davenport also critiqued the Open Meeting Law, which prevented the Selectmen from meeting privately to discuss their decision. Davenport, John Flynn and Craig Rivest did not get an opportunity to weigh the candidates together before the Jan. 29 meeting.

"We haven't had any delib-

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Brian Domina

Select Board approves moving forward on casino mitigation grant

The application will be requested by the police department

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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WILBRAHAM – The Select Board approved on Jan. 29 for Police Chief Ed Lennon to move forward on applying for a Casino Mitigation grant.

Lennon explained the grant is from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, available yearly to municipalities to cover several areas, including public safety-related items "if they are mitigating some sort of impact from the casino to the community and public safety."

"Last year, we did a software upgrade to several of our radios.

It was a \$42,000 app to Mass Gaming that was approved," Lennon said.

This year, Lennon said the application process is going "a little bit differently" in assessing risk for each community, with the police department proposing several requests.

First are two solar-powered highway message boards significantly smaller from one they currently have costing \$18,000 each for a grand total of approximately \$36,000.

"As part of the grant, we believe that the two roads in town that are considered impacted by the casino, which would be Boston Road and Springfield Street. Those are roadways, which my understanding, are designated by Mass Gaming, has at least one percent of the traffic of the casinos for patrons and employees," Lennon said.



The Wilbraham Select Board met on Jan. 29 and discussed moving forward on a casino mitigation grant.

Second is cameras for Boston Road to help potentially record license plates for the department's camera system.

"We are asking for four of those. One is the Springfield line, one at the Palmer line on Boston Road. The one at the Springfield

line would record eastbound traffic. The Palmer line would do westbound traffic. The police station would have two cameras going eastbound and westbound traffic," Lennon said. "I would be asking for approximately \$43,000 for those cameras."

Third is a multi-lens camera on the police department's main radio transmitter site.

"That site is not only for the towns of Hampden and Wilbraham, but it's also a critical site for the states, what they call the cold air interoperability radio system. That goes to a lot of state public safety agencies, many which interact with the casino," Lennon said. "So, we're making the connection there that getting that camera up there would be important for us to monitor the site for any kinds of issues that would be up there and that's a

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Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

Wilbraham author to present new book at the library

Tim Symington will discuss 'Huzza! Toasting a New Nation, 1760-1815'

By Dalton Zbierski
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WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham author Tim Symington is excited to present his new book, "Huzza! Toasting a New Nation, 1760-1815" at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Symington completed the book last year. It goes into great detail discussing the history of raising a glass to give a toast, which was a carefully orchestrated ritual in the late 18th Century and early 19th Century.

Symington noted that the toasts offer glimpses into what Americans honored at specific moments in the years ranging from the beginning of the American Revolution to the end of the War of 1812. He completed extensive research to compile his findings.

"Basically, the book is a continuation of my master's thesis; I got my master's in 2018," Symington said. "I studied the political drinking toasts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I heard a lecture by one of my professors; he read over a list of toasts, and I never heard toasts presented that way, so it really intrigued me."

Symington received his master's degree from Adams State University in Colorado through an online program with the Gilder Lehrman Institute. While the class was virtual, Symington was required to travel to Colorado to defend the thesis.

"The course that gave me the idea re-

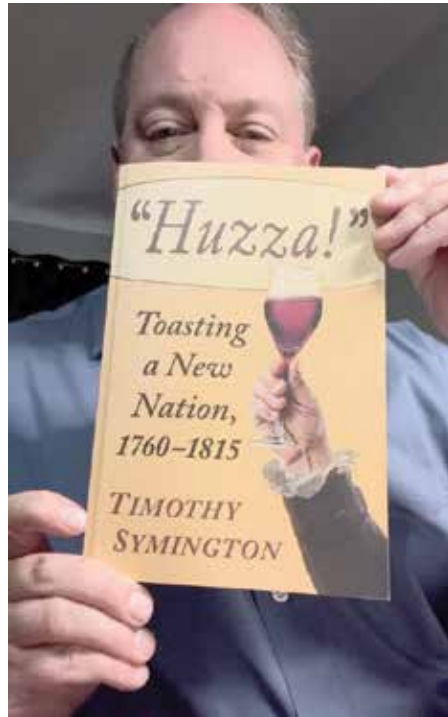


Photo submitted by Tim Symington
Wilbraham author Tim Symington will present at the Wilbraham Public Library on the evening of Feb. 12.

garding toasts was on the American Revolution," he said. "I started looking at the toasts printed in the newspapers or in people's letters in Massachusetts to better my thesis, and I just felt I wasn't done. People suggested, 'Why don't you look at all the other states,' so I started researching all the toasts I could find from all the states that were colonies in 1760 up to after the War of 1812."

It took about three years for Symington to complete the process and release "Huzza! Toasting a New Nation, 1760-

1815". Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Symington found that many resources were digitized, making it relatively easy for him to access the materials.

During that time, Symington looked through archives of newspapers and read books, looking for a mention of a text in a footnote that would reveal where it came from.

"Then, I would end up getting another book and looking that up. There were a lot of places I actually found these things," he said.

Symington said that many toasts were printed in newspapers; he analyzed lists of toasts to discover what people considered to be important, what events were significant and what people were outstanding at that time.

"It changed from month to month, year to year," Symington said. "Whenever there was a big event like a banquet or a dinner, people wrote toasts with the purpose to print them and publish them. So, the toast would go before a committee. It would be reviewed and edited for publication."

Symington took time to see if something was said differently in Virginia as opposed to Connecticut or Georgia, for example. Surprisingly, he said there were not a lot of differences.

"I think what the toasts kind of did was created one union of states, which was very interesting," he said.

Symington said the biggest challenge he experienced during the process was

that a lot of newspapers reprinted other papers' toasts and a lot of papers copied each other.

"I'd look up 40 toast lists and only end up with five original ones. I think that was the biggest issue," Symington said. "Another issue I came into was just finding out who was being talked about and what was the subject. At one point I ended up abandoning the work altogether so I could take some online classes just so I would know more about the history of some of the things I was talking about."

Symington, a former adult services librarian in Wilbraham, is excited to return to the library. Although he is admittedly nervous for his presentation, he looks forward to educating an audience about his unique research.

"I tried to think (what to do) if I only have 45 minutes to talk about what's important in my book," Symington said. "I just sat down and started going through the chapters and trying to present the book as a brief overview and putting together a PowerPoint presentation to show the people who are being talked about."

Symington said originality is the book's selling point. He invites residents to learn about history in a different way on Feb. 12.

"No one has presented history this way. It's just an original lense to look at historical events and find out what was said about people. These were the original tweets," he said.

Scholarship and Fellowship funds available

WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund, located in Westfield, has scholarship and fellowship money available for graduates of Hampden County public and private high schools. Graduating high school seniors and students already in college may apply for Scholarships of \$12,000. Those in their final year of college and previous college graduates pursuing advanced degrees may apply for Fellowships of \$15,000. Applicants must maintain at least a B average in college and be enrolled as full-time students.

Awards are made based on both academic achievement and financial need. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance and their goals in pursuing higher education.

Last year, \$316,000 was awarded to 30 individuals. Scholarships were given to 22 graduating seniors from nine Hampden County high schools. Three scholarships were also awarded to current college stu-

dents to assist them in completing their undergraduate degrees. Five fellowships were given to college graduates pursuing advanced degrees, who had graduated from Hampden County high schools.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, established in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950.

Completed applications must be received either electronically or by mail to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15, 2024. Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

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School Committee learns more about the Wilbraham-Hampden Academic Trust

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The School Committee heard from the Wilbraham-Hampden Academic Trust on Jan. 18 about what they do for students and the school system.

W.H.A.T., established in 2003, is a nonprofit organization comprised of parents and friends in the district investing in the schools and teachers, having funded over \$200,000 in grants to teachers to support programming for children.

Vice President & Committee Chair Mark Atkin, joined by current President Michael Stachowicz, explained the organization was started by a different group and did events, including spelling bees, to raise money to provide grants.

"Unfortunately, after a few years that fell apart, and then myself and five others in 2015 decided to try and revive the W.H.A.T., which has been really exciting for us," Atkin said.

Atkin highlighted some of the grants given out between 2022 and 2023, totaling over \$60,000.

"So, at Minnechaug (Regional High School), we've done the studio equipment to run a fully appointed film and broadcasting video room, music education classes and musical performances for World Language Week, which is super important. In chemistry, we provided a goggle sanitizer and cabinets for new goggles.

We've also done standing desks for math class," Atkin said. "We've also done a new classroom phonics-based library for beginner readers and then, most recently, we provided a new saw to Mr. Petzold. A much safer saw, newer technology for the kids in the classroom."

In addition to the high school, Wilbraham Middle School and the elementary schools received grant funding.

"At Stony Hill, we've done the playground upgrades, which include the teeter-totter, the gaga ball pit, the funnel ball and the peace path. At Green Meadows, we provided a new 3D printer and filaments," Atkin said. "And then at the middle school, we did new follow spotlights for the theater group as well as funding for the school store, and then the big one for Soule Road this year is we've pumped a lot of money into the library project, which has been really rewarding to see some of the changes at the library."

Grant applications, running Feb. 1 through April 1, can be found at www.whatfund.org/.

Atkin added two small events in collaboration with local companies and a large gala event at local venues help raise funds, hoping to garner more community support.

"It's very rewarding for us to be able to do this. We love doing it for the community, for the kids in school," Atkin said.

School Committee member Wil-

liam Bontempi said this.

"Thank you for stepping up and doing a great job for a great organization, really appreciate it," Bontempi said.

Followed by praise from Vice Chair Sean Kennedy.

"It's really amazing what you've been able to do, so, no really, thank you so much. These projects that you funded, it's really great," Kennedy said.

Soule Road Elementary School Principal Mistie Parsons shared grant funds from W.H.A.T. have supported several projects, including the library, having miniature golf and lessons in physical education classes, materials for flexible walls and other gym equipment to hold many activities at once and more.

"We're just thrilled at Soule to have W.H.A.T. as partners and so I just wanted to stamp our appreciation," Parsons said.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost hopes W.H.A.T.'s profile can be raised more, offering his thanks to the organization.

"Perhaps, as part of the process moving forward, we may want to have a night where the gifts are accepted. I think that might also apply to some other groups that help to support the school, so just so that we can have a sort of formal way to thank you for all you do to help the students in the district," Provost said.

BBB warns about scammers posing as friends

If a friend asks for a favor, you do it, no questions asked. Right? Time to rethink that policy.

In this new con, a scammer poses as a friend asking for a simple favor. The email is so convincing that Better Business Bureau staff almost fell for it.

How this scam works

You get an email that appears to be from a friend or family member. The message looks harmless and casual - like something a friend might really write.

For example, one version reads: "Hi, how are things going with you?"

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b u s y ? I
n e e d a
q u i c k
f a v o r ."
T h e

message even ends with "Sent from my iPhone."

Concerned about your friend, you reply and ask for more details. The "friend" quickly responds that they are trying to buy a gift card for their niece's birthday.

However, they are traveling and having trouble purchasing the card online. "Could you get it from any local grocery store around you?" reads the email. "I'll pay you back as soon as I am back."

The request sounds reasonable. But if you do buy the gift card, your "friend" will ask you to share the card's PIN and/or send a photo of the back of the card.

Unfortunately, by doing this you are essentially handing money to the scammer. It's nearly impossible to get the money back because gift cards do not have the same protec-

tions as credit or debit cards.

How to avoid similar scams

Reach out to your friend directly - If you get an unusual request, call or text your friend to confirm their story. No matter how harmless the story sounds, always double-check before sending someone money.

Use gift cards wisely - Never do business with anyone who insists on payment with gift cards. Remember, providing the numbers from the back of a gift card is just like sending cash.

For more information about this scam and others, visit BBB.org.

If you've spotted a scam (whether or not you've lost money), report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help others avoid falling victim to scams.



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Select Board raises questions about FY25 budget proposal item

Also, updates on Annual Town Meeting date

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM – The Select Board raised questions on Jan. 29 on a fiscal year budget item surrounding equipment used during the Annual Town Meeting.

