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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Social Services Coordinator Barbara Harrington serves her ham and bean soup entry during the Souper Bowl event at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

## WSC hosts 'Souper Bowl' ahead of Super Bowl weekend

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Fierce but friendly competition was to be had at its first-ever Souper Bowl event.

The event took place ahead of Super Bowl weekend, comprised of senior center staff and volunteers showing off their cooking prowess with hearty, delicious bowls of soup or chowder.

Proceeds and donations from the event went towards the Alzheimer's Association.

The entries were chicken corn chili from Dawn Dietrich, chicken pot pie soup from Deb Rollend, corn chowder from Deb Williams, zucchini soup from Maria Cabela, beef stew from Brenda Willard, clam chowder from Tammy Accorsi, beef and vegetable soup from Patrick

Renna, director of Veteran Services, veggie soup from Activities/Volunteer Coordinator Jen Finnigan, ham and bean soup from Social Services Coordinator Barbara Harrington, cheeseburger chowder from Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs, and tortellini soup from Sue Rigney. Dubord was declared the winner.

The celebrity judges were Fire Capt. Kevin Brown and Tracey Perry, assistant vice president and retail banking officer at Country Bank. State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) was slated as a judge, but due to the event being rescheduled from the Feb. 6 snow and ice storm, he was unable to attend.

Harrington explained she wanted the proceeds to support the Alzheimer's Association as it's a cause close to her heart, along with the senior center offering the Memory Cafe program and the town's efforts

in becoming a dementia-friendly community.

"I always wanted to do something like this. We had a great turnout and we raised \$272 in donations. So, it was awesome," Harrington said.

Harrington was thrilled with the turnout.

"It was great because, of course, we have people coming in and out of the door at the senior center for the programs, so they came in and stopped in. It was also a great opportunity for the people who have never been here that just came just for that and to see what we offer," Harrington said.

Harrington praised the residents for their support.

"We're just so fortunate because the people of Wilbraham, they want to get involved and they want to do-

Please see **SOUPER**, page 4

## Residents get creative at Valentine's Day Card Making at WPL



Turley photos by Hannah Yeasley

Gina Ricciardi (left) with Luciana Camerota (right) were dressed for the occasion in pink scarves with hearts on them. Luciana made several cards for family members, and several others to put in the donation box.

By Hannah Yeasley  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The library hosted an all-ages Valentine's Day Card making workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

The event took place in the Brooks Room and began at 4 p.m., running for about an hour. It was sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

The Brooks Room was set up with six different tables, all with their own themes for Valentine's Day Cards. The card making was self-guided and drop-in style, where attendees could visit as many tables as they wanted.

Each table had glue sticks, scissors, markers and construction paper for the cards. Each table also had different things to decorate the cards with based on the theme.

One of the tables was superhero-themed and had cutouts of words such as "Super" and "Great!" to be used. Another table was dog-themed, with hearts with paw prints inside it. One table had an example that prompted card makers to cut two hearts out of a paper and fold them in half, so they

ended up with a heart-shaped card.

One duo, Gina Ricciardi and Luciana Camerota, showed up dressed for the occasion with Valentine's themed scarves and a pink headband.

"We've never been to an event like this, but we saw the notice in the paper and thought it sounded like fun," Ricciardi said. "We are making a few cards to take home to give to family members, but are about to make some to donate. We'll definitely come to more stuff like this."

Off to the side of the room, there was a box where attendees could donate cards they made to be dropped off to home-bound library patrons.

Event organizer and Children's Librarian Jaime Hageman had the idea to set up the donation box.

"We do weekly drop-offs to several houses in Wilbraham, where there are people who can't make it to the library for some reason or another," Hageman said. "So, this will be a nice little bonus in their delivery next week. The leftover cards will go to the senior center

Please see **CARDS**, page 8

### HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

## More Random Thoughts

George Washington on the Bay Path

By Charles F. Bennett  
Times Editor Emeritus

Last month we wrote about random thoughts on Wilbraham history. This month we continue with more of the same.

Those of us who attend Annual Town Meetings over the years have often heard about folks who were appointed to various outdated designations like "Fence Viewers, 'Measurers of Grain' and other old-time town positions.

Looking through the "History of Wilbraham" by Chauncey Peck, we saw that he wrote the first Wilbraham town meeting elected officers like Selectmen, Treasurer, Constables, Assessors, Tithing Men, Surveyors of Highways, and Wardens. Peck noted that the job of a warden was to see that no trespasses were made on public land to cut timber or hunt deer.

And, I was fascinated to learn what "Tithing Men" use to do. "The



Charlie Bennett

Tithing Men" were to see that Sunday laws were to be obeyed and that "especially frisky boys and girls in the church galleries should refrain from playfulness and "dumb telegraphing" to each other while the services went on," wrote Peck. Do you think that today's Wilbraham kids who attend church services are better behaved than their ancestors?

After the town was organized a meeting was held to vote to raise money for the schools, the minister and the highways. At the second town meeting on Dec. 1, 1763, 15 English pounds was appropriated for the "support of the school."

Lorenzo Kibbe

Speaking of early religion in Wilbraham I revisited one of my earlier columns quoting some historical facts about our town in the 19th century. Local legend holds that churches were most often built on the highest land elevations "to be nearer to heaven" in towns where there was a land choice.

Up on the Mountain in the Glendale section of town, religious services were held at the No. 7 schoolhouse and in private homes after the Baptist church moved to south Wilbraham in 1854. Lorenzo Kibbe

Please see **HISTORICAL**, page 9

## 26th Annual Father-Daughter Dance held at St. Cecilia Parish

By Noelle Hisgen  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Jan. 31, the Knights of Columbus 10195 held their 26th Annual Father-Daughter Dance at St. Cecilia Parish.

It's one of the biggest events for the church and the Knights of Columbus. All the girls were dressed up and ready to spend a fun night with their dads.

The gymnasium was filled with decorations to celebrate the Valentine's season. There were tables with nice decorations, a dessert table, a photo booth and a dance floor.

The girls also got fun souvenirs from the dance, including feather crowns, light-up bracelets and a light-up wand.

The daughters and dads danced to music that was led by Jon O'Neil, and this has been his third year as DJ for the dance. He led everyone in a



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen

Fathers and daughters dance together for a conga line.

warmup song, fun upbeat dances and line dancing. As well as letting them take breaks in between for special "Sweetheart dances" where the daughters always finished the song at the end hugging their dads.

In attendance was Father-Daughter Dance Chairperson

Rosemary Oldread, who is also the director of Youth Activities at St. Cecilia's.

"It's a reach out to the community and to let them know that St. Cecilia's is here to be a part of

Please see **DANCE**, page 8



## AROUND TOWN

# School Committee holds budget roundtable

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - On Feb. 4, The School Committee held a budget roundtable with state officials and town committees and boards.

The roundtable comprised of School Committee members, Josh Dixon, director of Student Services, Lisa Curtin, director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning, and members of the Wilbraham Select Board, Hampden Selectboard, the Hampden Advisory Committee, Wilbraham Finance Committee, Wilbraham Capital Planning Committee, State Reps. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow) and Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow).

### The Highlights

Public comment had residents sharing thoughts ranging from making sure educators are supported and can succeed to encouraging state legislators to pass education legislation.

One highlight was Amanda Whittier, who shared HWRSD has a reputation "of providing excellent education and exceptional level of support services for learners with a wide range of learning needs."

However, Whittier said, budget constraints "over the years have put a strain on our abilities to do so" and filling open positions for varying roles has had little or no success.

"If we want to continue to be the district we have a positive reputation of being, we cannot continue to work with the budget we have. I am invested in the district's future, so my question to you is are you invested in supporting a budget that will meet the needs of our learners?" Whittier said.

After Superintendent Dr. John Provost presented district highlights, followed by strategic plan highlights in vocational education opportunities, building utilization in negotiating to end the lease at TWB and a vision of equity statement, Douglas Slaughter, assistant superintendent for Finance, Operations and Human Resources, broke down the budget sections.

The sections included employees, offsets or revenues including state aid, circuit breakers in relation to reimbursements for student needs such as special education, federal aid, revolving funds and more.

Slaughter said, considering all those items, "Our expenses are rising."

"We're looking at an overall increase in our budget from last year to this year of a little over \$1.8 million dollars, just shy of 4.7%, and in that low section you can see that we have a percentage of the budget funded by those different components and what we see is that as those sources--particularly federal is the most obvious one--but in all three cases, more

burden is placed on the communities to carry the cost of school," Slaughter said.

On capital planning needs, Slaughter explained that was still in development, with him and School Committee Vice Chair Sean Kennedy later clarifying project priorities and costs are still being worked on and will be updated.

On Project 211, Provost explained it involves a coalition of districts formed after 211 of the 319 districts in the state were Minimum Aid Districts. Since then, the number has grown to 232 and renamed Project 232.

"That means that nearly three-quarters of the districts in the Commonwealth are slated to receive minimum state aid for FY26, and if that happens, the consequences are going to be absolutely devastating," Provost said.

Minimum State Aid, Provost said, came through education reform when a foundation formula was established in estimating total costs for adequately educating students. For FY25, the estimate was \$14.5 billion and the state/local split set at 41% to 59%, with the state's portion comprising \$5.9 billion.

"Based on capacity to pay, an individual town may have less or more than the 41/59 split with the consideration that no municipality's capacity to pay can ever exceed 82.5%. In other words, everyone must get at least some state aid," Provost said. "Now, if these two formulas yield a result where the amount calculated for state aid is smaller than the amount received in the prior year, the district is said to be in minimum aid status. So, instead of receiving a reduction that the formula would have given you, you receive a minimum of 30 students per pupil or, in this year, 75 students per pupil in the governor's budget."

