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Board of Selectmen continues possible lawsuit appeal

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Board of Selectmen continued on Aug. 1 a decision on whether or not to appeal the Garvey v. Hampden Lawsuit (Self-Storage) ruling.

The deadline to file an appeal is Aug. 8, with the Selectmen planning to meet on Aug. 7 at 2 p.m. in the Town House Auditorium to decide if they will appeal after the Land Court judge ruled in favor of the plaintiffs.

According to court documents, the plaintiffs are Daniel P. Garvey, Hampden Self Storage, LLC, Michael Cimino and Hampden Farms LLC.

Chair Don Davenport explained after the ruling, the case was remanded back to the Planning Board to hold "a lawful-noticed public proceeding."

"After, the board shall expeditiously issue a special permit requested by the plaintiff after considering whether the imposition of reasonable conditions is warranted, including the 21 conditions approved in the decision under review," Davenport said.

Davenport said the Selectmen met with their attorney in executive session on July 29, who advised how "an appeal would be difficult and less than a 50% chance of winning it," with the plaintiff's attorney telling their attorney they will seek at-

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Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen

From the left, Aiden Daniels, Ryan Hollimon, Shryka Sanchez, Olivia Ryan and Lainey Donovan collect and exchange money and got a visit from Hampden Police Ofc. William Jacques and Hampden Police Chief Scott Trombly on Aug. 5.

Transition Program gives back during fundraiser car wash

Proceeds support the program and Hampden Police Department

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - From Aug. 5-7, the Transition Program held its 4th Annual Fundraiser Car Wash at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

The Transition Program consists of young adults ages 18-22 with unique individual abilities who are provided learning opportunities and support by the school district. It helps shape their lives, understand their capabilities and take on an active role in preparing for the roles of adulthood.

Every day, students in the program participated in many roles, including washing the cars and collecting money from customers.

Anthony Zaremba, the transition teacher who runs the program, spoke about the event as well as the importance of the students' participation in the community.

"I like this event because it gives the young adults a chance to interact with the community. Because ultimately, being that they are all high school graduates, that's the main goal is getting them involved with the community. It also educates the public, lets them know that we

are here," Zaremba said. "Over the last four years, my main goal is to get the students to do more in the community, whether it is volunteering, whether it's internships and by doing this it lets the community know who we are and that we're here."

Along with Zaremba, the summer ELT teacher at the Transition Program, Meaghan Farrell, also worked at the car wash with her students. She

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HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

For whom does the bells toll?

The Second Baptist Church Bell was rescued by Jesse Rice

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

Part I

For those of us of a certain age some readers may remember William "Mike" Kober, retired Minnechaug athletic director, a well-known history buff, member of the Wilbraham Athenaeum Society and a regular along with his wife Ann, at their history lectures and Saturday open houses.

I ran into Mike at the Athenaeum Society's popular Ice Cream

Social July 13 at the Old Meeting House Museum on Main Street.

I told Mike that I was finally getting a chance to review a book he gave me a while ago written and illustrated by Eric Sloane, of Warren, Connecticut called "The Sound of Bells".

The book, first published in 1966, contains everything you always wanted to know about bells and their relationship to towns of historic New England. It came along at the right time, just after we celebrated The Fourth of July. During a holiday when Americans always histor-



Charlie Bennett

ically rang bells proclaiming and celebrating our independence.

The Great American Day

Sloan, a Yale graduate who had studied at the New York School of Fine and Applied Art wrote in his Author's Note that he if it weren't for In-

dependence Day he wouldn't have written the book. He remembered how common bell ringing was in early America at the Fourth of July. "The thought of church bells and farm bells and school bells and fire bells all clanging through the countryside seems best to catch the spirit of that first great American Day,"



Jesse Rice, with the help of R & S Towing, saved and preserved the bell now at the Old Meeting House Museum. (Times file photo)

wrote Sloan.

A few years before he pub-

lished the book in 1966, President John F. Kennedy proposed to the U. S. Congress, and state proclamations were made, urging that Independence Day be celebrated with bells rung "this year and on every year following."

Bells were an important lifestyle in early New England evoking iconic images of church bells, locomotive bells, school bells, cow bells, farmers dinner bells and fire alarm bells.

I found it fascinating that life used to be documented to the tune of bells.

Sloan wrote that a farmer rang a bell at the end of the day to signal dinner. When the cows heard the bell they took it as a

Please see **HISTORICAL**, page 8

Matthews appointed to Planning Board in joint Selectmen, Planning Board meeting

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board appointed John Matthews to the Planning Board in a joint meeting on July 29.

The decision comes after two candidates were presented to fill a vacancy on the board: Matthews and Alan Marshall.

Town Administrator Brian Domina explained after the vacancy was posted, several candidates expressed interest in the position, with two of them appearing that evening.

"That person--the applicant or the candidate who has the most votes--will fill the rest of the term and the position will be on the ballot next May at the annual election," Domina said.

The chosen candidate would fill out the remaining term of Planning Board member Heather Beattie, who resigned from the board on June 11.

Marshall, a resident of Hampden for 30 years, worked for the postal service for 22 years and later got his law degree, becoming an attorney in 2005 and working for Anthony Scibelli and then SM Reilly Associates.

Marshall became familiar with land use after being tasked with providing legal services to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board in Wilbraham.

"So, I attended quite a few meetings with them, had done some executive sessions with them, a couple of permits," Marshall said. "Actually, the last case

that I worked with them was a solar field case up on South Monson Road, which, actually, ended up having the special permit denied by the Planning Board. It was appealed to land court, so I represented the Town of Wilbraham and the Planning Board in land court at trial."

After that case, Marshall retired from practicing law and later returned to the field, working 20 hours a week in the last year and a half.

Matthews, meanwhile, previously served on the Planning Board and has been a resident since 1966, with other committees he's serving on including the Senior Center Building Committee, the Stormwater Committee and the Advisory Committee.

In his prior work on the Planning Board, Matthews helped frame the solar bylaw the town now has in its Zoning By-laws.

"So, I've been active. I do have a fair amount of credentials with my planning experience," Matthews said. "I enjoy it. I'd like to see some changes made."

Planning Board Chair Madison Pixley explained to the candidates how the board has had "a couple of vacancies over the last few years" and asked this.

"What makes you interested in joining now after we've been looking for people for the last two, three years?" Pixley said.

Marshall replied it was the first time he heard about a vacancy and he saw the posting online.

"Because I've been retired the past couple of years, I've been looking for other opportunities. As I had said, I am

involved with a couple of nonprofit activities, but I felt that it was time to give back to the town," Marshall said.

Matthews said his focus was around the Master Plan for the town and how that would "dovetail into the Zoning Bylaws" and wanted the board to do revisions to the solar bylaws due to the battery storage.

Another item, he added, concerns revising other existing town bylaws to "clean them up a little bit."

"From my viewing of the Planning Board, we seem to be getting mired down with--I'm going to say--some kind of mundane things. And I'm saying mundane meaning the substandard frontage lots, the common driveway type of thing," Matthews said. "What I would do is I would look to refine some of those by-laws and try to move them to the ZBA. They would become the special permit granting authority for those in particular. Trying to remove some of the load from the Planning Board, in turn, returning to the Planning Board to more of a writing bylaw, moving forward in forming how the town is going to be."

Marshall and Matthews confirmed they would be available to attend meetings and dedicate time to the position.

Selectman John Flynn circled back to the Master Plan for his question.

Marshall said this.

"Unquestionably, the Planning Board is going to have to work with other boards in the town and other agencies, but my plan was to go into this without, really,

an agenda. To look at the duties of the Planning Board," Marshall said. "I don't have any political motivation for doing anything, I don't have any faction, I don't go in with any rigid idea of how the town is going to go. I think as items are brought before the Planning Board--because in the bylaws it does lay out special permit practices by the criteria, by statute and by the bylaws of the town--to look at each case on an individual basis and decide, again, based on health, safety, the best interest of the town. I think that's the purpose of the job."

Matthews said this.

"As I look at it, our present Master Plan--1983 timeframe--a lot of it never got implemented for, you know, reasons. (There) would have been costs, some people might not have felt it was important. I think one of the things with this Master Plan, it gives you kind of a direction in the way the town will be or should be or need to go to," Matthews said. "The Master Plan gives you kind of a road map in which way you want your town to be developed. So with that, and like I say, how that would dovetail into the zoning regulations and some things of that nature."

Before the vote, Flynn thanked both candidates for stepping up to be considered for the role.

"We are well served by having two good candidates in front of us," Flynn said.

Matthews was appointed to the Planning Board 4-3.

Wilbraham Notice to Voters: Registration

WILBRAHAM - From the office of the Board of Registrars of Voters:

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Registrars of Voters is in session.

Dates Monday - Friday
Times 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Places Town Clerk's Office

Saturday August 24, 2024
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Town Clerk's Office

*(Last Day to Register and change party enrollment for State Primary)

for the purpose of registering voters for the State Primary to be held on Tuesday, September 3,

2024 and to make any necessary corrections in the list of voters.

QUALIFICATIONS: An applicant for registration must be at least 18 years of age by the date of the election, a citizen of the United States and a resident of this city or town.

A registered voter who

chooses to adopt a new name by decree of court or as a result of marriage shall continue to be registered in his/her former name until June first of the following year at which time the voter shall be registered in his/her new name; provided, however, that if such voter appears in person

prior to the close of registration for any preliminary, primary, or election to notify the registrars of such adoption of a new name, the registrars shall correct the current annual register so that such voter shall be registered in his/her new name. (G.L. Chapter 51, sec 2 as amend-

ed)
If a qualified voter whose name was on the voter's list last year finds after close of registration that his/her name has been omitted from the current list by mistake or that there is a clerical error in the listing, he may apply to correct the omission or error.

If the application is made on Election Day, he/she may have a certificate to vote. Call the Board of Registrars' Office, 413-596-2800, ext. 200, for information:

- If you are unable because of physical disability to appear in person to register, or
- If you wish to verify your voting status.

Board of Registrars }

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Money on the Spot for All Vehicles

'Pop-Up Boutique...and a Lot More' taking place throughout August

Proceeds support Hampden Senior Center Building Expansion Fund

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Residents can shop for bargains and other unique finds during the senior center's "Pop-Up Boutique...and a Lot More" throughout August.

The pop-up officially kicked off on Aug. 5 and runs Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. to Noon.

The pop-up is sponsored by the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens.

After the month-long pop-up, a Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens Tag Sale will take place on Sept. 7 from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Diane Marino, the senior center's activities coordinator, was helping volunteers get ready for the pop-up by organizing donations as they came in, with items including glassware, jewelry, household items, cozies and jar openers, Christmas decorations and more.

Marino said there would be volunteers helping in two-hour intervals throughout the pop-up to help people with their purchases, with everything to be set up in the senior's center great room.

