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## Jack's story

### Wilbraham baby's miraculous journey inspires community

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
dzbierski@turley.com

WILBRAHAM – Against all odds, Jack Godin of Wilbraham celebrated his first birthday on Jan. 28, as his parents Liz and Cody and older brother Owen were joined by approximately 130 people reveling at his miraculous journey.

The Jan. 28 birthday celebration and fundraiser at the Country Club on Stony Hill Road benefited Baystate Children's Hospital and the Baystate Health Foundation in honor of the medical professionals who saved Jack's life one year ago.

When Jack was eight days old, he was diagnosed with Viral Meningoencephalitis, caused by a rare virus called Parechovirus. He was hospitalized and admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Baystate after seizure activity repeatedly stopped his breathing.

Liz, Jack's mother, remembers the sequence of events like it was yesterday. Jack was born early on Jan. 28, 2023, at 36 weeks, but appeared happy and healthy. It wasn't until Day 7 that Liz and Cody, Jack's father, noticed his breathing was abnormal and discovered he had a 101.3 fever.



Photos courtesy of the Godin family

Jack Godin's amazing recovery from Parechovirus has inspired an entire community.

"I work in the medical field... I counted respirations, and those were kind of high too," Liz said. "So, I texted his pediatrician, who is also my boss, and said, 'Jack has a fever; he's breathing kind of fast, what do you think?' He said to go to the ER immediately."

Upon arriving at the ER, Jack no longer had a fever, but the medical professionals did their due diligence. They did bloodwork, gave him IVs, checked his urine, did a spinal tap and kept Jack overnight to monitor him.

"Then, at about midnight that night, the doctor came in and woke

us up. We were sleeping. He said some of his tests came back, and Jack tested positive for a virus called Parechovirus," Liz said.

Before learning of its severity, Liz was hopeful the virus wasn't a big deal, assuming it might be similar to the flu. However, Jack began experiencing breathing episodes, and his oxygen level dipped into the 50s, causing major concern.

The episodes continued to occur once per hour, and the following morning Jack's doctors elected to send him to the PICU at Baystate

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### Economic Development Committee reviews Route 20 Bar & Grille expansion

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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WILBRAHAM - The Economic Development Committee reviewed expansion plans for the Route 20 Bar & Grille on Jan. 29.

The restaurant is located on Boston Road in the Wilbraham Shops.

Chair Michael Mazzuca explained the owners want to expand their deck and would be invited to talk with the committee at their next meeting.

"It's a nice place," Mazzuca said. "I think they're doing a very good job, and they could use some help."

After David Sanders mentioned ARPA funds, Mazzuca wondered, from prior discussions, if it not only pertained to bringing in new businesses, but also the expansion of existing businesses.

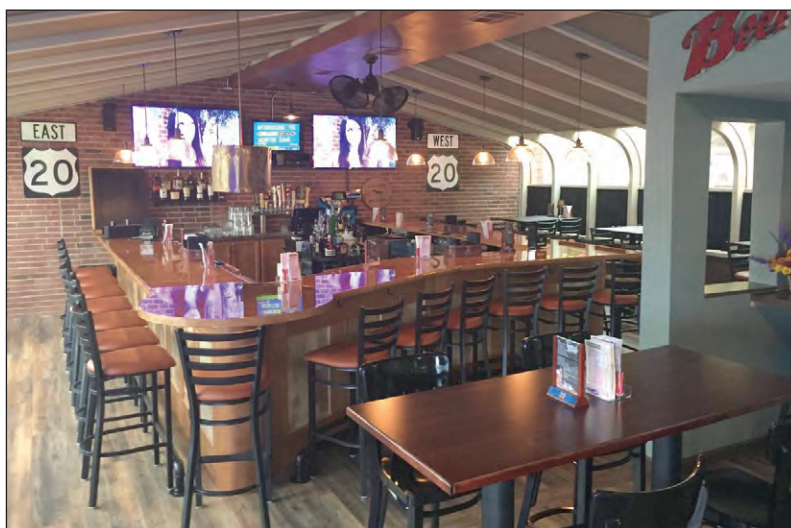


Photo courtesy of Route 20 Bar & Grille Facebook page.

From Sanders' understanding, he wasn't sure if the expansion of existing businesses was included in APRA Funds.

"Like seed money to everybody that was in town that survived (COVID-19) basically. So, this is a

Please see **RTE 20**, page 7

### Seniors put on dancing shoes for Irish Dance class



From the left, Susan Austin, Gerry Dearden, Jill Laufer-Rockowitz, Beverly Lauzon, Joanne Abel, Phil Hanrahan, Karen Kology, Pat Anzalotti and Susan Reynolds pose for a group photo after completing their first Irish Dance class at Hampden Senior Center.

The class runs for six weeks

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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HAMPDEN - Seniors stopped by the senior center on Feb. 2 for an Irish Dance class overseen by Phil Hanrahan.

The dance class, which runs for six sessions, gives attendees the opportunity to learn Irish dance moves, taking place on Fridays at 1 p.m. through March 8.

The class costs \$30 if paid in full, or six dollars per class.

Throughout the class, Hanrahan led attendees in basic



A group shot of the Irish Dance class, led by Phil Hanrahan, practicing a dance move in a circle during the Feb. 2 "Irish Dance with Phil" class at Hampden Senior Center.

Irish dance steps including sevens, kicks, one two three steps and more.

"The steps can be used in basically all the Irish step dancing. The steps can be used in any dance. It starts to get more intricate with the figure eight in dancing, different forms of Irish dancing," Hanrahan said. "But no high steps or anything. Nothing like Riverdance."

Hanrahan, a native of Ireland, explained the class is for beginners and came together when the senior center asked if she would be interested in holding a class before St. Patrick's Day. She expressed excitement at the idea, crediting Activities Coordinator Diane Marino for organizing it.

"This is so awesome. I love dancing anyway, but I love the group. We have a group of 10 people," Hanrahan said. "So, I'm very excited about it because I love Irish music, song, dance, you name it, I love it."

Hanrahan was thrilled that attendees were enjoying the class, planning to keep the six-week class to beginner steps as it's new for everyone.

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# Hampden Selectmen speak with consultant about MVP Grant

## Town will use grant money to replace Main Street Bridge

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
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HAMPDEN – The Board of Selectmen met with Steven Tyler, associate principal of Howard Stein Hudson, on Jan. 29 to discuss a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant that will be used to replace the Main Street bridge.

The process will also have environmental effects.

“This is our first quarterly update to the Board of Selectmen with regard to the fiscal year 2024 action grant, which includes the design of the Main Street bridge replacement and some conceptual designs for taking your infrastructure solutions a little bit further,” Tyler said.

MVP Action Grants offer financial resources to communities seeking to advance priority climate adaptation actions to address climate change impacts that result from flooding, extreme weather, severe heat and other climate impacts.

The projected MVP Action Grant for fiscal year 2024 is \$247,740, and the Town of Hampden must pledge a 25% match, equaling \$82,837. In-kind services amount to \$32,837, and the town must make an appropriation of \$50,000 to the consultant, resulting in a total project value of \$330,577.

Howard Stein Hudson is an engineering consulting firm that designs, plans and coordinates complex engineer projects, focusing on traffic and transportation solutions. The firm’s services include transportation engineering, land development planning and permitting, civil engineering, transportation planning, Complete Streets, construction services and community engagement.

Tyler is a senior civil engineer and manager of the firm’s Worcester office. He met with the Selectmen virtually on Jan. 29 and shared a PowerPoint presentation, identifying Hampden’s core team as including the town administrator, highway superintendent, a Select Board representative, stormwater coordinator, Conservation Commission representative and the Bridge Consulting Team.

The first task was a kickoff meeting, which occurred last December. The second task pertains to public involvement and community design engagement in fiscal year 2024.

The third task involves the replacement bridge design, the fourth task refers to the replacement bridge permitting, the fifth task identifies data collection for the Green Infrastructure – Low Impact Design by the Conway School at three locations in town and the final step is community engagement from the Conway School and GI-LID designs.

Located in Northampton, the Conway School of Landscape Design teaches and practices design of the land that is economically and socially sustainable through a 10-month master’s program. Conway School students will assist Hampden in the environmental process of preparing to replace the Main Street Bridge.

The three GI-LID sites include Laughing Brook, Glendale Road and Bennett Road.

Tyler identified that public involvement will be a critical component of the process.

“The public involvement in this process is going to include community engagement sessions that will involve the Conway



Photos courtesy of Howard Stein Hudson

**Engineering firm Howard Stein Hudson is assisting the Town of Hampden as it prepares to replace the bridge on Main Street.**

will be at the May 23 Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

The Town of Hampden should be reimbursed by the state for money spent on the project, but Selectman John Flynn expressed concerns, relaying a message from Town Accountant Cliff Bombard about a previous MVP grant.

“Talking about the last MVP grant we went through, (Bombard) mentioned there’s still some payment outstanding on that,” Flynn said. “That’s something that we completed, but we’re worried will this happen in this situation as well... We have about \$70,000 we haven’t been reimbursed by the state for yet.”

Flynn noted that the expense could impact the tax rate if Hampden isn’t reimbursed.

“Is this a danger with any of these MVP programs that there’s such a lag time in reimbursement? We didn’t think we’d be out-of-pocket on anything in the first grant,” Flynn said.

Tyler said he didn’t think Hampden had any out-of-pocket commitments on the last grant. This was the first he heard of the

development.

“So, I’m unclear as to why there’s a delay. The reason is there’s not supposed to be a delay. Those monies should have all been reimbursed,” Tyler said.

Town Administrator Bob Markel said Hampden is entitled to the money and that the town must inform the people it’s been dealing with at the Springfield office that “we can’t allow an unreimbursed amount to hit our free cash or tax rate in the next fiscal year.”

Markel transitioned, explaining what he thinks the most important part about the project is. He said it isn’t rebuilding the bridge or enlarging the culvert so more water from the brook can come down stream and go into the Scantic River.

“It’s the so called ‘Green Infrastructure.’ It’s building areas upstream that can absorb more of the water before it gets into the brook and comes downstream and potentially causes flooding,” Markel said.

Markel said every community must face this conundrum in some way because so much land has been paved over.

“When you pave over, there’s no place for the water to go but into the stream. So, this is trying to offset some of that by getting water absorbed upstream,” Markel said.