The number of 75 students per pupil equates to \$206,775. The total the district "is being held harmless to" for FY25 is \$584,652.

"The foundation budget for us increases 4.2%. That's the estimated increase to educate students in Massachusetts, but our state aid goes up only by 1.64%. That's due to the whole harmless amount trying to eat through that \$584,652," Provost said. "Additionally, the formula is trying to move Hampden to 82.5% so they'd be capped at the highest amount a community can pay and Wilbraham to only 68.5% based on their ability to pay, their capacity pay. So, we are also having to shift through those few additional percents that the formula is assigning to the towns and have to eat up all of that money too before we can see any significant state aid."

Three ways this could be addressed are foundation budget assumptions, targeting a capacity to pay adjustments or adjusting the fundamental state/local split.

Ashe said, "We got a lot of work to do."

"We will continue to do everything we can to push for better funding for all those things. SPED (special education), regional transportation, Chapter 70. We want to make sure that we continue to turn out the best students in the state, that we continue whether it's in music, whether it's in sports, whether it's academics or all of them or anything in between," Ashe said.

Finance Committee Member Joe Lawless said the committee heard "loud and clear" from Provost's presentation about the education costs and "we're put in a position--an impossible position, right?--" with four possible choices for funding education.

The possible choices were the state steps up to fund education, raise taxes--which Lawless added about hearing from residents on how expensive taxes are--cut programs or cut other departments' budgets "which could have huge ripple effects" and either cut jobs or programs from the schools.

"So, it is a really tough situation. I was really pleased to see our state representatives here and hear they want to support us because we do need to fund education. I think the state needs to step up and help us in that way," Lawless said.

Hampden Selectboard Chair Don Davenport emphasized, from the Selectboard perspective, education is valued, but so are public safety, senior citizens and the police and fire departments.

"We have to make those judgments. We only have a certain amount of money and that's where the problem comes in and that's why I brought up to the legislators that there are things that they can do like the Municipal Building Fund that we could take money that we need for our buildings," Davenport said.

Davenport added there's \$150 million dollars for libraries that could be used to move the Hampden Free Public Library to TWB, "but we can't get the money because we're not an MBTA community."

"I mean, that's ridiculous, so I think those are the things that we have to work on," Davenport said.

Select Board Chair Sue Bunnell encouraged everyone to continue raising their voices, feeling the legislators were hearing them more--to an extent--compared to the past. She added the board received its first round view of the town's budget the night before from Town Administrator Nick Breault and the Finance Committee will get it soon, with that committee already starting to work with department heads.

"There are plenty of challenges out there. The capital needs are of significant concern because our capital needs are right there too and, of course, the capital needs of some of those buildings are our buildings as is true in Hampden," Bunnell said. "We appreciate all the work. Keep at it, raise your voices in Boston and with us."

# Select Board selects Building Utilization Committee members

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Select Board has chosen the six citizens who will be serving on the Building Utilization Committee.

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

During the Jan. 13 and Jan. 27 meetings, 12 candidates had interviewed for spots on the committee. They were Ernest Smith, Scott Drumm, Stanley Soja, Brad Senft, Joshua Mullen, Jeff Smith, John McGrath, Brittany Meece, Christopher DUBY, Megan Eischen, Kevin Rothschild-Shea and Sean Patrick Rooney, Sr.

On Jan. 27, it was announced that Planning Board Chair James Rooney and Finance Committee Member Jennifer Leydon were appointed to the committee for a one-year term, while a representative from the Capital Planning Committee was not named at that time.

However, a representative from the Capital Planning Committee was later named to the committee during the Feb. 10 meeting.

Ahead of the appointments on Feb. 3, Chair Sue Bunnell shared the Historical Commission had reached out to the board in an email proposing a member be included on the committee.

"I'm interested in everyone's thoughts. I'm inclined to stick with the original planning," Bunnell said.

Clerk Marc Ducey agreed.

"I am too. We set it up one way and then that was the understanding we were going to do it. We didn't really include Historical. I think if they had wanted a seat, they could have asked much (sooner)," Ducey said. "I mean, this isn't new news."

Vice Chair Michael Squindo also agreed.

"I concur," Squindo said.

After this consensus, Bunnell announced the board would not do the amendment to the composition of the committee.

When Ducey wondered why the Historical Commission was considering a seat on the Building Utilization Committee, Bunnell thought of Memorial School.

"I think because of Memorial and the fact that they have petitioned for historic designation for that building," Bunnell said.

"That's what I assumed, but I didn't know that," Ducey said.

As Town Administrator Nick Breault finalized the numbers for the ranking system that would be used to narrow down the candidates, Bunnell expressed gratitude to the candidates for their interest.

"Again, we are very grateful for the incredibly positive response and we will be sorting through some of the candidates who didn't get appointed to explore the possibility of welcoming them onto other committees in open slots," Bunnell said. "With the contingency that what would probably happen is that they would be contacted by the Select Board office, put in touch with the chair of a committee that might have an opening where there might be a nice fit and it would move through that process."

After the numbers were finalized, the top six candidates listed were Brittany Meece, Kevin Rothschild-Shea, Jeff Smith, Megan Eischen, Brad Senft and Scott Drumm.

Looking over the ranking as it stood, Ducey suggested having someone on the committee with Parks & Rec experience, also approving of seeing new people amongst the list.

"We also have some newer people as well, so I like the blend," Ducey said.

After further discussion, Squindo read the motion to appoint Brittany Meece, Kevin Rothschild-Shea, Jeff Smith, Megan Eischen, Brad Senft and Stanley Soja to a one-year term ending on June 30, 2026, which was approved unanimously.

# Theatre Guild presents 'Dial M for Murder'

HAMPDEN - The Theatre Guild of Hampden is pleased to present "Dial M for Murder," directed by Stuart W. Gamble, Karolina Kopczynski as Stage Manager, set construction by David Carlson and costumes by Karolina Kopczynski and Stuart W. Gamble.

The cast features Andy Price as Tony Wendice, Katie Whalen as Margot Wendice (evening performances), Taylor

Raucher as Margot Wendice, (matinee performances), David Martin as Max Halliday, Brad Shepard as Inspector Hubbard, Nathan Medlock as Captain Lesgate and Ben Bump as the offstage voices.

Based on Frederick Knott's (author of Wait Until Dark) thriller and adapted into the Alfred Hitchcock classic film starring Grace Kelly, this suspenseful tale of deception and intrigue has more twists and turns than a Grand Prix race.

The performances will take place at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School at 85 Wilbraham Rd, Hampden, MA 01036 on Feb. 28, March 1, March 2, March 7, March 8 and March 9.

The show times are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Matinees at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students.

Tickets are now on sale at theatre-guildofhampden.org.

## BOARD OF HEALTH & OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

The Town of Hampden is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Board of Health and Operations Coordinator.

This position is responsible for coordinating and performing a variety of administrative tasks and special projects to support the overall operation of the Board of Health, Regional Health Department, and Selectboard. Qualified applicants will possess a high school diploma or its equivalent, prior municipal experience and effective communication skills. Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications is required. This position is regularly scheduled for thirty-two (32) hours per week with occasional evening and weekend hours involved. Excellent retirement and health insurance benefits are provided. Starting compensation is \$30.37/hour. A complete job description is available at [www.hampdenma.gov](http://www.hampdenma.gov). Interested applicants should email a cover letter and resume to [townadmin@hampdenma.gov](mailto:townadmin@hampdenma.gov). The first review of applicants will begin on February 20, 2025 and the position will remain open until filled.

The Town of Hampden is an equal opportunity employer.

## Hampden - Wilbraham Regional School District The Road to Kindergarten 2025-2026



Parents and Guardians please join us for **The Road to Kindergarten.** This program will address Kindergarten Readiness, Screening, Curriculum, and a typical Kindergarten day.

Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Minnechaug Regional High School Auditorium

(In the event of a snow day, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, March 6, 2025.)

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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



# Selectboard holds third municipal meeting

Fire station and senior center major highlights

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard held its third municipal meeting with members from town departments and committees in the Townhouse Auditorium on Feb. 4.

The latest meeting is the third in a series of municipal meetings discussing prioritization and planning for municipal building renovations and capital improvements.

On the agenda were a concept/presentation and discussion for the fire station, a revised plan/presentation and discussion for the senior center, updates for Thornton W. Burgess Middle School including a revised spatial plan and use of space presentation/discussion about the library.

Mark Barba explained the architects just gave them a preliminary draft with potential ideas with input from site visits included and the Fire Department Building Committee had not met yet, but planned to on Feb. 5.

"We've already looked at this. There's certainly some tweaks and changes already we know we want to make as far as flow goes," Barba said. "And from that point, obviously, it's kind of a refining process. So, we literally have just got the first rough draft from the architect after their site visit and, again, conceptual. It's way in its infancy certainly at this point, we don't even have a design that we want to present to anybody yet because we got to go through the process."

Barba added what the committee is trying to look at is the existing fire station and utilizing it as much as possible.

When Chair Don Davenport asked if the committee would have something by town meeting, Barba replied that was the goal.

"They've been pretty responsive as far as turning stuff around, getting stuff back--changes--so, again, that is our goal to be able to have something for us for town meeting this spring," Barba said.

Town Administrator Brian Domina then showed the concept draft, which was received in an email the day before, leading to further discussion on the potential ideas and on if questions on the mission of the fire station were answered.

Selectboard Member John Flynn

said the concept design was "a great first shot."

"Personally, I think it's, maybe, a little large what we need. I am concerned about the space between the right of way to the north and the projected costs," Flynn said. "I go back to Dick's comment and back to Thad as well. Have we really made a determination of the path forward for the fire department with the ambulance, etc. But, it's a good first start."