"There is a menagerie of collectibles. Anyone who is interested in going to tag sales, estate sales...will be happy and delighted when they come in because we do have something for everyone," Marino said. "It's just treasures galore and the tables will be just filled with everything, all collectibles and all interesting items."

Marino explained the donation drop-offs began on July 1 and came in throughout the month, expressing gratitude to everyone who dropped off items for the pop-up.

"We had wonderful donations, very generous of people to come here and bring the nice items that they brought to help us," Marino said. "We didn't expect to get this many



Claudia Kapinos, a regular volunteer at the Hampden Senior Center, shows off a glass basket donation that will be for sale during the 'Pop-Up Boutique...and a Lot More' at the Hampden Senior Center.



Jocelyn Zanetti, a volunteer, holds up a Christmas village house that was donated for the 'Pop-Up Boutique...and a Lot More' at the Hampden Senior Center. Zanetti was among the volunteers helping go through donations.



A set of Christmas decorations are some of the many hidden treasures residents can partake in during the 'Pop-Up Boutique...and a Lot More' at the Hampden Senior Center.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Donations of jewelry to be sorted and hanging from a jewelry tree.

donations, so we're very happy about it and,

as I said, everything is so different, so it's a wonderful collection of all

different things put together to sell." She also thanked the Friends for

Please see **POP-UP**, page 7



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Notice from the Water Department

Metallic-Tasting Algae in Reservoir

WILBRAHAM - Starting in mid-July, an algae bloom occurred in the Quabbin reservoir. While the presence of low levels of algae (naturally occurring microscopic plants) is a sign of a healthy reservoir, this particular bloom consists of Chryso-sphaerella algae, which leaves a metallic taste to tap water. While this algae bloom presents a nuisance taste and odor condition, the water remains safe to drink. In the meantime, chilling water in the refrigerator and/or adding lemon is the easiest way to improve the taste.

The bloom is being monitored by Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and MWRA three days per week. Staff are collecting samples in the reservoir, performing microscopic analyses, and identifying and counting the algae concentrations. MWRA is also communicating with each of the Chicopee Valley Aqueduct communities several times per week. In addition, water quality is monitored continuously with on-line analyzers immediately before and after treatment at the Brutsch Water Treatment Facility, as well as further downstream.

This Chryso-sphaerella bloom occurred starting around July 17th. Chryso-sphaerella is a golden brown algae of the Chryso-phyte family. For more information about Quabbin Reservoir and water quality is available at MWRA.com.

A Conversation with Abraham Rodstein, Holocaust Survivor, at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM- Holocaust survivor Abraham Rodstein will share his life story at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. Facilitated by local writer Thomas Slawiak, Rodstein's discussion will include his journey before, during, and after World War II- from growing up in Lithuania, to surviving the Kovno Ghetto and Dachau concentration camp, to emigrating to America.

Slawiak and Rodstein have spoken to over 2,000 people at schools, senior centers, libraries, and private venues. They are dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust and preventing such horrors from happening again.

Registration for this free event is encouraged as space is limited. To register, please contact the library at 413-596-6141, or visit the Event Calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Wilbraham Vote-By-Mail and Absentee Voting

WILBRAHAM - Vote-by-mail ballots and absentee ballots are now available for the upcoming State Primary scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2024. A request in writing is required for obtaining an early or absentee ballot. An application to re-

quest a ballot can be found on the Wilbraham Town Website and Secretary of State's website. Please call 596-2800, ext. 200 if you have any questions. For the Vote by Mail Paper Application, visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/download/vote-by-mail-applications/vote-by-mail-paper-application-2023.pdf>.

To register to vote or change name/address on voter registration, visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>.



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen
Sisters Mackenzie (Left) and Cailin (Right) McEwan help wash cars.



Meaghan Farrell and Anthony Zaremba wash cars at the car wash. Proceeds from the car wash support the Transition Program and the Hampden Police Department for their upcoming Public Safety Night Out on Oct. 11.



Various students helped at the car wash to make every car shine at the Transition Program's 4th Annual Fundraiser Car Wash on Aug. 5.

TRANSITION from page 1

worked with the high school students, however, the high school program collaborates frequently with the transition program.

"This day is great. It gives all the students in both programs opportunities to interact with community members both familiar to them and not and just expanding their knowledge and car washing is a good skill. The different interactions with washing cars and money exchange, it helps different life skills which they might get inspired to be like: oh this might be some job that I would want in the future," Farrell said.

On Aug. 5, the Transition Program got a visit from two officers from the police department, Chief Scott Trombly and Green Meadows School Resource Officer William Jacques.

"It's nice for our students who have to be here during the summer on a hot day they can come out from being inside of the school and doing a regular program and come out and have fun, and being in summer attire, being able to spray each other, maybe getting each other a little wet, it pulls them out of their normal, regular day setting," Trombly said.

"At the same time, it is a working environment so they're raising money, they're doing structured work, so it's a good opportunity to teach some working skills," Jacques said.

Two of the students working at the car wash, sisters Cailin and Mackenzie McEwan, excitedly spoke about their enjoyment of being a part of the wash.

"We are having fun!" they exclaimed. "We have been doing it for the last two years. So, we do like helping people and washing the cars," Mackenzie McEwan added.

The car wash was a very special moment for all the students and it helped to bring the community together, as well as help the students learn about various life skills and potential job opportunities through volunteering at the car wash.

The money raised from the car wash went to the Transition Program as well as the Hampden Police Department's annual Public Safety Night Out, which will be on Oct. 11 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Thornton Burgess.



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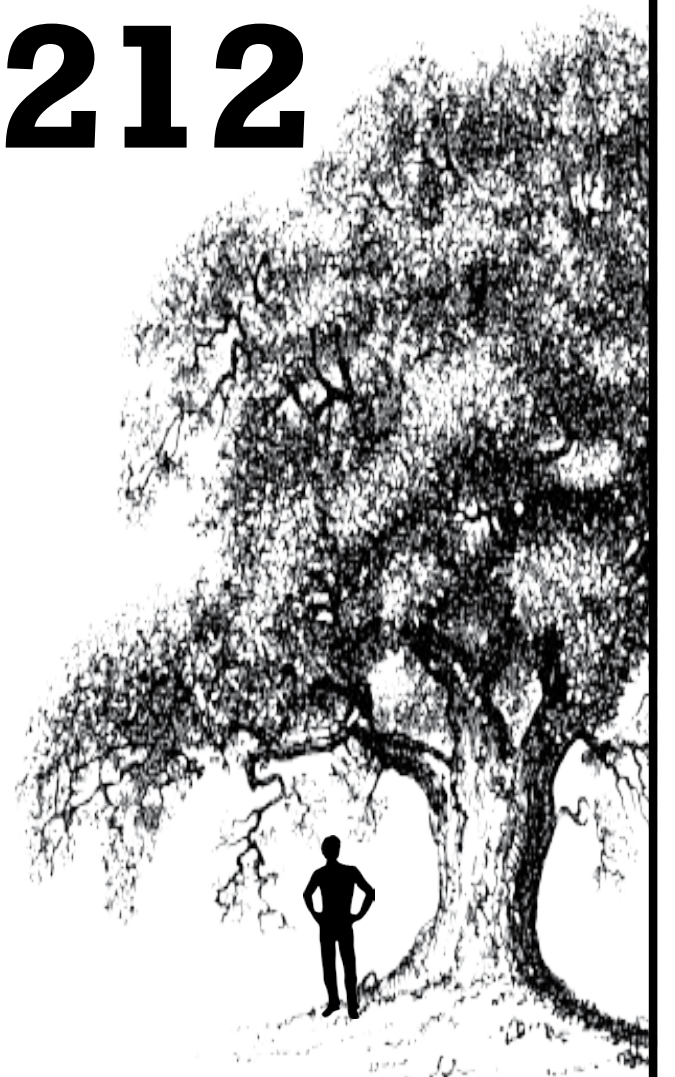
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VIEWPOINTS

Zucchini days of summer

In the last three days I have picked 10 zucchini. The seeds were sown around Memorial Day and I ended up with six plants total.

I am thrilled that the harvest is starting to come in. I just wish I had air conditioning in my kitchen so I'd feel like baking!

Zucchini is the brunt of many jokes due to its prolific nature. Some years, though, the harvest isn't so great. Either borers take out the plants or powdery mildew slows them down until the inevitable comes.

Anyhow, I'll count my blessings this year and try my best to preserve and prolong the harvest as much as possible. If you are blessed with your own supply of zucchini or you have been gifted a few, read on, straight from the archives, as to how to make the best use of your bounty.

Store it

Zucchini will keep in the refrigerator for at least one week. Smaller squashes are more flavorful, and less seedy than their overgrown counterparts.

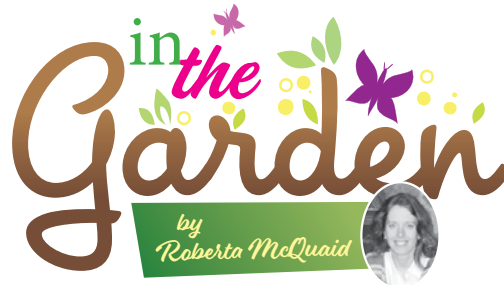
Harvest when the fruits are six inches long or less, and still narrow. It is likely that baseball bat-sized squashes will develop now and then, especially if you are away from the garden for a few days.

Don't worry; they can be used in most recipes that call for zucchini, although you may wish to remove the largest seeds first; they have a tendency to get tough and chewy.

Freeze it

Simply shred whole zucchinis, skin and all. Drain in a colander to remove excess liquid and pack in containers or freezer bags.

Nothing beats zucchini bread in the mid-



dle of winter. It is helpful to freeze in amounts compatible with your recipe; in other words if you need two cups to make bread, freeze in two cup portions.

If fried veggies are a favorite treat, you can freeze raw, peeled zucchini sections after coating them with bread crumbs.

First, prefreeze on a plate or cookie sheet, then, pack in freezer bags with as much air removed as possible. Fry up at a later date.

I have never been very successful freezing blanched zucchini slices. Experiment yourself and maybe you will have better luck.

Steam it

Who likes soggy zucchini? No one. Cut in slices one quarter of an inch thick and steam for a mere two or three minutes.

Sprinkle with dill or lemon juice and thyme for a wonderful summer side dish.

Stuff it

Here is the perfect use for the aforementioned baseball bat sized squash. Making zucchini boats are my sister-in-law Janice's favorite way to utilize the vegetable. I can always count on her to take a few biggies off my hands. With a spoon hollow out the seed cavity.

Stuff it with a mixture of cooked rice, sauce and ground beef or turkey. Top with shredded cheese and bake until it bubbles. Yummy!

Put a Mexican spin on this recipe by using black beans, salsa and taco cheese along with brown rice in place of the other ingredients. Freeze individual portions of this dish for a quick dinner.

Bake with it

Zucchini bread and muffins are one thing, but double chocolate zucchini cake? Yes, and there are more enticing dessert recipes where that came from.

