

**LIBRARY**  
Summer reading finale  
Page 2

**SPORTS**  
Spec Pond playoffs  
Page 11

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## HOPE group sends 30,000 meals to Haiti

By Dalton Zbierski  
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WILBRAHAM -- More than 100 people gathered at Saint Cecilia Parish on May 19 to assemble thousands of meals for families in Haiti.

The meals campaign was executed by parishioners affiliated with Saint Cecilia's "Help Our Parish Expand" outreach program.

"What we do is buy hundred-pound bags of four or five different kinds of food, grain and stuff like that. They can cook rice, and the nutritional powder gets added into it," parishioner Peter Ablondi said. "Then we come together as a group, as we did in the church (May 19), and we packed about 30,000 meals in a little more than four hours. When you have a hundred people all working in an assembly line, it's fun and it's pretty quick."

The HOPE Haiti ministry was introduced to Saint Cecilia Church by parishioner Dr. Peter Kelly, an eye physician and surgeon who has volunteered at Hôpital Sacré Couer in Milot, Haiti for over 20 years.

Kelly formed a strong relationship with Sister Ann Craw-



Submitted photo

The packathon at Saint Cecilia's Parish on May 19 resulted in the shipment of approximately 30,000 meals to Haiti.

ley, who lives in a convent at Hôpital Sacré Couer. She developed an outreach program that provides food, shelter and education to Haitians.

When Kelly returned to Wilbraham, he connected Saint Cecilia's with Crawley and her outreach program.

"When he came back, he brought pictures back and showed the need," Ablondi said. "Our whole ministry jumped right on that, and we've been dealing with it ever since. You have to find a need and then find the people that can help you take care of the need."

On May 19, each assembly line mixed all the ingredients; two types of beans, rice and a nutrition-powdered substance. Another line placed 40 pouches of food into cases. Each case was then put onto a skid and shrink-wrapped.

"So, we put together little

food packets that weigh about two pounds, and it's enough food when you add water to it to feed a family of four for a day. It costs approximately 35 cents for a finished product," Ablondi said.

The skids were shipped to a

Please see **HOPE**, page 13

## Final decision on dangerous dog to be made next week

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
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HAMPDEN -- A Hampden woman says she fears for her life because a dangerous dog continues to lurk onto her South Road property.

Now, that dog may have only weeks to live. During a hearing on Aug. 17, the Board of Selectmen informed owner Laura Nelson that her dog Tiger could be euthanized if a concrete solution isn't presented during next Monday's meeting.

Teresa Majewski informed the Board of Selectmen on Monday that her neighbor's dog Tiger continues to enter her yard and threaten her. The dog is escaping its residence even after the board deemed it to be dangerous during a March 2021 hearing, following previous incidents.

Majewski reiterated that about six incidents occurred before she first involved the town in 2021, culminating in Tiger's attack on her 25-pound dog Rudy that required medical attention.

"She did not bite my dog. She was on top of him, pulling out his neck in the process of killing him. This wasn't a

tiny bite... I went out there and started stabbing her with a pitchfork," Majewski said. "(Tiger) had (Rudy) pinned to the ground; was straddled over him, pulling at his neck. That's when I involved the Selectmen. I dealt with (the Nelsons) for two years before I involved the town."

On March 8, 2021, Nelson promised the board that the dog would be humanely restrained, confined to its premises and securely and humanely muzzled when removed from the residence, among other stipulations.

Majewski and Animal Control Officer Shelly Sears testified, however, that another official incident occurred on Aug. 2 after several undocumented incidents took place.

Majewski was watering her plants near the road on Aug. 2, about 250 feet from her house, while her dog was indoors with the screen door left open. Majewski heard Tiger's barking, noting that it sounded too close; she turned and found the dog in her driveway.

"(Tiger) starts going down my driveway at me. I had to run across the street to the neighbor's house. I said, 'Please can

Please see **DOG**, page 13

## Craft & Play brings sidewalk chalk to Wilbraham Public Library

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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WILBRAHAM -- Families stopped by the library from 10 - 11:45 a.m. on Aug. 12 to participate in a Craft & Play event with chalk art.

The event was sponsored by the Friends of the Wilbraham Public Library.

Rachel Smythe, the library's assistant children's librarian, explained they "wanted to do something that was fun and could be done outdoors and would work for a variety of ages," and came up with chalk art.

Smythe was thrilled at the turnout.

"I think everybody enjoys chalk art. It works for a variety of skill levels, and parents can work on drawings with their kids. You can have an unlimited canvas and it's fun to walk around and see what other people are doing and be inspired. So, I really think it works for an event like this," Smythe said.

Throughout the event, attendees created a variety of chalk art, including a rainbow, Pikachu from Pokémon, the main character of "The Hungry, Hungry Caterpillar," flowers, a rooster, flying fish, hearts, a sun and



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Ellie Czaplicki and Rachel Smythe, assistant children's librarian at Wilbraham Public Library, create a rainbow with sidewalk chalk and paintbrushes during the Craft & Play event outside Wilbraham Public Library.

many more.

Michael Cross came with his grandsons, Michael and Anthony, explaining his family "come here all the time," and always pick up flyers for library events.

Cross enjoys how open the children's programming is, adding his grandsons are always happy and comfortable when they come to the library.

"They just walk right in and they're having fun. The librarians in this town are outstanding," Cross said. "They just do the greatest job."

Cross said his family doesn't live far from the library and always stops by to see what's going on.

Additionally, his grandsons are fascinated by books, including all the popular children's books.

Please see **CHALK**, page 4

# Hampden library wraps up summer reading



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
**Caitlin Hebert stands at the raffle basket table with her won prize, a cozy reading basket, during the Summer Reading Finale Party for the teens at Hampden Free Public Library.**



**Teens take part in the Fruit Roll-Up eating contest during the Summer Reading Finale Party for the teen summer reading program on the front lawn outside Hampden Free Public Library. The participants had to eat the fruit roll-up without using their hands and whoever won first got a prize.**



**A display of treats from local baker Indulgence by Ingrid greeted adult summer reading program participants during their Summer Reading Finale Party at Hampden Free Public Library.**



**Participants of the adult summer reading program at Hampden Free Public Library check out what book prize they want to take during the Summer Reading Finale Party in the Rochford Reading Room.**



**Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard leads participants in tossing water balloons during a water balloon game celebrating the teen summer reading program finishing the season during the Summer Reading Finale Party at Hampden Free Public Library.**



**Adult summer reading program participants eagerly await the next raffle prize during the Summer Reading Finale Party at Hampden Free Public Library.**

**By Kristin Rivers**  
*Staff Writer*  
 krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- The library celebrated the end of summer reading on Aug. 5 with finale parties for the adult and teen summer reading programs.

The teens gathered with Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard on the front lawn outside the library while the adults joined Director Ellen Moriarty in the Rochford Reading Room.

For the teens, the raffle basket winners were announced, followed by a Fruit Roll-Up eating contest, water balloon games, bowling, Jenga and more.

Caitlin Hebert won the cozy reading raffle basket and read for 30 hours.

She enjoyed reading 'The Chain' by Adrian McKinty and 'The Gender War' series by Bella Forest this summer and stressed the importance of reading during

the summer months.

"I find that it's important to read because all summer I don't have much to do. So instead of just laying around and being on my phone, I'll take a break to read which keeps my brain active when I'm not in school," Hebert said.

She also appreciates the library's summer programming.

"We get to see people that we don't usually see very often, and it draws people to the library to come and read, which is super fun. It's also fun activities we get to do when a lot of the time I feel like we don't do as much," Hebert said.

Girard explained over 25 teens read for at least 20 hours this summer and she enjoys it when the teens come to the library.