For the senior center, Senior Center

For window replacement, Weiner clarified a total replacement wasn't being looked at but for standard windows that are around the senior center.

"So, not the stained glass, not the specialty windows at this point. One of the members of the committee has a very good friend that's with Harvey Windows and he is going to come and get us a price that we can then begin to make certain," Weiner said.

One additional point was about the parking lot, with the highway superintendent willing to schedule a time to pave it; a mill and overlay as opposed to reconstruction. Other points were the septic tank having an effluent filter and vent pipe fixed, washers and dryers.

"Again, this is just our first pass at this. We didn't include the roof, we didn't include the HVAC replacement and we didn't include lighting upgrades," Weiner said.

On the lighting upgrade, grants would be pursued.

"So, with those four potential upgrades, we'd ask for a warrant article place. We will still look further at refining it," Weiner said.

Weiner's rough estimate--minus the parking lot--would be \$100,000 to \$125,000 and the committee will meet again the following Monday for further review and numbers.

Thad Clavette clarified the maintenance for the building "was not in question," encouraging Weiner not to put off looking at the roof.

"Lighting, you got fluorescents in there now?" Clavette said.

"Yes," Weiner said.

"I relit a 100,000 square foot building, went to LEDs. You don't need grants but you save electricity, you pay for the lights," Clavette said.

After further discussion, Davenport asked about money committed by the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens to the original project.

"Did they commit any money to this?" Davenport said.

Weiner replied no.

"They are not allowed under their bylaws. Under the bylaws, they can fund programs, but the monies that they were committing in under the bylaw, it is for expansion," Weiner said.

For the library presentation/discussion and TWB update, check out this week's edition.



Building Committee Chair Gary Weiner shared after meeting with the Selectboard in December, the committee next met in January "to figure out what our mission was, quite frankly."

"What we settled on is that the senior center needs are not going away. There are some immediate maintenance needs that need to occur in the next year or two. And so we began--and again, this is just preliminary based upon our discussions during this meeting--but we focused on one, the bathroom upgrades," Weiner said. "Now, we're not talking the half-million dollar bathroom upgrade that we talked about earlier. If we were to do that it means moving walls, losing program space--possibly the library--without expanding the senior center. So, we're not going to do that. But, the bathrooms do need to be upgraded, the toilets need to be replaced with higher toilets. We have grab bars that need to be put in, the stall panels need to be replaced, probably paint, better ventilation in there and, also, lighting upgrade for the bathrooms. So, that was our first look and we feel that's one of the most immediate needs."

On storage, the focus was for cabinets on the walls and upgrading storage.

"The fact that Thornton Burgess may be available for legal and long-term storage would be helpful to get it out of the hallways where it is now," Weiner said.

# Wilbraham United Players Announces Casting for Spring Musical 'Cabaret'

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham United Players (WUP) is thrilled to announce the cast for their highly anticipated spring musical, "Cabaret."

"Cabaret," a beloved musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb, tells the story of an aspiring writer and his experiences at the Kit Kat Klub, a provocative nightclub where the lines between entertainment and the political unrest of pre-World War II Germany blur. With iconic songs like "Willkommen," "Maybe This Time," and "Cabaret," this production is sure to bring the unforgettable world of 1930s Berlin to life.

Emcee- Jayse Matrishon  
Sally Bowles- Carolyn Averill  
Clifford Bradshaw- Chris Morey  
Ernst Ludwig- Ben Crow  
Fraulein Schneider- Christine Greene  
Herr Schultz- Doug Lebelle  
Fraulein Kost/Fritzie- Jami Wilson  
Kit Kat Girls- Noelle Hisgen, Shelly Capen, Julia Adamo, Naidelyn Cruz, Meaghan Snapp  
Kit Kat Boys- John Woytowicz, Zachary Ciano, Tully Russell, Antonio Mutti

Cabaret is directed by Deb Trimble, musical direction by Ben Mabrey, and choreographed by Jacqui Panasian. The show is licensed and permitted to perform by Concord Theatricals.

Tickets are now available for the show, including special cabaret tables, which will run from March 28 through

April 6 at the Wilbraham United Church.

For ticket information and to purchase your seats, visit [www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org](http://www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org).

Support Wilbraham United Players with Show Sponsorships

Show sponsorships are now available for local businesses and individuals looking to support this community-driven theatre production. Sponsorships provide great exposure and a chance to be part of an amazing artistic experience. For more information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact WUP at the details below.

Visit Our Website for More Information.

For more details about the Cabaret production, sponsorship opportunities, and to purchase your tickets, please visit [www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org](http://www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org).

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# TWB updates, HPL space reviewed at Municipal Meeting

By Kristin Rivers  
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HAMPDEN - Updates about Thornton W. Burgess Middle School and a library use of space presentation/discussion were other highlights during the Selectboard's Feb. 4 Municipal Meeting.

This meeting was the third in a series of municipal meetings discussing prioritization and planning for municipal building renovations and capital improvements. A fourth meeting will take place on March 4.

Also on the agenda were a concept/presentation and discussion for the fire station and a revised plan/presentation and discussion for the senior center, which can be found in this week's edition.

## TWB Latest

Town Administrator Brian Domina explained he had a follow-up meeting with Tighe & Bond and a second version of the building space layout made.

"I've reserved two times to visit with staff next week to walk through the building to try to ground troop what we've done while not in the building, within the building to see what makes sense and we'll make additional edits based upon, really, what makes sense in those conversations," Domina said.

A septic investigation was done on Jan. 17 and a written report is forthcoming. On water, Domina said PFAS levels from the well was one of the concerns, confirming that was found there.

A carbon filter upgrade can resolve the problem.

"It will likely require some level of filtration to bring that within the allowable range," Domina said.

On information technology, IT Director Scott Thomas from Wally Computers reviewed this, with the result being pretty good shape.

"I think the highest priority need is they have 10 switches--Cisco switches--in the building. Currently, they're over 10 years old. There's a grant opportunity to get those replaced--the grant is actually due at the end of this week--so we'll put in for that," Domina said. "And the other need be wireless access points the district is going to take the wireless access points that are currently installed, they're going to take those back."

Domina said other items on the list are removing "whatever type of electronic access system they have currently within the building," getting Valley Communications into the building to review cameras and quotes for costs to move there, getting an energy consultant to review lighting and figure out costs for upgrades and addressing heat pump mini splits.

Legal counsel also advised the town they should vote to repurpose the purpose of TWB, which would require a two-thirds vote at Annual Town Meeting. To review, this is changing the purpose of the original eminent domain taking from only "school" purposes to other municipal uses.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers  
TWB updates and Hampden Free Public Library space were other main highlights at the Feb. 4 Municipal Meeting held by the Selectboard.

## HPL Space Needs

After the second revised version of the spatial plan was pulled up, Library Director Ellen Moriarty shared the library's revised plans and how the space was reviewed along with what it could be used for.

"So, for our needs, the children's room down at the bottom in the middle is wonderful for Kate (Rumplik) because there's a partition but it's not there, so she can have the library aspect of it, but then she can do her programs in the classroom next to it," Moriarty said.

On the teen space, Moriarty said that will be to the left and have a door there.

"Line of sight is very important for us, so Kate could check on that and then in the middle where I circled with that little star is the doors for the three different areas," Moriarty said. "So, it'll be important for us to be able to see what's going on in those other rooms."

After talking with the Friends about the Rochford Reading Room relocation, Moriarty explained they are happy "with the space that they have."

ADA compliance is another big need.

"So, what I'd like to do as we designate a space, make sure it's ADA-compliant when we move into it because that's very important for me and everyone. It'll be nice to have it all on one level. It might change a little bit depending on how things work out, but right now, everyone really likes this setup," Moriarty said.

Ease of access at the front of the building for deliveries from CWMARS and traffic will be helpful.

"The lift is often broken. We get deliveries every day, the guy has to come up with boxes of books. We do around 8,000 interlibrary loans a year. It's a lot of books to be dragging up the stairs," Moriarty said. "So, if we can make it so that he has easy access, that would be wonderful."

When Chair Don Davenport asked Moriarty if it would give the library more space, she replied yes.

"If you'll see the room next to the children's room that would be programming for children and teens, which would be nice for bigger events like our

Halloween Party's a big event," Moriarty said. "We might still have to use the auditorium over there for our Summer Reading Party because we have like 100 people attend that. But, it will be really nice to have everything contained in one space, and that's what we have so far."

Access controls was the main question, with Treasurer Richard Patullo noting, "it seems like that space has access into every d\*\*\* corridor around it."

"So, that's going to have to be controlled only if you're going to have different access zones," Patullo said.

Moriarty agreed.

"So, like on a Saturday you'll come in here and you'll only have access to the library," Moriarty said. "So, it's the library is cut off from the rest of the building, so the library entrance will be over to the right. So, people will park there and come in there and they won't be able to access the rest of the building. Like Thursday nights we're open until 8 p.m. and Saturdays we're open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m."

When Peter Hatch expressed concern about the fire exits being limited by one entrance, Patullo suggested the access control automatically open in fire emergencies.

"Maybe it's an alarm door instead," Patullo said.

Moriarty agreed with Hatch and Patullo.

"We want to do what's the right thing to do," Moriarty said.

On a regular day, she added the entrances on the top and the side would be closed.

"Like, I want people to just come in that central room and have the doors for the teen and the children's area all in that line of sight. Kind of what we have here," Moriarty said.

"So, your main entrance is to the left of the word 'restroom'?" Patullo said.

"Correct, and then those other doors are right there in that circle," Moriarty said.