The item, presented by Town Administrator Nick Breault during the first of three presentations on the FY25 Budget Proposal, concerns a funding request of \$5,000 from facilities.

Breault explained how since the COVID-19 pandemic, a third-party vendor was employed to provide technology for the Annual Town Meeting, held at Minnechaug Regional High School. It has been paid out of professional services from the Select Board budget.

“I’d like to propose here that we make it a permanent thing even though it is, admittedly,



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

From the left, Select Board Clerk Michael Squindo, Chairman Theresa Goodrich and Vice Chairman Sue Bunnell listen as Town Administrator Nick Breault explains the FY25 Budget Proposal—the first presentation of it—alongside City Treasurer Barbara Hancock during the Jan. 29 Select Board meeting in Wilbraham.

pricey,” Breault said. “This is approximately what it costs to do the setup and to have what we have sound-wise and visual-wise at our Annual Town Meeting.”

Breault cautioned if the item does not receive continued funding, the town would have to rely

on the high school’s equipment.

“Our IT Department, our Public Access Department, doesn’t know until the week before, generally speaking, at most what kind of equipment, what shape the equipment’s in,” Breault said. “And again, I’m not

trying to say that this district is not a good steward of the equipment that’s there, but they’re there for 364 days. We’re there for one and it, as a school, can be used in a lot of different ways.”

After the board asked questions about the equipment, Chairman Theresa Goodrich said, “That’s a lot of money.”

“I had no idea that we spent that much money for sound, and they have microphones, they have wireless mics that kids mic up when they’re doing plays and things like that,” Goodrich said.

Select Board member Michael Squindo said how the School Committee recently purchased “a very nice microphone system.”

“I don’t know how much it would shave off this, but is there an opportunity to utilize in-house equipment that exists through the district?” Squindo said. “Again, I don’t know that you’re going to shave \$3,000, but just to find out is there an opportunity to use that equipment?”

Goodrich later said, “I think we need to look at this practically.”

“I think we need to serious-

ly look at the money that we’re spending and try to find ways to cut and that’s \$5,000 that we can save and use somewhere else or, more, productively. That’s my opinion,” Goodrich said.

Breault later provided an update on the Annual Town Meeting date, which has been a topic of discussion during prior meetings.

He said the high school staff is reviewing the other proposed dates, explaining he thinks Monday, May 13, “is probably not going to be a date.”

“Our general council has stated that they will not be able to provide coverage, unfortunately, even with a stand-by person,” Breault said. “Just waiting to hear back about the proposed Sundays and hope to have more information.”

A proposal regarding the middle school for the other proposed dates is also under consideration.

“They haven’t had a chance to get back to me on it, but they’re looking into it,” Breault said.

Springfield Garden Club offers \$2,000 scholarship

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Garden Club is accepting applications for their annual \$2,000 scholarship awarded to a graduating high school senior, undergraduate or graduate college student majoring in a full-time plant science or environmental studies program, such as horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, botany, agronomy, plant pathology, environmental control, land man-

agement or other allied fields.

The candidate must be a resident of Hampden County, demonstrate financial need and have adequate academic standing. High school seniors, undergraduate and graduate college students are eligible for consideration.

For additional information and to request a copy of the application contact Jane Glushik at SGCscholarship@gmail.com.

Scholarship applications are to be complete and meet the submission deadline of April 1, 2024, to be eligible for consideration.

The SGC has awarded over \$80,000 to more than 50 students during the past 30 plus years. Funds for the scholarship are raised at the annual plant sale held each year in the Spring. The Annual Plant Sale this year will be held at Forest Park on Sumner Avenue on Saturday, June 1 from 9AM to noon.

For more information on the Springfield Garden Club events go to www.springfieldgardenclubma.org or visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldMAGardenClub/>

Wilb. to receive \$54,358 Green Communities Grant

BOSTON – State Rep. Angelo J. Puppulo, Jr. (D- SPRINGFIELD) is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources’ Green Communities Division has awarded the Town of Wilbraham a \$54,358 Green Communities grant to help fund a variety of energy conservation measures. Wilbraham was designated as a Green Community in 2018, and this is the town’s second Green Communities Competitive Grant.

The grant will help Wilbraham make green improvements to facilities including their IT Building, Library, and Little

Red School House as well as assist with funding of two new Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid vehicles.

“I am pleased to support this funding which will help to cut municipal costs for Wilbraham while creating a greener and more sustainable future for the community,” Puppulo said.

The GCD of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources provides competitive grants, technical assistance and local support from Regional Coordinators to help municipalities reduce energy use and costs by implementing clean energy projects.

Christ the King-Epiphany Church, Rice Fruit Farm partner to tackle hunger

WILBRAHAM – Rice Fruit Farm is partnering with Christ the King-Epiphany Church in Wilbraham to fight hunger while supporting the national outreach initiative of the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING.

On Feb. 10, between 9 a.m. and Noon, bring and donate non-perishable food items to Rice Fruit Farm and receive a free cup of coffee

or tea. All food and monetary donations will be received and presented at Christ the King-Epiphany church for a blessing on Feb. 11 and will be given to the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard.

As we celebrate the NFL Super Bowl, please remember those who have little or no food to celebrate at all: a simple prayer: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup.”



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VIEWPOINTS

Will withdrawing from 401(k) affect my Social Security?

Dear Rusty

My full retirement age (FRA) is 66 and 8 months, which I'll reach in September 2024. I'm still working three days a week. I want to cash in my 401K and want to know if I have to wait until my FRA for IRS purposes or can cash it in anytime in 2024. I don't want to affect my Social Security or end up paying taxes on my benefits.

Signed: Seeking to Avoid Taxes

Dear Seeking

We're not experts on IRS matters here at the AMAC Foundation so I can't address 401(k) questions, but we can provide information on your Social Security circumstances and how 401(k) withdrawals may affect your SS. I assume from your question that you are now receiving early Social Security and wish to avoid any tax consequences thereto by cashing in your 401(k), as well as from working. Here's what you need to know:

Since you will reach your Full Retirement Age in 2024, your 2024 work earnings limit will be \$59,520 up to the month you reach FRA. If you were born in January 1958, you'll attain FRA in September 2024. After you have reached your FRA there is no longer a Social Security limit to how much you can earn from working, so your work earnings thereafter will not affect your monthly Social Security benefit regardless of how much you earn. If your part time work between January and August 2024 won't put you over the \$59,520 limit, your work earnings will not negatively affect your gross monthly Social Security benefit.

Assuming you are on Medicare, the premium for which is deducted from your Social Security payment, withdrawals from your 401(k)



might affect your net monthly Social Security payment in two years hence. Medicare premiums are based upon your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year. If your 401(k) withdrawal(s) put you over an income threshold for your tax filing status, you may be required to pay an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount on top of the standard Medicare premium. That IRMAA supplement would be deducted from your Social Security, which would affect the net amount of your Social Security payment. Your Medicare premium for each coming year is determined by your combined income from two years prior, so if you "cash in" your 401(K) in 2024, it would affect your net Social Security payments in 2026.

Whether you will pay income tax on your Social Security benefits is determined by your combined income from everywhere, which the IRS calls your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income." MAGI is your income from all sources except ROTH IRA withdrawals and includes half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year.

If you file your taxes as a single, and your MAGI is over \$25,000 or if you file your taxes as "married-jointly" and your MAGI is over \$32,000 then 50% of the Social Security benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS (at

your normal IRS tax rate). But if your MAGI as a single filer is more than \$34,000 – or as a married/jointly filer over \$44,000 – then up to 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS.

So, to recap:

Your part time work earnings in 2024 won't affect your monthly Social Security benefit, unless your 2024 work earnings prior to September 2024 exceed \$59,520.

Depending on the amount of your 401(k) withdrawals, your 2026 net Social Security payments may be impacted by Medicare's IRMAA provision. But your 401(k) withdrawals will not affect your gross Social Security payments.

Depending on the amount of your 401(k) withdrawals, some of the Social Security benefits received during the 2024 tax year will likely be subject to income tax. That is, if your annual total income, including your 401(k) withdrawals, exceeds the MAGI thresholds described above.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature 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.



I purchased some paper white bulbs early in December, figuring I'd need some flower power come January.

Four bulbs were planted in potting soil in an old tureen bowl that I found at the local recycling center swap shed. I covered the soil in moss I saved from my yard and honest to goodness when those bulbs burst into bloom about a month after planting, I felt pretty proud of myself for creating such a chic display.

Now what to do with it? Usually, when paper whites are forced in pebbles, or just plain water, they are a once and done kind of experiment. But because I planted them in decent potting soil, there may be hope for re-bloom.

Read on to see how it's done.

First, it's important to think about how bulbs work. They are a self-contained unit that has everything in that unit to bloom the first time no matter what, as long as basic environmental needs are met.

Pretty impressive.

For bulbs to bloom again, we have to make sure that unit gets re-charged. I read once to think of the bulb as a solar battery – that's not far off!

For typical daffodil bulbs that are planted in the ground that means removing spent flowers, keeping the foliage intact until it yellows, and giving the plant a little fertilizer or a compost top dressing if the soil isn't fertile. Now that we understand, we can use this information to re-charge our hyacinth bulbs.

The flowers are still on my chic display, but they are definitely gone by. I will snip off the spent blooms.

Next, I will put the tureen in a sunny window. To be honest, I had placed it in my pantry when it was in bloom.

My husband found the fragrance a little too overpowering and not to his liking. Over the years I have found that people either love it

Re-blooming paper whites

or hate it and sadly he leans toward the latter of the two.

But, because it was placed in the window of a cool room, it grew upright without falling over, and the flowers lasted close to three weeks! Now that I have the pot of foliage in a sunny window, I will sprinkle a little bulb fertilizer on the soil surface and water it in.

Choose one that has both nitrogen for the leaves and phosphorus for the bulb. The numbers on the fertilizer indicate NPK: Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium.

We want to encourage those leaves to photosynthesize and make energy to build up the reserves in the bulb. Fertilization will happen monthly as long as the leaves are green.

The leaves will grow for longer than you might think, maybe even into late spring and summer. I'll put the pot outside in the sunshine once the weather warms up enough.

Eventually, though, the leaves will yellow and brown. Once they do it's time to cut them

back and let the soil dry out completely, after which the bulbs can be removed.

Give them a couple of days in the sun to dry out further. The outer skin of the bulbs will get papery.

Now it is time to store them in a brown paper bag until planting. Old panty hose or onion bags would also work.

I will replant my paper white bulbs during Advent, and with any luck, all of my work will pay off with blooms when I need it the most – this time next year! And maybe every year thereafter!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.



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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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MARKEL from page 1

steps in. There are five of us; two for management, two for labor and a chair. I'll be one of the management side people."

Markel was asked to step into the position by his friend, Dan Morgado, who was leaving the committee. Markel said it's been talked about since last August, and he is excited to finally begin in the role.

Reflecting on his time in Hampden, Markel is confident that much was accomplished. He emphasized that the accomplishments are not his; rather they are shared by the town.

One issue Markel is proud to have helped with is response times. When he began in Hampden, then-Police Chief Jeff Farnsworth approached him noting that the average response time to a medical call in town was around 20 minutes.

"Well, if somebody has a serious health crisis, stroke or heart attack, 20 minutes before the ambulance arrives – you're going to lose people. (Farnsworth) said you have to do something about it," Markel said.

At the same time, the town's dispatch operation was not up to date, as equipment was in need of replacement and it required more than one operator, as an operator is mandated to stay on a call even if another comes in.

Speaking to Wilbraham and WEST-COMM Regional Dispatch in Chicopee, Markel and the board began considering a consolidation. The state had an incentive plan for such action, and Markel said the savings were phenomenal, as the state covered the cost of the contract for the first three years and offered discounts for the following two years.

"How do you turn that down? The cost we were paying for dispatch was about \$450,000, and so, we said, 'Let's consolidate dispatch and use the savings that we have to improve ambulance services.' So, we contracted with Action Ambulance, and their response time now averages about five minutes and 13 seconds," Markel said.