Consult your local library or the internet for other mouth-watering selections.

One pointer: drain shredded zucchini well before using in any recipe. Place it in a colander and apply pressure with clean hands or a large mixing spoon. Squeeze all the liquid right out of it.

This way your desserts will be moist but not soggy.

Be creative and experiment to find your own favorite ways of cooking with this vegetable. Zucchini pickles, perhaps? How about zucchini pancakes? Zucchini wedges in place of cucumbers with dip?

The list is endless!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.



Dear Rusty:

I'm just trying to figure out how to determine whether to retire at 65 or 67 and, if I retire, approximately how much could I make outside of my Social Security without being overly taxed.

Signed: Thinking About Retiring

Dear Thinking:

Deciding when to retire is serious business, because it affects your future and what your retirement income will be going forward. Thus, it's good you are taking the time to fully understand your options and we're happy to assist you with that. Here are some things which should help you decide whether to retire at 65 or 67.

Social Security benefits are subject to income tax by the IRS if your combined income from all sources, which includes your Adjusted Gross Income on your tax return, plus half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year, exceeds certain thresholds for your income tax filing status. If you file your income tax as "married/jointly" and your combined income from all sources is more than \$32,000, then 50% of your received SS benefits are subject to income tax at your normal IRS tax rate. But if your combined income as a married couple is more than \$44,000, then 85% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. FYI, the taxation thresholds are lower for those, who file taxes as an individual, \$25,000 and \$34,000 respectively.

Born in 1960 or later, your Full Retirement Age for Social Security's purposes is 67. If you claim SS benefits before your FRA, not only will your monthly amount be permanently reduced, but you'll also be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit changes annually, but for 2024 it is \$22,320, future year's limits will be a bit higher each year.

If your work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They take away by withholding future benefits for as many months as necessary for them to recover what you owe for exceeding the annual limit.

Should I retire at 65 or 67? And what about earnings and taxes?

FYI, the limit goes up during the year you attain FRA, and the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

If you claim SS before your FRA, your monthly amount will be permanently reduced. If you claim at age 65, you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. If you claim at age 66, your monthly amount would be about 93% of your FRA entitlement and, by claiming at 67 you'll get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

The reductions for early claiming are permanent reductions except for the Annual Cost of Living Adjustments. Note that you can also delay longer than your FRA to get an even larger benefit amount; you can delay up to age 70 when your maximum benefit is reached. Just remember, the earnings test, as described above, will apply if you claim SS before your FRA and you are still working.

If your plan is to continue to work full time, be aware that if you claim early SS and significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to col-

lect SS benefits. If your work income is high enough that the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit is more than SS can recover through withheld benefits in one year, they will tell you that you're unable to collect benefits at this time, until you either earn less or reach your FRA. So, deciding whether to claim Social Security at 65 or 67 is your personal choice and, hopefully, the above provides the information you need to make an informed decision.

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

2024 Paris OLYMPICS...



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Correction Policy

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

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



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

A sun hat with a fancy hat box was one of many donations.

POP-UP from page 3

helping to organize the event.

“We thank them for their help with putting all this together,” Marino said.

Marino said events like this can also help people step back in time and bring a sense of nostalgia, re-visiting items from years past or learning the history behind an item.

It also, she added, can teach the younger generation, with Marino mentioning one of the volunteers helping to sort the donations, Jocelyn Zanetti.

“I think it’s been fun for her to see that and it also teaches her and younger people that don’t go into the regular big stores to shop. You need to go to the tag sales, the estate sales, the Goodwill, the Savers,” Marino said. “Just search through it and look at the history of the items and how well-made they were and, also, cost-wise you can get great bargains and I think that’s what’s exciting to people because you never know what you’re going to find.”

On the prices for the items, Marino said they are “pricing to sell.”

“There’s always a little bargaining that goes on with these types of sales, but we’re being very fair with our prices, so I think people come in, they’re going to see a sticker and be excited about it,” Marino said.

Marino encourages the community to stop by for the pop-up throughout the month and added donations are still being accepted for various items including new and gently used clothing and accessories, jewelry, shoes, home décor, household items, books and puzzles.

“If you think you have something that we might enjoy, you can either call first or just bring it in and we’ll go through it,” Marino said.

Marino hopes residents enjoy roaming around and checking out the items.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Wilbraham could partner with a shared municipal energy manager

Police Chief Ed Lennon elaborates on hiring process, background checks

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Town Administrator Nick Breault covered a variety of topics during the Aug. 5 meeting of the Select Board, ranging from the town potentially working with a municipal energy manager to the search for a new fire captain.

The shared municipal energy manager would work with a variety of communities in Hampden County. Breault said that towns from “Chester to Ludlow” have expressed interest in bringing on the services of such an individual.

“We’re somewhat late to this discussion... There’s an effort to put together a shared municipal energy manager among communities,” Breault informed the board.

Breault provided the members with a list of communities that are committed to the prospect as well as several communities that are still debating whether to join the effort.

Breault said the group of committed municipalities would like to know as soon as possible if Wilbraham is interested.

“A shared manager would be hired to look at different aspects of energy management, municipalities’ decarbonization efforts, manage energy projects for municipal school buildings, programs for utilities and usage and energy insight,” Breault said.

Breault acknowledged that several of the efforts are already underway in Wilbraham and that the individual would further contribute to them. He said the person could serve as a fresh set of eyes to look at developments that are occurring in town.

Having just received the latest information on the matter on Monday, Breault raised the discussion during his Town Administrator’s Report. He said he would like to make it a line item for the board’s next meeting with

more time to prepare.

He also said that the position could possibly be split among two people, depending on how many communities ultimately commit. The individual (or individuals) in the position would work on behalf of the town but not as a direct employee of Wilbraham.

“Presumably, what the town will receive out of it is identification of

bers.

Additionally, Breault announced the retirement of a longtime public servant in Wilbraham.

“This Friday will be Deputy Fire Chief Pete Nothe’s final day of service to the town, ending a very long and excellent career with the fire service,” Breault said. “He’ll receive a citation on Friday at I believe 11:30 a.m. or thereabouts.”

After Police Chief Ed Lennon spoke about a different opportunity, Select Board Clerk Mark Ducey asked him what precautions the police department takes to ensure it lands the right hires and not people who shouldn’t protect and serve.

Lennon said the police department is very careful and has stringent background procedures it follows to protect itself as best it can.

“I’m not indicating or insinuating that we’re not doing that, I just wanted to get that deeper understanding of what the process is,” Ducey said.

Lennon said multiple times that the most important step the department takes before hiring an individual is conducting a background check.

“We have a captain that goes through everything from credit reports to previous employers and all kinds of special databases,” Lennon said. “We had an absolutely, unbelievably outstanding candidate that we were bringing forward one time. We did the background check, and it was just crazy. We did not hire that person.”

Lennon said there is a minimum qualification to become a Wilbraham police officer, and undesirable candidates don’t usually reach that level.

“They can slip through the cracks to a certain extent, so we have to make sure the background check is (accurate). It’s probably the most important thing we do. And the level that we do it, I’m confident that anybody who is not supposed to be here does not get here,” Lennon said.



Wilbraham Town Hall

where we can reduce our energy consumption, how we can get better pricing on our energy consumption and analysis to amass energy insight of how we’re using our energy, which we do currently do some of that,” Breault said. “The idea here is to enhance that effort. For some towns, it’s to begin that effort.”

Breault also shared several developments pertaining to the fire department. First, he updated the board on the search for a new fire captain.

“That is underway. There will be a written exam on the 14th of September. It will be here probably quicker than you realize,” Breault said. “There will be an assessment center on the 18th of September. The interviews will be with the fire commissioner, a fire professional and myself on Oct. 1. And the Select-board interviews, right now, would be tentatively on 14th of October.”

After speaking with Fire Chief Michael Andrews, Breault said that five overall candidates will first be identified before the group is narrowed down to three who will interview before the Select Board mem-

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HISTORICAL from page 1

signal to wander in the direction of their barns, and all the sounds of the countryside began to get quiet.

The most commanding sounds however, were the voices of the great town bell and church bells. Sloan said, "In their bell-fries, whenever their mouths opened to the countryside and the thunderous tones of bells sounds floating over the surrounding hills, all the people listened."

Times could be tracked according to when the town bells rang. Early on, the bells did not call out the hour but they did sound three special times of the day.

Special Signals

At 6 in the morning there was a signal to remind everyone that day was already in progress and that all was well. It was time to begin work. At 12 there was a noon bell, the signal for lunching. That period was known to the early farmer as "nooning" or "resting". At 9 in the evening there was a ringing of a signal for retiring known as "curfew".

In colonial America where many roofs were thatched with grass, this bell asked that all people bank or cover their fires so that they might not flare up during the night. So, this bell was called by a French name, *couvre feu* or the "coverfire bell" and then became the English "curfew bell."

At Christmas time there was a bell rung at midnight on Christmas Eve called "The Devil's Knell rung for Satan who was said to have "died when Christ was born".

In New England, and I'm sure it took place in Wilbraham as well, The Christmas Day bell wringing began at 7 in the morning and ended at 4 in the afternoon but the whole day was known as the "American Day of Bells."

Colonial Bay Staters had a good sense of humor according to Sloan. Old-time pranksters had many opportunities with their town and church bells. A favorite April Fool trick was to wrap cloth around the church bell's clapper to that little or no

sound came from its striking.

It made sense for a farmer to attach a bell to his cow to keep track of the animal. A belled animal could be located even in a deep forest.

Second Baptist Church Bell

Visitors to the July 13 Ice Cream Social at the Old Meeting House Museum on Main Street - mentioned earlier in this story - probably saw an antique church bell mounted on a granite base in the museum garden. It is an interesting story how it got there and was related to me by Peter Ablondi, past president of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. The Society operates the museum for the town and sponsors the Ice Cream Social.

Ablondi said Rice Fruit Farm former owner Jesse Rice and a former selectman was also on the Board of Trustees of the Atheneum Society.

The Second Baptist Church was located on Butler Hill, which is on Boston Road, just past the Palmer line, before it descends down to the Chicopee River. Rice noticed that the old building was abandoned. It had been blown out by the Great 1938 Hurricane leaving its church bell lying on the ground. A neighbor across the street salvaged the bell and stashed it in his barn after the hurricane.

"Jesse heard that the bell had survived and bought it for a hundred bucks from the neighbor," recalled Ablondi. Rice loaded the bell on one of his farm trucks and brought it to his fruit farm on southern Main Street where he stored it behind his farm store, which still survives today owned by the Maloni Family.

Rice felt that the bell had historic value and wanted to donate it to the Atheneum Society for people to see when visiting the museum.