After further discussion, Davenport said, "We're making some progress" and what comes next is a plan to close the town warrant around March 1. His suggestion is for everyone to get wording about projects over to the board before that time.



Fire Capt. Kevin Brown and Tracey Perry, assistant vice president and retail banking officer at Country Bank, try out the cheesburg chowder served by Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs at the Wilbraham Senior Center. Dubord's entry was the winner.



Tammy Accorsi served clam chowder, a classic, for her entry.



Patrick Renna, director of Veteran Services, holds a sample of his beef and vegetable soup.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
Maria Cacela and Brenda Willard pose for a group photo during the Souper Bowl, serving up some friendly competition throughout the event.

## SOUPER from page 1

nate as well," Harrington said. "They know somebody who has that illness, so it's nice to donate but, also, have a little fun with it too."

Harrington explained Super Bowl Sunday and the Scantic Valley YMCA--where the senior center had rented space from before moving to their permanent location behind town hall in 2024--had a Souper Bowl event themselves, which inspired the event. From there, she asked Dubord for her thoughts, and she gave the green light.

"We gave it a first shot and it was perfect," Harrington said. "They loved the soups!"

Harrington added the event raises awareness not just for the Alzheimer's Association, but also the programming the senior center provides to offer support.

"Some of them did ask about Alzheimer's or programs and I could get them the resources. They can call, what type of programs are out there," Harrington said. "This was like an information center as well."

Harrington enjoyed seeing "everybody have a wonderful time" at the event.

"I just can't say enough about our staff here and our volunteers, who actually took the time to make the soups. It was just fun. Little competition really didn't hurt anybody, put a little bit of fun in there," Harrington said. "So, as I said, everybody really was a winner offering their time."

Harrington wants the community to know how much the senior center appreciated everyone's support for the event. Also, they are here for them.

"The senior center is here for families who deal with that, whether a family member or a spouse. So, we're here to--especially my office--is here to assist anybody in any programs or to give out information for them," Harrington said. "We're here for them. They want to learn more, please don't hesitate to call here."

Harrington said the event will happen next year, hoping to make it an annual event.

"I can't wait to do it again next year. It was a successful, very successful Souper Bowl," Harrington said.

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# South Main Street selected as site for East/West Compass Rail train stop

By Marcelo Gusmão  
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PALMER – The Department of Transportation has announced its selection for the train stop for the East/West Passenger Rail, selecting the south side of Palmer Yard on South Main Street.

This site was determined to offer the amount of property needed for a platform to accommodate ADA needs and passenger train length, and is expected to have fewer permit requirements, making it the most affordable of the nine alternative sites that were considered. The location is estimated to be about half a mile from downtown, and was chosen after months of review, including feedback from stakeholders and community engagement events.

“We’re thrilled to have reached another milestone for West-East Rail and our efforts to expand rail service across the state with the selection of a preferred site for Palmer Station. This is going to be a major boost for Western Mass and for our state’s economy,” said Governor Maura Healey. “We’re grateful for all of the input we received from community members that helped us choose the best site for the station.”

“Expanding rail capacity and connectivity in Massachusetts is essential if we want to remain economically competitive,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “We applaud the efforts that have culminated in the selection of a Palmer Station location and look forward to seeing this component of West-East Rail advance to completion.”

“We are pleased to see that there is forward movement on a station in Palmer. I thank everyone on the steering committee and community members who gave feedback about this process,” said Town Manager Brad Brothers. “We look forward to working with MassDOT on this next phase.”

The next step is for the project team to create a conceptual design and coordinate with railway owner CSX, the site property owner, and the proposed service operator, Amtrak, on the feasibility of the construction.

“We are very pleased to see ongoing progress in the advancement of the Compass Rail program, which will give residents the passenger rail connectivity they need and deserve,” said Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. “Throughout the planning and design phase for Palmer Station, we have been committed to working with the community to make a site selection that reflects their needs in the decades ahead. We appreciate all the feedback and look forward to continuing this dialogue.”

Compass Rail is made up of existing and proposed East/West and North/South services that intersect in Springfield at Union Station. The goal of this expansive vision for the commonwealth is to integrate existing DOT-supported services into a unified system that increases the public’s access to comprehensive transportation.

“The South of Palmer Yard location has great potential as a future stop within the Compass Rail network, and the local stakeholders’ feedback has been invaluable in helping us reach an informed decision,” said Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger. “The site’s strategic location within Palmer and its cost-effective geography are significant benefits for the community both short- and long-term.”

This rail stop will be able to

connect to several services supported and managed by DOT, including the following Amtrak-operated routes: the Vermonter that services Washington, D.C. and St. Albans, VT with stops in Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and Greenfield; the Valley Flyer between Greenfield and New Haven, CT, with stops in Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and Greenfield; the Hartford Line and Northeast Regional between Springfield and New Haven, CT or Washington, D.C.; and the seasonal, pilot service, the Berkshire Flyer, which runs between Pittsfield and New York City.

In addition to these routes, the East/West Rail represents proposed new Compass Rail services that will improve connections between the eastern and western parts of the state, including an Inland Route to operate between Boston and New Haven, CT through Springfield and a Boston and Albany Corridor through Pittsfield.

“After years of advocacy by the residents of Palmer, they are one step closer to realizing their goal of a Palmer train station,” said Congressman Richard Neal. “This announcement follows a fair and thorough review by MassDOT, one that has been transparent throughout the decision-making process. Located just half a mile from the downtown area, this site will play a critical

role in unlocking economic growth in the Town of Palmer and surrounding communities, while providing the space needed to accommodate the demand for increased passenger rail.”

“We are fortunate to have two leaders in Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll who have been steadfast in their support of improving and expanding passenger rail service throughout the Commonwealth,” Neal said. “With Massachusetts receiving more than \$9 billion in federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we have made substantial progress in advancing key rail projects, enhancing connectivity, and modernizing our transportation network. Today marks yet another significant milestone in making West-East Rail a reality.”

“We are excited to see West-East Rail mark this milestone and move forward with the conceptual design of the project. We look forward to being a partner in helping to create more transportation options for residents here in Palmer and western Massachusetts,” shared Kimberly Robinson, Executive Director of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

For more information on the development of Compass Rail, you can visit their website at [Mass.gov/Compass-Rail](http://Mass.gov/Compass-Rail).



Turley photos by Amanda Munson

Teen Services Librarian Rachel Haggood enjoys reading what teens love about the teen loft, a board set up to showcase opinions anonymously.

## Wilbraham and Hampden Libraries celebrate Valentine’s Day

By Amanda Munson  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - “What are you doing for Valentine’s Day?” At the Wilbraham and Hampden Libraries, both establishments will be—and were—recognizing the love themed day by offering heart-filled activities for everyone to enjoy. From wrapped books that can only be opened after checking them out of the library to a villain themed party for teens, there was so much to choose from.

Beginning at the Hampden Public Library, Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard discussed her idea of putting on the Teen ‘Villain-tine’s’ Party which was held on Feb 8, starting at 11 a.m. Teen guests got to dress like their favorite villain, create do-it-yourself zombie dolls, and decorate broken heart cookies.

Touching on how the library staff chooses specific programs, Girard mentioned how they’ve always strived to offer programs that meet the community’s interest.

“We seem to have a nice turnout for a lot of the programming we offer. For the party, we were just playing around with the idea of doing some sort of Valentine’s adjacent programming for February. Having a Valentine’s Day party didn’t seem to be what we were looking for and browsing through what other libraries were doing, I came across the villain-tines theme online and thought it was hysterical. It’s a fun scene gathering, it’s kind of celebrating people who don’t normally celebrate the day,” Girard said.

It’s the first year the Hampden Library has hosted this themed party so Girard encourages those who see new programs to try them out.

“It’s our first time we are offering it and this is also happening during our open hours. It’s new and we’re trying something different, we give it our best shot and we see what works. We see how we can improve if we want to do a similar event next year. Personally for me, I celebrate Valentine’s Day with my friends and do a ‘gal-entines’ hang-out. It’s a fun time!” said Girard.

Next at the Wilbraham Public Library, Borrower Services Coordinator Judy Schmidt spoke about her ‘Blind Date with a Book’ display that has wrapped books that offer a bit of mystery for library patrons. Patrons are able to check out the book—still wrapped—until they decide to reveal the title of the book and when they start reading, another way to offer new titles that haven’t been circulating for awhile.

According to Schmidt, patrons have been requesting this to come back.

“This is the third year now in a row that we’ve had it and it’s one of our most popular displays. I think people just like the mystery of it. It’s more exciting to check out a book when you don’t know what it is. It’s definitely a patron recommended repeat display, originated by our Adult Services Librarian Emilie (Lang). I can’t really resist the popularity of it,” Schmidt said.

Assuming that all the selected books would be romance, Schmidt clarified that all genres are represented, explaining the process of picking out books.

“It’s to get the books that are less sought-after a chance to shine. I chose one from every genre and added a little description of each book. So far, it’s been pretty popular, we’ve had more than 10 of them go out! Even if someone hadn’t read the book before, even if they didn’t like it or didn’t want to own it, they wouldn’t have to spend money on a copy they didn’t want. I love this display in a library setting,” Schmidt said.

When asked what her favorite part was, Schmidt said she loved doing the displays, the ability to go over the top and decorate it to attract new readers.

For more information about upcoming February events, check out the Hampden and Wilbraham libraries websites and Facebook pages.



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VIEWPOINTS

# Habitat interns inspire awe and raises funds for GSHFH

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

WEST SPRINGFIELD - As the saying goes, "what a difference a year makes."

In early December 2023, two 14-year-old boys from a local alternative school came to Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) for a marketing internship. Over the course of 12 months, fueled by initial success, they continue to inspire awe and tackle monumental tasks for the benefit of the nonprofit organization. Most recently, the interns conceptualized and created "Bean Boutique," an iced coffee shop in their school that raises funds for Greater Springfield Habitat.