Markel believes the MVP program is an attempt to anticipate environmental problems that are the result of changing climate to prevent problems such as flooding. He is unaware of any other major environmental problems the town is facing.

“I don’t think we have the same kind of situation as other communities closer to the ocean for example of rising water, but there have been floods in the past, and this is an attempt to anticipate something like that happening again and trying to offset as much as possible that potential,” Markel said.

# Welcome

## KELLY N. POULIOT, O.D.

Dr. Pouliot is a board-certified Optometrist who joined Kelly & Velazquez Eye Center in January 2024. She graduated from the Ramapo College of New Jersey with a Bachelor’s degree in Biology. She received her Doctorate degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University.

Dr. Pouliot has had over two thousand patient encounters upon completion of her clinical externships in the following specialties:

- Contact Lenses (Jacksonville, NC)
- Ocular Diseases (Johnson City, TN)
- VA Hospital (St. Cloud, MN)
- Low Vision Rotation (Philadelphia, PA)

Dr. Pouliot has a special interest in ocular/systemic diseases and other ocular emergencies. She is a member of the American Optometric Association and the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists. She is a native of the Pioneer Valley. She enjoys traveling and spending time with friends and family.



# KELLY & VELAZQUEZ EYE CENTER

DENNIS M. DORANS, O.D.



# Wilbraham Select Board appoints Fogarty to Board of Registrars

Also, water line inspection/survey information from DPW

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM – The Select Board unanimously appointed William Fogarty on Feb. 5 to the Democratic seat for the Board of Registrars.

Fogarty, who has lived in Wilbraham since 1991, also formerly served as the town administrator from 1991 to 2007, later working at Holyoke Community College until his retirement in 2019.

He shared what he knows about the Board of Registrars and wants to volunteer for the Democratic seat.

“In addition to helping oversee registration, they also assist the town clerk in running city elections in various ways, and I know that they get involved if there is a recount or if there is a ballot challenge, so that’s pretty much my understanding of the Board of Registrars,” Fogarty said.

When Chairman Theresa Goodrich asked Fogarty if he understood the time commitment, he said yes.

“I’ve talked with (Town Clerk) Carole Tardif. She’s explained it. I’ve been a poll worker too,” Fogarty said. “So, I’ve been working on the election days, so I knew it would be something different from being a poll worker and the Board of Registrars do certain other things on election (day).”

Select Board member Sue Bunnell shared she’s known Fogarty since her days on the Finance Committee and when he was a town administrator, expressing approval at appointing him.

“So, I think it’d be great,” Bunnell said.

After Michael Squindo asked Town



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

From the left, Select Board Clerk Michael Squindo, Chairman Theresa Goodrich and Vice Chairman Sue Bunnell chat with William Fogarty as Town Administrator Nick Breault looks on during the Feb. 5 Select Board meeting in Wilbraham.

Administrator Nick Breault if Fogarty had been verified by the town clerk in terms of party registration and the certain number of seats per party registration allowed was covered, it was confirmed yes.

“I’ve been a registered Democrat in terms of Wilbraham since 1981. I’ve been a member of the Democratic Town Committee for about 10 years,” Fogarty said.

The board appointed Fogarty to the Board of Registrars for a term beginning Feb. 5, 2024, through June 30, 2025, 3-0.

Next, Tonya Capparello, director of the Department of Public Works, shared letters are being sent out to 20-30 water customers in town for the DPW to perform a free basement inspection to verify pipe service pipes.

“This is part of the lead service inventory program that we received 100% reimbursement grant, so this is part of the process where we go

through all of our records and if there’s anything that is either there’s a possibility that there’s some confusion on the records, in fact, when we go in the house, are correct,” Capparello said. “So, these letters are going to go out and we just wanted you to be aware in case you were contacted wondering, ‘Why am I getting this letter?’”

Capparello added the DPW has been in touch with the water commissioners about the project and information can be found on the town website, along with information on how to do scratch tests for water service lines.

Capparello stressed her confidence in no lead service lines in the water system.

“If someone really has concerns and they’d like us to come into their home, we’re certainly open to doing that,” Capparello said.

# WSB sets Annual Town Meeting date for June 3

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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WILBRAHAM – The Select Board has set Monday, June 3, as the Annual Town Meeting date, taking place at 6:30 p.m. at Min-

nechaug Regional High School.

In his town administrator’s report, Town Administrator Nick Breault explained he met with Anthony Aube, executive director of Wilbraham Public Access, Superintendent Dr. John Provost and Wilbraham Middle School Principal John Derosia to consider the venue options.

The concerns, Breault shared, were the possibility of the town meeting being two nights along with possible overflow if the meeting should take place at the middle school.

“So, one of the challenges with the middle school is that if we do use an overflow, which the cafeteria is located right there, we do not have the technical capabilities at the school or amongst what we have as resources ourselves to allow for people to speak from the cafeteria,” Breault said. “So, they would have to come to the auditorium or the moderator would have to work something out with a phone call or however that would work. They could see the feed, probably. We could fix it so that

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Jack Godin celebrated his first birthday on Jan. 28 at the Country Club of Wilbraham.



Jack Godin, of Wilbraham, battled Parechovirus.



Jack Godin blew out the candles on Jan. 28, his first birthday.



The Godin family, including Cody, Liz, Owen and baby Jack.



Even during the worst of his battle with Parechovirus, Jack Godin maintained a smile.



Jack's journey was an intense one, as he was hospitalized dealing with multiple ailments in early 2023.

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Jack Godin made it through, after battling Parechovirus and its side effects last year.

**JACK** from page 1

for a rapid response after seizure activity was confirmed. Every time Jack had a seizure, he would stop breathing, and his oxygen level dipped.

At the PICU, doctors also confirmed that Jack was having seizures. Doctors from the cardiology, neurology and infectious disease departments all attended to Jack due to the rarity of Parechovirus.

“So, the virus first causes meningitis, which is in the spinal fluid. It’s inflammation of the spinal fluid,” Liz said. “What it turned into, why he had the seizures, was because he ended up having encephalitis. So, that’s swelling of the brain. So, he had meningoencephalitis, so we ended up going for an MRI, which diagnosed that.”

The infectious disease doctors elected to treat Jack with IVIG, a blood transfusion that provided him with adult antibodies. Liz explained that while Parechovirus can be deadly to babies under a month old, most adults are exposed to it and have built up antibodies, and the adult antibodies helped Jack fight the virus.

“Thankfully, he did do very well with it and he kind of turned a corner. We were there for 10 days,” Liz said. “They did intubate him because of his breathing because he kept stopping breathing with the seizures. He was intubated for like four days, and as the virus cleared out of his system, he was getting better from that. They did extubate him; took him off the intubation, and then he started improving, and we went down to the children’s floor. It was a crazy time.”

Working in the medical field, and previously working in the Baystate ER, Liz joked that she thought she’d seen everything, but when her baby was fighting for his life, it was easy to second guess every decision.

Fortunately, the medical professionals that treated Jack performed outstanding. Liz praised the Baystate employees, all the way down to the janitorial staff, which always made sure she and Cody had everything they needed during the 10-day stay.

Above all, their professionalism helped Liz and Cody power through.

“Looking back on it, the stuff that happened to Jack is super scary... There was one point when we were in the hospital where we looked at each other and we honestly thought he might die. It’s hard to say that and think that, but it was our reality at the time,” Liz said. “He could have not survived it, but when they came in whenever his oxygen dropped or whatever, they were never panicked, which I think really set us at ease too. They were like, ‘Just another day. Everything’s going to be fine.’”

Cody described the PICU medical staff as “the best,” noting that they were always right there when anything happened.

“(Jack) was hooked up to a whole bunch of different (machines) so any little thing would set off an alarm and boom, there they were, running in and making sure we were okay and making sure we had everything we needed along with Jack,” Cody said.

Liz described Jack as a fighter, but the fight isn’t over yet. She said that, based on her research, children who suffer from the virus could experience autism, learning disabilities, vision problems, long-term seizures or cerebral palsy.

Luckily, Jack has yet to experience any symptoms. “You’re always wondering when the shoe’s going to drop, like when he’s going to start showing signs and symptoms of something, but so far nothing, which is incredible,” Liz said. “He’s definitely a miracle.”

Cody said Jack is improving every day. He said the family feels very fortunate that everything played out the way it did on account of the unknowns that are associated with the virus.

“There wasn’t very much information on it so it’s very scary not knowing what the outcome would be and still after the fact not knowing what long-term effects could happen,” Cody said. “He’s definitely a fighter and definitely continues to make us proud with his improvements every day, showing how strong he really was against all odds.”

Liz and Cody look forward to one day telling Jack about his experience in the PICU and how the medical professionals came to his aid. Their gratitude inspired them to hold the Jan. 28 fundraiser for Baystate at the Country Club.

Cody described Jack’s first birthday party as amazing and voiced appreciation for everyone who participated.

“Given everything that he’s been through at such an early age, now being able to celebrate his first birthday is just definitely surreal. It was definitely a great turnout; better than what we expected,” he said.

Now, Liz and Cody count their blessings daily, as they’re thankful for every moment with their baby Jack. Both parents hope Jack’s story can inspire whoever is fortunate enough to hear it.

“This has brought us all together and made us realize life is so precious and just to take a minute to slow down and just realize that and enjoy each other’s company. It’s been quite the experience for all of us. A positive one; it’s been wonderful,” Liz said.

Liz and Cody will continue to collect donations for Jack until March 5, when they participate in the Radiothon for Baystate Children’s Hospital through 94.7 WMAS.

To contribute to the fundraiser, one can search <https://givebutter.com/h7RnBT>.



# School Committee receives updates from LPVEC on school bus fire

By Kristin Rivers  
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WILBRAHAM - School Committee met with LPVEC Executive Director Alvin Morton on Feb. 1 to learn more about the Jan. 12 Hampden school bus fire.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost explained he reached out to Morton to relay the concerns shared at the Jan. 18 meeting. After this, a community meeting with families took place last week.

"So, I've asked him to be here tonight to address things that came up either at the last School Committee meeting or came up at our meeting last week," Provost said.

After opening with an apology to families and the school district, Morton shared how the buses go through annual reviews four times a year, with an inspection completed this past year.

"The bus in question passed inspection on Dec. 14, 2023, and also had passed inspection on Aug. 11, 2023, and then, also July 17, 2023, is when it went to the actual bus inspection station," Morton said.