Markel noted that Hampden doesn't have much street crime and has very few fires.

"The main threat to the safety of the public is poor ambulance service," he said. "I think the Selectmen and I are very pleased and proud that we were able to improve ambulance services and get better dispatch services as well."

During Markel's tenure, Hampden also received a grant to upgrade its Human Resources program. The town hired the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management at UMass Boston to prepare an HR program, whereby jobs are classified into grade levels, and within each grade level there are steps.

"It has worked well I think, and it is a much more rational approach to managing your workforce than just picking a number out of the air and making a deal," Markel said.

Markel said that something everyone can be happy about is that there is good morale in Town Hall and town employees are reasonably well-compensated.

"Good morale is critically important in any organization, particularly government because if your workforce is unhappy and angry at you, they won't talk to you," he said. "They won't tell you stuff you need to know. The advantage I have here with good morale is that people will come and tell me if there's problems. We get to solve them rather than just allowing them to fester."

Since he arrived in Hampden, Markel has helped land the town approximately \$8 million in grants. He said the way Massachusetts government works is that property taxes and fees pay for basic services such as salaries, but grant-funding is required to do anything creative or out of the ordinary.

Markel said it is amazing the number of agencies that will fund grants and he believes the grants that the town has received have been very helpful.

Lastly, Markel has tried to move the town offices away from paper as much as possible by implementing Laserfiche, an enterprise content management or document management software that takes manual processes and streamlines them. He is working to use grant money to hire a firm to digitize the old files in the file cabinets that are crowding the town offices.

"You can't eliminate all paper in government; some is legally required to be held in paper format, but we don't need to keep lining up filing cabinets along the wall. That's another significant initiative, grant-funded again, that I think will pay off for the town," Markel said.

As the former mayor of Springfield, Markel was asked what the difference is between a position serving 155,000 residents and one serving 4,990 people. He said he is asked the question often.

"The answer to that is we all live big and small under the same set of regulations and laws at the federal and state level. So, being a town administrator in this position, it's much more hands-on," Markel said, noting that as a mayor, he had a team to complete assignments that he completes by himself as a town administrator.

"I have to say that I put in as much time here as I did as mayor. It's just the way it is," he added.

When asked what makes Hampden unique, Markel said that relations among the Selectmen are civil.

"We read in the paper all the time about crazy stuff that goes on in other towns. People are civil here," Markel said. "They don't do personal attacks. The same thing with the workforce here; everyone gets along. I don't think we have a lot of interpersonal conflict, and that makes working here pleasant, let me tell you."

While Markel is sad to leave Hampden, it's a process he's experienced many times. He said one doesn't just make a clean break; he will continue to read the local newspapers to discover what current events are happening in Hampden.

"Over time, you tend to let go, but for a year or two, I'll pay a lot of attention to what's going on here," Markel said. "I will leave but will still keep an eye on what's going on, still talk to people from time to time that I know. That's just the way it is. I think everybody's like that too. A clean break, especially when you've been deeply involved in certain projects, you just don't walk away. You wonder, 'Is it going forward? Is everything okay? Did we do it right?' And things like that."

Editor's Note: Thank you, Bob Markel, for your consistent availability to this paper over the past four-plus years. You have been a tremendous resource, and we at The Wilbraham-Hampden Times will definitely miss you. Best of luck in your new position!

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity embraces energy-savings initiatives

By Brandice J. O'Brien
Marketing and Communications
Manager, Greater Springfield Habitat
for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Energy savings and green products are all the rage right now. Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity, or GSHFH, is working tirelessly to provide their homeowners and prospective partner families with environmentally-friendly products that help them save on utility costs, while keeping expenses low. That's not an easy feat considering inflation and limited resources. Yet, the nonprofit organization is able to accomplish this achievement through fundraisers, donations and grants.

Sometimes, it's the small changes that make the biggest difference. GSHFH is now incorporating electric mini split heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems to avoid using fossil fuels. In some instances, based on location and home design, tankless water heaters or air-sourced water heaters are installed.

"Our goal is to provide our partner families with an energy-friendly home that will allow them to save money, while protecting their investment for many years to come," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. "We want them to pass their home to the next generation of family members and provide them with a solid foundation for a better, more stable future."

Energy-friendly products range from solar panel installation, the use of Low-E glass windows, to a plant-based fiber insulation called HempWool; light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures, and the affiliate's first-ever insulated concrete form (ICF) home.

Solar panel installation can help a family significantly cut their electric bill and the use of Low-E glass windows lets in natural light while reflecting inside heat back into the home during the winter months. During the summer, outside heat is reflected away from the home.

LED fixtures reduce energy usage and programmable thermostats provide heating and cooling only during the times it was most needed. Plus, Energy-Star appliances, which are rated for maximum energy efficiency and cost savings, are used.

HempWool is a US Department of Agriculture-certified bio-based insulation that is naturally mold and pest re-



Dean student working with rebar at Chestnut.



WNEU Pharm Club putting in HempWool at Holyoke.

sistant. It's also resistant of volatile organic compounds and toxins. It's easy to install, doesn't sag, and like the Low-E glass, lowers the energy bills for heat in the winter, cooling in the summer, and general comfort.

"It's a lot less itchy to handle," said

Please see **HABITAT**, page 13

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries

should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

John Armando Raschi, 1947 – 2024

AMHERST – John Armando Raschi, 76, died peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, at the Fisher Home in Amherst, surrounded by his loving family. John was born in Springfield on Jan. 28, 1947, to the late Armando “Fat” Raschi and Yolanda “Yolli” (Stradelli) Raschi and grew up on Mereline Avenue in East Longmeadow. He graduated in 1964 from East Longmeadow High School where he was known as “The Crusher” to his friends because of his love for hot rods, including his own Chevy 409. He had many nostalgic memories from the good ol’ days at the Polar Whip. After high school, he enlisted in the Army Reserves and was stationed at Fort Drum N.Y. where he served as an expert rifleman for six years being honorably discharged in 1972. He then married his high school sweetheart, Judith Wood (now Slattery), and they have two children together, John and Jill.

John owned Hamden Hardware in the early 70’s where he

gained tremendous knowledge, which led him to working in the plumbing and hardware industry for decades. Along the way, he worked for his best friend from high school, Terry Liberatori, at Art-Tec in Wilbraham, where he helped design and manufacture architectural signs for local businesses. It was then that John also decided to start his own business designing and building colonial furniture and antique checkerboards which he would later sell at the Cape.

John had a wacky sense of humor, which everyone adored. He was a big lover of Seinfeld and really appreciated making fun of life’s ridiculous moments. He appreciated so many things like a beautiful sunset, wildlife and all kinds of music. He had many talents and interests, but he had an undeniable love and passion for the water and fishing. With the help of many of his close friends, he spent countless hours restoring several boats throughout the years, most

recently restoring a 23’ Tsunami Seacraft, named King Temper. King, for “king salmon” and Temper, because he had a hot Italian temper. Very fitting if you knew him. His early days were spent on the Quabbin Reservoir, but his home away from home was Olcott, N.Y., on Lake Ontario where he fished with his best buddy Bob Lovotti and Bob’s son Jimmy. He had many friends in the Olcott community as well as all his close friends who were near and dear to his heart; Jim & Karen Everts at the Boat Doctors, Joe Merton, Tom Rossatti, Pat Edwards, the late Dave Bedard, Geoff Downs, Cliff and Kent Hutchinson and all the guys from Lynn Ladder & Scaffolding, where he last worked before he retired.

Out of all that he has done throughout his life, his proudest accomplishments and true loves were his family and children. John is survived by his children, his son John Raschi and his wife Catlin (Dugan) Raschi, and his daughter Jill Raschi and their mother Judy Slattery, his grandson Ethan Raschi, his sister Janet Beucke



and her husband August Beucke, his nieces and nephews Caroline Beucke and her husband David Culver and their children Susannah and Anthony Culver, and August Beucke Jr. and his wife Jesamyn Angelica, his cousins, Michael Raschi and Paul Raschi and his

wife Claudine Raschi and their two children, Claudine and Adam Raschi, and Louisa Tassinari and her son Brian Tassinari and his wife Jennifer, and their daughter Karen, and many dear friends he made along his way.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his cousins Jimmy and Bobby Tassinari.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, from 10 a.m. to Noon at Forastiere Smith Funeral & Cremation at 220 N Main St., East Longmeadow, followed by a service at Noon. Burial will be at St. Michaels Cemetery, where he will be laid to rest with his parents. Donations can be made to Hospice of the Fisher Home, 1165 North Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01002. To leave an online condolence visit www.forastiere.com.

Death Notices

John Armando Raschi, 76

Died Jan. 23, 2024
Services Feb. 2, 2024
Forastiere Smith
Funeral & Cremation

Bill to criminalize revenge porn and educate minor offenders

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Ways & Means Com-

mittee) is backing efforts to crack down on “revenge porn” by supporting legislation that imposes strong penalties for sharing sexually explicit images or videos without the consent of the individual being photographed or recorded.

House Bill 4241, An Act to prevent abuse and exploitation, would also allow for the commitment of minor offenders to the Department of Youth Services while establishing an alternative comprehensive educational diversion program to help adolescents understand the legal and non-legal consequences of possessing or disseminating explicit visual material.

According to a press release, the bill was engrossed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 151-0 on Jan. 10.

Smola stated, “This legislation sends a clear message that the violation of consent will not be tolerated. I am dedicated to protecting individuals from the circulation of harmful material and fostering a safer digital landscape for all.”

According to Smola, the educational diversion program will be developed and implemented by the Attorney General in consultation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Youth Services, and the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association, and will be reviewed annually and updated as needed. The House bill also encourages school districts to implement media literacy skills instruction at all grade levels, and to incorporate aspects of the educational diversion program as a learning tool for students.

Massachusetts is one of only two states without a law banning revenge

porn, the other being South Carolina. House Bill 4241 would change that by imposing a punishment of up to 2 ½ years in a House of Correction, a \$10,000 fine, or both a fine and imprisonment for individuals found guilty of disseminating explicit visual materials of another person without their consent.

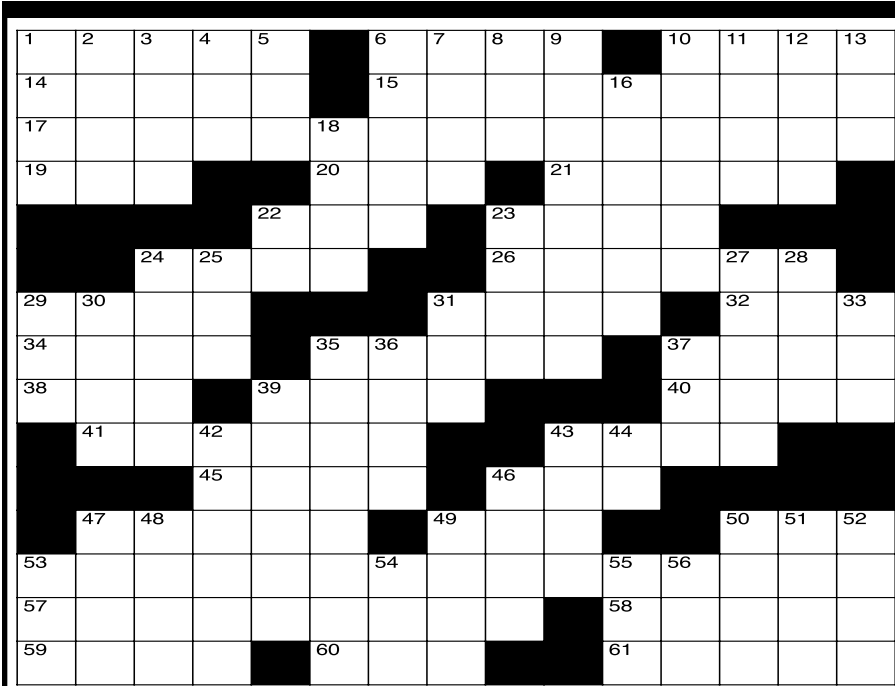
House Bill 4241 also increases the existing fine for criminal harassment from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and amends the definition of abuse to include coercive control. Under the bill, coercive control is defined as an act or pattern of behavior committed with the intent to substantially restrict an individual’s safety or autonomy through threat, intimidation, harassment, isolation, control, coercion, or compelled compliance.