"When Nathan was presented with the opportunity to start this internship program, I knew this was going to play another pivotal role in his growth and help him prepare for his future adult working life," said Diane Moore, intern Nate Shlosser's mother. "I see a confidence growing in him. His ideas and work in the community are building that confidence and helping him grow into the young man I know he can be."

When the two freshmen arrived at the West Springfield administrative office conference room for the first time, their demeanors could not have been more different. Nate sat quiet with his head down. He swiveled from side to side in an office chair with wheels, barely speaking two words, let alone a full sentence. His counterpart, Dakota Wirf, rapidly fired questions, said Brandy O'Brien, GSHFH Marketing and Communications manager.

On this day, they learned their purpose was to help Greater Springfield Habitat plan and execute its first-ever county-wide read-a-thon fundraiser. It would be no small feat, even for the

full-time staff. But first, the new interns needed to learn the purpose and mission of the affiliate, and about the affordable housing crisis. Secondly, the boys needed a firm grasp on marketing and branding concepts, a notion completely foreign to them.

With guidance and instruction from Brandy and Springdale Education Center (SEC) young adult teacher Trina Winans, the boys researched possible read-a-thon participants and donors, and their correlating contact information. They wrote solicitation letters to local and nationally-known celebrities. One letter caught the attention of Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, who returned a video endorsement for the project. The video was later shared on Habitat's social media channels and website. The boys created social media posts and branded messages, plus flyers promoting the event. They distributed the flyers to local businesses. They co-wrote a feature article and photographed pictures to run with the story that was published in the Habitat newsletter and Turley publications. They practiced interviewing skills by speaking with staff, local politicians, and Habitat supporters about the read-a-thon. Furthermore, they raised awareness for the affiliate's mission by recruiting social media followers.

Upon completion of the read-a-thon, they budgeted, planned, and shopped for a party celebrating the success of the event.

"They have become more confident through this experience," said Jill Brewer, SEC director. "They were able to overcome challenges and develop a stronger belief in their abilities and their ability to work as a team."

Fred Adams, SEC case manager who works with Dakota, agreed.

"When I heard about the internship for Dakota, I thought it would be a great idea to improve his engagement with

school and outlook for his future," Fred said. "Dakota needed to be invested in school and this project helped him become more engaged and improved his self-esteem."

At the read-a-thon party, Dakota proposed a new fundraising project to benefit Greater Springfield Habitat and presented it to Jill. He suggested their school open an iced coffee stand that sells the beverage to teachers and administrators. Proceeds would go to GSHFH.

"There was a sense of pride as the director listening to his proposal," Jill said. "It showed what a positive impact Habitat had on him and his eagerness to give back."

Following the pitch, the boys, with new intern Yandel Alameda, returned to Habitat to flesh out their novel idea.

They created the name "Bean Boutique" and a marketing guide, including logo, branding colors and fonts, and a plan to get the word out. They designed flyers to be distributed in the school, drafted morning announcement messages to be read over the intercom, budgeted and shopped for supplies, and applied for a grant to help cover costs. Bean Boutique opened just before Christmas, and raised hundreds of dollars for Greater Springfield Habitat.

"This program continues to exceed my expectations," Jill said. "This opportunity provides our students with a chance to work together on projects to achieve a shared goal. It provides them with real-life experiences focusing on experiential learning, problem-solving skills, and motivation."

Diane agreed.

"Nathan has been given the opportunity to have his hands in so many different opportunities provided by Habitat for Humanity. He's gaining knowledge in many different facets of life, including the real world of hard work and responsibilities of having a

career started. He is growing socially, emotionally, and academically. Habitat for Humanity will forever be a blessing that changed the trajectory of Nathan's life," she said. "My favorite thing right now to see from Nathan is his excitement in creating and developing Bean Boutique. He is always eager to share his thoughts and ideas about that are centered around this project."

Just before Bean Boutique began serving its patrons, all three interns were invited to participate in GSHFH's "Building Dreams" fundraiser in early November 2024. They were introduced at the event to show Habitat's impact in the community beyond construction. Donning tailored suits and new shoes, they stood tall and listened as Executive Director Aimee Giroux spoke about their projects and achievements. When finished, Aimee offered the young men the opportunity to talk. Each one thanked Habitat for the opportunity.

"Yandel wore that suit in school the day he received it, walking the hallways and telling anyone who listened that he was going to a banquet for his internship," said Tina Peloquin, SEC clinician who works with Yandel. "Leading up to that night, Yandel was not going to speak, which was his decision ... then Yandel grabbed the microphone to speak to the audience. He was calm, composed, and it seemed like he had rehearsed what he wanted to say. He meant what he said at that banquet, he is very appreciative of the opportunity for the internship."

"I could not have been prouder of this young adult who has struggled to attend school, struggles with peer and staff relationships, struggles with staying motivated, and struggles with outside environmental issues," Tina said.

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## Creating a "wow" factor at home

This past week I've been hard at work trying to come up with new and exciting garden ideas for the entrance areas of Old Sturbridge Village.

It's a job I've done for decades now, and maybe I take for granted how cool it is to work for a place that many people visit each year. I want to give visitors something to rave about with my color combinations and plant selections!

Read on, straight from the archives, to bring some of this "wow factor" attitude home to your own landscape.

How often have you visited an outdoor museum, amusement park or resort and felt inspired by the gardens or container plantings used to adorn the property? Chances are you may have even used an especially delightful display as a backdrop for a family photo or two.

Tourist attractions such as these put "their best foot forward" each season of the year to awe their customers with spectacular combinations of unique plants, so that no matter when the visit is planned, the guest leaves with the feeling something special was done in their honor.

We can treat our home gardens in a similar fashion. Why not? Certainly we deserve to have exceptional plantings, for our own enjoyment and for the compliments they will elicit from our friends.

So instead of utilizing border plantings that provide only glimpses of color in the spring, summer and fall, devote entire beds to the showiest plants available for the time of year and change them with the seasons.

These types of gardens don't have to be very large, but they do have to be situated for optimal effect. Think "location, location, location!"

If you have a long driveway, consider placing a "welcome garden" just as you turn down the path. Since it will be viewed from a distance, and from a single vantage point, make the bed more wide than narrow, and raise the height of the soil in the back of the bed a bit for a multi-

dimensional appearance.

Utilize large, bold flowers, bright colors, and strong foliage forms- these will capture the eye en route.

Which door do you or guests normally use to enter and exit the house? Plant a small garden

nearby, one that can be admired up close, each time you pass by it.

Here, the intricacies of color and form can be fully appreciated, whereas in the garden out front they would be lost. Experiment with a variety of flower and foliage shapes and color schemes.

Don't be afraid to use delicate or small flowers, or those that are mottled or two-tone. Likewise, variegated and cut-leaf foliage can make for interesting inspection if properly paired with surrounding plants.

Similar beds or container plantings can be planned for patio or pool-side, or for other areas within the landscape that might be suitable for entertaining. Simply tailor the gardens to the timeframe in which these locations are used most often, and choose your plants accordingly.

Next week we will get into the "nitty-gritty" of each of the three seasons: spring, summer and fall, and how to capture the essence of each in your plantings. You too can have museum quality gardens within your home landscape!

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



## Reader seeks clarification of Medicare IRMAA and MAGI

Dear Rusty:

I am confused by an article in my local newspaper which said that Modified Adjusted Gross Income, on which my Medicare Part B premium is based, is my Adjusted Gross Income, plus any non-taxable interest, plus 50% of the social security I received.

The part that is confusing is the 50% part. When I look at my tax return my Adjusted Gross Income includes the taxable portion of my Social Security benefit which, in my case, is 85% of my total benefits. Why must 50% of benefits be added to my AGI if it is already included in my total AGI?

Signed: Confused

Dear Confused:

The article you refer to was misleading for stating that the Modified Adjusted Gross Income used to determine your Medicare premiums includes your normal Adjusted Gross Income from your income tax return, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year. What the article should have said was that the MAGI, which determines your Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount to your Medicare pre-

miums consists of your normal AGI from your tax return, which includes the taxable portion of your Social Security benefits, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had.

For additional clarity, the Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount is a supplemental amount added to the standard Medicare premium for those with higher incomes. The thresholds at which the IRMAA supplements apply depend on your IRS filing status, and your MAGI determines the amount of supplement which will be added to the standard Medicare premium.

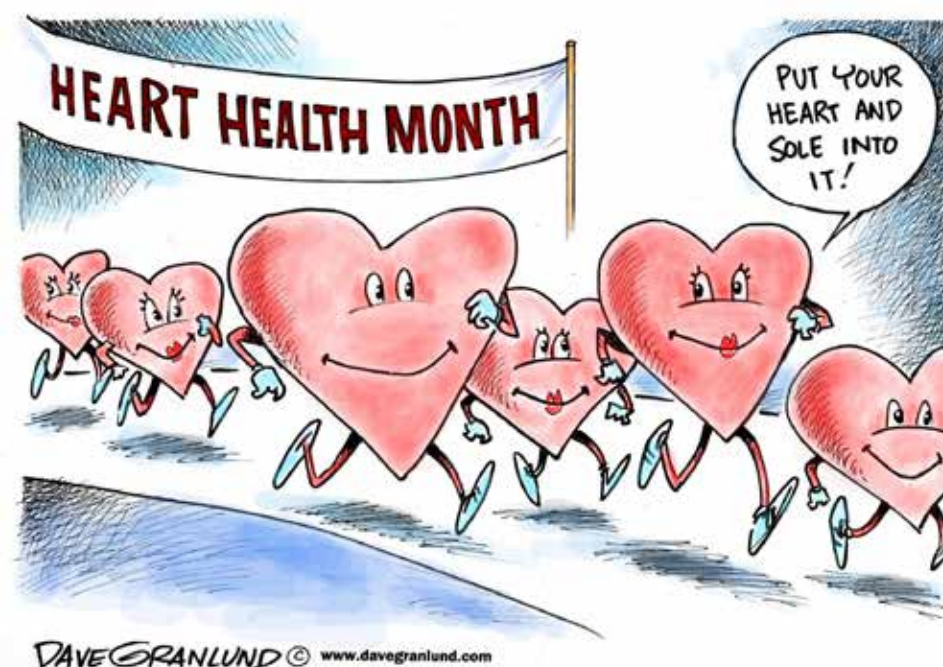
Single filers with MAGI over \$103,000 or married filers with MAGI over \$206,000 will see an IRMAA supplement added to their Medicare premium. Those whose MAGI is under the first IRMAA threshold pay the standard Medicare premium, but those whose MAGI exceeds the first IRMAA threshold above will pay more.