On the fire's cause, Morton said, "We do not have a deter-

minative cause" because there isn't an agency that investigates school bus fires and MassDOT does not investigate either.

He added the R&V Bus Inspector's Unit looked at the bus, but "they're unwilling per policy to give a determinative cause of what actually caused" the fire.

"So, we're still trying to get that information for somebody to make a determinative cause," Morton said.

On bus evacuation drills, Morton said the district completed spring evacuations the day before, with students learning how to unlock the doors following feedback from the community meeting and his prior work with Chicopee Public Schools.

"When you did bus evacuations, kids just jumped out. They never had the opportunity to touch the door, to unlock the door, to see whether they could actually unlock the door," Morton said. "So, in this situation, we had grades five and up that wanted to unlock the door to be able to do it in the case of an emergency situation."

School Committee member Sherrill Caruana asked about safety checks after Morton shared earlier another bus had broken down on Jan. 22 on the same route, with a student on

that bus telling the driver about being low on antifreeze.

Morton said antifreeze was checked, with no issues found. However, a radiator cap pressure leaked and got into the antifreeze and cooling system, causing it to overheat.

Caruana then asked Morton this.

"So how do we make sure that in the inspections those things are caught before the bus goes out?" Caruana said.

Morton said he was "pretty sure the day that was inspected, they didn't see that particular piece until the run actually transpired."

"It could have happened in between runs when it was back in the yard or before it actually started in the midst of the run. There's no definitive time when it transpired," Morton said.

Vice Chair Sean Kennedy said his main issue is "we need to find out what went wrong," especially if other vehicles may have the same problem.

"Because how do we protect the other vehicles if we don't know what caused this issue? You can do all the inspections that you want because, obviously, the inspections failed to find this particular problem," Kennedy said. "Whatever they're look-

ing for, whatever caused that fire, we weren't looking for it."

Michael Tirabassi agreed on finding the cause and LPVEC checking the buses themselves if they could not find an outside agency, asking Morton about the bus's mileage and age, as the bus involved in the fire was a 2011 Freightliner.

"Where is the age and mileage of this bus in comparison to our fleet? Was this the oldest (or) most rundown bus of the fleet? Is it one of the newest?" Tirabassi said.

Morton said it was not the oldest or most rundown, adding the oldest in the fleet is 2009/2010.

"Every year, we look at the buses and see what their age and condition are and then we actually trade buses in to get newer buses, so it wasn't the oldest bus in the fleet and it wasn't a condition it had any major problems from the perspective with the wear and tear, the brake pads, wipers, things that may have been done to it, tires changed," Morton said. "But nothing that was major that would cause any type of, you know, flags that come up to say, 'Maybe this bus needs to be taken out of service.'"

School Committee member William Bontempi said he un-

derstands Morton "is in a hard position" and asked if LPVEC contacted the manufacturer.

Morton replied yes.

"But like I said, they're unwilling to put anything on paper or be determinative because it's against their policy," Morton said. "I think they thoroughly looked over the bus to make sure there was no wrongdoing or anything on our behalf, but per policy, they don't put anything on paper."

Bontempi hopes LPVEC will continue to look for the fire's cause, stressing the importance of the bus evacuation drills, preparing for real-life situations and being in communication with public safety departments.

"The real-life drills are important and making sure that we have a protocol in place so that when there is a problem with the bus and there is a potential for a fire or any type of injury to the children, making sure that we have public safety there as quickly as possible to help the driver manage that situation," Bontempi said.

The conversation concluded when Chair Michal Boudreau asked Morton about hiring someone for dispatch, with him confirming it's being worked on.

## MEETING from page 3

people in the cafeteria could see it. That would be one challenge."

On the two-night meeting possibility, Breault focused on the arrangement of scheduling dates.

"Should this become a two-night meeting, do we want to try and schedule it on consecutive evenings, which is probably better so we don't have to set up a breakdown place, or do we, just out of necessity, say, 'Well, we're going to have to say it's two Mondays in a row or a Monday and whatever the combination?'" Breault asked.

After reviewing the possible dates, Chairman Theresa Go-

odrich expressed concerns about the town meeting taking place in June.

"My fear is that if we get into June like we're looking at here, people are going to be gone. People will be gone," Goodrich said.

Sue Bunnell was leaning towards June 3 and 4 or June 10 and 11.

"We're going to lose people for Memorial Day weekend for sure, but we're just playing with the odds here," Bunnell said.

Michael Squindo wondered about reorganizing the warrant.

"People don't tend to have as much to say about the first part of the agenda as

they do about latter parts of the agenda. If we presume a moderator is going to be available for one night versus another night, I would just wonder if we want to prioritize the agenda so that the night that we know that we have a moderator, we have a moderator who signed up for the duty through the election process," Squindo said.

An earlier start time was also considered.

"What if we started at 6?" Goodrich said.

"Last couple of long meetings have ended at 11 p.m.,

11:30 p.m. or so and it was a 7 p.m. start," Bunnell said.

Goodrich shared this pitch with the community.

"We have, how many, 12,000 registered voters in town? Maybe a little less and we have 300, 400 people at a meeting. So, if you want to impact your town, come to a meeting," Goodrich said.

Breault recommended the board schedule Annual Town Meeting for June 3 and "let the chips fall where they may" if it means scheduling the meeting a week later.

"Let's hope that if there is a new moderator that they can make June 3. They would have to know that's part of the deal," Breault said. "I should think that we should at least plan for a second night."

The motion to set the 2024 Annual Town Meeting date for Monday, June 3, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Minnechaug Regional High School was approved 3-0.

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## VIEWPOINTS



### Dear Rusty

I'm 63 years old and have not yet started my Social Security.

I now work for the State of Illinois and will draw a pension from that state's university system. I don't pay into Social Security from this position and, as a result, my Social Security payment will be reduced. But I have also worked elsewhere and contributed to Social Security for 26 years.

If I retire from the state university and begin drawing my reduced Social Security payment and then work in a different job, which does contribute to SS, will the reduction to my Social Security payment ever be eliminated? Or will I be permanently stuck with the smaller Social Security payment?

Signed Curious Educator

### Dear Curious

A rule called the Windfall Elimination Provision will apply to your Social Security benefit because your Illinois state pension was earned without paying into the Social Security program. The basic rule is that anyone with a pension earned without contributing to Social Security and who is also entitled to Social Security benefits, is subject to WEP, which reduces that person's Social Security retirement benefit. It's a law enacted many years ago to equalize how SS benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

However, the WEP rules also provide relief for those who have only a small non-covered pension and for those who have separately contributed to Social Security for a lot of years. For example:

## Will my WEP reduction go away if I continue working?

- The WEP reduction to your SS benefit cannot be more than 50% of your non-covered (IL) pension

- The WEP reduction is smaller for each year over 20 years contributing to Social Security from substantial earnings

- WEP does not apply to those who have at least 30 years contributing to SS from substantial earnings

Although you could retire at 63 and collect your pension from the university and also collect your WEP-reduced Social Security, you have something else to consider if you take another job, which pays into Social Security.

Social Security has an annual "earnings test" for those who collect benefits before their Full Retirement Age. The earnings test limits how much you can earn while collecting early SS before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, you will lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If your work earnings substantially exceed the earnings limit, you would likely be temporarily ineligible to receive Social Security benefits. FYI, the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 67.

Without knowing your expected income from a new job, I can't say how much of your SS you would be able to receive, but you can use this as a guide: Social Security will take away benefits equal to half of what you exceed the annual earnings limit by and they typically recover by withholding future benefits.

If 12 months or more of benefits are withheld, you will be temporarily ineligible to receive ben-

efits until your earnings are less or you reach your full retirement age, the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your FRA. So, depending on your expected annual work earnings, you may wish to defer claiming your Social Security until you either earn less or reach 67 years of age.

If you already have 26 years contributing to Social Security from "substantial earnings," your WEP reduction will already be mitigated and any additional years of substantial earnings from which SS payroll taxes are deducted will result in an even smaller WEP reduction.

If you can achieve 30 years of SS contributions from substantial work earnings, WEP will no longer apply. So, you may not be "stuck with" the WEP reduction permanently, but you will need to contact Social Security to request that your WEP reduction amount be reviewed in light of any additional years of SS-covered earnings. This should be done after you submit your income taxes each year you have additional SS-covered earnings.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



I received an email from a birder in Brimfield, who sends bird updates on a regular basis. He reported an acquaintance in Hardwick have five fox sparrows visiting their yard this winter. He said, "Lucky them, I only see one or two fox sparrows in the yard during migration and didn't see any this year."

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow about 7 inches in length. It has rufous streaking and a gray head and back. The tail and rump are reddish brown and the underparts whitish with brown streaking. There is a central, irregular shaped dot on the breast

Like many sparrows, it feeds on the ground eating seeds, fruits and insects. It jumps forward and back pulling up ground debris to uncover food beneath. It may come to feeders where seed is scattered on the ground.

Fox sparrows inhabit deciduous or coniferous woods, brushy areas and wood edges. Their song is a short series of clear, melodious whistles.

The female lays four to six light blue green eggs in a cup like nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with hair fur and rootlets. The nest is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub.

### Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "[I] wanted to pass on some of my backyard action this winter. I was surprised to see five or six cowbirds along with a solitary red wing blackbird last week." He has a lot more juncos around with the white throated sparrows. He said chickadees and nuthatches and the titmice population is down a bit He had a few starlings that stop by now and then along with cedar waxwings. He has not seen as many wild turkeys this year.

### Golden crowned kinglet

A Brookfield resident emailed two photos of a golden crowned kinglet he took on Saturday, Jan. 27. He said, "Walking into my home, I spotted this tiny bird at the door." Tiny is an apt description of this bird as it is only 3 1/2 inches long.

### More Brimfield birds

A frequent emailer said he read about the sighting of bluebirds and grackles in this column. He wrote, "Coincidentally we had a lone grackle in the yard last week. It showed up for a couple of days. I thought it was unusual to see just one grackle, they are most often seen in a group especially this time of year."

The Brimfield resident said, "When I mentioned to a friend from Belchertown that I had seen a grackle at the feeders he mentioned that he had a group of about 30 grackles visit his feeder briefly one day last week."

He said three days ago "I noticed a male bluebird at the feeders. It has visited daily since first being seen. The bird is feeding on suet cakes and a 'log' that is made of seeds, fruit and meal worms."