Smola supported a similar bill filed by former Governor Charlie Baker during the 2021-2022 legislative session, which was engrossed by the House of Representatives on May 26, 2022. Despite unanimous support in the House, the Senate took no action on the bill until the final day of session on Jan. 3, 2023, engrossing an amended version of the bill that could not be reconciled with the House bill before time ran out.

During floor debate, Smola supported an amendment to the bill that addresses non-consensual “deepfake pornography” involving the use of digitization, which is defined as “creat(ing) or alter(ing) visual material, including, but not limited to, through the use of computer-generated images, in a manner that would falsely appear to a reasonable person to be an authentic representation of the person depicted.” The amendment stipulates that the dissemination of deepfake pornography will be punishable by up to 2 ½ years in a House of Correction, a \$10,000 fine, or both.

House Bill 4241, as amended, now moves to the Senate for its consideration.

For additional information please contact Smola by email at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or call 617-722-2100.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Become less intense
- 6. Variety of pear
- 10. Religion native to China
- 14. Type of tooth
- 15. Fitted out
- 17. Make every effort
- 19. Autonomic nervous system
- 20. Complete
- 21. Alternate name
- 22. River in France and Belgium
- 23. Miami’s mascot is one
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Most cognizant of reality
- 29. Broad volcanic crater
- 31. Canadian surname
- 32. Satisfaction
- 34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- 35. Collide
- 37. Immune response
- 38. Feline
- 39. High opinion of one’s

- own appearance
- 40. Thin strip to align parts
- 41. Containers
- 43. Convicted American spy
- 45. Breathe noisily
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. I.M. __, architect
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Dutch and German surname
- 59. Square measures 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Degrade someone

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Siberian river
- 2. Blessing
- 3. Substitutes (abbr.)
- 4. Principle underlying the universe
- 5. Work unit
- 6. Yellow edible fruits

- 7. Gemstone
- 8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
- 9. Evergreen tropical tree
- 10. Reality TV star Richards
- 11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 12. Stakes
- 13. Antidiuretic hormone
- 16. Make warm again
- 18. Light beams
- 22. Lethal dose
- 23. Terrorist group
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Naturally occurring solid
- 27. German surname meaning “man from Saxony”
- 28. Popular cuisine
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Type of horse
- 31. __ Diego
- 33. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 35. Most shrewd

- 36. It may be for shopping
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. A stock of foods
- 42. The bindings of books
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. Sammy __, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth __, American writer
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Popular type of bread
- 51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
- 52. Association of engineering professionals
- 53. Young women’s association
- 54. City
- 55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

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My Magic World Daycare provides space for fun, learning and play



Georgina Guerrero, owner of My Magic World Daycare, celebrates with family and friends after cutting the ribbon for the grand opening of her daycare on Jan. 27.



Georgina Guerrero, owner of My Magic World Daycare, poses outside her daycare after cutting the ribbon to celebrate My Magic World Daycare's official opening on Jan. 27.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
An exterior shot of the room reserved for toddlers at My Magic World Daycare on Main Street in Hampden.



From the left, Emily Mesias-Moya, Chris Moya and Georgina Guerrero, owner of My Magic World Daycare, smile for the camera as they celebrate the grand opening of My Magic World Daycare on Main Street in Hampden.



A wide shot of the indoor playground for babies and toddlers inside My Magic World Daycare on Main Street in Hampden.

The daycare is located on Main Street in Hampden

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - My Magic World Daycare has opened its doors in Hampden, providing a space for fun, learning and play.

The daycare, located at 478 Main St., is open Mondays through Fridays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., offering services for infants and children up to age six, with a Spanish class occurring once a week.

The daycare has two classrooms for infants and toddlers, an indoor playground, a playroom and more.

Owner Georgina Guerrero expressed excitement, explaining the daycare will provide laughter, play, security and love to local children. She's also looking to hire more teachers and assistants.

Guerrero, originally from Peru, has worked with children for 41 years, getting her start when she played with children at eight years old.

"So, everybody in my house went outside, I called to the little kids, 'Come here to play' so everybody (looked) at me and said, 'Oh she's the teacher.' So I was fun, I was loving with them and I loved how they are playing," Guerrero said.

From there, Guerrero went to the university and got her degree in early childhood education, later opening her first daycare.

After one month, she had 50 kids and received an award for her daycare center.

"I was grateful. For me, it pushed me to be the best," Guerrero said.

In 1998, Guerrero came to the United States, working as a teacher in Virginia and receiving another award after four months. After moving up to Connecticut and having an in-home daycare for many years, her husband encouraged her to open a care center to take on more families.

In August 2023, she found that location in Hampden and has tirelessly worked since to bring My Magic World Daycare to life.

She hopes to bring happiness and establish trust with parents, calling her daycare "a home."

"That is my goal (is) that they trust because I take care of the kids. Healthy, safety, how they are eating, how they are walking," Guerrero said. "I like the communication with the parents. Talk to them, what are their concerns, what do you think is best for your kids and then working with that."

Guerrero credits her success to God and patience throughout the process, along with support from her family.

"(As) I said before, my kids were my students, and my grandchildren were my students too. I know them as a mother, as a grandmother, I know as a babysitter, as a teacher outside my center," Guerrero said. "So, I'm very proud of them (that) they support me."

Guerrero looks forward to welcoming families, with hopes to extend her reach to surrounding communities. She added her hours are flexible to accommodate parents who work late.

"I'm here to help the parents," Guerrero said.

Guerrero wants the community to know the environment her business gives the children will help them thrive during early childhood, emphasizing wanting to be a place where she, the children, parents and staff are a family.

"For example, 'tummy time'. 'Tummy time' means it's the curriculum where the neck starts to stand up and can be super to the spine," Guerrero said. "That means, too, the physical. Emotional they are happy to see new faces and social too, looking (at) all the friends and playing together, laughing together and teaching them what it means to share."

Guerrero thanks the town for welcoming her, with plans to continue spreading the word about her daycare.

"The parents can find flyers in different places I put (them) and (I) reference the parents (to) the sign on the wall (when people are driving)," Guerrero said.

To learn more, call 413-566-1444 or email mymagicworld19@gmail.com.



An exterior shot of the room reserved for infants inside My Magic World Daycare on Main Street in Hampden.



SOUP COOK OFF

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023
1:00 pm til 3:00 pm

LIGHT UP PALMER would like to ask for your support of Tailgate Tavern's Soup Cook Off

Spend a few hours together at the tavern, have a chance to win door prizes, and vote for your favorite soup... Prizes are awarded for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Stop by the Tavern now and ask the Tailgate bartender for the sign-up sheet to enter a soup. Come, enjoy the fun! *Soup, Prizes and Monetary Donations are accepted.*

Proceeds from the Soup Off will go toward additions and maintenance of Light Up Palmer's community programs; including the Purple Heart banner, American flag and flower display on Main Street, Depot Village, as well as the Xmas holiday decorations and event. LUP thanks the Tailgate Tavern, their employees, and patrons for their continued support of our efforts to honor resident Veterans who have received the Purple Heart medal. *If you, or someone you know is a recipient and does not currently have a banner recognition, please see the Town of Palmer's Veterans agent (Tina Brohman) to have their name added.*

With Sincere Thanks to the Tailgate Tavern
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Life in **WILBRAHAM**

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.

WILBRAHAM



The Hampden Senior Center celebrated National Pie Day on Monday, Jan. 22. Seniors enjoyed each other's companies as they had a slice (or two) of delicious pie. Many smiles could be seen, as seniors enjoyed National Pie Day. Photos courtesy of the Hampden Senior Center.

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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Community Bulletin Board

*Happy 5th Birthday,
Amelia Mawla!*

Every day is special because of you! We wish you all the happiness in the world, Habibti.
Love always, Baba & Mama

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

We will pick one each week to run here free of charge, please keep it to less than 50 words. Please send to dzbierski@turley.com




On Saturday, Jan. 27, Chief of Police Edward Lennon (left) poses for a picture with Wilbraham resident Phillip King Sr. while chatting at The Shift Change Event which was held in support of The Wilbraham Police Department and Officer Cameron Proseri, who was shot after being called to a home on Old Carriage Drive on Saturday, Jan. 20. Photo courtesy of Wilbraham Photographer Peter Camyre.



At the Wilbraham "Shift Change Event" in support of Officer Cameron Proseri, Wilbraham Police Chief Edward Lennon is being interviewed by Western Mass News. Photo by Wilbraham photographer Peter Camyre.

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LLC

Events & announcements schedule

Rotary Scholarship applications now available

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club Scholarship Committee, has announced that applications for the 2024 Rotary Club scholarships are now available in the Guidance Departments of Minnechaug Regional High School, Wilbraham & Monson Academy and Pope Francis Preparatory School.

Applications are due no later than April 1, 2024. The scholarships are available to qualified high school students who are residents of Wilbraham or Hampden.

The club will again award nine scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,500. Applications may also be obtained from Brad Sperry by calling 413-537-4171.

Wilbraham Women's Club to meet Feb. 8

WILBRAHAM - The February 2024 meeting of the Wilbraham Women's Club will be held on Thursday, Feb. 8 at Noon at the St. Cecilia Parish Center on Main Street. The luncheon will be a Quiche Party, which will include Salad, Rolls, and Dessert. Reservations are required. Please call: Michelle Axtmann at 596-3325. The cost is \$12.

The speaker for the day will be David Bourcier, retired fire chief, a local historian from Wilbraham, who has a deep passion for the history of his town. With a keen eye for detail and a love of storytelling, Bourcier has become known for his engaging and informative short stories about the people and events that have shaped Wilbraham over the years.

Wilbraham Women's Club to Award Scholarships

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Women's Club will be awarding several \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors who are residents of Wilbraham or Hampden and who will be attending a four-year college or university.

The criteria considered are academic achievement, character and leadership. Applications are available in the Guidance Office at Minnechaug Regional High School. For those attending other high schools, please email Mrs. Teed, at rae.teed@gmail.com. All applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 26, 2024, to be considered.

Bobbi's Senior Trips - Hampden

HAMPDEN - The following senior trips are made available through the Hampden Senior Center. A minimum of 40 travelers are needed for any trip to run. All prices include a driver's tip. Flyers are available at the senior center on Allen Street. Coach seat assigned as your \$20 deposit is received (unless otherwise noted).

Please write a separate check to Bobbi for each trip; note trip name in the check memo.

MARCH 28, Thursday - Newport Playhouse for "The Ladies Foursome", lunch, show (a little golf, a lot of secrets), cabaret; \$125 per person. Full Payment Due March 7.

APRIL 23-25, Tuesday - Thursday - Lancaster, Pa. Amish country tour; play "Daniel" at Sight 'n' Sound Theater; \$100 per person, deposit due at sign-up; \$539 per person double; Full Payment due 3/15. Optional Cancellation Insurance. \$49 per person.

MAY 7, Tuesday - Aqua Turf show with Debby Boone, family-style lunch; \$131 per person. Full Payment Due April 19.

JULY 4, Thursday - Tanglewood lawn seats, James Taylor concert, fireworks; \$100 per person. Full Payment Due June 7.

Big Art Show of Small Works

A Scantic River Artisans exhibit
Feb. 10, 11 at Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN - Join the Scantic River Artisans for a celebration of creativity with paintings, jewelry, pottery, metalwork and a local author book signing. Uncover unique treasures and purchase the craftsmanship of talented artisans.

The two-day event will occur Feb. 10 from noon to 5 p.m. and Feb. 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The reception will be held on Feb. 11 from noon to 2 p.m.

All will occur in the Community Room at the Hampden Senior Center, located at 104 Allen St. in Hampden.

Visit the Scantic River Artisans at: www.scanticriverartisans.com. For additional information about the Artisans and exhibiting opportunities, please email: info@scanticriverartisans.com.