Rice called upon the popular Ron Naldski of R & S Towing to help move the bell, with his flatbed auto wrecker, from the apple barn to the Hearse House, a small white building behind the museum, that use to house the town four-wheeled horse and

**62 Years Ago
Beauty Contest Planned for Spec Pond**

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From an August 1961: "King Lion Robert Swallow announced Monday a contest to select "Miss Spec Pond of 1961" and will be conducted Saturday at the recreational area in conjunction with the annual Water Carnival.

The contest is open to all Wilbraham girls up to 18 years old. Regulations are that contestants will compete attired in summer dresses and may register with chief lifeguard Bruce Ryder at the pond anytime the area is open."

wagon that transported bodies to the cemetery before the days of funeral parlors.

They unloaded the bell off the auto wrecker. Sometime later the Atheneum Trustees decided to mount the bell on a block of granite and Wilbraham Cemetery Commissioner and Atheneum Trustee Don Bourcier arranged to mount the bell on a granite block and had it engraved: "Bell from Second Baptist Church, Circa 1800, Butler Hill, Boston Road, Wilbraham. Gift of Jesse Rice."

Continued Next Month

Sources: "The Sound of Bells" by Eric Sloan published by Doubleday, 1966. National Historic Park, Philadelphia, Pa. Thanks to Mike Kober for the idea.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbennett4765@charter.net

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Wilbraham Senior Center offering weekly Friday Yoga Class

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Seniors gathered at the senior center on Aug. 2 to participate in a weekly Friday yoga class.

The class, taking place at 10 a.m., is open to all levels, with attendees encouraged to bring their own yoga mat or use one provided by the class.

The class costs \$5 per person.

Shara Carver oversees the class and focuses on incorporating yoga poses that are inclusive to everyone's level of practice, age and abilities, adding the classes began at the senior center during the first week of May.

Carver said holding the class at the senior center is "really, really fun and a beautiful place to do it."

"It's typically around a 45-minute class, lots of gentle movement," Carver said. "And then we usually end with the savasana, which is like a restorative, meditative pose where you just lay down and breathe."

Carver is new to teaching yoga, having just received her certification in March and has consistently practiced for around three years.

"So, I'm fairly new to the practice all around, but I definitely went full steam when I started practicing. So, I really dug into it," Carver said. "But, I fell in love with yoga because of the breath. It's my favorite and I try to tell all my practitioners that it's not weird to breathe so everyone can hear you. That is the best part of yoga."

Carver connected with the senior center through Activities/Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Finnigan, sharing how after getting her certification, she researched yoga practices to support seniors.

She enjoys teaching yoga to the seniors.

"I just enjoy sharing something that I'm passionate about with people that otherwise wouldn't have the experience," Carver said. "Most of them aren't going to go to the Yoga Shop or go to a yoga



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Shara Carver holds her hands over her heart as she leads the weekly Yoga Class at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

center to practice. So, it's like bringing it out to them and showing them that it doesn't have to be standing on your head. It doesn't have to be contorting your body. It's just anyone can do yoga and it's just so beneficial. It's so mentally beneficial. The balance part of it as we get older. I love sharing that with anybody else that can, also, really enjoy the practice."

Carver added the community aspect is another benefit to holding the yoga class at the senior center as people get together afterward to hang out and have coffee.

"It's just a sense of community and everyone's coming in for the same reason. So, it's like everyone wants to be here because everyone wants to take care of themselves in one way or another," Carver said. "Whether it's for the mental aspect, whether it's for the community aspect or whether it's just for moving their body, we're all here for that same wellness reason."

Carver was thrilled with the turnout so far, having 10 to 12 people attending every week, seeing a mix of familiar faces and new ones.

"I can't tell you how much it means to me, because it's validating. It's a lot of work because you want to do a good job for people," Carver said. "So, when you see people coming back or when you see people bringing friends, it's an excellent feeling and I like the idea that word is get-



Shara Carver walks around as participants work on their poses during the weekly Yoga Class at the Wilbraham Senior Center. The classes take place every Friday morning at 10 a.m.

ting out and that more people are coming and I hope that continues to happen."

When asked what her favorite yoga pose is, Carver said it's savasana.

"I love any pose that can really allow you to breathe and release," Carver said. "So, child's pose, any pose that can allow you to open and breathe, I love."

Carver encouraged the community to check out the class and said it's "a wonderful, wonderful, community of people."

"You come to this class for the yoga, but the people are fantastic. It's just a great way to spend a Friday morning. It clears you out mentally, it's an excellent start to your day. I just can't say enough about it. The people are great," Carver said.

Carver advised future students not to be intimidated by yoga or the poses.

"I have a lot of people that come in here and say 'Well, this is my first time here' or 'I'm really bad at balance' or 'I had hip surgery a couple years ago.' Don't ever let that stop you from coming," Carver said. "I would say almost always, I can give you an alternative for a pose that would support what you need. There's nobody here that's ever going to look at you for not doing the pose or judging it. There's no judging in yoga and it's not about how the pose looks, it's about how it feels. So, you do what feels good to you."

Her message was this.

"Everyone's just here to better themselves," Carver said. "Don't let the word yoga intimidate you from coming into class. There's so much more to it."



An action shot of participants working on their yoga poses during the weekly Yoga Class at the Wilbraham Senior Center.



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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Where's the Times? In Italy!

The DeCesare family in Hampden brought copies of the Times with them during their recent trip to Italy at the suggestion of a friend!

The DeCesare children, Rocco Albina DeCesare, helping with sheep herding at the families farm, Baliusta, in Macchiagodena, Italy.



Submitted photos and captions Meggie DeCesare

The DeCesare Family, consisting of Vinnie, Meggie, Rocco and Albina DeCesare, at the top of Mt. Vesuvius.

Life in & **WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN**

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

HPL explores the Whale Mobile!

Families got to check out the Whale Mobile at the Hampden Free Public Library on July 31. The Whale Mobile is where children can go and sit inside and learn about whales and their habitats.

The event was possible in part due to a grant from the Hampden Cultural Council, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Submitted photos Kate Rumlík



HPD receives special lunch surprise

The Hampden Police Department received a special lunch surprise of pizza from Pioneer Valley Financial Group on July 25, thanking them on Facebook for the treat!



Photo courtesy of Hampden Police Department

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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



Wins museum-quality tee shirt...

Guest speaker Dennis Picard, who gave a talk on whaling, drew the winning raffle ticket for a Wilbraham museum-quality tee shirt at the Old Meeting House Museum Open House in the center of Wilbraham Saturday, Aug. 3. The winner, shown in front of the kitchen hearth, with Picard was Lindsey Bourcier (Charles F. Bennett photo)



Submitted photos Rachel Hapgood



Teens enjoy life-size games at WPL

Teens got to enjoy some fun life-sized versions of classic games on July 17 at the Wilbraham Public Library. Some of the games included Jenga, Connect Four, Uno and outdoor games along with super-sized snacks!

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Children learn about animals in Vacation Bible Camp



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen
Reverend Janet Skagerlind shows the children one of the chicks from her farm for them to pet.



Patricia Colkos leads everyone in a morning song during Wilbraham United Church's Vacation Bible Camp.



Patricia Colkos leads the children in a song during Wilbraham United Church's Vacation Bible Camp.



Caroline Cay Adams from the Forest Park Zoo holds her parrot, Perry, behind the other ambassadors brought to the camp.



The children enjoy a snack provided by the counselors during Wilbraham United Church's Vacation Bible Camp.

The camp was at Wilbraham United Church

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - From July 29 to Aug. 2, Wilbraham United Church hosted their annual Vacation Bible Camp: "All Creatures Great and Small."

During the weeklong camp, the children learned about various animals in the Bible, how to be kind and not to worry.

Every morning, children start with an introductory prayer by Reverend Janet Skagerlind and then are divided into two groups including the yellow group consisting of children in Pre-K to first grade, and the purple group, consisting of children in second grade to sixth grade. From there, they participated in various activities consisting of games, singing songs, watching Bible stories put on by the counselors, making arts and crafts as well as doing a daily service project.

They have participated in an abundance of service projects for the Heifer Project, Robert Kelliher, Jr., the 2023 Veteran of the Year, the town public safety officers and a weeklong collection drive for the ed-

ucation program at the Forest Park Zoo.

On Aug. 1, the children had some fun as they were given a water slide and on Aug. 2, Caroline Cay Adams from the Forest Park Zoo visited the camp and introduced the children to the zoo's animal ambassadors. She brought a parrot, lizard, frog, cockroach, and rabbit.

That Friday finished the camp activities with a concert for the parents showcasing the songs that the children have learned, as well as gifting the donations that they have gathered over the week to the zoo.

Reverend Skagerlind started the day with an opening welcome and ended the day with a closing for all the children and also participated in the Biblical skits.

Skagerlind brought many animals from her farm to camp, which has been tied with the theme of the stories including sheep, ducks and a rooster.

"The joy and appreciation of a community of faith as best as little ones are able to understand that, but also the lessons of care of God's creation and care of one another. And that's what I'm hoping they bring away from Vacation Bible Camp," Skagerlind said.

Another key member of the camp is Deb Trimble, who runs the office and organizational aspect of "All

Creatures Great and Small."

After starting off being a counselor focusing on the games section of the camp, Trimble moved into taking over the office part.

Regarding the camp, Trimble said this.

"I want them to have fun, I want them to learn a little bit about God and Jesus and being good neighbors and kind people," Trimble said.

"All Creatures Great and Small" contained a large group of teenage counselors in every aspect. Two of them were rising freshmen Jillian Rumluk and Jolie Wallace, who volunteered by reenacting Bible stories for the kids.

Both of them highly praised the camp for being so welcoming and positive.

"I think that everybody here is so nice and respectful and it's cool to learn all this different stuff about God and be able to help the younger kids learn more too," Rumluk said.

"Everyone is so nice, the love is in the air and all the excitement and joy that you get from all the campers is so amazing," Wallace said.

Inside of the church, Patricia Colkos led the children in singing songs as the assistant music director for the program.

"I like being a part of Vacation Bible Camp because it helps us to instill the love of God and share God's



Photos courtesy of Vacation Bible School Staff
Children work on arts and crafts during Wilbraham United Church's Vacation Bible Camp.



The children and counselors play with a parachute during Wilbraham United Church's Vacation Bible Camp.



Children look at ducks that were brought to the camp by Reverend Janet Skagerlind.

message with our youth," Colkos said.

"All Creatures Great and Small" brought the children together for a week of fun and friendship. They learned all about the creatures that God put on this Earth and that He loves all creatures, great and small.

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Here's Your Chance to be a BIG WINNER!

WILBRAHAM - Feeling Lucky? The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors have again kicked off their popular fundraiser held throughout last summer. Just imagine- YOU could win a whopping \$500 basket of MA. Lotto Scratch Tickets!!

Raffle tickets can be purchased at various times throughout July and August. Look for their fabulous Lotto Tower. So, drop by the new Senior Center, behind the Wilbraham Town Hall on

Springfield Street on Tuesday and Wednesdays between 9 a.m. to Noon or stop by the Farmers Market, in front of United Church on Main Street between open hours of 2 to 6 p.m. every Wednesday.