He counted over 70 juncos and four white-throated sparrows in the yard. He recently had three starlings, who seemed to like a feeder containing suet pellets. He said he rarely sees starlings at his feeders. He removed the feeder to deter the voracious eating starlings.

### Bluebirds

This seems to be the year for flocks of bluebirds showing up at feeders. On Friday, Jan. 26 six or eight male and female bluebirds were at

my suet cake, which contained fruits. I removed the ice from a small dish like feeder, I use for mealworms, grape jelly or orange halves. The bluebirds ate all the mealworms and I filled it again. They have been hanging around daily and I put out mealworms twice a day.

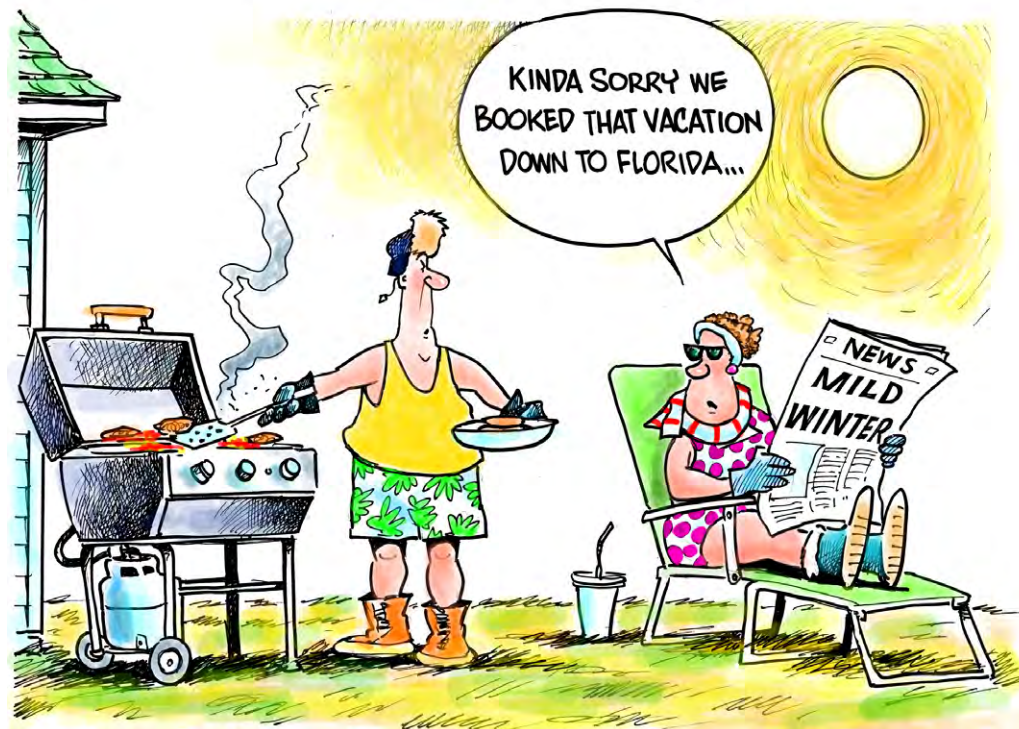
Tuesday, I looked out the window and saw several bluebirds perched on my car. One occupied a side mirror, another was on the roof and two on the hood by the windshield wipers. I think they may have been drinking the water from the melting snow on the car.

Later, when I looked to see if they were still there, a mourning dove was perched by the wiper blade.

### Large flock of robins

A North Brookfield resident, who lives on Lake Lashaway, emailed on Friday, Jan. 17 she had a flock of 30 or more robins zoom in to the neighborhood.

*People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.*



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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.

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



# Mental Health Association is moving HQ to Chicopee

MHA is guided by core values: Respect, integrity, compassion

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
dzbierski@turley.com

CHICOPEE – The Mental Health Association is relocating its headquarters from Springfield to the former MassMutual Learning Center on Memorial Drive.

MassDevelopment, the state's land bank and development finance agency, helped MHA secure \$6.5 million in financing to complete the purchase. MHA is scheduled to move from its current headquarters on Worthington Street in Springfield to Chicopee at the end of March.

"We're very, very excited," Jen Ducharme, vice president of Development & Community Relations for MHA, said. "Right now, construction is currently taking place at the building on Memorial Drive. There were a lot of conference rooms that we have to convert into private offices and smaller conference rooms for our purposes and areas to set up workstations."

Guided by its core values of respect, integrity and compassion, MHA provides residential and support services that promote independence, community engagement, wellness and recovery for people with disabilities and other vulnerable individuals.

MHA also helps people navigate the challenges of substance use recovery through a wide range of services and residential programming. Since the 1960s, it has positively impacted people throughout region.

Ducharme said the facility on Worthington Street has served MHA well but no longer has enough space. Making the move was based solely on operational need.

Searching for a new building, MHA explored options in Springfield, West Springfield and Holyoke but didn't identify a perfect fit until it came across the former conference center on Memorial Drive.

"The space in Chicopee, when it pre-



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski.  
**The Mental Health Association is moving its headquarters to the former MassMutual building on Memorial Drive.**

sented itself, it was highly desirable because it, first of all, has the amount of room that we need. It's approximately 80,000 square feet. So that building, in the location where it is on Memorial Drive, it just provides MHA with an optimal balance of scalability, talent supply and general operation," Ducharme said, adding that it also sits along a bus route.

Across all its programs, MHA employs approximately 700 people and is experiencing exponential growth, as it opens new programs throughout the Pioneer Valley. The move to Chicopee will allow MHA to bring all its teams together under one roof, adding an element of efficiency while promoting collaboration.

Currently, MHA operates over 40 residential programs throughout the Pioneer Valley and has four program homes in Chicopee, so a collaborative relationship already exists with the city.

"It just made sense for us to move our headquarters there in a community where we're already serving the needs of people in residential programs. We're just now going to have our administrative offices there as well," Ducharme said.

MHA anticipates that renovations to the Memorial Drive facility will be completed in mid-March. In Springfield, MHA employees are consolidating before

and everybody is so excited. So, morale is great."

Ducharme is confident that the new space will allow MHA to help more people regardless of circumstance. She said MHA meets people where they are and explained why it is important to take action to better your mental health.

"What we really like people to know is that if you have a physical ailment, you have no problem going to the doctor and getting it addressed and getting help. Mental health, those are the ailments that you can't see, and we really need to be treating those sort of ailments just as we would treat a broken arm or an ailment



**A Mental Health Association van sits in the parking lot of MHA's new facility on Memorial Drive.**

the move and will work with A to Z Movers at the end of March to transfer items to the new building.

Ducharme anticipates little interruption to day-to-day operations. She said morale is high as employees prepare for the move.

"It's incredible," she said. "When our staff team realizes that we're making such a sizable investment in the work that we do, people can't help but be thrilled. We've taken staff on tours to see the space, we've held a couple of meetings there organizationally before construction started,

that people can actually see," Ducharme said.

To learn more about the programs and services provided by MHA, one can visit MHAinc.org.

**RTE 20** from page 1

little (slightly) different," Sanders said. "So, that's different that it is an expansion, is it? It's not doing a TIFF or a DIFF, but it's using ARPA money to help them with their deck."

After Sanders mentioned the deck was supposed to open last year, Mazzuca agreed that was part of the discussion in helping the owners finish the project.

Sanders said he doesn't "see any harm in the group hearing what they have to say on something."

"I mean, we want to hear from all the TIFFS' business owners, but I would say we definitely want to discuss helping existing businesses because are we opening a can of worms by doing that? You know, are people going to be knocking down the door, which would not be a bad thing at all," Sanders said. "But initially, when we did talk about that, I recall it being, you know, trying to occupy the vacant properties and break businesses in."

Sanders stressed he is "totally for" expanding any existing businesses in Wilbraham.

"So, I would be for it as long as it's not with a promise that it's guaranteed. Let's hear the story and discuss as a group for sure," Sanders said.

Christal Russo shared she's driven by the plaza when people eat outside, noting the restaurant sits on Route 20 with traffic driving by.

Russo wondered if their discussion could help other businesses there.

"Like the deck is fine but is there something that Wilbraham can do to say, 'Spruce up that plaza.' Like, 'Put some flowers, put some planters.' Like, make it inviting where maybe some planting walls that kind of block the view of the traffic, so you can have some nice ivy-covered trellises or something," Russo said.

On that thought, Mazzuca mentioned Cima Restaurant & Chop Shop, which faces a self-storage unit and railroad tracks on both sides but receives a lot of reservations from patrons.

"So, people enjoy being outside," Mazzuca said. "Talking with Laurie (Bongiorni), that's part of what they realized was, 'Wow, we can increase business if we can attract people onto the deck.'"

Russo added Cima's is also under a gazebo and has planters.

"They've done as best they can given where they are," Russo said. "I'm just saying that might be a value to add to that."

Jeffrey Smith said regardless of whether the committee assists the business or not, "it's good to hear from the businesses."

"These people have been running operations in Wilbraham for a long time and different types of restaurants, so I think it'd be great to just hear from them in general," Smith said. "What can we be doing to help them? What do they see? Trends? They got the finger on the pulse. So, I think sitting down with them is a win-win regardless of the outcome."



**LEGAL NOTICE**

The Annual Meeting of Corporators of Country Bank for Savings will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at 420 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA for the election of Corporators, Trustees and any other business as required by law or the Bylaws of Country Bank for Savings.

**Dawn Piechota**  
Clerk of the Corporation

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# OBITUARIES

## Death Notices

**Paul S. Carlson, 76**  
Died Jan. 30, 2024  
Services Feb. 2  
Lombard Funeral Home

## Paul S. Carlson 1947-2024



WILBRAHAM – Paul S. Carlson, 76, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024. Paul was born in Hartford, Conn. to the late Elliot and Edwina D. (Burns) Carlson. He was a graduate of Classical High School in Springfield, Class of 1965. Paul served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged. He then continued his education and graduated from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1974 with a degree in Journalism. Paul's time at UMass began his lifetime passion of UMass athletics, especially football and basketball. He retired after more than 20 years from Big Y, as a lead auditor. Paul and his wife raised their family in Monson, they spent time in Maine before returning to the area and settling in Wilbraham. He enjoyed attending the dance programs at Jacobs Pillow in Beckett.