Great Decisions Discussion Group returns in 2024

WILBRAHAM - Registration has begun for the 2024 Great Decisions Discussion Group, to be held at the Wilbraham Public Library beginning Feb. 7. Sessions will be held in the Brooks Room on Wednesdays from 4-5:30 p.m. on Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28, and March 6, 13, 20 and 27. If any sessions are canceled for snow or other bad weather, April 3 and 10 will be used as make-up dates.

The topics from the upcoming series are Mideast Realignment, Climate Technology and Competition, Science Across Borders, U.S. - China Trade Rivalry, NATO's Future, Understanding Indonesia, High Seas Treaty and Pandemic Preparedness.

Great Decisions Groups meet all over the country - in private homes, libraries, and other venues to discuss selected topics in the area of current affairs. Participants can have their opinions tallied in a National Opinion Poll, which then gets sent to the White House, members of Congress and the national media. This is a wonderful program to learn more about what is happening in the world and to have your voice heard by people who make the decisions.

The Foreign Policy Association, which selects the key issues for discussion, publishes a briefing book for participants to read in advance so they can be informed and ready to engage. Participants can order the book from the FPA website at www.fpa.org, or by calling 1-800-477-5836. A copy of the book will also be

available at the library Service Desk for in-library reading.

Please register through the Events Calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org or call the library at 413-596-6141.

Saint Cecilia Women's Club February meeting

WILBRAHAM - The St. Cecilia Women's Club February meeting takes place on Tuesday, Feb.

13 at 6 p.m. at 42 Main St. Join us for a fun filled night of games, prized and delicious treats. Kim Lawler will provide her excellent party skills to make this a memorable "Fat Tuesday"!

Please bring a nutritious snack to this meeting for adults and children in need. Thank you!

Cosmic Bracelet Class: Unveil the power of your zodiac gemstone

Presented by the Scantic River Artisans
Feb. 22 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN - Embark on a celestial journey with our exclusive workshop designed to deepen your connection with the universe and express your unique essence through a personalized gemstone bracelet.

In this enchanting class, you'll explore the profound meanings behind the gemstone associated with your zodiac sign unlocking the hidden energies and traits that make you truly one-of-a-kind.

Our experienced instructors will guide you through the art of bracelet-making, providing tips and tricks to ensure your creation is not only visually stunning, but also aligned with your zodiac's distinctive energy.

The event will occur on Thursday, Feb. 22 from 6 - 8 p.m. in the Community Room of the Hampden Senior Center, located at 104 Allen St.

The cost to sign up is \$20 and includes wine and one bracelet. To sign up, contact Sue Superson at sjsrightr@aol.com.

Town Clerk: Nomination papers are available

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Town Clerk Carole J. Tardif is announcing that nomination papers are available in her office by calling 596-2800 ext. 200 and setting up an appointment. The last day to

obtain nomination papers is Wednesday, March 27, 2024, for the Annual Town Election scheduled for May 18, 2024.

The positions being voted that day are Selectman for three years, Town Clerk for three years, Moderator for three years, Assessor for three years, two Regional School Committee members for three years, Cemetery Commissioner for three years, Water Commissioner for three years, two Library Trustees for three years, one Planning Board Member for five years.

The deadline for submission to the Registrars for certification is Friday, March 29, 2024, at 5 p.m. Town Clerk's office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 50 signatures from registered Wilbraham voters are required to have a name listed on the ballot as a candidate. A letter stating the candidate's name, address and the office being sought must be submitted at the time of the request to the Town Clerk. Contact the Town Clerk's Office at 596-2800, ext. 200 if you have any questions.

Spiritual Healing to return to Federated Community Church

HAMPDEN - The Federated Community Church of Hampden, located on Main Street, will be offering Spiritual Healing on the first Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

Wilbraham Men's Glee Club to begin rehearsals

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club began rehearsals for the 2024 concert season on Monday evening, Jan. 8, 2024, at Christ The King Lutheran/Episcopal Church, Wilbraham at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will continue each Monday thereafter at Christ The King Lutheran/Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. until local performances in late April.

The chorus is conducted by Ray Drury and accompanied by Marcia Jackson. Drury has selected a varied program for Men's voices consisting of contemporary works, folksongs, pop tunes and sea shanties.

Interested singers should be able to "carry a tune" and be willing to pay a nominal fee for sheet music. No audition is required. Hope to see you there!

This Week in Rec

Dan Beauregard
Program Coordinator

WILBRAHAM - It is the end of January, and winter recreation programs are in full swing, which can only mean one thing. It is time to register for Falcon Recreation Baseball!

Recreation Baseball consists of our Tee-Ball program, Pinto Baseball (Grades 1/2), and our Grades 3-8 Rec teams that are divided by Grades 3/4, 5/6 and 7/8. Grades 3-8 Rec teams play in local leagues with teams from surrounding towns. Tee-Ball and Pinto will play in town along with teams from Hampden. At all levels the fundamentals of hitting, fielding and throwing are taught and strengthened as the

players' progress throughout the season. For players in Grades 3-8, caregivers are encouraged to provide their child with their own bat-



ting helmet and required to provide their own glove.

Once the season starts, Tee-Ball will meet twice a week at Soule Road and Pinto Baseball will meet 2-3 times per week at Soule Road or Memorial School. Grade 3/4 plays at Memorial, while Grades 5/6 and 7/8 play at Spec Pond and they all meet 3-4 times per week.

Recreation Baseball registration is open Jan. 30 - Feb. 12, and you can register online at Wilbrahamrec.com or in the office located at 45C Post Office Park in Wilbraham. Please note that all Hampden residents have to register with the Hampden Parks and Recreation.

NOTE: To register for all of our programs and for more information, please visit WilbrahamRec.com.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover to occur Feb. 22-23

WILBRAHAM – Have you ever wondered what happens in the Wilbraham Public Library when it is closed? The WPL Teen Advisory Board announces their annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover on Thursday & Friday, Feb. 22-23 during school vacation week. Your child's stuffed animal can spend the whole night in the library having fun. Children bring their stuffed animal to the library and our teens will help them fill out a "permission slip" for their stuffed animal, listen to a bedtime story and tuck their animal in for the night. In the morning, join us to make a craft, pick up your "stuffie" and see a slideshow of all the fun things the animals did overnight! Starting on Feb. 1, sign up at the Children's desk of the library or call 413-596-6141.

WPL announces Teen Cookie Decorating: Super Mario/Nintendo workshop Feb. 20

WILBRAHAM – The Teen Department at the Wilbraham Public Library announces a Teen Cookie Decorating: Super Mario/Nintendo workshop during winter vacation on Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 3 – 4 p.m.

In this Royal Icing Cookie Decorating Workshop, teens in grades 6 - 12 will be taught to use a method called "flooding" and other specialized techniques to make four unique cookie designs. The four cookie designs will be based on the Super Mario video game and Nintendo. Mandy Roberge of Wicked Good Henna will teach this workshop.

All supplies will be provided. This program is free to attend and sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library. Online registration is required as space is limited. Register at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org, "Events", "Teens", or call the library at 413-596-6141.

TWB Clothing Drive

HAMPDEN – The Transition Program at Thornton Burgess School, at 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, is accepting new or gently used winter clothing for all ages to benefit St. Jude's Clothing Center in Holyoke.

Donations will be accepted from Feb. 5 – 16.



BOARD from page 1

connection to the casino as well. So that's about a \$5,000 ask."

Fourth is a main server the police station uses for its video system, which would also control the cameras.

"In order for us to make the server to be robust enough to do all of the things that we want to do, we would need a server. A new server would go to 96 terabytes from 84 terabytes, that's about a \$42,000 ask," Lennon said.

Lastly is software to help redact videos, including faces and voices, for \$9,500.

"So, where people are not involved in incidents of some capacity, we need to be able to redact that. We need the software to be able to do that," Lennon said.

The total amount would be just under \$137,000.

The move to approve the grant application for fiscal year 2025 municipal community mitigation funds as proposed by Lennon passed 3-0.

HABITAT from page 7

Tom Eisenman, GSHFH volunteer.

Additionally, new construction projects are built to meet the Specialized Opt-in Energy Code of Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code. The code sets significantly higher requirements for heating and cooling loads, which can be responsible for 60% of a building's energy use.

In November 2022, GSHFH began its most notable energy-efficient project yet: an ICF home. A dedication ceremony celebrating the completion of construction will be held at 11am on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 360 Chestnut St. in Holyoke. The project is a collaboration between the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association and Habitat for Humanity International to build 50 ICF homes across the country.

The insulated concrete forms are hollow foam blocks that are stacked into the shape of exterior walls of a building, reinforced with steel rebar,

and filled with concrete.

"Doing something different in construction is not easy," said Gregg Lewis, chief communications officer at NRMCA. "Construction is hard enough when you're doing the same thing day in and day out. Try to take on a new way of building and it's really a huge deal."

ICF combines one of the finest insulating materials – expanded polystyrene (EPS) with one of the strongest structural building materials – steel reinforced concrete. The result is a wall system of unmatched comfort, energy efficiency and noise reduction.

"The house will be quiet, even when it's windy and stormy outside and it'll stay nice and toasty inside," said Steve Bogle, an Integraspec local distributor.

Integraspec is the brand name of the foam blocks. Steve and his wife Cheryl, also an Integraspec distributor, worked with GSHFH in the early stages.

Unlike a traditional wood frame house with sheathing, an ICF home offers several additional benefits to the builder and homeowner. The foam panels are made from recycled material. ICF walls do not off-gas, whereas conventional walls sheathed with oriented strand board (OSB) off-gas through glues and resin. ICF walls are resistant to mold and rot, which provides a better living environment for those suffering from allergens or asthma. Also, due to the rising cost of lumber, this method significantly reduces the need for wood for framing and sheathing the exterior and less trees are cut down.

"We're excited to have built a more energy-efficient, affordable home for one of our Habitat families," Aimee said.

To see pictures from the construction phase of the ICF build, visit habitat.springfield.org/Holyoke.

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

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SENIORS

Highlights for February and beyond at the Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN – The following programs will occur at or through the Hampden Senior Center on Allen Street.

Irish Dance with Phil

Six-week session on Fridays

Begins Friday, Feb. 2 at 1 p.m.

Get your dancing shoes on and get ready for some Saint Paddy's Day fun!

Learn Irish dance moves with Phil. Right from Ireland herself, you could not ask for a better teacher.

Her Irish brogue comes at no extra cost to you. The cost is \$30 for the session when paid in full, or \$6 per class. Please call 566-5588 to sign up.

Create a Greeting Card with Ellie!

Monday, Feb. 5, 1-3 p.m.

Come and discover endless possibilities for creating your own personal greeting cards.

Meet new friends and learn new techniques each month.

The cost is \$3.00 per person; all materials are provided.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat, space is limited.

Grab & Go Super Bowl Dinner

Friday, Feb. 9, pick up from 2-2:30 p.m.

Get ready for game day! Eat it tonight or hold it over till Sunday.

Meatball Grinder, Pasta Salad, Chips, and Dessert.

The cost is \$5 per person. Please call 566-5588 starting February 2nd to order your dinner.

Celebrate Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) with us!

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Stop by for a free Donut Dip donut and coffee.

Please call 566-5588 to let us know you'll be joining us.

Sponsored by Jason Burgener, our Veteran Service Officer.

Valentine Lunch

Wednesday, Feb. 14 at Noon

Entertainment provided by Freddie Marion.

Come and enjoy a delicious meal of Baked Ziti provided by Village Food Mart, tossed salad provided by The Reserve at East Longmeadow, and a scrumptious dessert prepared by your senior center staff.

The cost is \$5 per person. Please call 566-5588 starting February 2nd to reserve your seat. Space is limited.

Sponsored by the Reserve at East Longmeadow and Village Food Mart.

You've Got Mail

Joe Green will teach a three-part class on the use of email.

Wednesdays from 9-9:45 a.m. starting March 6, 13 and 20.

Part 1: Getting started with Email - Setting up an account

Part 2: Using Email (sending and receiving emails)

Part 3: Tips & Tricks

Bring your own personal device; laptop, tablet, or mobile phone fully charged.