"I love seeing the teens come in throughout the summer excited to read, excited to earn raffle tickets that they'll put in the

raffle baskets and how engaged they are in talking with each other about which basket they're going to put a ticket in and how they hope that they'll win one of them and how they just keep wanting to read, especially during the summer when it's the time when reading seems to take a little break. We see it increase which is a nice change," Girard said.

Meanwhile, the adults got raffle prizes of gift cards to local businesses including Village Food Mart, D & R Farm, Lou's Bagel Nook, Bilton's Mountain-side Orchard, Casa Bella and Gio's Pizzeria & Lounge.

Additionally, each participant took home a free book, a safe and healthy UV disinfecting device and enjoyed treats from local baker Indulgence by In-

grid.

Cathy Rochford loves taking part in the adult summer reading program every summer.

"You can read whatever you want. If you read two books, that's fine, if you read 10 books, that's fine. It's fun. I use it as a breather to read whatever I want to read," Rochford said.

Moriarty said the summer has been a busy time for the library, with nearly 4,000 books for all ages checked out.

"What's really cool that I've noticed a lot of this summer is families reading. Parents, teens, little kids all reading together," Moriarty said. "We love that because reading is a big indicator of success for kids."

Rochford wants the community to know the library's summer programs are wonderful and to stop by throughout the year.

"They work very hard here to put on these programs and we as Friends of the Library, also try to support them in their programs," Rochford said.

Girard also encouraged residents to visit the library.

"Just remember that we're here. We have new events happening all the time, so checking our website to see what's going on is always a great thing to do and everybody's welcome here, so if they have the time and the ability to get here, we'd love to see them," Girard said.

## Saint Cecilia Women's Club to hold first meeting of new club year Sept. 12

WILBRAHAM -- The Saint Cecilia Women's Club's first meeting of the new club year will be Tuesday evening, Sept. 12. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Mass followed by a Membership Tea in the Parish Cen-

ter. All members of the parish are invited and welcome!! Past presidents and members celebrating a significant club anniversary will be recognized. Please join us and bring a guest!

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# Get your child caught up and protected on their vaccines and wellness visits

Plan your child's back-to-school physical and immunizations now

SPRINGFIELD -- Well-child visits to the pediatrician, especially before going back to school each year, are intricately linked to being properly vaccinated.

Since the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends yearly well visits for children starting at age 3 through 18, scheduling a back-to-school physical each year is

a good way to meet that goal, according to Dr. Amy Pelletier of Baystate General Pediatrics, Baystate Children's Hospital. Babies begin well-child visits several days after birth and continue these visits several times per year until they reach age 3.

A typical back-to-school physical should include standard growth measurements including height, weight and body mass index, as well as testing the child's reflexes and motor skills, heart rate and blood pressure, and an examination of the eyes, ears, nose and throat. In addition to performing a thorough physical exam, it is also an opportunity to screen for emotional, developmental or social concerns, such as how they get along with others, peer pressure, bullying, and social media use, as well as to discuss if they are leading a healthy lifestyle by getting enough exercise and eating healthy. Well-visits are also an important opportunity to make sure all vaccinations are up-to-date.

"Children who are not vaccinated on schedule are at risk of getting sick and of spreading illnesses to others who are not protected. Vaccines are given on a schedule for the number one reason of protecting children from preventable disease. Experts designed the schedule so that children get protection when they need it, and the doses are timed so the vaccine itself can have the best effect. Vaccines are mandatory for schools

to maintain high vaccination coverage and low rates of vaccine-preventable diseases," said Pelletier.

"Many kids and adolescents missed recommended immunizations and wellness visits at the height of COVID-19. As health-care professionals we are encouraging parents and guardians, if they haven't already, to get their children back on track for annual vaccinations and wellness exams. It's not too late to get back on track," she added.



Dr. Amy Pelletier

Vaccines work by training the immune system to recognize and fight viruses or bacteria. They develop immunity – the ability to resist an infection – by imitating infections. Vaccinations have been protecting children and adults from diseases including smallpox, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), and chickenpox for a very long time. The reason some people aren't familiar with those illnesses is because of vaccines and their effectiveness, noted the Baystate Children's Hospital pediatrician.

Pelletier noted not only does not being vaccinated affect the child, but it can also put others at risk, as well. When enough of the community is vaccinated, it makes disease less likely to spread.

"This is important for those who aren't fully vaccinated, such as newborns, and those who can't be vaccinated, such as children who are taking medications that suppress the immune system," she said. "There are minimal risks of being vaccinated. The risk of a complication of the disease is always higher than the risk of the vaccine."

Concerning babies, Pelletier noted they are very vulnerable to disease, which is why they are given vaccines early in life.

"If the vaccine schedule is spread out or if babies miss well-child visits and do not receive vaccines on schedule, it will take longer for babies and children to be protected from diseases," she said.

Visit [www.baystatehealth.org/](http://www.baystatehealth.org/)

[news/2023/06/vaccine-schedule-for-children-to-see-the-recommended-vaccine-schedule-from-birth-to-16-years](https://www.wilbraham-hampden-times.com/news/2023/06/vaccine-schedule-for-children-to-see-the-recommended-vaccine-schedule-from-birth-to-16-years).

The AAP also encourages all children to get an annual sports physical whether or not one is required for them to participate on a team or extracurricular activity ideally scheduled at the same time as the annual wellness exam. Most schools send forms home to be completed before the season begins. If you have not received one, contact your child's school in advance of their physical.

The sports physical is an opportunity to address exercise-specific issues, including injuries, nutrition, training and exercise programs, and even attitudes toward sports participation in the course of the exam.

Overall, pediatricians want to partner with parents to help their children be successful students. Are they generally healthy? Will they have any problem seeing the board? Is their hearing okay, so they don't miss what the teacher is saying? Do they have any attention issues? All those questions need to be answered at a well-visit.

Also, if your child has asthma, diabetes, a peanut allergy, ADHD, or any other chronic condition, pediatricians will need to develop an action plan to share with the school nurse. Paperwork must also be completed for any prescription medications your child may need to take while at school.

Mass.gov offers a special page, "Preparing To Return To School," that offers full Massachusetts School Immunization Requirements as well as other helpful tips on physical exams, preschool vision screenings, lead screenings, and children with special health care needs. Visit the page at:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/preparing-for-return-to-school>.

If your child is due, or overdue, for a well-child visit or vaccines, visit

[www.baystatehealth.org/services/pediatrics](http://www.baystatehealth.org/services/pediatrics) to make an appointment for their school physical.

## Griffin's Friends hosts first ever Color Run to support local families affected by Childhood Cancer

AGAWAM — Griffin's Friends Children's Cancer Fund at Baystate Children's Hospital has been supporting local families receiving cancer care at Baystate Children's Hospital for over 25 years! Come be a part of Griffin's Friends first ever Color Run and help bring moments of joy to courageous kids! Join us on Sept. 16, 2023, at Agawam High School, the Color blast take off will begin at 11

a.m., please arrive at 10 a.m. for registration check in. This event will cost \$25 for students and \$35 for adults which will include a T-shirt and protective sunglasses. The two-mile color filled course is great for a fun run or walk!

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# Life Care Center of Wilbraham CNA wins divisional customer service award

WILBRAHAM — Knolly Demills, certified nursing assistant at Life Care Center of Wilbraham, recently received Life Care Centers of America's Northeast Division Whatever It Takes Champions annual award for his dedication to customer service.