Paul leaves his wife of 49 years, Nancy A. (Driscoll) Carlson; a son, Jeffrey S. Carlson, and his wife, Vanessa, of Chicago, and a granddaughter, Brynn Carlson; his sister-in-law Carol Carlson, of Granby, Mass., two nieces and a nephew. Paul was predeceased by his son, Paul B. Carlson and a brother, Robert E. Carlson.

Visiting hours were held on Friday, Feb. 2 at Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge St. Monson. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to UMass Alumni Fund 380 Russell St. Hadley, MA 01035. For online condolences/directions please visit [www.lombardfuneralhome.com](http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com)

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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



# Wilbraham Town Clerk releases important dates and times

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham Town Clerk Carole J. Tardif announces the following important dates and notices.

### Voter registration

Tardif has announced residents who are not registered voters, who wish to vote in the upcoming Presidential Primary on Tuesday, March 5, must register to vote by 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Registration hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Saturday, Feb. 24, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Voter registration will be held in the Town Clerk's Office 240 Springfield St. or online at [registertovotema.com](http://registertovotema.com). Please contact the Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions at 596-2800, ext. 200.

### Nomination papers are available

Tardif has announced 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 3 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 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.

### Absentee Ballots available

Tardif has announced that the absentee ballot for the upcoming Presidential Primary Election scheduled for Tuesday, March 5 is now available in her office for those voters who will be absent from the town during polling hours, physically disabled preventing them from going to the polls, or religious belief. A request in writing is required for obtaining an absentee ballot. Call 596-2800, ext. 200 if you have any questions. In-person absentee voting is available until 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024. Last day to apply for a mail-in absentee ballot is Monday, February 27, 2024.

### 2024 Presidential Election Calendar – Town of Wilbraham

Presidential Primary – Tuesday, March 5, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Last day to register to vote and change party enrollment – Saturday, Feb. 24.

(Hours – 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Wilbraham Town Clerk's Office)

Early voting – Saturday, Feb. 24, Monday, Feb. 26 through Friday, March 1.

Hours of Early Voting and Location  
-Early Voting is open to all voters

-All Early Voting will take place at Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield St.

-Hours of Early Voting:  
-Saturday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

-Monday, Feb. 26 – Friday, March 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

# Junior Women's Club plans Read Across America, Bunny Breakfast events

Next meeting is Feb. 20 at senior center

WILBRAHAM – Do you have a desire to get involved in our community and volunteer? GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is a volunteer organization providing services and programs in Arts & Culture, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Environment and Health & Wellness.

This month, the club is planning for a Read Across America event and its annual Bunny Breakfast. Membership is open to any woman over 18 years old, living in Wilbraham or any other community that doesn't have its own GFWC Club. The club's next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at 45B Post Office Park side entrance to the Wilbraham Senior Center. See the website for more information [WilbrahamJuniorWomens.org](http://WilbrahamJuniorWomens.org). The club can't wait to meet you.

# Wilb. Junior Women's Club Scholarship

WILBRAHAM – The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. In keeping with who we are, The Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a Minnechaug High School graduating senior who will be attending a two-year, four-year or other accredited institution of higher learning.

Applications are available in the Minnechaug Regional High School Guidance Office.

Completed applications must be post-marked by March 25 and mailed to: Wilbraham Junior Women's Club, Attention Scholarship committee, PO Box 14, Wilbraham, MA 01095

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42										43		

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One point south of due east
- 4. Coagulated blood
- 8. Fortifying ditch
- 10. Devotee of Hinduism
- 11. Trunk of a tree
- 12. Bank note
- 13. Capital of Guam
- 15. Study again
- 16. Covered with hoarfrost
- 17. Opening
- 18. Legendary Rolling Stone
- 21. Stray
- 22. Computer storing system
- 23. Signal
- 24. Pitching

### CLUES DOWN

- 25. Human being
- 26. Malaysian isthmus
- 27. The "Blonde Bombshell"
- 34. A gland
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Endangered
- 37. Three-dimensional
- 38. In a way, precipitated
- 39. God associated with dissolution
- 40. Blemished
- 41. Flow or leak slowly
- 42. Disco legends
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to board
- 2. Get down
- 3. Highly seasoned sausage
- 4. First day of month
- 5. Eurasian shrubs
- 6. The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
- 7. Small lake
- 9. Belief
- 10. Sunrooms
- 12. Metric weight unit
- 14. Vasopressin
- 15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 17. One-time family room staple
- 19. Got back

### CLUES DOWN

- 20. Anger
- 23. Sang merrily
- 24. Sea eagle
- 25. Military men
- 26. Kilo yard (abbr.)
- 27. Found in the sea
- 28. Protects from weather
- 29. Type of medicine
- 30. City along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Lack of disunity
- 36. One-time European Commission officer

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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
**From the left, Susan Reynolds and Phil Hanrahan practice their steps during the "Irish Dance with Phil" class at Hampden Senior Center.**



**Gerry Dearden, Phil Hanrahan and Karen Kology practice an Irish dance move during the "Irish Dance with Phil" class at Hampden Senior Center on Feb. 2.**



**From the left, Gerry Dearden, Beverly Lauzon, Susan Reynolds and Phil Hanrahan practice a dance move together during the "Irish Dance with Phil" class at Hampden Senior Center.**



**From the left, Susan Austin, Susan Reynolds, Gerry Dearden, Phil Hanrahan and Karen Kology practice their Irish dancing during the "Irish Dance with Phil" class at Hampden Senior Center.**

# Life Together

James Baldwin wrote: "I imagine the reason so many people cling to their hate, is because, if they had to let it go, they would have to deal with their pain."

February is Black History Month. For some when reminded they say, "been there done that, they had their chance." Some states erase Black History lest it offend others.

Hateful rhetoric and acts of violence are born in pain, a pain ignored, buried, not allowed to be processed or healed. This pain, this trauma, is not an excuse for bad behavior; we are held accountable.

But, if we could find a way to meet "the other" whom we fear or fail to understand, we might break through the violence which creates fear and division. If we could break through the pain, we might find we have a lot in common.

When such pain dominates the thinking and feeling of a person, they will look for a scapegoat to blame and eliminate.

People of color, Jews, people of various sexual orientation, mentally ill people, and many developmentally delayed youth, are victims of this abuse born in pain.

What pain have you had which may have moved you to fear, judgment of others, and hate? How are you dealing with your pain?

Some self-medicate and live with addiction, which fosters anger and abuse. Some refuse to acknowledge their pain so are unavailable for a relationship. Some just say it is what it is and do not control their anger.

Many damaged individuals will find

others with whom they can bond in their common pain and hate; remember the neo-Nazis in Charlottesville, Virginia, "Jews will not replace us".

Many young male school shooters are identified as disturbed, traumatized, and clearly dangerous, after-the-fact of the massacre. Again, he needs to be held accountable, and or his parents who aided him in preparation for such a violent act.

Yet, what if we could get to him before he acted out? One young man pleaded with his parents to get him a doctor and asked for help, and they laughed him off and said, "deal with it".

What pain are the parents failing to deal with that they would reject help for their son?

We cannot erase our common history; black or white, or whatever ethnic context. The beginning of change, renewal, and transformation, begins with me, with you, dealing with our pain, so we do not project it on others and hate or hurt them.

Black History Month is an opportunity to face history and ourselves.

I too imagine the reason many cling to our, their, hate, is because, if they let it go, they would have to deal with our, their, pain.

**Rev. Dr. Randy Wilburn**

*Minister, Therapist, Consultant*

*Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn. With over 54 years as a parish minister; Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope.*

## DANCE from page 1

"We'll see what happens after that," Hanrahan said.

Hanrahan also talked about her Irish roots, having been born in County Mayo.

"My husband is from Ireland, and I go back there every year; back to see my family, they're all back there. Six sisters and two brothers," Hanrahan said. "And loads of nieces and nephews now."

Hanrahan enjoys how the Irish dance class helps attendees tap into their own Irish heritage while bringing people together.

She also enjoys the physical part of dancing and getting to work with the seniors.

"Like some of the people today, they said they remember their parents, and I love that part of it and I love that they are interested in their Irish background. That's so important to me," Hanrahan said. "I just get a special bond with people that have Irish background, and I think they enjoy meeting somebody from Ireland."

With the next five classes forthcoming, Hanrahan looks forward to having more students and helping them learn the steps.

"I think I look forward to having the group do one set, let's say, complete from beginning to end. I think they would enjoy that, and I would love to see them do that," Hanrahan said.

Hanrahan encourages residents to check out the class.

"It's fun. The staff at the senior center here is awesome. They're wonderful," Hanrahan said. "I think the Irish dancing is fun."

Hanrahan's message for her students was this.

"They were awesome. They were absolutely wonderful, and I hope that they come back," Hanrahan said.

To learn more, call the senior center at 413-566-5588 or check out their newsletter.



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# A COMMUNITY GALLERY



# Life in & WILBRAHAM

Readers are encouraged to send in medium to high resolution photos for this page by e-mail to [dzbierski@turley.com](mailto: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.

Hampden are to hold the f hockey gam Penguins. W the local stu professional

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# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Wilbraham elementary students were able to see the Springfield Thunderbirds play on Jan. 15 against the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins. While the Thunderbirds lost a close 3-2 decision, the students had a great time supporting their local hockey team.

Photos courtesy of Megan Harrigan.

## Community Bulletin Board

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

---

We will pick one each week to run here free of charge,  
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Please send to [dzberski@turley.com](mailto:dzberski@turley.com)



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## Full tuition scholarship to Space Camp available

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 1973 recently celebrated its 50th reunion and created the Janice Voss Memorial Committee. After graduating from Minnechaug Dr. Voss earned degrees from Purdue University and MIT, then became a NASA astronaut and flew five missions in space orbiting the Earth 779 times. In order to honor our classmate, funds were raised to enable one student to attend a week of camp tuition free at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala., as well as an additional \$1,300 for travel. The scholarship is available to students ages 9-11 for Space Camp, or ages 12-14 for Space

Academy.

Applications are available by contacting Lisa Baldrige Fiascone (Class of '73) at: lisafiascone@gmail.com, and will require a brief essay as well as a math or science teacher letter of recommendation.

For more information about Space Camp or Space Academy go to [www.rocketcenter.com](http://www.rocketcenter.com) and follow the link to Space Camp. Do not submit applications to their website as our committee will be selecting the recipient. Openings are being held in most weeks for the student we select. The deadline for completed applications is March 1.