Tickets could also be printed from their website: friendsofwilbrahamseniors.org and mailed in with your check to:

Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, 40 Post Office Park, #747, Wilbraham, MA 01095 or just stick your envelope with filled out raffle tickets and payment into their drop box located in the front lobby near the reception desk and save yourself a stamp.

Ticket prices range from one for \$5.00, three for \$10, seven for \$20 or the best buy, 25 chances for \$50. Yes, a great way for family, friends, or co-workers to pitch in and share the winnings. All tickets need to be in by 8/24/24. The drawing will take place on the front patio of the Wilbraham Senior Center, at 3 p.m. You do not need to be present to win. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards new programs and services which can now be offered at new Wilbraham Senior Center.

Wilbraham Hiking Club August Hikes

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Hiking Club has six hikes planned for August:

Aug. 11 - High-Moderate or Challenging Hike (stay tuned for details)

Aug. 15 - Quabbin Gate 40, Petersham (and Rose32)

Aug. 19- Springfield Reservoir in Ludlow, MA

Aug. 25 - McDonald Nature Preserve, Wilbraham

Aug. 31- Hike, lunch, and optional Stargazing at Arunah Hill Days in Cummington

More information about these hikes can be found on the club's TeamReach pages, or write to wilbrahamhiking@gmail.com.

Hampden's Special Town Meeting scheduled for Oct. 29

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Board of Selectmen finalized this year's special town meeting date for Oct. 29.

The change comes after the board decided at their July 29 meeting to schedule the meeting for Oct. 21.

On July 29, the Selectmen also discussed with Town Moderator Richard Green about pushing to get information out sooner to the public, ideas on how to speed up fall town meeting, how to handle consent agendas and the reading of warrant articles, exploring electronic voting and ideas on how to increase attendance.

On Aug. 1, Chair Don Davenport explained the proposed change was due to Green not being available on that day.

Town Treasurer Richard Patullo added he is also unavailable that day.

"The process is if the town moderator is unavailable, then the town meeting elects a moderator. Obviously, you try to set that up and orchestrate it ahead of time, but it's not that odd a process," Patullo said.

Davenport said, "It's going to be a pretty active town meeting."

"Because we're going to have, I guess, senior center and we're going to have a couple of issues regarding changing appointed to elected, so we need people to vote on that, so that might be a little bit of a controversy," Davenport said.

Patullo said the budget part "is a little bit complicated" too and also expressed concern for the possibility of Special Town Meeting being scheduled on Oct. 28.

"Because we haven't decided what we're going to do with the million and a half for the water project," Patullo said. "That's why I'm concerned about the 28th because, usually, the tax rate stuff is the runup. I'm kind of busy right up to the last minute and I'm going to be out of town for five days before the meeting. So, just from a selfish point of view, that makes me nervous."

Selectman John Flynn added how "they might not even have clarity for the 21st even as we're still getting our numbers together."

"But we can't even push it another week because we run into the next week," Flynn said.

"Because the next week is the election," Davenport added. "The presidential election."

Flynn wondered about getting things together for Oct. 21.

"Is there a problem doing that?" Flynn said.

Patullo replied no.

"Not if we have all the warrant article dollar amounts early enough," Patullo said.

Planning Board member John Matthews, who is also on the Advisory Committee, mentioned what would need to be done to prepare for a proposed Oct. 28 date.

"If you did the 28th, then you're looking at, again, Advisory meeting

a couple of weeks before that," Matthews said.

Selectman Craig Rivest asked about Tuesday for the special town meeting as opposed to Monday.

"Is a Tuesday out of the question for a town meeting?" Rivest said.

Flynn said for a special town meeting in the fall, it's not out of the question, later adding how Oct. 29 works better after further discussion.

"Because the 14th is a legal holiday, I believe, so, you, Advisory, could have their meeting on the 15th and make the two-week thing," Flynn said.

Patullo was open to the idea, adding how he'll have the day to prep upon his return.

"That's not the worst idea I ever heard," Patullo said.

After Flynn presented a motion to schedule the fall Special Town Meeting for Oct. 29, Rivest's final question concerned closing the town warrant.

"Can we still close on the 30th of September? Close the warrant?" Rivest said.

Davenport and Flynn both said yes.

"We can always reopen as we need it," Flynn said.

The motion to schedule the fall Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, Oct. 29 was approved 3-0.

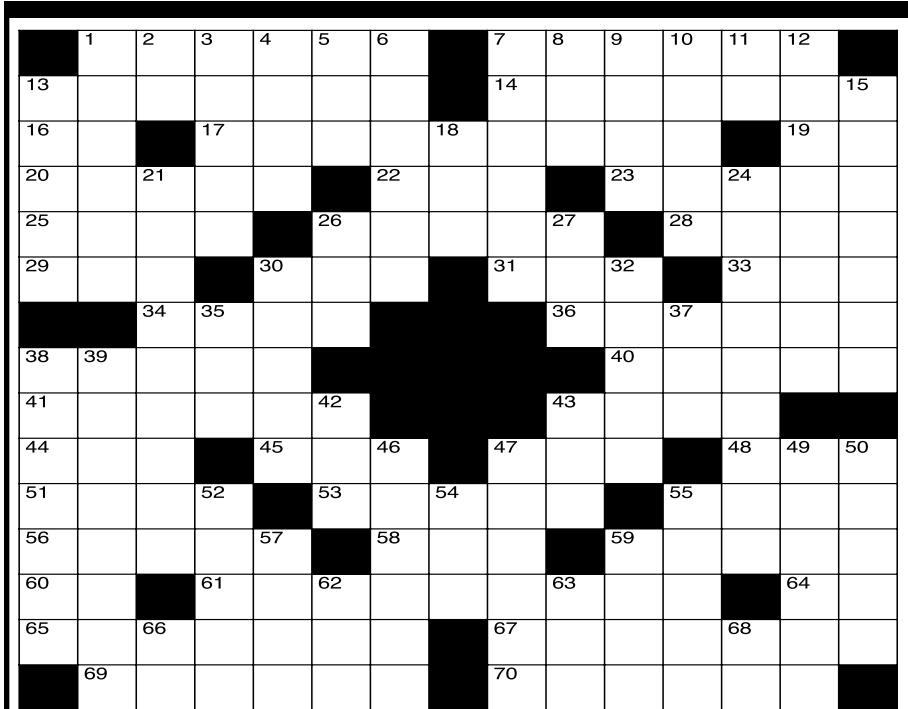


Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 11, 2024. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____
Date/Time _____
Location _____
Description _____
Cost _____
Contact name & phone number for more information _____



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. A solution
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. Blood group
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Gov't lawyer
- 20. Actor Ciaran
- 22. Calendar month
- 23. Very willing
- 25. ___ ex Machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Type of berry
- 29. Distinctive practice
- 30. Popular pickup truck model
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. A situation you can be in
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Fiber optic network (abbr.)
- 48. Belgian composer
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom layer
- 55. Musical or vocal sound
- 56. Yankees' great Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
- 60. South Dakota
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Former Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Arts and crafts supplies
- 4. Containers
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. A way to greet in a friendly way
- 7. Bulged downward
- 8. "A Day Without" singer
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. Negative
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Prominent in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Sincere
- 18. Not in
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Bill Murray chased one
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start over
- 32. Wild white or yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Visual way of interacting with a computer (abbr.)
- 38. Up-to-date
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch lightly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Malaise
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Inauthentic person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. Central Japanese city
- 59. Garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. The man
- 68. Top government lawyer

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 12.
MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn,
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.

Buddy Walk of Western Mass takes place Oct. 5

WESTFIELD - 25 years ago, two local mothers, Laurie Isham of Hampden and Sue Devillier of Agawam, bonded over a common experience: both had young daughters with Down syndrome. Their friendship blossomed as they navigated the new unknowns of raising their daughters. As they supported one another, they recognized the need for a local support group for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. This gave birth to the Down Syndrome Resource Group of Western Massachusetts. Initially serving about twenty families, the group is now more than 200 strong, but the mission still remains the same: to discover and embrace the potential of individuals with Down syndrome.

The Down Syndrome Resource Group of Western Mass. (DSRG) is run entirely by volunteers with a passion for supporting and creating community for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. From birth to adulthood, the DSRG have offerings for everyone:

- the First Call program for newborns
- playgroups for toddlers and school age children
- social groups for teens/adults
- social events for families
- Scholarships for recreation and education
- presentations on cutting edge research, and more..

This community is vital to our members as attested to by Teresa (parent): "I have attended Picnics, Buddy Walks, informational seminars and playdates.... But what I love most about the DSRG is the network of parents who support each other...with advice, referrals and words of encouragement."

As we celebrate our 25 years of community, connection and support, we invite you to join us at the Buddy Walk of Western MA on Saturday, October 5, 2024 at Stanley Park in Westfield, MA. The Buddy Walk is a wonderful family-friendly community awareness event. Hundreds of family and friends come together to celebrate our loved ones

with Down syndrome, enjoy some food and dancing, and take a stroll through the community. The Buddy Walk is also our major fundraiser for the year.

We are excited to share some of the ways that you can join our Buddy Walk family to create a better tomorrow:

Become a Buddy Walk Sponsor- We offer many ways to recognize your contribution to the Buddy Walk.

Become an in-kind Donor- Donate a raffle item-

Create a Team- round up your family, friends and coworkers, create a team and join us for the walk.

Volunteer - your help is always appreciated.

To learn more, please visit our website: <https://www.downsyndromewm>

We look forward to your participation and support in making this year's Buddy Walk a memorable and impactful event. Together, we can make a difference in our community. #BestBuddyWalkYet!

Hampden Senior Center Fall Trips

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

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

AUG. 26, Mon - Newport Playhouse "Nonsense: A Musical"; Delicious buffet lunch, Show and Cabaret; \$125pp. Full Payment Deadline Aug. 7.

OCT. 23, Wed - Fall Foliage Trip - American Heritage Museum in Hudson, MA; Lunch @ O'Connor's Restaurant (menu choice on flyer) in Worcester; Wine Tasting @ Hardwick Vineyard & Winery; \$135pp. Full Payment Deadline Oct. 3.

NOV. 11, Mon- Radio City Music Hall for Rockettes Matinee Christmas Show, orchestra section 103, closest to lobby concessions & exits; coach, orchestra tickets, choices for lunch @ Carmine's on W 44th St (Times Sq) \$263/pp. Full Payment Deadline Oct. 6.

DEC. 11, Wed - Aqua Turf show "Deck the Halls Christmas" w Buddy Holly & Elvis (his 2nd cousin); family-style Lunch; \$131pp. Full Payment Deadline Nov. 20.

Flyers available @ the Senior Center or via email. Questions call 413-566-8271 or email bobbijg2@charter.net.