Facility leadership surprised Demills by telling him he was going to watch a training video and instead showing him a video of residents and fellow associates explaining what they appreciate about him and congratulating him on his big win. The video also featured congratulatory messages from Northeast Division Vice President Zo Long and Life Care President Todd Fletcher. After watching

the video, Demills was led to the center's activity room, where residents and associates helped him celebrate with an awards ceremony. Life Care presented Demills with a \$1,000 cash prize during the ceremony.

"Knolly truly is the consummate professional and is so well respected by his fellow associates and certainly loved by the residents that he serves," said Senior Executive Director Dennis Lopata.

Demills was chosen from among thousands of associates in the Northeast Division and was one of only seven associates from Life Care's nearly 200 facilities nationwide to receive the award. He was nominated for showing exceptional kind-

ness, compassion and care to facility residents and associates and for going above and beyond in his job duties.

"(Winning) validates what I know: that I work with and am part of a great team of individuals who care deeply for their residents," said Demills. "I really feel like I'm getting this award for all my co-workers to share in."

Demills added that he enjoys spending time with the center's residents and their families and likes listening to the wonderful stories about their lives and history.

Life Care's Whatever It Takes Champions program rewards associates for extraordinary acts of kindness. Monthly awards are presented in Life Care facil-

ities nationwide based on nominations from fellow associates, family members, residents and guests. At the end of the calendar year, each division selects its top three monthly winners, from which their annual award winner is then chosen.

Life Care Center of Wilbraham, located at 2399 Boston Road, is one of 15 skilled nursing and rehab centers in Massachusetts managed by Life Care Centers of America.

Founded in 1976, Life Care is a nationwide health care company. For more information about Life Care, visit [lcca.com](http://lcca.com).



A "We Love Books" designed with sidewalk chalk during the Craft & Play event outside Wilbraham Public Library.



Anthony Lopez and Piper Smythe, the daughter of Assistant Children's Librarian Rachel Smythe, create a Pikachu during the Craft & Play event outside Wilbraham Public Library.



Hearts created with sidewalk chalk and paint brushes dipped in water during the Craft & Play event outside Wilbraham Public Library. Craft & Play events take place one Saturday a month at the library.



The "Very, Very Hungry Caterpillar" children's book character was one of many fun creations made at the Craft & Play event outside Wilbraham Public Library on Aug. 12.



A sidewalk made sign promoting Craft & Play to passerby coming to the library during the Craft & Play event at Wilbraham Public Library.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

## CHALK from page 1

"There are a few events each week. If we can make it, we do. They do. They just enjoy it, and books are great," Cross said.

Zoey Czaplicki came with her children, Ellie and Warren, explaining her family is frequent visitors to the library and saw a flyer about the event.

Czaplicki also loves the children's programs.

"I think it's a great opportunity for my kids to socialize with other kids and to, you know, be surrounded by books and other things that they're not exposed to all the time," Czaplicki said.

Czaplicki explained the opportunities for socialization and making connections through the library programs have "been a great introduction" for her daughter, who will be starting school this fall.

"We come to all of the pro-

grams that they have and she just progressed. Learning, being with Miss Rachel (Smythe) and making a connection with someone who's an authoritative position other than her parents," Czaplicki said. "The kids, she just loves all the other kids, seeing what they do and asking questions."

Czaplicki thinks parents "should make it a priority to come to the library, whatever town that they live in" as it helps kids and families connect.

"You come a couple times, the librarians get to know you, they get to know your kids. I mean, for me, I'm a stay-at-home mom. I'm also a full-time realtor, so I kind of juggle the two, but this has been a great place to come, for me, to make connections with other parents," Czaplicki said.

Smythe wants the community to know their Craft & Play events take place monthly and will move indoors as the weather

cools later in the year.

"Every month we'll have something like this. A drop-in event for all ages and they definitely should keep us on their radar," Smythe said.

Cross encouraged residents to visit the library and check out its many programs and events.

"Do it. Their events are for everyone," Cross said.

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# School Committee discusses FY23 and FY24 general fund budget reports

Also, strategic plan and booster club updates provided

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The School Committee met on Aug. 3 to discuss the fiscal year 2023 and 2024 general fund budget reports, hear strategic plan updates and more.

Before the discussion, the committee went into executive session to discuss the litigations of case number 2379CV00338 to maintain the necessary privacy of the subject.

The case revolves around a class action lawsuit filed in July against the school district regarding violations of the state's wage-an-hour laws.

The session lasted nearly 20 minutes.

Afterward, Aaron Osborne, assistant superintendent of Finance, Operations and Human Resources, presented the budget reports.

For FY23, Osborne explained, "All but four accounts are fully closed down."

"We are awaiting some invoices from a couple different vendors to close things out. Nothing tremendous," Osborne said.

For FY24, Osborne said the budget "is still in its infancy."

"There are many items that still need to be encumbered. You will see a few items that may stand out as being in the red this early, and I'll just touch on those," Osborne said.

Osborne listed the items as having a price increase or normal variants, including destiny library software, special education software and instructional coaches.

Additionally, professional development stipends.

"As we look at professional development stipends, we are doing work towards the Strategic Plan there when it wasn't necessarily expected to be spent when we were doing the budget, so that's kind of falling in there. We'll work out how to pay for that," Osborne said.

Osborne added the property insurance increased to \$26,000, a 13% increase from the previous year.

"We didn't find it out until July. We will re-budget for that next year and

plan accordingly," Osborne said.

School Committee member Sean Kennedy asked Osborne for clarification on the property insurance.

"So, you're saying the insurance company came to us in July saying, 'Starting now, it's \$20,000 more for the year.?' " Kennedy said.

When Osborne said yes, Kennedy asked this next.

"They didn't give any information there, like something, a legal notice they're supposed to give or something?" Kennedy said.

Osborne explained how a broker "puts it out to a couple vendors to get the best price" and the company is the same as last year.

"I think it is the same company as last time, but they look for the best domestics for us and they look at multiple," Osborne said.

School Committee member Michael Tirabassi asked about insurance contracts.

"Are we potentially subject to that every year or is the insurance contract for a few years?" Tirabassi said.

Osborne clarified it is year to year.

"We don't typically have increases. It really has to do with the same things we're facing every time we go out to bid for contracts. It's significantly higher than we expected. There are supply chain delays every time we try to do work," Osborne said. "It's become the nature of the industry right now and that property line is our property insurance line, so everything in that industry has shot up. The cost of all repairs and replacement and things like that."

On the strategic plan, Superintendent Dr. John Provost gave an overview of the priorities and progress on the new district website.

Provost explained there is "a good deal of overlap between the priorities identified in the strategic plan and those that emerged from the equity audit."

"For sure, we have to address everything in this diagram, but the

items in the center are the maximum points of leverage. These are things that we identified as priorities for our own improvement," Provost said.

The overlaps include multi-tiered systems of support, providing professional development better aligned to staff needs and schools, combatting harassment/bullying, feedback/communication, inclusive hiring practices and more.

"This graphic attempts to simplify the future priorities of the district by grouping and subsidizing initiatives under more inclusive themes," Provost said.

On the new website, Provost explained it's "about 80% completed," showing a website with more visuals, a School Committee page with easier access to meeting minutes, more transparency and access to curriculum and more.

"I would say the district portion of the website is basically built out or focused on bringing the development to the schools," Provost said.

The website is estimated to launch at the end of August or early September.

Additionally, Provost provided a brief update on the Minnechaug Regional High School Booster Club after the committee met with Ron DeCurzio and Mike Flynn on July 20.

"All I have to report is that Mr. DeCurzio reached out to me and Michal (Boudreau) to request a meeting to discuss next steps with the booster club. We're trying to find a time that works for the three of us and we'll report back to the community after we have that discussion," Provost said.