## WPL announces Teen Lucky Clover Candle Workshop

WILBRAHAM – The Teen Department at the library announces a Teen Lucky Clover Candle Workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 5-6 p.m. Taught by Kulina Folk Art, teens in grades 6-12 will learn about types of candles and waxes, the importance of wick size and heat resistant container sizes, the difference between essential oils and fragrance oils and complete instructions on how to burn a candle. Each teen will make one candle using soy wax, color, fragrance oil and a toy.

This program is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of Library and by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Online registration is required as space is limited. Register at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org), “Events”, “Teens”, or call the library at 413-596-6141.

## Would you like to know WHY your Wilbraham taxes went up

WILBRAHAM – On Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Wilbraham Middle School, elected members of the Assessors and appointed members of the Finance Committee will explain to the community:

Why your taxes went up so much in 2024.

Why they could go up more in the future.

What you and the community can do to change this trend.

Please join us so that, with the facts you, the Wilbraham citizens, can make an informed decision about our financial future. The event is facilitated by the Wilbraham Republican Town Committee.

## PET OF THE MONTH Meet Koi!



Koi is a male, Greater Swiss Mountain dog. His birthday is March 12, 2023 so come February he'll almost be 1 year old. His favorite things are hiking on the local trails and eating Dad's leftover steak bone. When he's all grown up, he'll weigh 125-150lbs. Koi boy is always a good boy and really has completed our family!

Brittney Santos & John Kangas

## 6 Things Cats Hate

PART 1

What's bothering your cat could very well be something that bothers you, too. You could unknowingly be making some mistakes regarding these things cats hate.

**Cats Hate Feeling Lonely.** Contrary to popular belief, cats are not solitary animals! It's true that you can leave your cat alone for longer bouts than you could a dog, but kitties crave attention, companionship, and love just like any other furry friend. If left alone for extended periods of time, it can become agitated and develop feelings of anxiety and even depression. Plan playtimes with your cat during the day and consider adopting another cat, so it has a full-time companion.

**Cats Hate Dirty Litter Boxes.** Using a dirty toilet is pretty gross and cats feel the same way about dirty boxes. It's important to clean out your cat's litter boxes every day, or at least every other day, depending on the number of cats you have and their bathroom habits. Depending on the type of litter you use, the frequency with which you scoop it, and the number of cats in your household, litter should be replaced about every two weeks.

**Cats Hate Spoiled Food.** You don't want to eat a plate of spoiled food and neither does your cat. Not only does raw or spoiled food taste bad, but it can make your cat sick, too. Bacteria such as Salmonella and Staphylococcus can grow in food that's been exposed for too long, especially in the warmer months. Be sure to check the expiration dates on all food. If you find yourself saving lots of leftovers after your cat's meals, you may need to assess how much it actually needs to be eating.

# PET PAGE

## READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our “Pet of the Month” and receive a free weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care.

Email your photos to: [jwalker@turley.com](mailto:jwalker@turley.com).

Please include your name and your pet's name.





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Denise Chiminiello, DVM  
Leah Guidry, DVM  
Madison Harris, DVM  
Nicholas Schipper, DVM



Amy Zander &  
Andrew Hersman, DVM

Wilbraham Animal Hospital

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- Intro to your puppy or new rescue training
- Basic obedience, life and manners training
- Environmental training





# Events & announcements schedule

## 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.

## 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 nonperishable 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.”

## 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 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.

## Big Art Show of Small Works A Scantic River Artisans exhibit Feb. 10, 11

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](http://www.scanticriverartisans.com). For additional information about the Artisans and exhibiting opportunities, please email: [info@scanticriverartisans.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

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 [sjsrighter@aol.com](mailto:sjsrighter@aol.com).

## 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](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org), “Events”, “Teens”, or call the library at 413-596-6141.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



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# SENIORS



We are in the thick of the gray, depressing winter weather. Cold and flu season is upon us. COVID-19 cases are going up. Hospitals and doctors' offices are requiring masks again. What can we do to protect ourselves?

There are many products and ideas to boost or support immunity. But what can we believe? It is not really as simple as the product claims would like us to believe. There are many different types of cells in our immune systems, and they all respond in different ways. For one product to claim to boost immunity all by itself is not quite accurate. Which kind of immune cells is it supporting? Are those the ones that actually fight off the flu or cold or COVID? Do those vitamins and minerals actually do anything or does our body just process the extra as waste products? Should I be spending my money on supplements? There are so many questions.

As we get older, our natural immune response becomes reduced, which means we are more prone to infections and disease, from the common cold to cancer. Influenza (the flu), COVID and pneumonia are the leading cause of death of people over 65 when viewed worldwide. Our immune response is simply less than that of younger people, even in response to vaccines. That is not to say we shouldn't get vaccinated, but that getting a yearly shot without taking other measures is not the best way to stay healthy.

According to Harvard Medical School, there seems to be a connection between nutrition and immunity in elderly people. There is a form of malnutrition called "micronutrient malnutrition," which seems to be very common even in affluent countries like our own. This is a form of malnutrition where a person is not necessarily short in calories but in some essential vitamins and minerals that are obtained from a healthy diet. There is some evidence that being deficient in some micronutrients such as zinc, iron, vitamins A, B6, C, and E can affect immune response in animals, but it has not been studied in humans. But

frequently what is a problem in lab animals can be an issue for us. So, what to do? If you suspect your diet is not as it should be (you eat very few vegetables or rely on fast food or restaurant meals) you may want to consider a multivitamin and mineral supplement. Taking large doses of a single vitamin or mineral (Vitamin C or zinc or folic acid) does not seem to be of any benefit. A varied, healthy diet with lots of fruits and vegetables seems to be the best answer. There is not much science to back up claims of a certain vitamin or mineral preventing colds/flu.

There is some evidence that certain folks do have shortened colds with zinc/vitamin C supplements such as Zicam or Airborne. I, myself, seem to do better when taking Zicam or a generic equivalent, but my husband sees no difference. It depends on the person. The other thing to be aware of is the brand of vitamin or supplement you are buying. Price is not always an indicator of quality or quality control. When taking any supplement or vitamin, check for a USP badge on the label. The USP (United States Pharmacopeia) is an independent institute that is dedicated to ensure that what the label says is what you are actually getting. Supplements are not regulated by the FDA. Since 1994, USP on supplements has meant that there are four standards that are met by the product. Identity- the product is what it claims to be. Potency - it is present in the right amount. Purity- free from contaminants or other ingredients. Performance- it will dissolve and disintegrate in the body in enough time for the active ingredient to be absorbed appropriately. Some companies use their own standards to meet these requirements, but unless you see the USP badge you cannot be sure. I always look for it when I buy vitamins or supplements.

My next article will focus on non-pharmacological ways to boost immunity. As always, I can be reached via email at seniorinfo2021@gmail.com.

**Diane Weston, RN**

*Senior Center Building Committee*

## 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.

**JULY 10, Wednesday** – Log Cabin "Margaritaville" Jimmy Buffet Tribute featuring "Changes in Latitude", Twin Lobster or Prime Rib; Self-Drive \$92 per person. Full Payment Due June 14.

**AUGUST** – Mt. Washington Cog Railway, stop in Manchester halfway, lunch; Cost, date to be announced.

**AUG. 26, Mon** – Newport Playhouse" Nonsense: A Musical" buffet lunch, show, cabaret; \$125 per person. Full Payment Due Aug. 7.

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## 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 at 1 p.m. Began Friday, Feb. 2**  
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.

**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.



# SPORTS

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## Falcons win meet at home



Sam Dean goes for the pinfall.



Matt McPhail tries to work his way out of trouble.



Hunter Gormally looks to turn his opponent over.



Lincoln Stiles looks to work his way out of a waist lock.



Zayde Fachetti grabs a wrist looking for a takedown.

WILBRAHAM – Last Tuesday night, league rivals and neighbors locked up as Ludlow wrestling took on Minnechaug. The Falcons prevailed in the meet 54-13. Ludlow got wins from Lucas Alvan, Noah Simard, and Logan Cabral. Jordan Dietz, Liam Maher, and Jon Bermudez got pinfall victories for the Falcons. Both teams look toward the sectional and state meets in the coming weeks.



Owen Goldberg holds the leverage after a takedown in his match.

## Defense shines again for Chaug girls



Kelly Cronin attempts a three-pointer.



Ava Ofcarcik sends a pass toward the corner.



Elizabeth Woytowicz dribbles along the perimeter.

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School girls basketball team held another team's scoring attack down as the Falcons defeated Westfield 39-27 last Wednesday evening. Lylah Jeannotte, Kelly Cronin, and Elizabeth Woytowicz had eight points each to lead the Minnechaug scoring. The Falcons are now 12-3 on the season. They will face Westfield once more before the season ends. *More photos on page 16.*

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



## Falcons need pair of wins for tourney

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Minnechaug Regional High School hockey team is sitting at 7-8 heading into the final two weeks of the regular season. The Falcons split a pair of games, beating Westfield

2-1 and losing to Greenfield 5-3 last Saturday on the road. The Falcons need two wins in their final three games to qualify for the state tournament. Minnechaug has games remaining against East Longmeadow

and Westfield, both teams they have defeated once this year, both by one goal. Minnechaug faces Taconic on Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Olympia Ice Center.

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League finished up the month of January this past Tuesday, Jan. 30.

In one match, Team BK bowled against Life is Good. In game one, Life is Good defeated Team BK by a score of 388-341. Paul Cyr of Life is Good started off the evening with a 113. In game two, Life is Good won again by a score of 376-346. Paul Cyr continued breaking 100 with a 104.

In game three, Team BK won the last game by a score of 379-376. Jeff Whyte of Team BK led his team to victory by finishing his evening with a 107 game.

Life is Good won total pinfall by a final score of 1140-1066.

Another match was between Acres and Blue B's. In game one, Acres won the first game 370-338. In game two, the Blue B's turned things around and had a big victory over Acres, 408-352. In game three, Acres won the last game 387-374.

Matt Bertelli of Acres finished the evening with a 106 game.

The Blue B's won total pinfall by a final score of 1120-1109.

The winners of round one, Compression, bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Last in Line was victorious over Compression by a score of 389-351. In game two, Compression and Last in Line were in a close game, but Compression came out victorious 394-387. Jason Dominick of Compression led the team with a good game, 120.