How much more depends on how much their MAGI exceeds the first IRMAA threshold by. The IRMAA supplement (the additional premium amount) could be anywhere from \$69.90 to \$419.30 per month for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services) or an additional \$12.90 to \$81.00 per month to the Medicare Part D (prescription drug plan) premium - again dependent on how much over the initial MAGI threshold the person is for their IRS filing status. You can see the MAGI levels and corresponding IRMAA supplements by visiting this Medicare website at [www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2024-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles](http://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2024-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles).

IRMAA and MAGI can be confusing. If people have questions about their Medicare premiums, help is available by emailing [SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org) or calling 1-888-750-2622.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity.

Please see **SSM**, page 8



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## Editorial Policy

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

**Correction Policy**

The TIMES will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper and can be substantiated. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on the editorial pages. To request a correction, send information in an e-mail or mailed communication to the editor at the above address listed above. The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc. One year out of town subscriptions are available at \$45, out of state \$50 by calling 800-824-6458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.

## Election letters to the editor welcome

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden Times, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

**Campaign news**

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

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



*Life in* **WILBRAHAM & HAMPDEN**

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

# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Rotary District Governor-Elect...



Submitted photo and caption Charlie Bennett  
Rotary District 7890 Governor-Elect April Bestin (left) of Wilbraham, shown here with club Vice President Ann Marie Ottoson, describes how Rotary is fighting Polio and bringing hope to the world. She spoke at the club's Jan. 22 meeting at the Country Club of Wilbraham.

Fun fun fun at the Saint Cecilia Card & Game Party Luncheon



Sue Agnew next to tables of over 40 raffle prizes donated by area businesses & club members at the Saint Cecilia Women's Club Luncheon & Card & Game Party on Jan. 23.

MRHS Swim Team celebrates winning season

Submitted photos Peter Camyre

The Minnechaug Swim Team Seniors and Coaches pose proudly after their final home meet against Longmeadow. The girls had an undefeated season. It took place during Senior Night on Jan. 29 at the Minnechaug pool.



The Minnechaug Swim Team lines up for the National Anthem. The Girls won 102-78, but the Boys lost 97-74. The Girls enjoyed an undefeated season.

Wilbraham Red Hatters celebrate a New Year



Submitted photo and caption Cheryl Phillips  
The Wilbraham Red Hatters celebrated the new year with a delicious luncheon at the beautiful Pafumi Restaurant on Main Street on Jan. 28.



The MRHS Seniors pose for this group photo after their meet against Longmeadow on Senior Night.



Submitted photos and captions Sue Agnew

Carolyn Scibelli putting finishing touches on the luncheon table at the full house of card & game players at the Saint Cecilia Women's Club event on January 23.

The east bound lane of East Longmeadow Road between Cedar Oak and Somers Road was detoured on Feb. 3 due to a low cable wire. Traffic was also diverted onto Cedar Oak Rd to reach Somers Road. Charter/Spectrum responded to address the wire. At 10:42 a.m., East Longmeadow Road was reopened.



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Police Department

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## Rotary Scholarship applications now available

WILBRAHAM - The Scholarship Committee of the Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden has announced that applications for the 2025 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, 2025. The scholarships are available to qualified high school seniors who are residents of Wilbraham or Hampden.

The club will award nine scholarships, each in the amount of \$2,000. Applications may also be obtained from Brad Sperry by calling (413) 537-4171.



The "Hand Print Shaped" station had cutouts of hands and mini hearts; creators could choose to put them on the inside, on the outside, or both.



One table of attendees each had their own project going on, making cards with a specific person in mind. One card-maker was even collaging with different components of many of the themes.

### CARDS from page 1

and be distributed there."

As the room filled up quickly, it bustled with the sounds of cutting papers and card attendees discussing their plans for their cards.

Brian Lenahan brought his three sons to make cards.

"The donation box was actually the main motivator for coming," Lenahan said. "I think it's important that the boys learn about giving back to the community, even in indirect ways like this. Plus, they're very creative—sometimes a tad too creative—so this seemed like a good outlet for them."

There was no limit to how many cards an attendee could make, and no particular order they could make them in.

"I wanted it to be a drop-in style, come whenever you want or can," Hageman said. "Each table is pretty self-explanatory."

One attendee visited every table, to make one of each card. Many of the cards were made to take home, including one for their grandma who is currently sick and another for their 101-year-old uncle. The other cards were put in the donation bin.

By the time the hour-long event was over, the donation box was overflowing.

"Donating was entirely optional and not the intention behind the event," Hageman said, "But it's nice to see that when given the opportunity, people will help out."

Hageman and others at the library would like to encourage those interested in future events to check the website,



A smiling group of card-makers stayed at one station, making a few cards to take home and a few more to donate.



A card-making duo laid out their options of card decorations to decide what worked best with what.

wilbrahamlibrary.org, for the events calendar as that is the best place to learn about what's coming ahead.



(Left) Alex Jaslanek and Rose Langone (Right) Stand in front of the backdrop used during the Father-Daughter Dance.



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen  
Jon O'Neil leads the daughters in a line dance.



Everyone is having a great time together at the father-daughter dance.



The daughters have fun dancing with their friends.



The girls all have feather crowns on their heads as prizes.

### DANCE from page 1

Wilbraham for everybody, not just out parishioners. It's really wonderful to see all the girls come and with their dad, but also with their friends and hang out, to just have a really good time," Oldread said.

There were many volunteers at the event helping out in any way that they can. From organizing treats back in the kitchen, to passing out prizes and taking pictures at the photo booth, the Father-Daughter Dance had many people who were out there helping their community.

Two volunteers at the event were Rose

Langone and Alex Jaslanek, who were supervising the Father-Daughter Dance and assisting with the photo booth.

"I just wanted to see my sister hang out with my dad because I remember doing this when I was little. And I kind of miss being here, so I had to be a part of it," Langone said.

"It's just a really nice thing to help out with the church and to get hours done. And this is just the nicest way to see people and make sure they have a good time," Jaslanek said.

Also in attendance was Fr. John Connors, who commented, "it's a great opportunity for fathers and daughters to get to bond more with each other and to have a good time together, and certainly here in our facility that we have, we can accommodate them so."

Along with Connors was George Flanagan, who serves as the church's custodian/maintenance man. He was there helping out at the dance in any way that he could. He is also the head chef for the Knights of Columbus.

"I just love watching the kids have a good time. But my kids are all grown up, so we were out to dinner last night with my youngest son and his daughter, who's going to be three in April, and we were talking about bringing her next year. Maybe she'll be old enough to come to this with him," Flanagan said.

It was a wonderful night for the community to come together in Wilbraham, a night to celebrate family and friends and the love that they have for each other. It was a night of fun and a night to truly remember.

The Knights and St. Cecilia's did another wonderful job putting all of this together.

### SSM from page 6

This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



## This Week in Rec

### Heather Hitchcock with Essential Canine

WILBRAHAM - Does your dog want to show off his skills? Can they hold a sit long enough for you to go to the mailbox and back? Can they sit nicely by your side while you talk to the mail carrier? Let's get your pup out to practice these skills! Join me at Memorial School at the Puppy Beginner Obedience Training class or the Second Level Obedience Training class beginning Monday February 24th for 6 weeks.

In these classes, your dog will learn new skills and help you improve your relationship with your dog. Specifically, the class will work on stays, recalls, not jumping & some attention games. Your dog will get exposure to other dogs and people in a controlled environment. Helping to teach your dog to focus on you and not the others is a key component to the classes.

I am a local award-winning dog trainer, a AKC approved instructor and evaluator & national level competitor. I have over 40 years of experience with training and showing dogs and am committed to working and training with the most effective motivational techniques for each individual dog. Additionally, I am a long-standing member of the American Kennel Club, the United Kennel Club, the United Schutzhund Club of America & Bright Spot Therapy dogs.

I look forward to meeting you and your dog at one of these upcoming training courses!

NOTE: To register and for more information on all of the programs the Wilbraham Recreation Department offers, please visit Wilbrahamrec.com.

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# SPORTS



Darren Duah takes the free throw.

## Falcons score close win over Spartans

WILBRAHAM – Last Tuesday night, a back-and-forth matchup was a 47-46 win for the Falcons to bring them to 9-8 on the season. Thus far, the Falcons have qualified for the state tournament. In the win, three Falcons, Miles Fergus, Gus Przybyl and Landyn Eldridge had 12 points scored. Minnechaug closes out the regular season with Amherst this week.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Miles Fergus tries to get around an opposing player.



Logan Conboy pushes a shot away.



Gus Przybyl fakes before driving to the hoop.