# Wilbraham Fall Special Town Meeting is announced

WILBRAHAM — The Wilbraham Board of Selectmen has called a Fall Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, Oct. 23, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Minnechaug Regional High School Auditorium, located at 621 Main St., Wilbraham, 01095.

Warrant Articles for placement on the Warrant are due in the Board of Selectmen's Office by noon on Friday, Sept. 8, 2023. Petitioned Warrant Articles must include the signatures of 100 registered voters. Petition papers may be obtained in the Clerk's Office in the Wilbraham Town Offices, 240 Springfield St., Wilbraham, MA 01095.

# Presentation: Taking 'professional' photos with your phone

HAMPDEN — Learn how to use your smartphone to take photographs of your artwork and sculptural work for your website or to add to your portfolio. Artist Nan Hurlburt will demonstrate how to take photos and show your art to its best advantage.

Each participant is allowed two pieces to photograph.

Criteria: Paintings, drawings (hanging work must NOT be framed), and sculptural work. The finished files will be emailed to each participant.

Presentation will be on Saturday, Set. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Room at the Hampden Senior Center in Hampden.

Contact Sue Superson: sjsrighter@aol.com to sign up and to answer any questions. Space is limited. There will be a \$10 charge.




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## VIEWPOINTS

# HOLY COW! HISTORY: Ding Dong School

The woman who created kid's television

By J. Mark Powell  
jmarkpowell.com

Before there was Sesame Street...Before there was Mister Rogers' Neighborhood...Before there was Romper Room...Before there was Captain Kangaroo...

There was Miss Frances and Ding Dong School. The show not only was the first in its genre, it literally created children's television – and set the bar very high, too.

Let's hop into the Wayback Machine and revisit 1952.

Television was brand new then. TV stations were launching all over the country and big, cumbersome TV sets were popping up inside more and more American homes.

Judith Waller was public service and educational programming director at WNBQ-TV in Chicago. Most local stations produced hours of their own programming daily, way more than they do today.

As Waller was talking with her boss one day, he noted that with the Baby Boom in full swing there were more than 235,000 pre-school children in the Chicago area. Then he pointedly asked, "What are you going to do about it?"

Waller rolled into action. She devised a nursery school program to teach kids watching at home. Because viewers would be little people, the show utilized six cameras that shot from angles toddlers would see.

All props would be easily recognizable to little children.

Auditions were held for the program's host. Frances Horwich was one of the educators who tried out for the gig.

A woman of a certain age with a kindly disposition, she headed a local college's education department. She lacked showbiz experience, but had once taught nursery school.

While the thought of being alone on set for a full hour each day scared her, she thought, "Why not?" and gave it a try. She was soon hired to be "Miss Frances," then successfully negotiated to own the rights to the show.

When the producer's 3-year-old son was told each episode would begin with an old-fashioned teacher's desk bell ringing, he blurted out, "Ding Dong Show!" and so they had the program's title.

A pilot episode was filmed. One horrified station executive said the show was so bad it would kill television and make TV viewers listen to radio again.

So, it was decided to air the program just once.

WNBQ didn't issue a press release announcing it or promote it in any way. They figured they'd let it die of its own embarrassment.

And so Ding Ding School debuted on Thursday morning, Oct. 2, 1952.

Primitive by today's hi-tech standards, it began with closeup of Miss Frances' hand ringing the aforementioned bell, followed by a cheesy studio organ playing the show's equally cheesy theme song. Miss Frances sang in a warbly voice that was better suited for a little country church choir than television:

"I'm your school bell, ding dong ding; boys and girls all hear me ring. Every time I ding dong ding, come with me to play and sing."

Then she jumped into the lesson. Miss Frances talked like she was speaking to actual chil-

dren.

"How are you, boys and girls? What are you doing today? (Pause.) Really? That's good!"

WNBQ's big brass cringed for an hour until the show ended. No one expected what came next.

The station's switchboard was flooded with more than 150 calls in 45 minutes as parents told how their kids loved the program. That was nothing compared to the tidal wave of enthusiastic fan mail that followed.

Ding Dong School instantly became part of WNBQ's morning lineup five days a week. It was such a hit, NBC picked it up in 1953 and broadcast it nationally.

Miss Frances even became a TV star. More than 12,000 children and parents attended a promotional event in Boston.

She was stopped by adoring fans 18 times daily. When she and her husband flew to Florida for a vacation, kids on the plane recognized her – and sang the show's theme song over and over all the way to Miami.

Likely making it history's most miserable flight for the passengers.

But TV is a cutthroat business. Despite its success, NBC cancelled Ding Dong School in 1956 for the more lucrative *The Price Is Right*.

The show continued in syndication until 1965. Miss Frances eventually moved to Arizona where she dabbled in local public television until her death in 2001 at age 94.

Children's television is one of broadcasting's few success stories; and it's largely due to the huge influence of a single teacher and her little bell.

*Holy Cow! History is written by novelist, former TV journalist and diehard history buff J. Mark Powell.*

## A series of misfortunate events

By Julie Midura  
Staff Writer

When Tom and I began planning a five-day backpacking trip in the Sandwich Wilderness of New Hampshire, we envisioned lovely days of easy hiking followed by peaceful evenings sitting beside a campfire before crawling into our tent for a restful night's sleep.

But this time, things didn't turn out quite as we planned.

### Misfortunate event #1:

The three and a half hour drive to New Hampshire became a five and a half hour drive due to an accident, which forced us to start our five and a half mile hike at 4:30 p.m. Now if you think that we'd be well rested after sitting in a car for over five hours while battling heavy traffic, you'd be wrong.

We were thoroughly exhausted; and we hadn't even started hiking yet.

### Misfortunate event #2:

When we reached the swollen Whiteface River, it was too high to cross over on rocks, so we changed into our Crocs and forded instead. With two more crossings ahead of us in the next 1.3 miles, we decided that instead of taking the time to dry our feet and pull on our socks and shoes after each crossing, we'd just hike in our Crocs until the final crossing.

Which lead to...

### Misfortunate event #3:

In spite of the fact that we were wearing Crocs, we raced along the trail in a vain attempt to arrive at the tentsite ahead of the darkness. Which caused Tom's Croc-wearing feet to sink into calf deep mud, whereby he crashed to the ground like the proverbial tree falling in the forest. (And yes, there was indeed a sound when he fell!)

### Misfortunate event #4:

We slowed our pace after misfortunate event #3, arriving at Flat Mountain Pond tentsite at dusk- which is the time we'd normally already have the tent set up, camp clothes on and dinner eaten. With no time to waste before darkness set in, we located a level patch of dirt to set up our tent.

I dropped my backpack, unclipped the straps, flipped the top open...and didn't see the single most important item that is usually right on top.

Panic set in while I yanked one item after

another out of my pack and tossed it in a heap on the ground in a desperate attempt to find the missing item. When my hand finally reached the bottom of my now empty pack, I knew that we were about to endure the greatest misfortunate event in the life of a backpacker.

"Tom? Did you by any chance pack the tent?"

I already knew the answer before I even asked. After all, Tom always packs the fly and ground cloth while I always pack the tent body itself.

Well...almost always. But the process of asking allowed me to hold on to a split second of hope before hearing Tom's response, "No. Didn't you?"

Tom and I looked at each other, both of us realizing that there would be no tent to protect us from the hordes of mosquitoes that had plagued us for the past 5+ miles in spite of the gallons of bug spray we had liberally applied back at the car. With a pond nearby, we knew that this could be an incredibly rough night.

Since hiking five miles back to our car in the dark in our exhausted state wasn't an option, we had no choice but to make the best of this latest misfortunate event.