HAMPDEN from page 1

torney's fees and rewards to be paid if an appeal is filed.

"And so, we have to make a decision. The other thing that has to be determined--and there's a lot of confusion about and our attorney has spoken to several other attorneys--how does the board do this?" Davenport said. "There's a different makeup of the board. Two of the members of the board have never heard any evidence in the case and exactly how does the judge think this would proceed because he says, 'You can have reasonable conditions including the 21 conditions.' So, technically they could have put other conditions on, but how do you put what the other conditions are if you haven't heard any evidence? So, we need to figure that out."

Davenport added the cost for the appeal would be \$50,000.

Selectman Craig Rivest reiterated the areas of concern regarding the Planning Board's makeup, adding seeking clarification from the judge was another concern.

"I believe our town attorney said he could put in for an appeal with a clarification note in the appeal. I'm not sure how that works," Rivest said.

After Town Treasurer Richard Patullo wondered if the new board would look at the information for the case and if there would be a new hearing, Davenport read into the record what the judge said.

"It's (an) order that the decision of the board of December 22, 2022, is hereby annulled and is further ordered and remanded to the board for a lawfully noticed public proceeding, after which the board shall expeditiously issue the special permit requested by the plaintiff after considering the imposition of reasonable conditions is warranted, including the 21 conditions to approve the decision under review," Davenport read.

After everyone agreed the hearing was a posted hearing, the conditions portion continued to raise questions.

Patullo mentioned how the document says "reasonable conditions" and the Planning Board would have to "vote on the conditions that they find reasonable," leading Davenport to, again, mention the board makeup and



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on Aug. 1 on if they should or should not appeal the Garvey v. Hampden Lawsuit (Self-Storage) ruling.

if additional conditions would be considered.

Selectman John Flynn said he sees those as "two separate things."

"And I think that's our quandary right here is the appeal and the makeup of the board conflated together. That's kind of the problem we have here," Flynn said.

Flynn added the appeal is based around the process of the case, not the merits of it.

"Did the judge screw up somewhere along the way? And his point is it is meticulous, they did a visit to the site. It's going to be extremely unusual for the appellate court to overturn this jurist. This isn't a one-year guy, this is somebody who has been to appellate and not been overturned," Flynn said. "So, do we encumber the town's money on something we think has very little chance of success?"

Davenport said he "understands the prospects of losing the case," but the clarification on what the judge wants the town to do on this case before they do something and it gets appealed is his concern.

"So, if the new board says, 'I want to add these four other conditions' and the plaintiff may say 'I don't want those conditions' and then we're back in court again for that. So, we need clarification," Davenport said. "I think if we file for an appeal, we can always withdraw that appeal once we figure out what needs to be done."

After Patullo sought clarifi-

cation on what exactly the Selectmen needed clarification on wanting to appeal the case, mentioning the legal counsel they have, Rivest provided further insight.

"It was based on our conversation with our attorney on Monday that he thought that if we did the appeal because it's within our rights, legally, to proceed with an appeal while he put in for clarification during that appeal process," Rivest said. "Once the clarification came back, we could withdraw the appeal. It's more or less we're not trying to lose the right. We don't have time for clarification...next week, we don't have time for a clarification of the order."

After Patullo later said he understood the process questions Davenport later presented, he continued seeking clarification on what guidance they needed to want to appeal, saying this.

"Because it looks a little unattractive to appeal," Patullo said. "I'm not trying to be difficult. I'm just not understanding why you would file an appeal and what would cause you to want to. Can you get a clarification without filing an appeal?"

Davenport responded no, with Flynn adding it's because the time would run out given the filing appeal deadline is Aug. 8.

Flynn's biggest concern surrounded the judge's ruling for the special permit to be granted.

"He's looked at the evidence to grant the special permit. Now, maybe the new people can look at it for new conditions or ad-

ditional or look at the body of whatever, but I think he's telling you, 'I don't care if you have five new people there. Grant the special permit,'" Flynn said.

Patullo agreed.

"There's no way that you can have the old board exist," Patullo said.

Planning Board member John Matthews also agreed.

"That's what I read," Matthews said. "That's kind of what I took it as."

Patullo added he couldn't think of anything the judge would do on how far to go for any new conditions and guidance.

"I can't think of any answers that would cause you to spend the 50 grand to appeal," Patullo said.

Matthews was also unsure of the best direction to take.

"I don't know. I don't have that crystal ball. It's a tough spot," Matthews said.

After Davenport asked if there was a motion, Flynn shared he was against doing an appeal.

"I don't think it's worth committing the town's resources to that. We got pretty good legal opinions from both our person and our legal team that this is not something that's going to benefit the town," Flynn said.

Rivest said he was torn.

"I understand the ruling from the judge and, obviously, he knows more than I do, but I think we owe it to the residents to appeal based on the community input at hearings and public comment," Rivest said.

Flynn shared a similar project to this had occurred several years ago where they had advice saying, "It's a lawsuit that you feel is the right thing to do, but legally, it may not work out."

"And after \$100,000, it didn't work out. That one, I think, was supported by a much larger community outreach. This one, I don't know," Flynn said. "I don't know if you would go and ask a person on Chapin Road or on South Monson. We could potentially be exposed to \$50,000, \$100,000. Say we can't withdraw. They get the thing, like 'Well, thanks for the sidewalk you didn't put in because we spent it on this potentially frivolous lawsuit.' We're the stewards of the town."

Matthews reiterated how he earlier said it's a tough decision--and a tough spot--to consider, especially with concerns

about spending "the extra money and then lose that decision" and "then we have the applicant come back and sue for two times the damage, whatever that means."

Flynn agreed with Rivest on the decision being 50/50.

"There's this side and that side and they're both strong sides," Flynn said.

Matthews added, as a governmental body, the importance of also respecting the judge's decisions.

"It may not bode well for the town to come back and say, 'We're appealing your decision,'" Matthews said. "Maybe we go back and just ask for clarification and you don't appeal, to ask for. I understand you'll then lose your chance for appeal."

It was then decided the Selectmen would meet again on Aug. 7 with the hope clarification from the judge is received before that date, with Davenport agreeing to connect with their attorney and Town Administrator Brian Domina to get the clarification.

Planning Board Chair Madison Pixley also said she was torn, seeking more clarification herself.

"Because we've got one member who wasn't on the board but is very familiar with the opposing side of the special permit case and I just want to make sure that we handle that correctly and appropriately," Pixley said. "And my second question is our other member who may not be familiar with the case, we may have to get up to speed. So, I just want to make sure we have like a strong line on how we're sharing information with them without sharing (or) adding things to the record because it's gone on for so long."

Pixley added David Demers was not on the board before and Patrick Coyne, who also was not on the board before, was a member of the community and against the storage units.

"So, I want to make sure we're in line with how we're handling all this," Pixley said.

Davenport said he will include that additional information to the attorney and Domina when he reaches out to them.

The Times will have more on the Aug. 7 meeting and what the Board of Selectmen decided--or not decided to do--on this lawsuit ruling in next week's edition.

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Falcons defeated in quarterfinals



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Addison Derosia makes her way up the field.



Katelyn Hoar sends a quick pass away.



Ainsley Holden looks to make her next move.



WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham A girls summer soccer team wrapped up its season. After a game on July 26 against Ludlow, the girls immediately went to the playoffs with the No. 5 seed and faced off with Enfield on their home turf. Enfield would score a 1-0 win over Wilbraham to advance in the playoffs. Wilbraham girls soccer now looks forward to another successful season of Minnechaug soccer this fall.

Kelly Cronin looks to keep possession of the ball.



Makenna Sacco navigates through traffic.

Kelly Callahan, of Monson, punts the ball away.



Here for Beer scores upset

MONSON – Facing the higher-seeded Monson Mustangs last Monday in the PVSSL Women's Division quarterfinals, Here for Beer scored a 4-3 upset at Rogers Field. They would make it all the way to the finals before falling to the Lusitano Women last Friday night. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Mackenzie Shean, of Agawam, fights to keep the ball.



Joanna Mull, of Belchertown, makes her way up the field.



Gwen Duggan, of Palmer, looks to get around a Monson player.



Paige Marjanski, of South Hadley goes for the header.

Heat falls in semifinals

CHICOPEE – Last Wednesday evening, the Heat, which features players from throughout the region, fell in the semifinals to Luistano Women in the Women’s Division playoffs of the PVSSL 3-1.



Samara Robles looks to make a save in goal.



Emily Ottomaniello, of Agawam, makes her way up the field for the Heat.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Kassandra Liquori sends a pass away.

Barnett leads way at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, CT — Although early rains made for a shortened practice schedule on Thursday, Thompson Speedway lit-up the night for the final round of Thursday Night Thunder this season. Dominance was the word to describe Thursday’s racing action at Thompson Speedway with the night starting off under the command of the fan-favorite Street Stock class. Former multi-time track champion ‘Leadfoot’ Larry Barnett led the 20-lap main event for the Street Stocks from the drop of the green flag to the twin checkered flags for his first win of the season. While ‘Leadfoot’ dominated up front, all eyes were on Ryan Waterman as he charged from eighth-place to third in the fast-paced feature event.

The dominance continued in the AZ Roofing SK Light Modified ranks. While Nick Hovey led from the point, point leader Tyler Chapman came to the front for a side-by-side battle with plenty of sparks. Chapman would pull up bumper before getting loose on the outside groove again and again, finally getting just the right push off to claim his fourth win of the year over Hovey and Meghan Fuller.

The Mini Stock showcase saw one of the fiercest battles of the night between defending champion and point leader Jarred Roy and Ryan Pomposelli. The two fought tooth and nail across the 0.625-mile Thompson Speedway with Roy making his final pass with just two laps remaining to claim his fourth win of the year with Pomposelli taking second and Kevin Moore turning around a tough-luck season for third.

The growing Thompson Sunoco Modified division was once again under the control of young Jon Puleo. The Mr. Rooter Plumbing machine was on rails for the Twisted Tea Midsummer 50-lap main event on Thursday with the young-gun never leaving the lead position. Puleo took down his third win of the season followed by Keith Rocco and leading rookie Isaiah Newcomb at the line.

The Late Models rounded out Thursday’s showcase. A final show of dominance saw former Late Model track champion Brian Tagg lead all 25-laps on the field for his first win at Thompson Speedway this season with defending track champion Nick Johnson coming home second followed by Kulwicki Driver Development Program (KDDP) finalist Derek Gluchacki in third.

Thompson Speedway returns to Wednesday night racing action in less than two weeks on Wednesday, August 7 for the Tripoint Showdown 50-lap main event for the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds. The Late Models, AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Mini Stocks make it a five division card with a 6:00pm Post Time on Wednesday, August 7.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@actour.com, or visit www.actour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passracing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarsseries.com. Don’t forget to “Like” the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.



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T-Birds sign three for upcoming season

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today that they have signed goaltender Cam Johnson, as well as forwards Tarun Fizer and Reece Newkirk, to one-year AHL contracts.