Josh Disa lunges for the basket.



Liam Fancuff sends a pass up the ice.

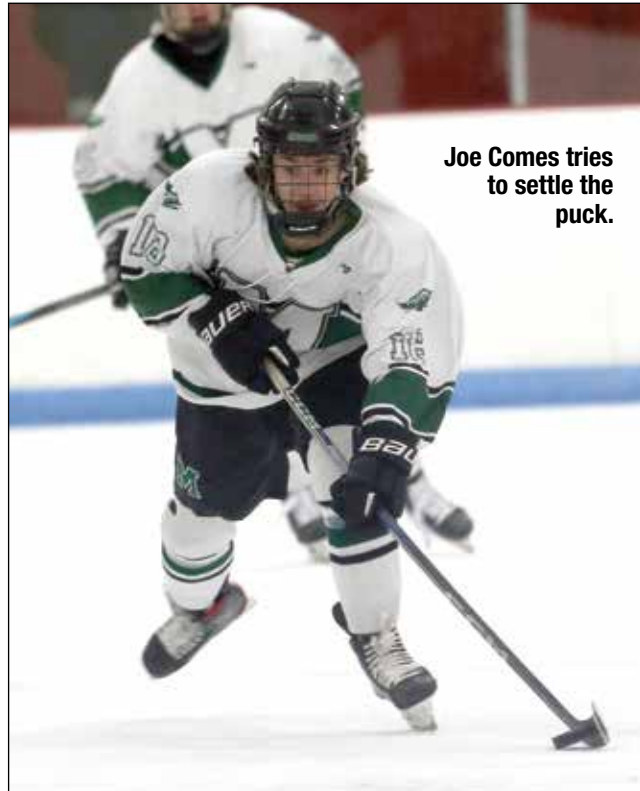


Dom Fiorentino makes his way up the ice after a play on defense.

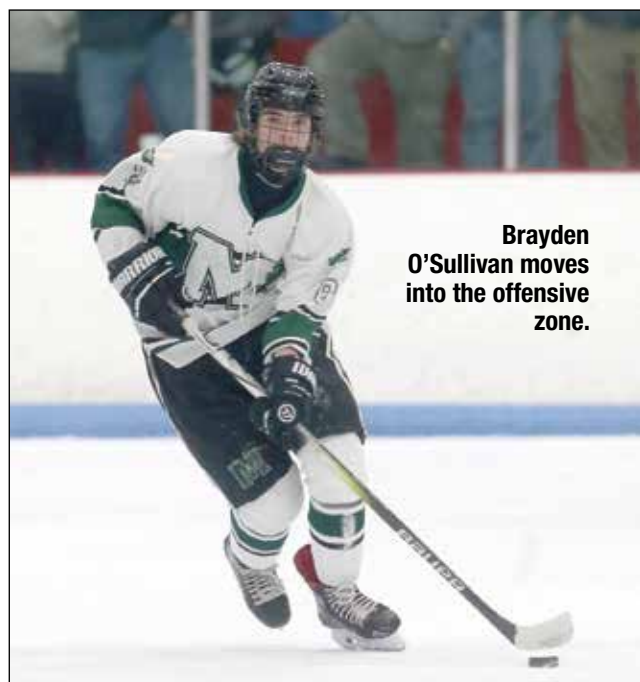
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Falcons beat Longmeadow, need more wins for tourney

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Minnechaug Regional High School hockey team is 5-8 after a much-needed win 3-2 over Longmeadow on Jan. 30. William LaPalm, Liam Fancuff, and Brayden O'Sullivan all scored goals. O'Sullivan added two assists. The Falcons need at least three wins in their final five games in order to qualify for the state tournament. Minnechaug faces a tough Westfield team on Feb. 13 at 8:30 p.m.



Joe Comes tries to settle the puck.



Brayden O'Sullivan moves into the offensive zone.



Cailin O'Brien makes her way down the court.

## Chaug girls fall to SICS

WILBRAHAM – Last Wednesday night, Minnechaug Regional High School girls soccer fell to SICS 52-48. Elizabeth Woytowicz had a big game for the host Falcons with 17 points. Ava Manning scored eight points. Minnechaug is 11-5 heading into the final week of the regular season. They are likely a candidate for the Western Mass. Tournament and will qualify for the state tournament.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Elizabeth Woytowicz tries to control the ball.



Lyric Nelson shoots on target.



Ava Ofcarcik goes for the long jumper.



Brielle Foley gets a shot for the Falcons.



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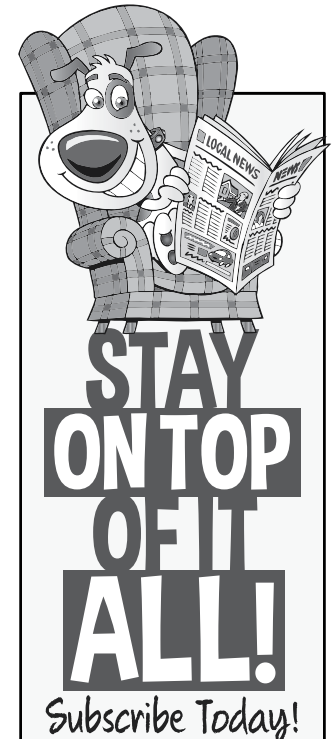
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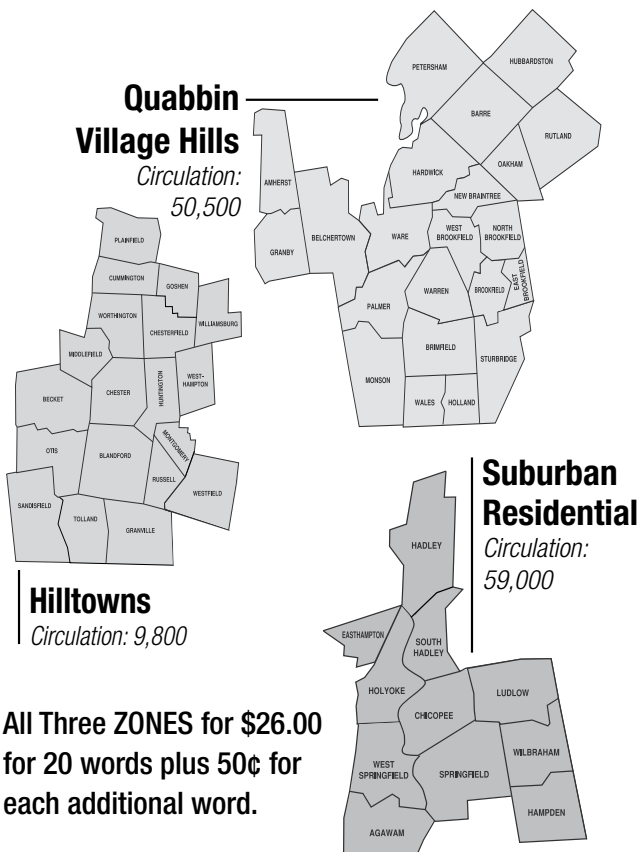
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 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount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

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**



**HISTORICAL** from page 1

who lived on the east side of Main Street (at the site of the Noah Alvord house, near the Minnechaug driveway) was appointed group leader of the first 29 people to gather as a Glendale parish. Chauncey Peck recalls in his 1913 text: "Mr. Kibbe was a very large, portly man, full of enthusiasm and religious zeal, very fond of singing and with a voice like a trumpet." He goes on to describe how Mr. Kibbe walked from his home in the evenings to attend meetings in Glendale and upon his descent down the western side of the mountain, "he would break forth into song, and the sound of his voice rolled far down the mountain side and could be heard for quite a distance along our Main Street."

**George Washington**

Peck used to like telling stories about people in town who might have been considered to be "characters". While watching a streaming TV documentary about George Washington on Prime recently, I remembered something else that Peck wrote about when asking, Did



**Abel Bliss said, as a young man, he saw George Washington come through Wilbraham.** (Times file photo)

George Washington travel through Wilbraham?

Here's a story about early Wilbraham settler Ensign Abel Bliss that was passed down to Peck, a Civil War veteran. It also sheds some light on the old Bay Path that runs through North Wilbraham that we mentioned in last month's column.

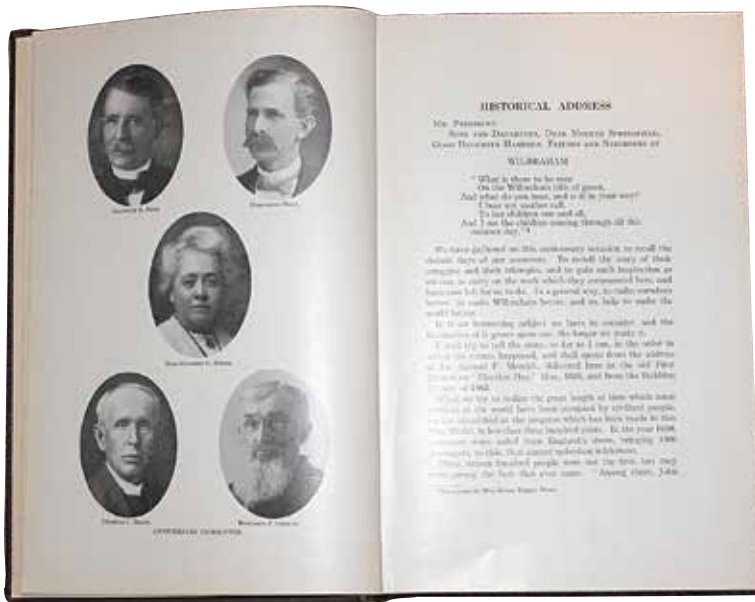
Abel Bliss built a log cabin on the Mountain near Ridge Road. The house was left for his son Oliver, from Oliver to his son John, from John to his daughter Catherine, according to Peck.