Sessions are free. Please call 566-5588 to sign up. Space is limited.

Winter Weather Advisory

Remember to watch channels 22 and 40 for information about cancellations.

Watch For Hampden Senior Center And Greater Springfield Senior Services For Information.

Sand for Seniors

Now through April 2024 the Hampden Fire Department and Hampden Senior Center will work together to manage the Sand for Seniors program. This program is available for anyone over the age of 60 living in Hampden. The Fire Department will deliver a FREE five-gallon bucket of sand to your home for you to use on your steps and walkways.

If you wish to have a bucket of sand delivered, please call the Senior Center at 566-5588 and leave a message with your name, address, phone #, and the location of the property where you would like the bucket delivered. If we need additional information we will call you back, otherwise, you're all set! Thanks to the Hampden Fire

Department for continuing this great program!

Hampden Resident

Emergency Fuel Fund

The Fuel Fund is available to any Hampden resident who is in a heating crisis. A resident must have received a shut-off notice from the electric company, have less than a quarter of a tank of oil, or be in another emergency heating situation.

Please call Wendy at 566-5588 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

All information provided is confidential.

The Hampden Emergency Fuel Fund is made available through private donations throughout the year. We are so grateful for the support of this valuable program.

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 for us to let people know we are thinking of them and that we are here should they need anything. Deliveries will include soups, treats, games, and more and will take place during the month of February.

Interested in delivering? Call Wendy at 566-5588.

Help Us Stock Our Shelves With Liquid Dish Soap!

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

Meet your Veteran Service Officer, Jason Burgener

Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the Hampden Senior Center.

Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

Jason is available on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hampden Townhouse auditorium.

Please call Jason directly at 413-640-0540 to schedule an appointment.

D & R Winter Farm Share

PICK-UP is on Wednesdays, Feb. 7 & 21 at 9:30 a.m.

D & R Farm is offering fresh produce twice a month FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify.

If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP, you may purchase a share for \$40 per month.

New applications are required. If interested, please contact Wendy to get your application in! Please let us know if you need your shares delivered. Shares are limited.

Please call Wendy at 566-5588, or email outreach@hampdenma.gov to sign up.

DOMINA from page 1

erations amongst each other or even spoken to each other at all about it. I understand and appreciate the need for transparency and openness, but this is one occasion where it makes it very difficult to have a frank and honest discussion about something that's so important to a town the size of Hampden," Davenport said.

Rivest said that the town was lucky to have three qualified candidates interview. He noted that Caputo interviewed first and is excellent with finance.

"He's taken on capital projects and has experience there. He had a lot of financial experience. I'm not sure if he had quite as much of the TA experience that would fit the town," Rivest said.

Domina interviewed second. Rivest complimented his understanding of the town administrator position, as he comes from a town very similar to Hampden in how it's structured.

"(Domina has) worked a lot on similar projects in Whately that Hampden has coming up, is very knowledgeable and comfortable writing grants, understands and has knowledge of IT, prefers a collaborative environment and has regional planning experience in his previous job," Rivest said.

McNutt interviewed third. Rivest was fond of his extensive experience in municipal government, his open-door policy and his comprehension of the budgeting process.

"He has a very good understanding of the TA position, has participated in collective bargaining and contract negotiations, has experience in economic development, has knowledge and is comfortable writing grants as well and has been part of a master plan writing process."

Ultimately, Rivest said there was one candidate who would be the best fit for Hampden, and that is Domina. Rivest was pleased that Domina comes from a similar government structure.

"After reading the resumes and watching the interviews again and then taking the input from the town departments, I personally feel that Brian Domina would be the best fit based on everything presented," Rivest said.

Flynn credited Rivest for detailing the experience of each candidate. Before decid-

ing, Flynn watched each candidate on television and community programs because he felt that spoke a lot to how they would interact with the board and distribute information.

"I think it's fair to say about the three candidates, if only one of them had applied, we could have made it work," Flynn said. "We would not be disappointed if we took any of them."

Like Rivest, however, one candidate stood out to Flynn. That was Domina.

"They all had good resumes in different parts, but I do agree with (Rivest) that one candidate had a fit that was better for the Town of Hampden," Flynn said. "When I watch Whately and watch their Select Board meetings, they're talking about everything we're talking about... I do think one stood out from the other two. My vote would be for Mr. Domina."

Davenport joked that "I tormented my bride for about 10 days" before she finally gave him some advice: don't let the very good get in the way of the perfect.

"It was a good point. I thought all the candidates were great and went back and forth for a long time. I too would think that Mr. Domina would be a good fit for the town," Davenport said.

The Interview Process

Domina's interview lasted just over 45 minutes, during which the Selectmen asked a variety of questions. Domina began by noting that, as town administrator for Whately, he does many of the tasks that the town administrator does in Hampden.

"I wear a lot of hats actually because it's a smaller town," Domina said. "I run the day-to-day operations of the town on behalf of the Select Board. I work with the Finance Committee for municipal planning budgeting; I'm the chief procurement officer there."

Prior to being employed by Whately, Domina worked on the Berkshire Regional Planning Board in Pittsfield, which he said is the equivalent to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. While he started as an unpaid intern, he rose the ranks to a senior position before moving on.

"I did a lot of work with planning boards, zoning wards, did work on zoning

bylaws, economic development, those types of things," Domina said.

Before working for the planning commission, Domina graduated from the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University in 2008. In 2004, he graduated from Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

Domina said Whately is a small town with approximately 1,600 people, or three times less than the size of Hampden. When asked why he applied for the position, he said he is looking for his next career move.

"For my next career move, I'd like to go to a bigger smaller town. I'm more comfortable in smaller towns. That's just what I gravitate towards; that's what I'm used to," Domina said.

Domina noted that Whately's government is very similar to Hampden's, featuring a three-person Select Board, open town meetings, a town administrator and a finance committee.

As town administrator, he managed a \$1.8 million historic rehab of the old Whately town hall through grant and CPA funding. He said he is "absolutely" comfortable grant writing and has had "pretty good" experience landing grants.

During his career, Domina has landed EPA Brownfields Program grants, Green Communities Grants, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program grants, Complete Streets grants and Municipal Small Bridge Program grants among others.

Domina said much of his work consists of day-to-day check-ins. He said he doesn't like to micromanage people but does enjoy knowing what's going on, as conversations and communication are key to serving in the role.

"If we're having issues, I would like to know about them," Domina said. "I have an open-door policy because it's a collaborative working environment, and everybody needs to work together to (achieve) the common goal."

Domina is also well-versed with IT and completes a lot of the computer replacements and software installations required for computers or printers. Whately uses Microsoft 365, and Domina is the administrator.

Domina stressed the importance of

working for the Select Board, which meets twice a month or as necessary in Whately.

"I work at the direction of the Select Board," he said. "I like to think over the seven-plus years I've been there that they've come to trust and allow me to do things. I think our understanding is if it's in the general direction of the way the board wants to go then I have latitude to do that."

Board chairs in Whately submit budgets to Domina, and he meets with the town's Finance Committee six to eight times during the budget season.

When asked about conflict management, Domina said listening is key. Even if action can't be taken, people appreciate feeling as if their side of an argument has at least been heard.

Domina does not have collective bargaining experience, as there are no unions in Whately's municipal government. When asked how he would approach negotiations, he responded.

"My role would be to put together a good team and to make sure that town counsel is involved and whoever else from the town that needs to be involved is. I would educate myself about the process and about what have been the results of recent collective bargaining from nearby towns," Domina said.

Domina's commute to Hampden takes about 41 minutes. Having grown up in Western Massachusetts, he enjoys the area.

Domina said his view of the town administrator role is different from a traditional view.

"I think that the town administrator should be a resource for all boards and committees. Obviously, you work with the Select Board primarily and run the day-to-day operations, but I talk a lot with the Planning Board, Zoning Board, get a lot of meeting and procedural questions," Domina said. "I think it's important in a small town to have those extra skills to really help run the town because if it's a five-minute or 10-minute discussion so there's not a lawsuit five months from now, it's definitely time well spent. I take that role seriously. You want a small legal budget; that's for sure."

SPORTS

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Girls Swimming wins league title



Jonas Kefalas makes his way across the pool.



Sawyer Lisowski competes in the fly stroke event.



Kay Dickson is about halfway down with a lap.

WILBRAHAM – Last Friday evening, Minnechaug girls swimming defeated rival Longmeadow 102-84. The victory gave the Falcons

the league title for season. Alayna Lucas won a pair of events, taking the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle for the Falcons. The boys swimming

team also defeated Longmeadow 93-79. Jackson Pouliot won the 50 and 100 freestyle events.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



Chris Capen also almost across.



Teammates cheer on Abby Dean.



Gabby Harding dives in to start an event.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande
Matthew Beaudin waits for the faceoff.

Falcons edge Westfield to keep playoff hopes going

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Minnechaug Regional High School hockey team defeated Westfield 2-1 in Berry Division action last week. Minnechaug got goals from Tristen Hortin and Brayden O’Sullivan as the Falcons made it to 7-7 on the season. A .500 record will get Minnechaug in the state tournament.



Brayden O’Sullivan clears the puck away.



Tim Harrigan corrals the loose puck.



Ethan Kelliher tries to block a pass.



Jake Moore works around an opponent.

Big early run paces Falcons



Ava Ofcarcik makes a pass inside.

Turley photos
by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

CHICOPEE – Last Monday night, Minnechaug girls basketball got off to a great start, going on a 13-1 en route to a 60-29 win over host Chicopee. The Falcons spread the ball around, with 11 different players scoring points in the game. Lylah Jeannotte, Elizabeth Woytowicz, Lyric Nelson, and Ava Ofcarcik scored eight points each. Chicopee got 11 points from Giana Garcia. The Falcons are now 10-2 and head for tournament while Chicopee fell to 1-11 on the regular season.



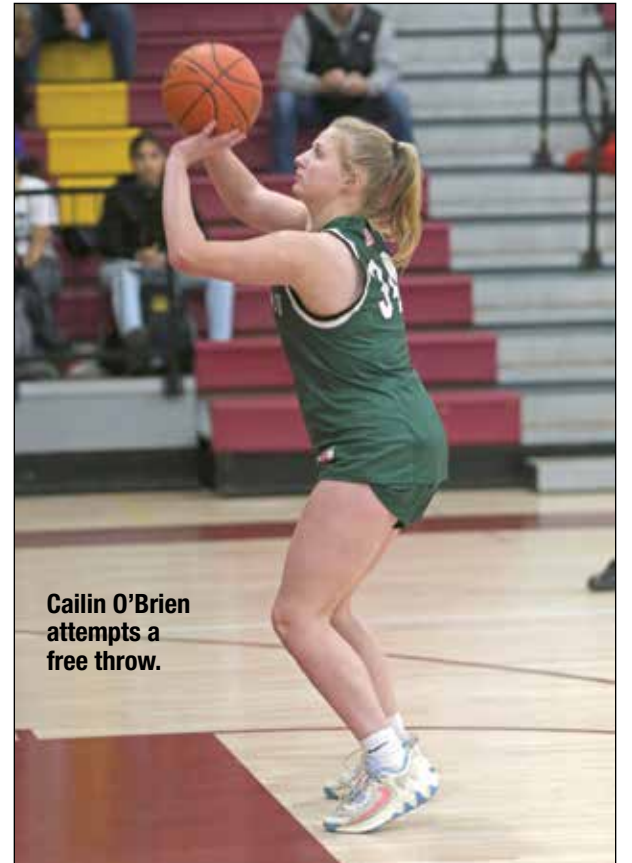
Kelly Cronin watches her shot head for the hoop.



Ava Manning tries to come down the rebound.



Maddy Giroux goes for the easy layup.



Cailin O'Brien attempts a free throw.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League returned to bowling after missing games on Jan. 16 due to weather.

The standings as of Jan. 9, The Champs R Here are in first place with a record of 17.5 wins and 6.5 losses. Team BK is in second place with a record of 17-7. Acres are in third place with a record of 15-9. In fourth place, Life is Good has a record of 14-10.