I apologized to Tom as we went about staking out just the fly. He was gracious in his response, "No need to apologize, kiddo. We all forget stuff sometimes."

In spite of his understanding, I felt terrible.

When we finished blowing up our air mattresses, zipping our double-wide sleeping bag together and laying out all of our gear, everything looked like it usually does - with the exception of the eight inch gap between the bottom of the fly and the ground. In an effort to find something to be grateful for in the midst of what had been a very trying day, I said brightly, "Well at least there isn't any rain in the forecast tonight."

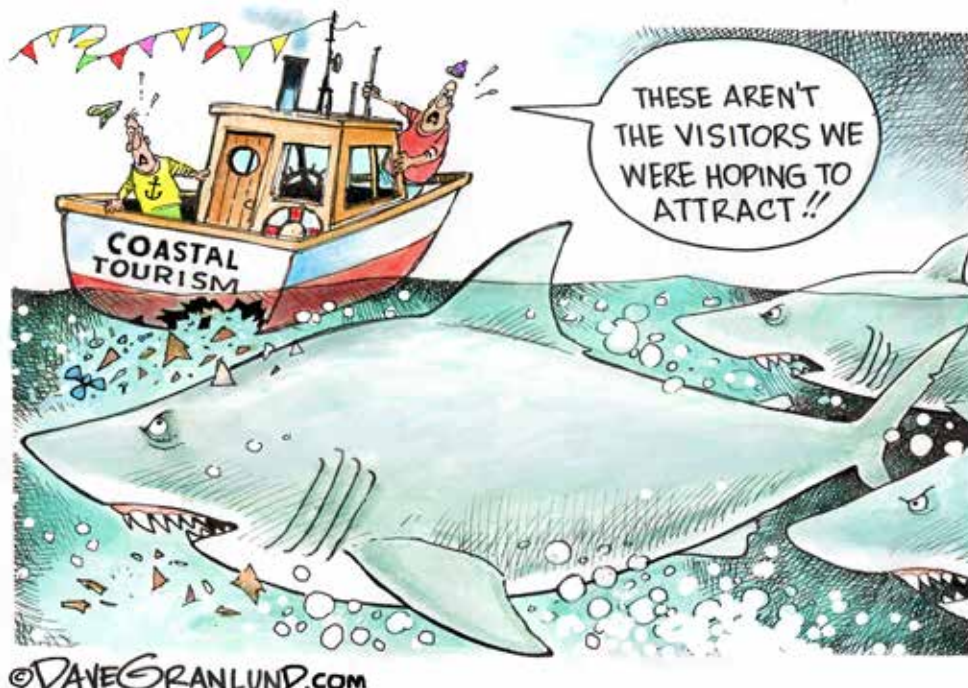
Ten minutes later, the skies opened up.

Yes folks, God does indeed have a sense of humor.

All was not bad, however. With the exception of slightly wet sleeping bags and over a dozen spider bites, we made it through the night unscathed...and so the adventures continue!

See you in the wild places, my friends!

To read more about our hiking adventures (and misadventures) follow us on Instagram @ morethanthemountain.



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### Correction Policy

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

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## Death Notices

**Blanche Norris,**  
age 99,  
former longtime Wilbraham resident died on Aug. 12, 2023. Wilbraham Funeral Home is assisting the family.

## Business-West is now accepting nominations for Women of Impact, Class of 2023

SPRINGFIELD — BusinessWest, the business journal of Western Massachusetts, is now accepting nominations for the sixth annual Women of Impact awards.

In 2018, BusinessWest created the Women of Impact program as a way to honor women in the region who are making an impact and creating positive change.

Women of Impact was chosen as the name for the program because, while nominees can hail from the world of business, they can also emerge from other realms, such as the nonprofit community, public service, law enforcement, education, social work, the mentorship community, a combination of these — in short, we're recognizing inspirational women on any level.

Since its inception, the women honored through this program have been successful, inspiring, and most importantly, impactful! We are certain this trend will remain true with the 2023 Women of Impact.

Consider nominating someone for this prestigious award. Nominations for the class of 2023 are due by Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 5 p.m., and the honorees will be announced in the Oct. 16 issue of BusinessWest.

Nominations should be written with one basic underlying mission: to explain why the individual in question is, indeed, a woman of impact. Visit [businesswest.com/women-of-impact-nominations](http://businesswest.com/women-of-impact-nominations) for additional information and a nomination form.

For more information, call Melissa Hallock, Marketing and Events director, at (413) 781-8600, ext. 100, or email [hallock@businesswest.com](mailto:hallock@businesswest.com).

# Friends of Wilbraham Seniors put in final preparations for Bushels of Fun Fest

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
[krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com)

WILBRAHAM -- Members of the Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center were outside Manny's and Stop & Shop on Boston Road on Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to meet with residents about Bushels of Fun Fest.

DJ Bruce Marshall from 97.7 WARE in Palmer was also at the event, sponsored by Manny's.

Chuck Pelouze joined Maria Cacela, vice president of the Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center, outside Manny's, expressing gratitude to the local business for their support.

He added Manny's is, also, a new sponsor for Bushels of Fun Fest.

"We're happy that they joined hands with us and partnered with us and they're helping us raise funds for this great event we have planned for Aug. 27," Pelouze said.

Pelouze said the Friends will be at Stop & Shop again next weekend, the Knights of Columbus Car Show at Fountain Park on Aug. 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fern Valley Farms on Aug. 27.

"It's been a great event. It's been a very key fundraiser for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors," Pelouze said.

Pelouze also provided news on a recent grant supporting the new senior center, thanks to State Rep. Angelo Puppolo (D-Springfield) submitting paperwork for \$100,000 that was approved in the state budget.

"We just received excellent news on Friday (Aug. 11) that we have another grant coming from the State of Massachusetts in the amount of \$100,000, so that was verified through Rep. Puppolo's office, so we thank him for carrying that forward," Pelouze said. "It's going to add to our overall fundraiser."

Pelouze said he looks forward to the new senior center opening its doors in spring 2024, adding it's "going to be a much larger facility."

"Almost 40% of the residents here in Wilbraham here are seniors, so they're really looking forward to this grand event to be opened in the spring of next year," Pelouze said.

George Rodriguez, the marketing director at Manny's, explained the Friends "approached us a few weeks ago" about doing Saturday's event outside their business.

"They made us aware of what they were doing and, of course, we agreed to allow them to come here and

do it. We're based in Wilbraham, so it's a nice, local community thing to do," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez is also happy to have Manny's be a sponsor for Bushels of Fun Fest, explaining how the business makes an effort to give back and support organizations.

"This is where it all started, so yes we're going to support our local organizations in whatever their endeavors are," Rodriguez said.

In addition to Manny's becoming a sponsor, Rodriguez looks forward to attending Bushels of Fun Fest and bringing his grandchildren with him.



A Bushels of Fun Fest sign on display outside Manny's on Boston Road in Wilbraham as the Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center told residents about the upcoming event and their support for the new senior center.



The lotto ticket grand prize residents can win at the upcoming Bushels of Fun Fest on Aug. 27.

"It looks like it's going to be a lot of fun," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez wants the community to know Manny's supporting local organizations and events is "something we've always done" and they're happy to do it.

"Manny's has been around for over 45 years. We've always



Chuck Pelouze, Maria Cacela, vice president of the Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center, and George Rodriguez, marketing director at Manny's, pose for a group at the Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center table outside Manny's on Boston Road on Aug. 12. Manny's is one of the new sponsors for the upcoming Bushels of Fun Fest on Aug. 27.