In game three, Last in Line won the last game of the evening, 328-326. Last in Line won total pinfall by a final score of 1104-1071.

The Champs R Here bowled against their average and won all three games. Their team scores were 365 in game one, 414 in game two and 385 in game three.

Thursday Night Mixed League  
The winners of the first round, Team Six bowled against Team Four.

In game one, Team Six won the first game 404-393. In game two, Team Six won again 421-393. Dan Mahoney of Team Six had a good game bowling a 111. In game three, Team Four won the last game, 402-392.

Team Six won total pinfall by a final score of 1217-1188.

Team One bowled against Team Three. In game one, Team One edged out Team Three by one pin, 399-398. In game two, another close game between both teams, but Team One wins again, 394-390. In game three, Team One wins again for a three-game sweep, 410-378.

Total pinfall went to Team One, 1203-1166.

Team Five bowled against Team Two. In game one, Team Two won the first game 427-410. Danny Fennyery of Team Two led the team with an opening game of 126. In game two, Team Five won the second game 419-397.

In game three, Team Five won the last game of the evening 473-409. Mike Wadas of Team Five, who is a new reader of the league news, finished strong with a final game of 125. His teammate, Joe Danek had a strong finish by bowling a 110.

Team Five won total pinfall by a final score of 1302-1233.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 North Main St. The alleys can be reached by calling 413-289-0013.

## Modifieds champion plans lengthy 2024 schedule

CHELMSFORD – Modified champion Jon McKennedy announced today that he will drive in over 15 Tour-Type Modified races across the New England region in 2024.

Competing for his own team, McKennedy will mix between Outlaw Open Modified Series races at Thompson Speedway, Open Modified races at Stafford Motor Speedway, select NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour events and a few Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series races to make out a robust calendar for 2024.

"We're excited to get the ball rolling in our FURY race cars and go chase some trophies," McKennedy said. "I feel this is a great opportunity for me to go out there and continue to show we can win races. We did have some other opportunities for rides, but felt this was the best route for this season. We have picked some of the higher profile events at my favorite tracks for the 2024 season and feel the competition is going to be stout at all of them."

A full sponsor lineup for the car and paint scheme will be released in the near future.

McKennedy's season will begin at Thompson Speedway with the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series during Icebreaker weekend on Saturday, April 7, followed by the Open Modified event at New Hampshire Motor Speedway's Northeast Classic on April 13.

He will follow that up with seven more Thompson events during the 2024 season (May 27 - Outlaw Mods, June 13 - Outlaw Mods, June 27 - Outlaw Mods, July 25 - Outlaw Mods, August 7 - Outlaw Mods, August 14 - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour and October 12

- Outlaw Mods). Thompson Speedway will continue to be operated by the American-Canadian Tour and Pro All Star Series for 2024, keeping short track racing alive at the Connecticut oval.

McKennedy will compete at Stafford Motor Speedway for the NAPA Spring Sizzler (April 27-28), Open Modified Mountain Masters (July 17) and the Fall Final with the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series on Sept. 28.

His NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour starts will take place at Monadnock Speedway (May 4 and July 20), Seekonk Speedway (June 1) and New Hampshire Motor Speedway (June 22). McKennedy will compete in the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series at Thompson (April 7), White Mountain Motorsports Park (July 27) and Star Speedway (Sept. 15).

The 2022 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion, McKennedy is no stranger to winning races and championships. On top of the 2022 title, McKennedy finished second in the 2020 Tour standings driving for Tommy Baldwin Racing. He also picked up his first career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win at Myrtle Beach Speedway in 2018, and has another victory at Claremont Motorsports Park in 2022, which helped lead to his title.

McKennedy is a former ISMA Supermodified champion, 4-time ISMA Star Classic winner, 4-time ISMA Ollie Silva Memorial winner and 4-time Modified Racing Series champion. He has multiple Star Speedway championships to his resume, a North-South Shootout with Tommy Baldwin Racing (2018) and a championship in the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series (2014), along with many karting titles in his

early years and additional race wins in multiple divisions. McKennedy was also named the 2016 North East Touring Series driver of the year.

For a full tentative schedule for Jon McKennedy's 2024 season, see below.

2024 Schedule \*Subject To Change\*

April 7 - Thompson Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series  
April 13 - New Hampshire Motor Speedway - Open Modifieds

April 27-28 - Stafford Speedway - NAPA Spring Sizzler

May 4 - Monadnock Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

May 27 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

June 1 - Seekonk Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

June 13 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

June 22 - New Hampshire Motor Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

June 27 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

July 17 - Stafford Speedway - Open Modified Mountain Masters

July 20 - Monadnock Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

July 25 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

July 27 - White Mountain Motorsports Park - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series

Aug. 7 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

Aug. 14 - Thompson Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

Sept. 15 - Star Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series

Sept. 28 - Stafford Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track NAPA Fall Final

Oct. 12 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series



Alani Botass makes her way down the court.



Laila Smith looks to shoot under pressure.



Callin O'Brien goes for the layup.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



# Disciplined game nets win for T-Birds

HARTFORD, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (21-19-3-2) went on two separate runs of three straight goals to defeat the Hartford Wolf Pack (23-13-5-0) by a final score of 6-3 on Saturday night inside the XL Center.

While the scuffling Springfield power play would not get the credit for the game's opening goal, they were responsible for the offensive possession that led to it. Jakub Vrana found his way to a soft space at the top of the right circle, where Hugh McGing located him for a one-time blast past Dylan Garand's glove at 9:05. Vrana's seventh goal of the season made it 1-0, and the T-Birds offense was far from finished.

Just 1:54 after Vrana's tally, a mis-play of the puck in neutral ice sprung Ryan Suzuki on a clean breakaway. Suzuki perfectly picked the lower corner over Garand's blocker, making it 2-0 at 10:59.

Then it was Vrana's turn to join the breakaway game, as he, too, beat Garand on the stick side off a stretch pass from Mikhail Abramov, making it 3-0 at 13:59.

Brennan Othmann took it upon himself to give his team a spark, as the Wolf Pack rookie dropped the mitts with ex-Hartford blueliner Wyatt Kalynuk at 16:40 of the first. Kalynuk, unfortunately, received a game misconduct for removing his elbow pads prior to the fight. Just 24 seconds later, the scrap paid dividends for the Pack as Alex Belzile crashed the paint and cashed in with a backhand poke through Malcolm Subban to make it a 3-1 score after 20 minutes. Subban was flawless in turning aside 14 of 15 Wolf Pack shots in the first.

As the second began, it became evident that Othmann's fight lit a spark in the Hartford bench. Just 55 seconds into

period two, Ryder Korczak found a loose puck in a four-man scrum outside the blue paint and found Brandon Scanlin for a one-time shot through Subban to make it a 3-2 game.

Then at 2:46, Korczak was in the middle of things again, driving a puck to the net, where towering Matt Rempel rammed home the rebound, getting Hartford back to even in not even six minutes of game action.

Springfield utilized its timeout and was able to stabilize defensively. With just under seven minutes left in the period, rookie Zach Dean came up with his signature play of the season. The rookie centerman beautifully toe-dragged the puck from the left circle to walk around a defender before elevating a backhand shot over Garand's glove at 13:47, giving Springfield the lead back at 4-3 on his first goal in 13 games.

Springfield's well-disciplined night carried through all 60 minutes, as the T-Birds did not allow Hartford's fourth-ranked power play any chances all evening. At 7:54 of the third period, captain Matthew Peca added to the lead again with a wrist shot that ricocheted off Garand high into the air and bounced over the goal line to make it 5-3.

The insurance goal proved to be more than enough, as the Wolf Pack could not find a way to get one through Subban and the defensive front of the T-Birds. Will Bitten added his 10th of the season into an empty net at 18:08 with McGing tallying a third assist on the game's final goal.

The T-Birds get the All-Star break to get rest before their next contest on Saturday, Feb. 10 for Ice-O-Topes Night at the MassMutual Center against the Hershey Bears. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m.

# Railers score win over Lions

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC – The Worcester Railers HC (20-18-3-2, 45pts) took down the Trois-Rivières Lions (19-22-2-2, 42pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 6-4 in front of a crowd of 1,819 at the Colisée Vidéotron. The Railers are back at the DCU Center against the Maine Mariners on Friday, February 9th at 7:05pm.

Blade Jenkins (3-2-5) struck first tonight for Worcester, as he put the Railers ahead immediately following the power play. The Railers followed up with three more in the second from Anthony Callin (1-1-2), Trevor Cosgrove (1-2-3), and Jenkins' second of the night. Trois-Rivières were good for two in the second as Justin Ducharme (1-1-2) and Cedric Montminy (1-0-1) each scored goals to make it a 4-2 game heading into the third. There were four goals in the third, including two straight to open the period for Trois-Rivières from Nicolas Guay (1-1-2) and Alex-Olivier Voyer (1-1-2) to tie the game 4-4. Jack Quinlivan (1-0-1) scored the game-winner after coming out of the penalty box before Blade Jenkins secured the win with his third goal of the night and second straight hat trick in as many nights.

Like Friday's game, it was another dominant first period from Worcester. The Railers outshot the Lions 16-7 through the first 20 minutes, highlighted by Blade Jenkins' (18th) fourth goal of the weekend. Neither team scored the rest of the frame as the Railers went into the second period with a 1-0 lead.

Scoring opened wide in the second period with five goals combined between the two teams. First it was Anthony Callin (8th) with a loose puck in front supplied by Blade Jenkins to

grow Worcester's lead to 2-0. The Lions cut back into their deficit with Justin Ducharme's (12th) tally as he swept up a rebound from in front of Muse and tucked it along the far post. The Railers responded midway through the period with a pair of goals back-to-back. Trevor Cosgrove let one go from the blue-line that Vrbcetic never saw to make it 3-1 Worcester. Jenkins followed up with his second of the afternoon on a break down the left wing to give Worcester their largest advantage of the night at 4-1. The Lions got one back just before the end of the period when Cedric Montminy scored to make it 4-2 heading into the third.