Johnson, 30, has been the backstop for each of the Florida Everblades’ three consecutive Kelly Cup championships. In 63 career playoff games in the ECHL, Johnson has a sparkling 47-13-3 record, 11 shutouts, a 1.97 goals-against average, and a .928 save percentage. He was the June M. Kelly Award winner as ECHL playoff MVP in 2022 and 2023. The former University of North Dakota National Champion also has 53 games of AHL experience with the Binghamton Devils and Cleveland Monsters.

Fizer, 23, is entering his third full professional season. As a rookie with the ECHL’s Utah Grizzlies in 2022-23, the Chestermere, AB native scored 50 points (27g, 23a) in 62 games. Last season, he skated in 30 games for the Belleville Senators, posting two goals and three assists. He also chipped in 10 points (4g, 6a) in 10 games for the ECHL’s Allen Americans. Before turning pro, Fizer skated in five WHL seasons for the Victoria Royals. In 2021-22, he captained the Royals and put up 51 points (17g, 34a) in just 35 games.

Newkirk, 23, is set to begin his fourth professional season. Originally a fifth-round pick by the New York Islanders in the 2019 NHL Draft, Newkirk has skated in 45 AHL games with Bridgeport, putting up 10 points (2g, 8a). In 102 ECHL games with the Worcester Railers, the Moose Jaw, SK native has 78 points (37g, 41). Before turning pro, Newkirk starred with the WHL’s Portland Winterhawks, where he accumulated 162 points (69g, 93a) in 205 games.

Quabbin League seeking to start fall league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eight-game fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.

Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league is looking to have four teams with six “regular season” games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.

The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on or trying out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.

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SENIORS

Monthly Highlights for August at the Hampden Senior Center:

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

August Pop Up Boutique – It’s Time to Shop!

Whether you want to get an early start with your holiday shopping or you’re just looking for a bargain, you can shop the whole month of August right here, at the Hampden Senior Center!

Boutique Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday, 9 a.m. to Noon

We are still accepting donations of new and gently used clothing & accessories, jewelry, shoes, home décor, household items, books, and puzzles. Due to space constraints, we are unable to accept large items. If you have any questions regarding donations, please call the Senior Center before bringing your items in. All proceeds for sale will benefit the Hampden Senior Center Building Expansion Fund.

Save the Date:

Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens Tag Sale, Saturday, Sept. 7 from 9 a.m. to Noon. HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Liquid Dishwashing Soap!

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

MOVIE SCHEDULE: Mondays at 12:30 p.m.

8/12 - Megan Leavey, PG-13, Action/Biography/Drama

8/19 - Queen Pins, R, Comedy/Crime

8/26 - 13 Going on 30, PG-13, Comedy/Fantasy/Romance

Grab and Go Dinner

Friday, Aug. 30, pick up is 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious dinner of Sausage, Peppers & Onions Grinder, Pasta Salad, and Dessert

Cost is \$5 per person. Please call 566-5588 starting July 1st to order your dinner

Learn to Play the Recorder with Sue

Ongoing weekly classes, Mondays, 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Our Ukulele Instructor, Susan Mc Hand would like to share her love of playing the

Recorder.

Cost is \$3 per class for a half-hour lesson, paid to the instructor. Recorders can be purchased for \$10. Please let us know if you need to purchase an instrument when signing up for the class.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot, and instrument if needed. Space is limited.

Learn to Play the Ukulele with Sue Accepting new students

All Ukulele students will meet:

Mondays, 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Any new Recorder or Ukulele students will meet:

Mondays, 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost is \$5 per class, paid to the instructor.

Starting in September, Sue will offer a 10-week session, from Sept. 9 through Nov. 25.

Cost is \$50 paid in full for the 10-week session and receive two free classes, or \$6.00 per class – call ahead for availability. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

“African Drumming” with Jason”

Is taking a break in August and beginning a new 12-week session, from Sept. 6 through Nov. 22. Accepting New Students.

Fridays, 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Cost is \$60 paid in full for the 12-week session and receive two free classes, or \$6 per class – call ahead for availability. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

LET’S JAM!

We are looking to get a group of musically inclined people together to start a weekly jam session this Fall.

Let us know if you would be interested in joining a group in a casual, laid-back, but fun setting to share your talent with good company.

Please call 566-5588 so that we can start a list of anyone who would like to JAM! Let us know what your musical talent is.

D & R Summer Farm Share – PICK-UP is on:

Wednesdays, Aug. 14, 21 and 28.

D & R FARM offers fresh produce weekly, FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify!

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

New applications for Summer Farm Share are required.

Contact Wendy if you haven’t submitted your application.

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

Please let us know if you need your shares delivered.

Save these dates:

Friday, Sept. 13 at 12:30 p.m.,

Beekeeper Sue Kendrick will be here to talk about beekeeping, honey and more!

Thursday, Sept. 19 at Noon,

Grandparents Luncheon followed by BINGO with Boomer and the Springfield Thunderbirds

Evening Programs in September:

Trees Downsize in Autumn... YOU CAN TOO!!

Come and learn how to live an organized life that doesn’t involve constant maintenance with special guest:

Bonnie Borromeo Tomlinson

on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Bonnie is the author of:

STOP BUYING BINS & other blunt but practical advice from a home organizer

STOP PUSHING PERFECTION & just create a home you can actually keep neat

This program is FREE. Books will be available to purchase at no obligation.

Enjoy a glass of wine and light refreshments while you’re here. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat.

Space is limited. Sponsored by Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens.

Intro Class for “African Drumming” with Jason

Don’t miss out on this amazing opportunity to be part of something new and invigorating, discovering great benefits for the body and soul!

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

This introductory class is FREE. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

We have a limited number of drums. Preference will be given to new students on a first come, first serve basis for the use of a drum. All are welcome to observe. If you have a drum, please feel free to bring

your own, but still call to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Sponsored by Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens

Ready to start feeling better? Needing a clearer mind and body? Come and join us for a Crystal Bowl Sound Healing Meditation, led by Chantal.

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Past and recent participants stated they experienced:

Increased energy and overall sense of relaxation • Release of pain and tension • Increased focus and ability to concentrate • Deep sleep and feeling well-rested upon rising • And much, much more!

No prior knowledge of meditation is needed! Just sit or lay down, enjoy, and R-E-L-A-X!

Chantal is co-owner and manager of Nirvana Spa and Wellness in Somers, Connecticut.

Please bring a yoga mat or zero-gravity chair if you have one, a pillow, a blanket, and a water bottle.

The cost of this program is \$10 per person. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited

All Levels Yoga with Lisa Zizza

5-week session

Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., beginning

Sept. 19 through Oct. 24.

Please bring a yoga mat and a water bottle. Dress comfortably and stay hydrated!

Cost is \$25 paid in full for the 5-week session and receive one free class, or

\$6 per class - call ahead for availability.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Basic Beginner Drawing with Joyce Belliveau

3-week session

Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., beginning Sept. 26 through Oct. 10.

Come and discover your inner artistic abilities.

All supplies will be provided. Bring yourself and enjoy!

Cost is \$20 paid in full for the 3-week session.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Science at Soule



By Colleen Chesky

WILBRAHAM - At Soule Road School fifth graders have been learning how to make visual models based on what they have learned about in science class. The Soule Road School family agrees that a great way to learn is for students to demonstrate the concepts they’ve learned visually. In science class, our beloved teacher, Mrs. DeMarey has taught us about the process of photosynthesis. She had assigned the students partners so they can create their own visual model of the process of photosynthesis. She provided us with key elements of the process

that we had to include in our model. Along with that, she provided us with an uncountable amount of supplies we could use. From cardboard to glitter, she gave us everything we needed. When the students had finished their models, the projects were soon shown on display for the community to see. Everyone was able to see how plants process sunlight and produce their own food and oxygen for us through this process.

Ms. Mistalski, one of the amazing fifth grade teachers at Soule Road, has taught her class about ecosystems. She asked the students to pick one type of ecosystem and write an essay about it, including a

description of the ecosystem, the living and nonliving things that interact within it, and a food chain or web. To go along with the essay, she asked the students to create a model of their ecosystem at home. Students collected all types of materials and got to work. At the end of the month, students brought in their projects to share. The class presented their models and important parts of their essay to three other classes.

Fifth graders at Soule Road have been so busy working in science. They have learned so much from their teachers, in addition to their projects and visual models that have reinforced their learning.



Photos courtesy of Cheryl Erskine

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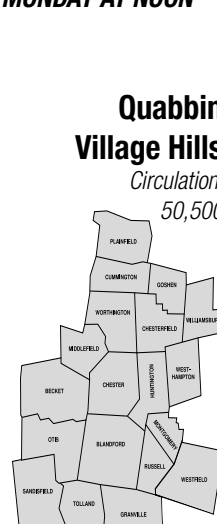


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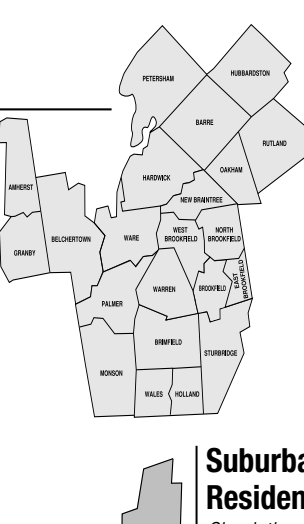
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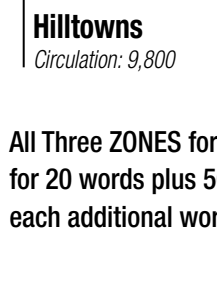
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SCHOOLS

Wilbraham Middle School Term 4 Honor Roll

WILBRAHAM - The following students received Honor Roll status for the Term 4 marking period at Wilbraham Middle School. Distinguished Honors is all A's in all subjects; Honors is all A's and/or B's in all subjects.

Distinguished Honors - Grade 8 Peter Appleby, Mia Balog, Bryce Beckel, Maximus Cayo, Joseph Comes, Caroline Euber, Nora Fletcher, Mario Garcia, Corrine Gates, Nicholas Gencarelli, Eliza Gloss, Madison Guertin, Danika Haygood, Daniel Heinold, Mason Howard, Kelsey Jennings, Brooke Johnson, Genevieve Johnson, David Kim, Ashlyn Landry, Peyton Lee, Savannah Lee, Dylan Lesure, Adriana Lopez, Yman Ly, Dominic Mascaró, Olivia Maserati, Isadora Maurice, Clare McMahon, Mylie Mittler, Frank Morin, Tess Morrow, Dylan Niznik, Liam O'Brien, Youngsun Oh, Kirk Pogoaga, Madeline Pastore, Owen Petit, Kendall Placzek, Brenan Rost, Jillian Rumprik, Hailey Scliopou, Ryan Semanie, Lillian Sergienko, Alysandra Serju, Sofia Shores, Audriana Stasio, Joseph Sullivan, Elliot Sylvester, Anna Taylor, Jillian True, Ormandy Velazquez, James Wadzinski, Joseph Woytowicz.