Dee Mitchell, corresponding secretary for the Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center, ready to greet customers outside Stop & Shop on Aug. 12 with information about the Friends of the Wilbraham Senior Center and the upcoming Bushels of Fun Fest event. Members of the Friends were in parts of Wilbraham to spread their word about the new senior center and the upcoming Bushels of Fun Fest on Aug. 27.

been an advocate of supporting the local causes and community, so we'll always do what we can," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez also encouraged residents to attend Bushels of Fun Fest on Aug. 27 and support the Friends.

"It's a good cause, so please go down there and have a good time and help out our seniors," Rodriguez said.

Pelouze wants the community to know how much the Friends appreciate their support.

"We thank everyone not only in Wilbraham but the surrounding communities that have helped us raise the money for this event for the new Wilbraham senior center. It's been very, very successful throughout the entire communities of Wilbraham," Pelouze said.

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# A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Elaine Holdsworth of Wilbraham submitted the following: The deer is a buck and has taken to coming to eat our hostas on a regular basis --- the doe comes right up by the house and is feasting on all our flowers. (Adjacent to Saw Mill Pond Conservation Area).



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

# WILBRAHAM




Former Children's Librarian, Cindy Rusczek, came to the library with her two granddaughters, Chole and Lea Soriano. They enjoyed checking out the books and puppets too! Photo submitted by Children's Librarian Heidi Kane




**New Selectman visits the Rotary Club**  
Wilbraham's newly elected selectman, Mike Squindo, right, is presented with Flannery, for being the guest speaker at the club's August 9 meeting at the Co participation, efficient government and a creative way to solve the town's ho

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# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



... a Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club coffee mug by President Don Country Club of Wilbraham. Squindo said he would like to see more citizen using problems. (Charles F. Bennett photo)

Community Bulletin Board

Happy Birthday,  
*Harper*  
who turned nine on Aug. 15!

*Love Mom, Dad, Charley, Jaxson,  
Nana, Grammy and Grampy*

.....

*Send us in your announcements!*  
Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.  
We will pick one each week to run here free of charge, please keep it to less than 50 words. Please send to [dzberski@turley.com](mailto:dzberski@turley.com)



On July 31, the Hampden Fire Department's brush truck was requested by the Monson Fire Department to assist them with a logging vehicle on fire a 1/4 mile in the woods. Shortly after, Hampden's Tanker-1 was also requested to the scene. The Brush-1 crew assisted with fire extinguishment alongside Monson firefighters and Palmer Fire Department firefighters. The Tanker crew assisted with setting up water supply for refilling brush vehicles.

Photos and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department Facebook page



Dawn in Wilbraham, Aug. 14. Photo submitted by Shelby Hines

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# Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

I absolutely love it when readers contact me after reading one of my articles that has somehow touched them. That's how I'm often privileged to share these

wonderful stories about people in your community and how I came to meet Doreen Jabubasz. She called me after recognizing the nurse in my November story. She still believes this nurse is the reason her premature daughter is alive today and now has a baby of her own! They had lost touch and I was so honored and excited to be part of reconnecting them!

Doreen lives in Wilbraham with her husband and together they have two daughters who have blessed them with three grandchildren. Though both have dealt with bouts of cancer, Doreen even having had a near death experience is like the Energizer Bunny when it comes to doing Random Acts of Kindness!

Doreen was a paraprofessional at the Indian Or-

chard Elementary School for 21.5 years. Unfortunately, COVID changed so many things for so many as it did for her, changing that part of her world forever. She's someone who has gone way above and beyond for some of those students including knitting 'Kindness Caps'. She found out their favorite color and made it special just for them. She explained that one third grader was distraught when his mom lost his baby twin brothers and asked Doreen to make them caps. He kept them on his twin teddy bears in his room and was consoled when she showed him the galaxy of stars and told him his brothers were always with him within the stars. What a comforting way

Please see **KINDNESS**, page 13



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# SPORTS

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Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Gavin Hisgen takes a free throw.



Dylan Dacruz takes an outside shot.



Ryan Kudla decides between shooting and passing.



Jackson Shanley drives toward the hoop.



Andrew Kmelius heads for the hoop.



Jayden Lopez goes for the long jump shot near the arc.

## Falcons defeated in Spec playoffs

WILBRAHAM – Last Wednesday evening, Wilbraham 5-6 boys basketball was defeated 23-20 by Belchertown in the playoffs of the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League. Wilbraham went 6-4 during the regular season this summer.

## Westside Sports Shop takes women's summer soccer title

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—While the Monson girls and the Ludlow boys soccer teams captured the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League A-Division titles for the third consecutive year, Westside Sports Shop also took home the women's championship trophy for the third year in a row.

The second-seeded Westside Sports Shop outshot the sixth-seeded Celtic Grey for almost the entire match, but goalie Brianna Kubik, who's from Agawam, managed to keep the contest scoreless until the penalty shootout.

Westside goalie Emily Letendre made a couple of outstanding saves during the shootout and her team celebrated a 0-0



Jennifer Galindo sends a free kick away for Celtic Gray.

Please see **SOCCER**, page 12

## West showcased in boys soccer

BOSTON – In last month's Bay State Games, the Western part of the state featured a boys soccer team showcased. Here is a look at how they fared in some of their matchups held July 6-9: The West would win the gold medal in the showcase.

In the gold medal match, the West won 3-2.

The Gold medal match saw powerhouse West face off against Central in what would be an exhilarating and heated match. West opened the scoring within the first minute of the match with a blast from Cole Bamford (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). West then went up 2-0 with help from a penalty kick, expertly taken by Mateo Balbino (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). Swiftly followed by another goal to give them a commanding 3-0 lead. Central was able to crawl back within one with a strike from Jo-

vuan Mensah (Worcester, Burncoat HS) and Kingston Mcgee (Sutton, Sutton HS). West ended the showcase with a dominant 5-0 record. Central ended with a 3-1-1 record.

The West started out the showcase with a 5-2 win over the Metro team.

West got on board first with a sensational strike from forward Brayden Marta (Ludlow, Suffield Academy). Followed by a hat trick of goals from Balbino. Down 4-0, Metro was able to get on the board with a tremendous effort from Oscar Martinez (Boston, East Boston HS) who scored both Metro goals to bring them within two. West then scored to make it 5-2 to capitalize on a dominant win in their first match.

The West would go a perfect 6-0 in the showcase.



Nicole Callini makes a throw-in.



Emily Howard, of Wilbraham, takes a shot on goal.



Olivia Crespo, of Ludlow, corrals the ball.



Katie Shea makes a quick pass.

**SOCCER** from page 11

(3-1 PK's) win at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow on Aug. 5.

"I never expected this game to be so close," said Westside Sports Shop coach Chris Andre. "Their goalie was outstanding. She kept her team in the game during regulation and in overtime. Emily made a couple of saves in PK's. We were finally able to score a couple of goals during the penalty shootout."

Westside Sports Shop (9-2), which is also known as Andres, joined the prestigious summer league in 2021. They posted a 4-0 shutout victory over fifth-seeded Here for Beer in last year's championship match. They defeated the Lusitano Women, 2-1, in the 2021 finals.

For her outstanding performance during the shootout, Letendre received the MVP Award following this year's championship match.

"It just feels amazing to win our third championship title in this summer league," said Letendre, who's from West Springfield. "We did beat Celtic during the regular season, but they wanted it as much as we did in tonight's match."

Six of the Westside Sports Shop

players played high school soccer for longtime head coach Nundi Goncalves at Minnechaug Regional. They are Emily Howard, Chapin Jeannotte, Rhianna Ryan, Madison Sanborn, Katie Shea, and Gabby Williams.

Several of the other players are from Ludlow, South Hadley, and Chicopee.