The Railers killed off a Jack Quinlivan high-sticking penalty to start the third before Ryan Verrier was sent to the penalty box for a delay-of-game call. From there, Trois-Rivières kept their foot on the pedal. Nicolas Guay (2nd) scored on the power-play followed by Alex-Olivier Voyer (12th) to complete the Lions comeback and tie the game 4-4. With the game tied heading into the final five minutes of the third, Quinlivan (2nd) was sprung out of the penalty box and muscled his way around a Lions defender to beat Vrbcetic and put Worcester ahead for good, 5-4. With the net empty and the Lions looking to tie the game, Blade Jenkins (18th) was given the puck in the neutral zone by Anthony Repaci, where he strode into the attacking end and scored his third goal of the game. Jenkins is the first player in Worcester Professional Hockey history to score hat tricks in back-to-back games, scoring one on Friday night, Worcester's first of the season.

## This Week in Rec

Erin Carroll, Assistant Director

As we continue to manage a busy winter season of sports and activities, we at WPRD are also very busy planning for the spring and summer seasons. Upcoming Spring program registration in February and March includes track and field, volleyball, and tennis. Rec baseball (K-8) registration is open

through Feb. 12, Girls Lacrosse registration is open through Feb. 16 and Youth Softball registration has ended, but please call the WPRD office to see if any spots remain.

There are also some wonderful spring special events that will include the Annual Egg Hunt on March 30, the Falcon Trail Race in April, Opening Day for baseball and softball in April as well as the Fishing Derby in May!

Summer registration will also be here before you know it! Registration for our Spec Day Camp will start March 19 for Wilbraham residents in the WPRD office only (March 26 for

non-residents). Spec Day Camp will run for six, one-week sessions starting the week of July 8-12 and ending the week of Aug. 12-16. The Spec Day Camp sessions usually sell out, so if you are interested mark your calendar and plan on coming in to the WPRD office to register!

We have an exciting line-up of one-week summer programs for the summer 2024 which include the Valley Blue Sox, Falcon Football Clinic, Tennis Programs, Junior Team Tennis, Circuit Labs, Incredifix, ART-ventures, Play-Well Lego, 413ATC Softball Clinic, Fun at Fenway, Soccer clinics and more! Registration for all of our one-week summer specialty programs will start April 2. We have lots of fun planned for everyone and for a wide range of ages!

**NOTE:** To register for all of our programs and for more information, please visit [WilbrahamRec.com](http://WilbrahamRec.com).



## SCHOOLS

# HCC celebrates grand opening of Scholarship Resource Center

HOLYOKE - Feroza Sherzai holds the distinction of being the first Holyoke Community College student to apply for a scholarship through the school's new Scholarship Resource Center.

Sherzai, a Holyoke resident, arrived at the center on Wednesday, Jan. 31, just as the open house celebrating its grand opening got underway. She sat right down at one of the center's three computer workstations.

"This is a very good opportunity for students," said Sherzai, a student in HCC's Academic English as a Second Language program. "I came here to fill out the application. I had a lot of questions."

On hand to answer those questions was Laura Freeman, manager of stewardship and donor relations for HCC and coordinator of the center.

"She was very good," Sherzai said. "She was very patient with me."

The Scholarship Resource Center is the first of its kind among community colleges in Massachusetts. Its purpose: to make it easier for students to apply for scholarships available through the HCC Foundation.

"We're here 9 to 5, Monday through Friday, to help with all things scholarship related," Freeman said. "It's great to have this very warm, inviting and inclusive space where students can come and get the assistance they need."

Scholarship season for the 2024-2025 academic year opened on Monday, Jan. 29, and continues through Sunday, March 3.

Each year, the HCC Foundation awards hundreds of scholarships worth about \$350,000 to more than 300 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Students must be currently enrolled at HCC or have been accepted for the upcoming academic year to be eligible.

The center saw a steady stream of students throughout the four-hour open house, which culminated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon led by

President George Timmons.

"This is such an exciting time for HCC," he said, "and we're excited to continue to provide services that remove barriers to education. What a great way to start your academic career and journey than here in this wonderful, new, lovely space. Not only is it functional, but it's also social."

Among the other students who came to the open house to apply for a scholarship was first-year student Sunrise Iaim Smith of Chicopee.

"I read that HCC had created a new facility where we can get support in applying and be able to ask questions during the application process," Smith said. "I figured that's a nice support to have. It's not always easy navigating financial aid or understanding expectations when you're filling out an application. Just having people who know the process there to support you makes it feel a little better, especially since it's my first time."

The Scholarship Resource Center is located on the first floor of the Donahue Building. The center is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students in need of assistance can drop in any time during office hours or schedule an appointment to meet with center staff.

Applicants only need to fill out a single online form to be automatically matched with the scholarships they are most qualified to receive. There are scholarships for new students, current students, and students transferring to other institutions, scholarships based on financial need, scholarships for students in specific majors, scholarships for residents of certain communities, and scholarships that recognize academic achievement.

For more information or for assistance, please contact the Scholarship Resource Center at [scholarships@hcc.edu](mailto:scholarships@hcc.edu) or visit the center in Donahue 158.

To view scholarship opportunities and begin the application process, please go to: [www.hcc.edu/scholarships](http://www.hcc.edu/scholarships).



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## 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](mailto: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.*

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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](http://www.norcrosswildlife.org) or email [dgugliotti@norcrosswildlife.org](mailto:dgugliotti@norcrosswildlife.org).

## REAL ESTATE

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### FOR RENT



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

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### TOWN OF HAMPDEN PUBLIC HEARING: LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that the Hampden Board of Selectmen will hold a hearing under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 138, Section 12 on **Monday, February 26, 2024 at 6:00 pm** at the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA to hear public comment on an application for a new all-alcohol liquor license for restaurant previously doing business as Min Chao Gourmet, 5 Allen Street, Hampden. Premises described as consisting of one floor, about 1632 sq ft, one front entrance, and one rear exit with the capacity of about 60 people. Persons wishing to comment on the referenced application will be heard.

Hampden Board of Selectmen Local Licensing Authority 02/08, 02/15/2024

### Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

The Hampden Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 6 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA, for those interested in the petition of owners Mark Hebert and Gretchen Warner for a Special Permit or Variance under Section 7.3, Table 7.2 of the Hampden Zoning Bylaw for the rear yard requirement for the construction of an accessory building at their residence located at 34 Echo Valley Drive. The petition and related materials are on file in the Town Clerk's office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

For the Board, L. Jed Berliner, Chair 02/08, 02/15/2024

### Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 6:30 PM** in the Town House, 625

Main Street, Hampden, MA on the application of Glendale Road Development, LLC for a Special Permit under Section 17.6, Solar Energy Systems, of the Hampden Zoning Bylaw to allow the construction of a 4.92 MW-ac Ground Mounted Solar Facility coupled with Energy Storage and associated access driveways, site grading and utilities located at 530 Glendale Road. The facility will be an Agricultural Ground Mounted System where the interior array areas will be maintained as pasture fields grazing sheep, cattle and chickens managed by Ledge Valley Farm who is already established at the site. 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 02/08, 02/15/2024

## WE'VE EXPANDED OUR WEB SITE PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

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

# CAMPUS NOTES

## President's List at Dean College

FRANKLIN – Natalie Falconer, of Hampden, has earned a place on the President's List for the Fall 2023 semester at Dean College. Students named to the President's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies.

## Dean's College Dean's List

FRANKLIN – Dean College is pleased to announce that Marissa Warren, of Hampden, has earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. Students named to the Dean's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

## Hartwick College Dean's List

ONEONTA, N.Y. – Hartwick College congratulates the following Wilbraham students who were named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List: Giancarlo Daniele and Alexa Patrakis.

Making the Dean's List is an indication of excellence in academic work. To qualify, students must complete at least 12 academic credits during a term with a grade point average of at least 3.50 and no incompletes.

## University of Hartford Dean's List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. – The University of Hartford is pleased to announce the local students who have been named to the Dean's List for Fall 2023.

**Hampden:** Carolynne Avery  
**Wilbraham:** Lea Kuselias, Peter Kuselias, Katie Shea and Andrew Esteves

## University of Hartford President's List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. – The University of Hartford congratulates the local students who have been named to the President's List for Fall 2023.

The President's List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester.

**Hampden:** Carolynne Avery  
**Wilbraham:** Andrew Esteves, Lea Kuselias and Peter Kuselias

## WNE Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University is proud to announce that the following local students have been named to the WNE Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. Students are named to the Dean's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher.

**Hampden:** Justis Barbeau, majoring in Actuarial Science.  
Brendan Connors, majoring in Construction Management.  
**Wilbraham:** Ella Henry, majoring in Psychology.  
Jacob Keller, majoring in Computer Science.  
Thomas Kierkla, majoring in Pharmacy  
Anh Le, majoring in Computer Science.  
Alexa Barber, majoring in Criminal Justice.

## WNE President's List

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 500 students who have been named to the President's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

This prestigious honor is a testament to the commitment and dedication these students have demonstrated in their pursuit of academic excellence. The President's List acknowledges those who have achieved a semester GPA of 3.80 or higher, showcasing their remarkable scholastic accomplishments.

The diverse group of awardees represents various majors across WNE's Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering. The University commends these students for their intellectual curiosity, leadership, and dedication to their educational journey. Local students include the following.

### Hampden

Juliana D'Agostino, majoring in Psychology.  
David Noel, majoring in Electrical Engineering.  
Annina Rettura, majoring in General Business.  
Ryan Pedersen, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.  
Juliana D'Agostino of Hampden, MA majoring in Psychology.

### Wilbraham

Jessica Lewis, majoring in Biology.  
Brian Rostowski, majoring in Business Analytics & Information.  
Philip Brehart, majoring in Computer Engineering.  
Emily Gosselin, majoring in Computer Science.  
Shea Harrison, majoring in Health Sciences.  
Thomas Taylor, majoring in Health Sciences.  
Tristan Hebert, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.  
Luke Stefaniak, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.  
Grant Maziarz, majoring in Mechanical Engineering/Mechatronics Concentration.  
Emily-Jane Sullivan, majoring in Psychology.

### WPI Dean's List

WORCESTER – The following students were named to the fall 2023 Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.  
Samuel Manteria, from Wilbraham, Class of 2027, majoring in Biochemistry  
Molly Olsen, from Wilbraham, Class of 2027, majoring in Computer Science  
Mason Perham, from Hampden, Class of 2024, majoring in Data Science

## Green Meadows School announces Term 2 Honor Roll

HAMPDEN - Emilia Imbriglio received Eighth-Grade Honors for Term 2 at Green Meadows School.



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