Honors - Grade 8 Owen Antaya, Rama Awkal, Kayden Bain-Purdy, Addison Baldyga, Cole Balog, Taylor Bartosz, Aidan Bean, Seth Beebe, Ellianna Brodeur, Nicholas Capen, Jayden Carattini, Annalectia Carlo, Gavyn

Clark, Irelyn Coffey, Leah Croteau, Nathaniel David, Anna Dennis, Ryan Donovan, Lucas Ferreira, Emmy Foisy, Chase Folli, Devon Fortenberry, Gianna Fusco, Jackson Gagner, Mya Gierlich, Hayden Gloss, Parker Hoey, Demetrius Holmes, Keira Horne, Jeffrey Hurley, Isabella Jimah, Tia Kayrouz, Tony Kayrouz, Emma King, Emma Lacoste, Rose Langone, William Lapalm, Edwin Long, Cameron Lowe, Jacob Luttrell, Ryan Mackie, Elijah Mathias, Daizy McDonald, Ellie McRobbie, Ryan Mullen, Payton Murray, Lucy Nolan, Nicholas Nordstrom, Gianna Nowicki, Geoffrey Ohemeng, Tristan Oliveira, Gavin O'Neil, Patrick O'Toole, Alexis Powers, Lucas Raiche, Noah Ramos, Domenic Roach, Caden Russ, Hussein Saleh, Benjamin Salvador, Ava Secor, Zachary Senecal, Arianna Soler, Gabriel Solowinski, Michael Sullivan, William Szpakowski, Keyan Tiderman, Juliana Washington, Calvin Webster, Adelle Williams, Olivia Zheng.

Distinguished Honors - Grade 7 Teddy Acquah, Alison Aucoin, Sireen Awkal, Charlotte Beaulieu, Bailey Burgmyer, Benjamin Butts, Jason Cao, Nolan Carney, Juliana Coffey, Ryan Criscitelli, Madelyn D'Amore, Nathan Demetri, Sadie Dos Santos, Owen Downey, Grace Falzone, Charlotte Fitzgerald, Eva Gagliarducci, Aviana Gomez, Nicole Grabowski, Teaghan Haluch, Isabel Horne, Jackson Hulseberg, Alexandra Jaslanek, Jillian Lajeunesse, Willis Lam, Johanna Lew-

is, Ashley Manning, Joy Mendonca, Louis Morin, Ethan Nunlist, Karina Ocampo, Ava O'Connor, Owen Piquette, Logan Richard, Sierra Rocha, Jackson Rust, Quintis Saviengvong, Ian Stratton, Nathaniel Tirabassi, Maya Usher, Caitlyn Wetherbe.

Honors - Grade 7 Goudy Abuata, Margaret Babbs, Christian Bernardes, Eva Breau, Nicholas Bretta, Thomas Brogle, Charlotte Castellano, Emilia Connors, Anthony Cosimini, Nolan Costello, Oliver Cunha, Amelia DePace, Ellen DiNino, Kayla Dooley, Liam Doyle, Isabelle Ellis, Samantha Engel, Dina Ferrentino, Austin Fortune, James Gallagher, Mason Gomez, Olivia Goodrow, Yusuf Gunaydin, Elle Hersman, Lauren Hoar, Kate Holt, Ted Holt, Tyler Hoskinson, Elizabeth Jourdain, Aurora Kirton, Kaitlyn Labadorf, Aubrey Lafield, Sophie Laliberte, Christie Lang, Daniel Lareau, Owen Lucarelle, Rihlan McCarthy, Jackson McCullough, Madelyn McNabb, Logan Middleton, Charlotte Moses, Michael Murray, Cohen Nelson, Sarah O'Connor, Brayden Pacifico, Hannah Palmer, Jack Parastatidis, Cameron Powers, Megan Pronovost, Camden Rodrigues, Colton Rogers, Annelise Roszko, Ava Rowe, Mallory Sample, Emmett Shattuck, Liam Shattuck, Adrielle Sheridan, Kayla Smith, Olivia Spiller, Abigail Stachowicz, William Stromwall, Stepan Syrota, Juan Alfonso Tamayo, Nora Tzoumas, Mason Waskiewicz, Shannon Wietcha.

Distinguished Honors - Grade 6 Cassandra Alvarez, Aubrey Appleby, Kegan Bailey, Reid Blanchard, Madelyn Boudreau, Madeline Britt, Rose Christensen, Maggie Comeau, Emery Dyer, Timothy Euber, Cody Feit, Oliver Hart, Gavin Hisgen, Jasper Hulseberg, McKinley Jaeger, Nicholas Kennedy, Bree Kiernan, Delaney Kinsman, Madeline Lee, Julia Magee, Sophia Mazzaferro, Vivian McIntyre,

Joseph Montano, Maeghan Morris, Andrew Mullen, Emily Mumper, Mia Newman, Desmond O'Brien, Sunmi Oh, Michelle Ohemeng, Mya Pafumi, Abigail Patterson, Logan Pryor, Garrett Roberts, Alexan Robles-Blasenak, Grace Romano, Greta Rust, Natalia Savlick, Jamie Scliopou, Hayden Senft, Jackson Shanley, Louise Shaughnessey, Katelyn Sheehan, Madelyn Smith, Jessica Soukup, Cole Thomas, Ashley Wetherbe, Owen Wright, Kylie Zamorski.

Honors - Grade 6 Mason Axiotis, Brielle Bailey, Molly Baroni, Dylan Bean, Lillian Blair, Dante Bontempi, Alianna Brandoli, Colin Broderick, Jack Christofori, Zoey Coburn, Rilynn Conway, Emma Cristino, Jacob DeGray, Isabella DePace, Leo Deziel, Joseph Dickson, Cooper Donovan, Julian Dugan-Costa, Madelynn Easton, Maycie Eldridge, Peyton Eusebio, Nora Fontaine, Jeremiah Fraser, Martin Garcia, Alaina Giombetti, Wyatt Hall, Jada Haqq, Gisell Henrichon-Arena, Kareem Ibrahim, Yvette Jimah, Jacob Johnson, Rieland Kearney, Aiden Kirsch, Noah Kirsch, Andrew Kmelius, Allie LaCoste, Aiden Larson, Chloe Lawless, Jason Lemus, Emma Lewis, Camila Long, Adeline Look Jack Madore, Siobhan Mahoney, Logan Mangar, Therese Mathias, Nevaeh Mercolino, Zahra Minhaj, Ryan Minns, Vivian Mirisis, Kristina Monteiro, Sebasti Morales-Garcia, Aubrey Morin, Radek Muska, Ryan Nichols, Grayson Nowakowski, Shana Ogoku, Kennady Raymond, Gage Ring, David Roberts, William Roberts, Jaxson Rogers, Christopher Romano, Jake Salemi, Peyton Salvat, Epi Sanchez, Gianni Senecal, Clara Steele, Violet Straitiff, Arianna Sundheim, Maxwell Sylvester, Lucas Tassinari, Alanna Thouin, Marcus Tiderman, Samuel Webster, Caitlin Weichselbaumer, Carter Witruk, Brenna Woytowicz, Emily Zheng.

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Local Students Receive Bachelor's Degrees from UMass Amherst

AMHERST - Approximately 7,000 students received bachelor's degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Undergraduate Commencement on May 18, 2024 at the McGuirk Alumni Stadium.

Below is a list of students from your area who earned a degree.

HAMPDEN

Luke Joseph Angelica, Maya Damia-

no, Daniel Michael MacGregor, Gabriella Lee Ofcarcik and Kelsey Jenna Sheehan

WILBRAHAM

April Mae Beston, Jackson Ari Bloomfield, Julia Grace Britton, Ji Cao, Richie Chau, Iain James Ferreira, Olivia Ashley Ferreira, Jaehee Lee, Jaeyoung Lee, Janan Kamlesh Patel, Paul L Tassinariand Haley Wakeman Vaites

PUBLIC NOTICES

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. HD24P1620EA Estate of: Marion L Cilley Date of Death: 06/27/2024 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 Paul A Cilley of Belchertown, 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: Paul A Cilley of Belchertown, 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 08/29/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an 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: August 01, 2024 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 08/08/2024

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

PET PAGE

READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our "Pet of the Month" and receive a free weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care. Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet's name.



PET OF THE MONTH Meet Misty Rose!

She is a 1 year old Cavachon. She is a sweet, smart & happy, little girl that loves everyone she meets. She loves playing ball, wrestling with her sister, Honey Bun and helping take care of her 2 senior siblings, KD and Molly. Her favorite time of the day is getting to go on the big bed and snuggle with Mom, Dad and her sisters. Misty Rose lives with RoseMarie & Charles Laramee in Ludlow.



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Six Common Reasons Why Dogs Like Belly Rubs So Much?

We all know that dogs enjoy a good belly rub now and then. It may even be something that they look forward to as some dogs are known to turn onto their back near you indicating that they want their belly rubbed. The reasoning behind this behavior is interesting, and it may be something you did not know before.

1. It feels good - Dogs love belly rubs because it feels good. Giving your dog a belly rub feels enjoyable and calming. It shows that they feel safe by you touching an area that dogs will usually only show as an act of submission if they feel overpowered. It is basically like a massage for your dog and rubbing their belly can release the happiness hormone, serotonin which helps to improve their mood.

2. Stimulating hair follicles - The hair follicles on a dog's stomach are sensitive. By rubbing them, you are stimulating a relaxing experience

for your dog. Various nerves are located near your dog's belly and by rubbing those areas your dog is getting massaged and a form of grooming.

3. Comfort - Most dogs love their owners, and better yet, they love getting attention from you. If your dog sees that you enjoy rubbing your belly and that it is one of the best ways to get your attention, then your dog will repeat this behavior several times throughout the day to feel your comfort.

4. Submission - If you have ever scolded your dog for doing something naughty, or if you have walked in on your dog doing something they shouldn't, your dog's first reaction may be to roll over onto their back and show their belly. If you try to go near them or touch them, they may simply roll back over or move away from your touches. This can indicate that your dog does not want a rub, but they are rather showing you can act of

submission and that they do not want any trouble from what they did wrong.

5. Grooming - When a puppy is born, their mother will clean them up by licking their stomachs and body to clean them. This is typically a puppy's first bonding interaction with its mother. Grooming is a comfortable and loving interaction. When you rub their belly or any other area like behind their ears, they are taken back to a memory when they felt safe and comforted by their mother's touch.

6. Making social connections - Dogs are social creatures that thrive on attention, love, and care. Dogs can see how much you may like rubbing their belly and ogling over how cute they look in that position. This sparks a social response in dogs, and they feel that lying on their backs will get a response out of you to rub and cuddle them.