The winners of round one, Compression, are in fifth place with a record of 13.5-10.5. Last in Line and the Blue B's are tied for last place at 9-15.

Acres bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Acres won the first game by a score of 384-354. Kenny Trudel of Acres led the team and scored 118 the first game. In

game two, Acres won again by a score of 386-356. Trudel continued bowling above his league average and bowled a 108 in game two.

In game three, Last in Line won the last game 388-381. Acres won total pinfall by a final score of 1151-1098. Trudel finished with evening with a 96 and three-game series of 322.

Compression bowled against the Blue B's. In game one, the Blue B's won the first game 353-347. In game two, The Blue B's won again by a score of 371-362. Thai Bui of Blue B's had a great game well over his league average (78) by bowling a 120.

In game three, Compression won the last game 356-349. Jason Dominick of Compression led his team the last game by finishing up the evening with a 104 game. The Blue B's won total pinfall by a final score of 1073-1065.

Thursday Night Mixed League
The Thursday Night Mixed League bowled their last league night in the month of January.

In one match, Team Four bowled against Team Two. In game one, Team Four was the victor by a score of 390-365. In game two, Team Two won by a score of 381-362. Game three was a close game between the two teams, but Team Two prevailed in a two point victory, 403-401.

Nicholas Maslon of Team Four finished the evening with a 104. Team Four won total pinfall by a final score of 1193-1189.

Another match was between Team Three and Team Six. In game one, Team Six was the victor by a score of 402-393. Jesse Danek of Team Three started off the evening with a 107. In game two, Team Six won again 414-382.

In game three, Team Six won the last game 422-370 for a three-game sweep. Dan Mahoney of Team Six finished the night with a 122 game. Mahoney also bowled a 92 in the first and a 105 in the second to score a 319 series.

Team Six won total pinfall by a final score of 1238-1145.

Western Mass. Baseball Hall announces new class

HOLYOKE – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame has announced the 11th annual class to be inducted on March 7, 2024 at Twin Hills Country Club:

Jeff Reardon: Reardon is a 16-year MLB relief pitcher, four-time All-Star, and 1987 World Series champion (Twins). He notched 367 saves over the course of his career, ranking 12th on the MLB all-time saves list. He pitched for five different teams during his big league career (Mets, Expos, Twins, Red Sox, and Yankees). Reardon grew up in Western Massachusetts, graduating from Wahconah High School in Dalton.

Mark Simeone: Entering his 28th season as Head Coach of Springfield College's baseball team, Simeone has compiled 484 victories during his tenure. He grew up in Northampton, graduating from Northampton High School in 1982. In addition to coaching at Springfield College, Simeone played outfield from 1982-87 under Charles Roys (Class of 2022 Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame inductee).

Bob Taylor: A current and longtime resident of Springfield, Taylor played 16 professional baseball seasons. He reached the major leagues in 1970, where he appeared in 63 games for the San Francisco Giants alongside Willie Mays and Willie McCovey. Taylor

Please see **BASEBALL**, page 9

T-Birds offense scores big over Checkers

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (20-17-3-2) dominated for much of the night in a 6-1 win over the Charlotte Checkers (20-17-4-0) on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 at the MassMutual Center.

The T-Birds jumped to a first-period lead for a second straight evening, this time just 3:37 into game action. Mathias Laferriere spun away from a defender to gain entry on the right-wing side. Mikhail Abramov raced up the middle of the ice, catching a perfect pass from Laferriere and lifting a shot into the top shelf behind Charlotte netminder Ludovic Waeber, making it 1-0 on his eighth goal of the season.

After not facing much action in the opening half of the period, Springfield goaltender Malcolm Subban got infinitely busier in the closing minutes, as the T-Birds killed off two Charlotte power plays, including 28 seconds' worth of 5-on-3 time. Subban shined, with point-blank saves off Gerry Mayhew and Rasmus Asplund sticking out in a 10-save opening frame.

After the goal by Abramov, Waeber also settled in, and the Checkers' third-ranked penalty kill also denied Springfield on two power plays as the two clubs' man-advantage units continued to scuffle.

For a second consecutive evening, Charlotte got an equalizer in the early stages of period two. Patrick Khodorenko approached the net and bashed home a rebound through Subban's legs after Patrick Giles had his initial try denied by the goaltender. The goal came just 44 seconds into the period to tie the score, 1-1.

However, like Friday night, the tie score would be short-lived. A Matt Kiersted penalty sent Springfield's power play back to work, and just 32 seconds after the Khodorenko tally, Hugh McGing got his first goal since Nov. 24, ramming home a wide shot from Laferriere that skipped off the end boards right in front of the goal on the left side.

With the lead back in their possession, the T-Birds would not relinquish it. Subban made a crucial 2-on-1 save on Checkers captain Zac Dalpe, and moments after another Springfield penalty kill, at 10:22 of the period, Hunter Skinner stepped into a one-time drop pass from Zach Bolduc and saw it ricochet off a Charlotte stick and behind Waeber to make it 3-1. It was Skinner's first goal as a Thunderbird.

Laferriere's night was far from over, as he stepped over the left-wing side and roofed a heavy snap shot through Waeber at 14:00, and in less than four minutes, the lead grew to 4-1.

Things would not get any better for the Checkers in the third. Ryan Suzuki pounced on a loose puck in the slot after a Jakub Vrana pass to Bolduc caromed off Waeber's pad right into the slot area. Suzuki also found the top corner, advancing the lead to 5-1 on his third goal of the season.

Will Bitten would round out the scoring with his second point of the night, cashing in on a 2-on-1 after an initial shot from Bolduc bounced off Waeber's left pad and right onto Bitten's tape. Subban got himself back into the win column, making 29 saves in securing his ninth win of the year.

Including the postseason, Springfield is now 10-1-0-0 in its last 11 games against Charlotte inside the Thunderdome, and with the two-game sweep, the T-Birds leaped ahead of Charlotte in the Atlantic Division standings.

BASEBALL from page 16

played for San Francisco's Double-A affiliate, the Springfield Giants, in 1965.

Don Strange: Strange, a Springfield native, played college baseball at UMass Amherst from 1987-89. He then enjoyed an eight-year professional baseball career, reaching Triple-A while with the Atlanta Braves system. Don joins his brother, Pat (Class of 2021) in the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame.

Earl Lorden: Lorden served as Head Coach at Turners Falls before taking the helm as Head Coach at UMass Amherst from 1948-1966. He won 189 games during this span, ranking third on UMass's all-time wins list. Lorden was a continuous supporter of UMass baseball until his passing in 1984 at the age of 87.

1942 Turners Falls State Championship Team: A true underdog team of 15 players that won the 1942 Massachusetts State Championship well before population-based divisions were instituted. Their undefeated regular season was shortened by gas rationing during World War II before defeating Arlington in the championship game at Fenway Park by a score of 5-4. The team induction coincides with the individual induction of their head coach, Earl Lorden.

Ron Chimelis (Garry Brown Sports Media Award): A long time columnist and sports reporter for the Springfield Republican, Chimelis served as Red Sox beat reporter during their 2004, 2007, and 2013 World Series championship seasons. He will be the second recipient of the Garry Brown Award, the first of which was posthumously awarded to Garry Brown in 2023.

CAMPUS NOTES

Wilbraham students named to AIC Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – American International College in Springfield is pleased to announce that 451 students have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester. Dean's List students attend full-time and have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. The following Dean's List students are from Wilbraham:

Joseph Albano, majoring in Sports and Recreation Management

Jacob Smith, majoring in Criminal Justice
Gabrielle Williams, majoring in International Business

Edwards named to the College of Charleston Dean's List (Distinguished)

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Ella Edwards, of Wilbraham, was named to the College of Charleston Fall 2023 Dean's List (Distinguished). Edwards has not decided her major.

To qualify for Dean's List (Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.500 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Elms College announces Dean's List for Fall 2023

CHICOPEE – The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following students to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

Hampden: Annaleise Feldott

Wilbraham: Audriana Croteau, Grace Dineen, Malwina Gorzynska, Anna Kierkla, Isabella Melendez and Olivia Skoczylas

James Madison University announces Dean's List

HARRISONBURG, Va. – James Madison University is pleased to announce that the following students made the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

Ryan Lucarelle, of Wilbraham, is majoring in Finance - BBA.

Aleksei Mendrala, of Wilbraham, is majoring in Health Services Administration - BS.

Wilbraham resident graduates from James Madison University

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Aleksei Mendrala, of Wilbraham, graduated with a degree(s) in Health Services Administration - BS from James Madison University during commencement exercises in December 2023.

Mendrala was among more than 1,000 students who received undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Menard, of Wilbraham, achieves President's List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY – Maresa Menard, of Wilbraham, is one of more than 215 students who achieved President's List honors during the fall 2023 semester at Nichols College.

President's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. Students whose semester average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President's List honors.

Ardolino, of Wilbraham, named to Springfield College Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College has named Amir Ardolino, of Wilbraham, to the Dean's List for academic excellence for the 2023 fall semester. Ardolino has a primary major of Sport Management.

Wilb. students named to Dean's List at University of Alabama

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – A total of 13,950 students enrolled during Fall Semester 2023 at The University of Alabama were named to the Dean's List with an academic record of 3.5 (or above). The following Dean's List students are from Wilbraham: Aidan Duquette and John Robinson.

O'Brien named to University of Minnesota Duluth Dean's List

DULUTH, Minn. – The University of Minnesota Duluth has announced its Dean's List for Fall Semester 2023. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

Marykate O'Brien, a junior from Wilbraham earned Dean's List honors. She is a student in the Labovitz School of Bus & Econ, studying Business Analytics.

Hampden, Wilbraham students named to URI Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. – The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the Fall 2023 Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries. The following students are from Hampden and Wilbraham.

Hampden: Tommy Leary
Wilbraham: Zack Capen, Sara Coughlin, Emma Cowles, Cailyn Doyle, Hannah Fopp, Lilly Grono, Morgan Sanborn and Anna Youmell

Loss puts Railers in fifth place

WORCESTER – The Railers fell 4-2 to the Trois-Rivieres Lions to wrap up a home three-in-three weekend.

The Railers found themselves in an early hole. They were behind, 1-0, less than four minutes after the opening faceoff and never led.

Lions goaltender Zachary Emond, facing Worcester for the first time in his career, was excellent in net with 34 stops. Several were very timely, too. But, the Railers just did not finish well.

"It was a combination of both," is how coach Jordan Smotherman described his team's lack of goals. "He made some good saves but often times we don't find those pucks laying around the net. There were a lot of rebounds and the drive has not been there this year to put those in the back

of the net."

The two pucks that did find the back of the net were shot by Jack Quinlivan and Blade Jenkins. The Lions got goals from Nolan Yaremko, Nicolas Guay, Jakov Novak — his 19th of the season — and Cedric Montminy into an empty net.

Ken Appleby stopped 31 of 34 shots on the night for Worcester.

Yaremko scored at 3:43 of the first period. Quinlivan tied it at 7:12 of the second on a rebound of a play he set up with hard work down the left wing. It was his first goal of the season, third as a pro and first at the DCU Center.

Guay converted a 4 on 3 power play at 1:33 of the third then Jenkins tied it again with a wraparound at 4:53. Novak scored a scramble goal for what proved to be the winner at

11:10.

The opposition seems to be getting more scramble goals than Worcester these days.

"Those are earned over time," Smotherman said, "when you dissect them you realize they're self-inflicted."

The game was a lively one that featured 51 minutes worth of penalties including a fighting major to Artyom Kulakov and a game misconduct for abuse of officials to Zach White.

The loss dropped Worcester into fifth place in the North Division, at least in terms of points. The Railers are fourth in winning percentage but can't see to find the traction to get themselves a little breathing room.

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BEAUTIFUL RED FLAT COATED six month old female mini golden doodle. Looks like small retriever without the shedding. Loves people, loves to play. All vaccines up to date. \$350 to a loving family. Call Kelsey 413-218-1294.

HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT TOWN ACCOUNTANT

The Town of Palmer is seeking applicants for the full-time position of Assistant Town Accountant. The applicant should have a working knowledge of accounting theory and accrual concepts along with strong organizational, interpersonal, and analytical skills as well as experience with Microsoft Office. Previous experience using MUNIS accounting software is a plus. Complete job description can be found at <https://townofpalmer.com/jobs>. Please e-mail a cover letter and resume to gpotter@townofpalmer.com or via mail to the Town Accountant's Office at 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. This position will remain open until filled. The Town of Palmer is an EOE/AA employer.

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation in Wales is looking for a part-time (16 hours/week) **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** to assist with operations and office management duties. For a full job description, please visit www.norcrosswildlife.org or email dgugliotti@norcrosswildlife.org.

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Women in Community presents 'The Joy in Jesus' on Feb. 24

SPRINGFIELD – Women, high school age and above, are invited to attend Women in Community's "The Joy in Jesus" on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., hosted by the Evangelical Covenant Church at 915 Plumtree Road, Springfield.

You must pre-register for this event. The registration deadline is Feb. 14. Childcare is available on the premises

free of charge. The cost to register is \$25 and includes a welcome coffee and muffin, discussion groups, breakouts, and a luncheon. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. There will be an offering to support Christina's House, in Springfield. Brochures: www.eccspringfield.org/adults, "Women Ministries". For questions, please email Nan Lingenfelter, nlingenfelter@charter.net.

BH to hold free 'Virtual Heart & Vascular Health' lecture series

Begins Feb. 4

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health will hold its popular free Virtual Heart & Vascular Health Lecture Series during the month of February beginning with a look at "Minimally Invasive, Maximally Effective: New Technologies in the Cardiac Cath Lab" on Sunday, Feb. 4.

The Virtual Heart & Vascular Health Lecture Series, presented by the Baystate Heart & Vascular Program as part of American Heart Month, will focus on the latest advances in heart and vascular care.

Baystate cardiac surgeon Dr. Andrew Goldsweig, medical director, Cardiac Cath Lab, will lead the first lecture focusing on the latest devices and innovations used in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab for procedures such as valve replacement, stroke prevention and more.

In addition to being held online as a webinar, Dr. Goldsweig's presentation can also be attended in-person at the Baystate Health Education Center on 361 Whitney Ave., second entrance to building, in Holyoke. This is the only lecture in the four-part series to also be held in-person.

The free lectures will continue with "Heart At Work, The Pharmacist's Role

in Cardiovascular Health" on Sunday, Feb. 11, presented by Baystate pharmacists Jared Ostroff, PharmD; and Anna Mortali, PharmD, BCAP. They will discuss cardiac care and improving outcomes with pharmacologic involvement and advances.

On Sunday, Feb. 18, the virtual series continues with "Advancements in Bypass Surgery" presented by cardiologist Dr. David Bull, vice president and medical director, Heart and Vascular Program. He will talk about cardiothoracic and vascular surgery as well as advances in preventing strokes during bypass surgery.

The series will end on Sunday, Feb. 25 with "Ozempic, Zepbound, and More: Behavioral Interventions & Weight-Loss Medications for Heart Health" presented by Dr. Michele Gortakowski. She will discuss new medications and advances in medically assisted weight-loss, as well as behavioral interventions that can improve weight-loss efforts.

All lectures will begin at noon followed by a question-and-answer session.

Registration is required for each session by visiting

<https://www.baystatehealth.org/heart-series> where you can also learn about Baystate's life-saving cardiac capabilities.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 6:30 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA on the application of Vincent and Meggie DeCesare for a Special Permit under Section 6.1, 6.11 (1) of the Hampden Zoning Bylaw to allow the construction of a private garage which exceeds, in aggregate area, a square footage which is more than one half (1/2) the ground floor area of the main dwelling including any attached garage, at the DeCesare residence located at 17 Potash Hill Lane. Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours. For the Board, Madison Pixley, Chair, Hampden Planning Board. 01/25, 02/01/2024

Town of Wilbraham LEGAL NOTICE

The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM** at the Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, on the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by

Jerome Gagliarducci under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw. The request is to determine whether the area depicted on plans submitted is subject to the Wilbraham Wetland Bylaw and the Wetlands Protection Act. The property is located at 2407 & 2417 Boston Road. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission. Christopher Brown, Chairman 02/01/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P0141EA Estate of: Susan Clara Donoghue Date of Death: 11/21/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Deborah Slavin of Mount Pleasant, SC** requesting that the Court enter a for-

mal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Deborah Slavin of Mount Pleasant, SC** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**. **IMPORTANT NOTICE** You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/20/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. **UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)** A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsuper-

vised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 23, 2024 **Rosemary A. Saccomani** Register of Probate 02/02/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24C0023CA In the matter of: Jennifer Rose Haley-Johnson CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Jennifer Rose Haley-Johnson of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Jennifer Rose Haley IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/19/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 22, 2024 **Rosemary A Saccomani** Register of Probate 02/01/2024

Bylaw. Work includes the installation of 2 new utility poles and removal of 10 trees that are within the 100ft Buffer Zone to Inland Bank/Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and 200ft Riverfront Area to Big Brook on Monson Road. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission. Christopher Brown, Chairman 02/01/2024

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.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Life is meant to be shared

Consider adding becoming an organ donor to your list of New Year's resolutions

SPRINGFIELD – Consider adding becoming an organ donor to your list of New Year's resolutions.

"Every nine minutes a new person is added to the national transplant wait list, which is already overcrowded with more than 100,000 men, women and children waiting for a lifesaving organ. Over 40,000 transplants were performed in 2022, a record year for transplants in the United States, but many more people could benefit from a lifesaving organ transplant," said Dr. Kenneth McPartland, medical director, Transplant Division, Baystate Health.

Making your wishes known is easy. If you would like to become a donor, your wishes can be indicated on your driver's license, or you can register online at www.donatelife.net/register.

While doing so, let your family know about your decision to become an organ donor so that they along with friends know and understand your wishes in advance.

There are many common misconceptions about donation that persist today.

Donate Life America offers the following facts to help you better understand organ, eye and tissue donation:

Fact: Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, race, or medical history.

Fact: All major religions in the United States support organ, eye and tissue donation and see it as the final act of love and generosity toward others.

Fact: If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life. Organ, eye and tissue donation can only be considered after you are deceased.

Fact: When you are on the waiting list for

an organ, what really counts is the severity of your illness, time spent waiting, blood type, and other important medical information, not your financial status or social status.

Fact: An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.

Fact: There is no cost to the donor or their family for organ or tissue donation.

Fact: Information about an organ donor is only released to the recipient if the family of the donor requests or agrees to it.

"Deceased donors leave a legacy by giving the gift of life after they pass, but did you know that this gift can be given during your lifetime? As a living kidney donor, an individual can live a long and healthy life with one kidney while giving someone else a second chance at life," said Nancy Dias, BSN, RN, Living Donor Coordinator, Baystate Medical Center.

Baystate Medical Center offers many options in living kidney donation. The transplant program works closely with the National Kidney Registry as a Donor Care Center of Excellence to facilitate national exchanges or kidney swaps, as well as voucher donations. Compatible and incompatible pairs can donate and receive kidneys with one of the many options available. Visit the NKR website for more information <https://www.kidneyregistry.org/>.

Baystate Transplant Program offers the only Transplant Services in Western Massachusetts for adult patients requiring kidney transplantation. In 2023, Baystate has performed close to 70 kidney transplants, the most ever performed in a single year since the program started over 30 years ago. The program has over 150 patients on the national transplant waiting list and is continuing to find ways to increase access to kidney transplantation.

Today, more and more people are making a difference in someone's life by becoming a

living kidney donor to a patient on the Baystate Health waiting list, an alternative to waiting for a kidney from a deceased donor. More information about the process of living donation is available on the Baystate Health Transplant Program website at baystatehealth.org/transplant.

Transplant surgeons use the latest techniques, including minimally invasive surgery, so that patients experience a faster recovery and spend less time in the hospital. In addition to experienced surgeons, the Baystate Transplant Team includes nephrologists, nurse transplant coordinators, dietitians, pharmacists, social workers, financial counselors, as well as administrative and clinical assistants to help guide patients through the process. Living or deceased donor renal transplant is offered as treatment of end-stage renal disease.

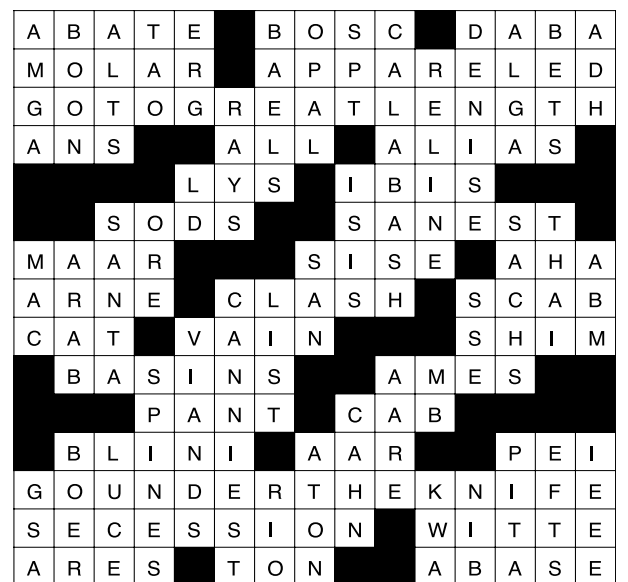
Life is meant to be shared. It takes only five minutes to sign up as an organ donor at www.organdonor.gov/sign-up.

To learn more about becoming a living kidney donor, call Baystate Medical Center's Transplant Program at 413-794-2321 Option 2 and speak with the living donor coordinator or sign on to the Baystate Transplant website at baystatehealth.org/transplant for a confidential screening process.

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SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
ACT	4 Brows Beach Rd., Wales	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Contemporary, Cottage	\$349,900	
PCG	37 Vadnais St., East Longmeadow	4 room, 2 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$269,900	
CTG	139 Stafford Rd., Monson	6 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Cape	\$327,500	
UAG	200 Poole St., Ludlow	8 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial	\$269,000	
UAG	51 Squier St, Palmer	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$334,000	
UAG	1205 Page Blvd., Springfield	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$232,000	
SLD	1222 Dunhamtown Brimfield Rd., Brimfield	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Contemporary	\$449,900	\$475,000
SLD	9 Melody Ln., East Longmeadow	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$349,900	\$370,000
SLD	66 Chapin Rd., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$254,900	\$250,100
SLD	37 Prospect St, Ludlow	8 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Raised Ranch	\$224,000	\$250,000
SLD	114 Piney, Ludlow	6 room, 2 bed, 1f bath Cottage, Bungalow	\$300,000	\$300,000
SLD	14 Hampden Ct., Monson	10 room, 5 bed, 2f 0h bath Colonial	\$295,000	\$300,000
SLD	383 Rondeau St., Palmer	4 room, 2 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$265,000	\$272,000
SLD	54 Fernald St, Springfield	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$204,900	\$215,000
SLD	63 Magnolia Terrace, Springfield	12 room, 6 bed, 2f 2h bath Colonial	\$425,000	\$400,000
SLD	747 Stony Hill Rd., Wilbraham	8 room, 4 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial	\$375,000	\$375,000
SLD	2 Oakland St., Wilbraham	9 room, 5 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial, Gambrel /Dutch	\$449,999	\$450,000

CONDOMINIUM LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
NEW	319 Blisswood Village Dr., U:319, Ludlow	4 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Townhouse	\$243,900	
NEW	117 Nassau Dr U:117, Springfield	4 room, 2 bed, 2f 0h bath Garden	\$209,900	
SLD	39 Regency Park Dr U:39, Agawam	4 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Garden	\$180,000	\$172,500

MULTI FAMILY LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
UAG	14 Hampden Ct., Monson	2 unit, 10 total rooms, 5 total bedrooms 2 Family	\$295,000	
UAG	44-46 Lexington St., Springfield	3 unit, 14 total rooms, 7 total bedrooms 3 Family	\$320,000	

LAND LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
SLD	0 Poole St., Ludlow	0.94 Agricultural acres (41,075 SqFt)	\$55,000	\$54,000

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