"Most of the players on this team played on the same youth soccer teams," Andre said. "Then they went their separate ways in high school and it's very nice having them back together again. It has been a lot of fun coaching them and I'm already looking forward to next season."

It was a history making day for Celtic Grey (4-6-1). They have been a member of the summer league for the past twenty years, but it was their first appearance in the women's finals.

"We just wanted to keep this game close as long as we could," said Celtic Grey coach Rob Galazka. "We played very well defensively in tonight's game. We're hoping to make it back here again next year."

One of the key defenders for Celtic Grey is Jennifer Galindo, who's from Chicopee.

Galazka has also been the women's

soccer coach at Holyoke Community College for the past 19 years.

"I coached most of these players at HCC," Galazka said. "It's awesome coaching them again in this league. It's a lot of fun."

Celtic Grey peaked at the right time of the season.

"We ended the regular season with a shutout," Galazka said. "Then we played the top three seeds in the playoffs, and they were all shutouts. The players just stepped up."

Celtic Grey posted a 1-0 shutout versus the third-seeded Heat in the quarter-finals. They also posted a 1-0 win against the top-seeded W. Mass Extremes.

The first shot of the shootout was taken by Westside's Jocelyn Trajkovski, who's from Ludlow. She fired a low shot into the right corner to give her team a 1-0 lead.

Then Letendre made a save on the Celtic Grey's first shot.

After both teams hit the post in the second round, Jeannotte stepped up to the



Madison Sanborn chases down a loose ball.

line and fired a shot into the left corner giving her team a 2-1 lead.

Galindo managed to put her team on the scoreboard, which sliced the deficit in half. It wound up being the only shot made by the Celtic Grey.

Following a goal by Olivia Crespo (Ludlow), Letendre made a diving save giving the Westside Sports Shop another championship title.

The Westside players will be looking to four-peat next summer.

## Coaches honored during Hall of Fame weekend

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced four benches that will be installed in the Naismith Coaches Circle. Sylvia Hatchell, Rollie Massimino, Tom Young, and Kay Yow, will be honored with a bench dedication ceremony on Saturday, August 12 at 2:00 PM EST in the MassMutual Gallery at the Hall of Fame.

The Naismith Coaches Circle program was first launched in 2015 and is the brainchild of Hall of Famers John Calipari, Jerry Colangelo, and George Raveling. The intent of the program is to pay tribute to basketball's first coach, Dr. James Naismith, and the core values Dr. Naismith instilled in his players – teamwork, determination, self-respect, leadership, initiative, and perseverance. He believed these principles to be the foundation by which young men and women should play the game and conduct their lives.

The Coaches Circle features a sculpture created by Master Sculptor Brian Hanlon, dedicated to celebrating Dr. Naismith. Additionally, it showcases granite benches on a recognition platform, paying tribute to coaches who share the same core values of teaching, nurturing, and mentoring their players on the court, while offering perspective off the court.

An interactive Coaches Circle video is exhibited on the second floor of the museum, which allows coaches to share their personal stories and honor those in their lives who inspired them.

Through the Coaches Circle Program Legacy Initiative, coaches are honored posthumously by either one individual or a group of individuals. Honorees include Denny Crum, Bill Fitch, Cotton Fitzsimmons, Dave Gavitt, John MacLeod, Dean Smith, Jim Valvano, and John Wooden, among others.

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## Foursomes needed for charity golf tournament

AGAWAM – Registration and signups are currently open and underway for the Sixth Annual "Shoot Fore The Stars To Cure Cancer" Golf Tournament to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. In the first FIVE years we have raised over \$15,000 for cancer research. The four-person scramble event will take place on Monday, Sept. 18 at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT. The event will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start. There will be prizes up for grabs (Closest to Pin/Long Drive) along with a putting contest. Entry fee covers golf, lunch and dinner. Please contact ShootFOREtheStarstoCureCancer@gmail.com more information. We hope you can join us.

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Submitted photo

**Parishioners affiliated with Saint Cecilia's "Help Our Parish Expand" outreach program participated in a packathon in May.**

**HOPE** from page 1

New Jersey warehouse, where they were combined with products from various churches from across the country who held similar "packathons."

The final packages were then loaded onto a cargo container and shipped to Haiti, where they arrived in late June or early July.

"We've been doing this for a number of years, and every year it's greater than the year before," Ablondi said. "When people see the need, they help out; taking a couple hours of their day to do that is certainly worthwhile."

Ablondi thinks it's remarkable that the mission of feeding the less fortunate in Haiti has traveled around the United States. He enjoys working collaboratively with parishes located many miles away.

Ablondi encourages others to volunteer where they see a need.

"If you're part of an organization of people who want to help, that's probably the first thing. You have to get with like-minded people and come up with a need," Ablondi said. "Our need was kind of furnished to Dr. Kelly; he got involved in the hospital and went down there to do some eye care, and that's how we got involved."

**DOG** from page 1

you give me a ride up my driveway," Majewski said.

When she was driven to her house, she found Tiger kicking up dirt and circling the car. Her neighbor, Karla Laramée, called the police.

"There's a 911 call. I didn't make that call; the neighbor did," Majewski said. "(Tiger showed) all teeth. Karla even said, 'Who has a dog like this?' She was petrified."

Nelson, who has been a vet tech most of her life, said Tiger escaped "through the back slider."

A truck was parked in Nelson's backyard because she had been unloading belongings.

Most of the exits in the Nelson house are guarded but not the slider. Nelson's father exited out the slider but has arthritis and didn't fully shut the door.

"I guarantee you my father's never going to go through that door again to exit the house," Nelson said. "We have the dog gated off from all over doors of our house."

Nelson's mother spoke, noting that "they've done an excellent job of containing (Tiger) since the first hearing."

For Majewski, an excellent job isn't good enough.

"They have been very good 99% of the time. It takes that one time," she said. "It could be next week; it could be a year from now."

The Board of Selectmen weighed its options and agreed that the only two solutions are issuing a fine not amounting to more than \$500 or euthanasia. Flynn had a hard time giving Nelson the benefit of the doubt.

"We go back to what happened in '21, you were told to keep the dog under your control. The dog is not under your control. Bottom line," he said. "And with possibly undocumented incidents? There's a pattern here. I don't think it's been taken seriously enough to address what's been thought of as a threat."

Abby Sullivan of Thresher Road defended

Nelson, a friend.

"They have tried so hard. They've gone above and beyond. That kennel that they built could be used as a prison cell. They don't open a door unless the dog is leashed," she said.

Flynn asked if an electric fence might be a solution, but Sears said, "Not for that dog. I don't know if that dog would feel a shock. She's pretty tough."

While Nelson referred to Tiger as having been "a lot more dog than I ever expected with a lot of issues," she still feels she can keep the animal under control and said she wouldn't keep her otherwise.

"There is no doubt that she's focused in on going over to Teresa's dog, but even with that if she wanted to get that dog she would have. And she didn't," Nelson said.

Ultimately, the board chose to hold its verdict one more week. On Aug. 21, it will decide if Tiger is to be euthanized.

"Again, it's about control, and we don't have assurance that the dog is under control 100% of the time," Flynn said, noting that with the past hearing, they've already exercised the first level of options.

Flynn noted that there is a lack of apparent solutions. The only way to get the dog off the property is euthanasia, the board said.

"If we can't come up with an acceptable controlled solution for everybody here, our hand may be forced. And we don't want to go there because that's not good for anybody," Flynn said.

Majewski was displeased with the inaction. She left the hearing before the conversation ended but said what could happen next time she faces Tiger on her property.

"I'm getting a gun and I'm shooting that dog," she said.

**KINDNESS** from page 10

to explain that type of loss to a child or for anyone to believe for that matter.