She told Peck that she had heard her father say that when he was a boy, he went out on the Bay Road, sometimes called The Bay Path (now Boston Road) and was honored by a bow from General George Washington, as the General was passing along the road on the way to Boston.

Peck wrote: "General Washington, writing in his diary about his passing along the Bay Road at that place, says, 'it was rough and rocky.'" That particular part of the Bay Path is now abandoned, noted Peck.

**Dwellings**

The dwellings of early settlers were all log cabins. The house that I



**Pages from Chauncey Peck's 1913 "History of Wilbraham".**

grew up in at 603 Main St., right next to the turkey farm, was built by my dad, Francis Bennett in 1953 on the site of the first house in town built by first settler Nathaniel Hitchcock in May of 1731.

When they dug the foundation of the new house, they bumped into the remnants of Hitchcock's old foundation, which was known to be a log cabin.

The house next door to Hitchcock, which became the farmhouse for the Bennett Turkey Farm in the 20th century, was the home of Deacon Nathaniel Warriner. Warriner's house was eventually made into a tavern and became famous for housing drunken rebel soldiers on their way to Shay's Rebellion. All these early dwellings were located just down from the Minnechaug driveway.

Local historians said that the early houses were all made of logs. But the first house made of boards (sometimes called clapboards) was built in 1754. It was said the boards came from a sawmill in Sixteen Acres. Another sawmill was built in 1750 on the Scantic River, now in Hampden. And, then another on 12 Mile Brook in North Wilbraham.

tion era. He was born Dec. 18, 1745, and was the first person baptized in the Wilbraham Meeting House. He was what we call "A Minuteman" and marched to Concord and Lexington on April 20, 1775 to face the British troops. He served there for two days. Back then, it was called "The Lexington Alarm".

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; Chauncey Peck who wrote "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913. "Military Rolls of the Outward Commons - Soldiers of Wilbraham, Massachu-



**Charles Brewer from Wilbraham responded to the 1775 "Lexington Alarm".** (Americana Corner illustration)

When the Charles Merrick "History of Wilbraham" was written in 1963 it said that only a few houses in Wilbraham retain their pre-Revolutionary War appearance, inside or out. "The number of homes destroyed by fire is appalling" they said.

**Serving as a Soldier**

From time to time, we like to honor those from Wilbraham who served their country and thank Bruce Tingle for doing the research on this. This month we remember Charles Brewer from the American Revolu-

sets 1730 - 1840" by J. Bruce Tingle. Available at the Old Meeting-house Museum Gift Shop. Google and Wikipedia.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Athenaeum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at [cbennett4765@charter.net](mailto:cbennett4765@charter.net).

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**St. Cecilia Women's Club awarding scholarships**

WILBRAHAM - The Saint Cecilia Women's Club is awarding \$1,500 scholarships to graduating seniors who are members of St. Cecilia Parish and who will be attending a two- or four-year college.

The selection criteria are academic achievement, character and leadership. Applications are available at Minnechaug Regional High School and at Saint Cecilia Parish.

Applicants may also contact the chairperson, Linda Hitas at 413-537-0014 or [lindahitas1@gmail.com](mailto:lindahitas1@gmail.com) for an application.

The deadline for receipt of the application is March 10 and should be sent to Saint Cecilia Women's Club, Saint Cecilia Parish, 42 Main St., Wilbraham 01095 or dropped off at the parish office.

**NOTICE**

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

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

**Public Notice CHANGES**  
Deadline has changed to **FRIDAY at 3 p.m.**

**Town of Hampden Zoning Board of Appeals**

The Hampden Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 6 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA, for those interested in the petition of Eric Ainsworth, owner of EDA Sports, to appeal the decision of the Building Inspector regarding a Cease and Desist order dated October 15, 2024 under Section 7.12 (4) "No noise, vibration, smoke, dust, odors, heat, glare, unsightliness or other nuisance is produced" related to his home occupation located at 308 Somers Road. The Board will also hold a visit of the site, including weapon discharge sound comparisons, on February 19, 2025 at 1 PM at 308 Somers Road, Hampden. The public may attend but may not comment or ask questions at this visit.

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  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
02/06, 02/13/2025

**Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing**

The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 6:30 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA on the application of Hampden Veterinary Clinic Realty, LLC (28 Somers Road) for a Special Permit with Site Plan Approval under Section 6, Table of Use Regulation 4.26, for the expansion of the existing parking lot located at 28 Somers Road within the Business District. The properties are currently owned by Hampden Veterinary Clinic Realty, LLC, Dr. Penny Peck (28 Somers Road, Parcel 12-038-000) and 16 Somers Road, LLC (16 Somers Road, Parcel 12-039-000). Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal busi-

ness hours.  
Madison Pixley, Chair  
Hampden Planning Board  
02/06, 02/13/2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **February 21, 2025** the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:  
Vehicle : **2014 BMW XI**  
VIN: WBAVLIC59EVY17128  
COLOR: Gray  
LKO: Ludero Monterio  
67 Fuller St Apt 1  
Brockton MA 02301  
R & S Assoc. Inc  
PO Box 543  
Wilbraham MA 01095  
413-596-4374  
02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Centerline Communications LLC is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing building located at 7 Somers Road, East Longmeadow, Hampden County, Massachusetts 01028. The modifications will consist of the collocation of antennas at a centerline height of approximately 59 ft above ground level on the 71-ft tall building. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 041538-PR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at (617) 715-1822.  
02/13/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**(413)748-7758**  
**Docket No. HD25P0250EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Lucien Joseph Michaud**  
**Also known as:**  
**Lucien J Michaud, Jr.**

**Date of Death: 12/08/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Joseph J Michaud of West Brookfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Joseph J Michaud of West Brookfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/06/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 06, 2025

**Rosemary A Saccomani,**  
Register of Probate  
02/13/2025

**WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, March 5, 2024 at 6:00PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed amendments to the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to modify regulation of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Energy Systems by amending Sections 10.7.7 and 10.7.13.

The complete text of the proposed amendments is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office and the Planning Office during normal business hours and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at [www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board).

All persons interested or wishing to be heard on this matter are urged to attend the public hearing.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/231896485> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 231-896-485).  
James Rooney, Chair  
02/13, 02/20/2025

**WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, March 5, 2024 at 5:45PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on a proposed amendment to the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to adopt regulations for Retail Sales of Used Automobiles and Trucks and modify related regulations for Retail Sales of New Automobiles and Trucks by amending Sections 3.4.5.20, 6.5.2, 6.5.3 and 6.5.7, and by adding a new Section 6.5.11.  
The complete text of the pro-



# DL&G TREE

Tree Removal



Structural Pruning



Crane Service



Storm Damage



Stump Grinding



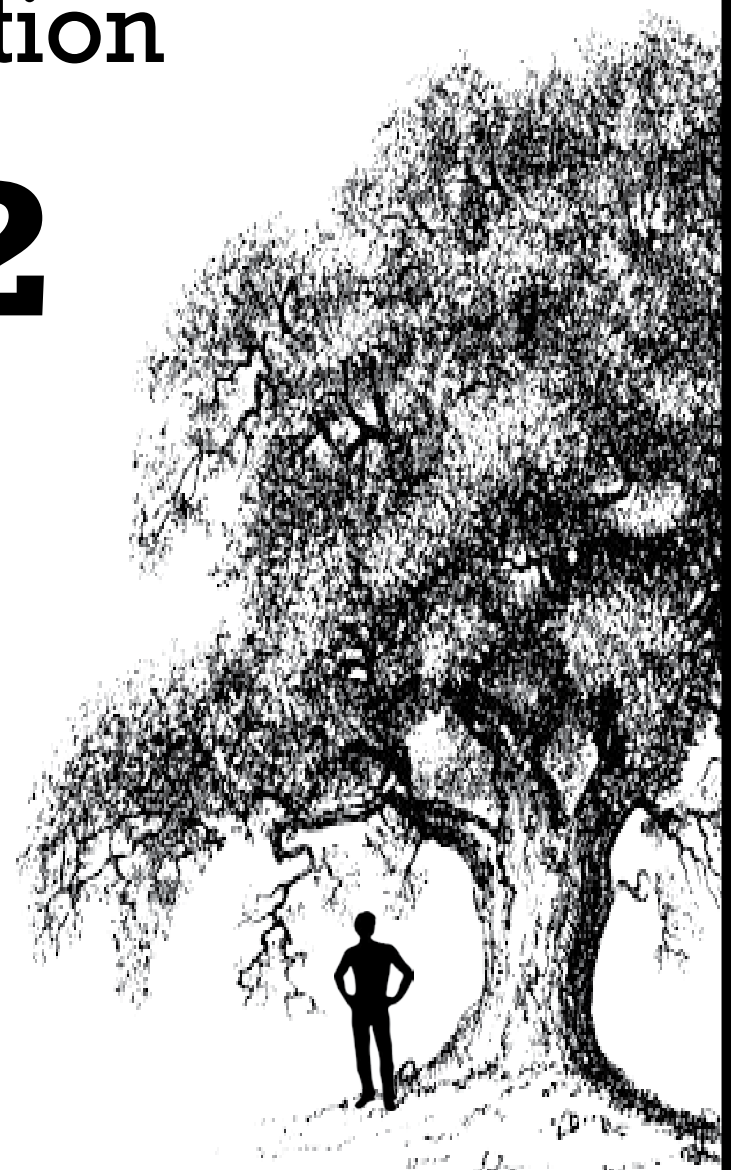
Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

**413-478-4212**

# DL&G TREE



**INSURED AND CERTIFIED**