Doreen is a proficient knitter and showed me some of her amazing craftsmanship in her "blanket room". The array of colors and blends she creates with each afghan is like eye candy and you can just feel the passion of each stitch when you touch them. She never considers the cost of her handiwork, but each blanket takes from four to six scans of yarn to complete; it's really just a labor of love. She said she always makes sure she has some made ahead as you never know when someone will become ill, may need solace from a loss, perhaps they purchased a new home or have had the blessing of an addition to their family. Being a Reiki Master herself with a space in her home reserved for that, there is a little added bonus with each creation, healing and/or comfort, and always included is love! I couldn't believe she'd gifted me with a warm hat when I interviewed her but was dumbfounded when I went back to see her and she presented me with a gorgeous afghan. I was speechless which doesn't happen often! I can wait for the cold weather, but I can't wait to feel the warmth from her special gifts.

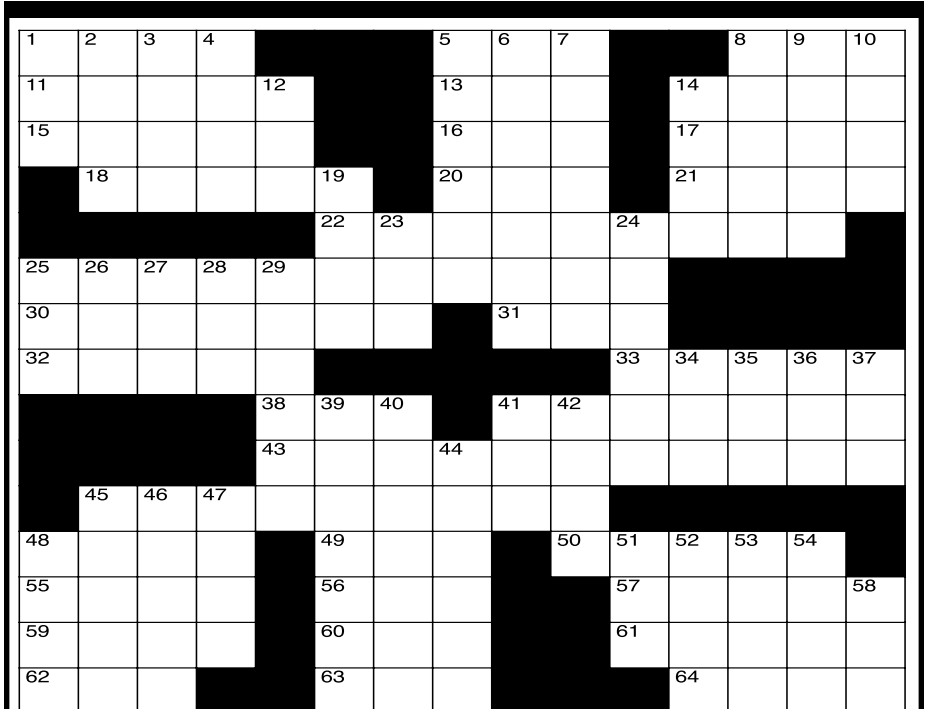
While working at the school, Doreen taught the students how to make para-cord bracelets to show support for the Indian Orchard Tigers sports team all while purchasing the supplies out of her own pocket. These bracelets were then disbursed to teachers, students and janitors to help create a united feeling of team spirit. She also taught the kids how to make rubber band bracelets and hair ties, offering them as a reward for good behavior.

Doreen's exceptional thoughtfulness didn't go unnoticed at the school. As one student began his speech, Doreen thinking it sounded like one of her co-workers, was humbled and surprised to learn the student was actually singing her praises for her generosity and kindness. What an unforgettable surprise plus that student has continued to stay in touch with her all these years later!

Doreen also recalled the time she was the recipient of another Random Act of Kindness years ago. When she was in Indianapolis with one of her infant daughters, the Ronald McDonald House didn't have any available rooms. One amazing hospital nurse came to her rescue and offered Doreen and her baby to stay in her personal home for the 10 days while they were there. Imagine the relief of this kind gesture, especially when you're dealing with a sick child!

Doreen truly believes, "Every act of kindness grows the spirit and strengthens the soul." Who can argue with that, she proves this every day with her Random Acts of Kindness and by sharing positivity! Thank you, your kindnesses truly make a difference long after the gesture has been completed!

If you would like to tell me a story about a Random Act of Kindness, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-788-7514. You don't need one, but if you'd like to have a predesigned flyer to include with your next gesture, let me know. It's a way to keep the memory alive long after the gesture is done. Who knows, you might see your story in this column, 'Just Cause' you witnessed, did or received something nice being done. See you next month with another Random Act of Kindness!



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Civil rights organization
- 5. Calendar month (abbr.)
- 8. Monetary unit of Burma
- 11. Twyla \_\_, US dancer
- 13. Everything included
- 14. "Antman" actor Rudd
- 15. Italian city
- 16. Nowhere to be found
- 17. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 18. Turkish officer
- 20. Perform on stage
- 21. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 22. Canadian coastal provinces
- 25. Furnishes anew
- 30. Edible mollusk
- 31. No seats available
- 32. Garden figurine
- 33. Two-legged support
- 38. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 41. In a silly way
- 43. One from the Golden State
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Native religion in parts of China
- 49. Dickens character
- 50. Broadway actress
- 55. Ancient Greek sophist
- 56. Undivided
- 57. Daniel \_\_, French composer
- 59. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 60. Rusty
- 61. Jewish spiritual leader
- 62. Canadian Hearst's captors
- 63. Popular global holiday (abbr.)
- 64. Tall, slender plant
- 4. Type of acid
- 5. Winged nut
- 6. Arouses
- 7. Things are served on it
- 8. San Diego ballplayer
- 9. Currency and a Chinese dynasty
- 10. \_\_ mater, one's school
- 12. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 14. Hairstyle
- 19. Supreme ancient Egyptian god
- 23. They \_\_
- 24. Connecting line on a map
- 25. Mock
- 26. One point north of due east
- 27. Chinese philosophical principle
- 28. Type of tree
- 29. Persuade to do
- 34. A place for travelers to rest
- 35. National Gallery of Art designer
- 36. Panamanian province
- 37. Field force unit (abbr.)
- 39. Whalers' tool
- 40. Simply
- 41. Nigerian City
- 42. Not one
- 44. Obstruct
- 45. Political plot
- 46. Manila hemp plant
- 47. Dough made from corn flour
- 48. Fishes by letting the bob fly
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Plant that makes gum
- 53. A French abbot
- 54. One point east of northeast
- 58. Get free of

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Interior painting and small exterior jobs. Chores and odd jobs too! Professional and reliable. No job too small. Servicing the Wilbraham area. Call Tom, 339-832-5682.

**WE DO LLC** Painting interior, exterior and drywall repair. We treat your home like our own homes. Fully licensed and insured. Call WE DO today for a free estimate ask for Mac (413)344-6883

## HELP WANTED

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SELECTMEN AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Hampden seeks qualified applicants for the position of Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator. The successful candidate will perform highly diversified duties in support of the Selectmen and Town Administrator. Effective communication skills, computer literacy and the ability to operate office equipment are required.  
Standard job requirements and a job description may be found online at [www.hampdenma.gov](http://www.hampdenma.gov).  
Send resumes to  
Robert Markel at 625 Main Street, Hampden 01036 or email (preferred) at [townadmin@hampdenma.gov](mailto:townadmin@hampdenma.gov) by August 23.

## SERVICES

### PLUMBING

**GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

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**BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL** Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

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**HARLEY DAVIDSON FXSTC 91 SOFTTAIL, BLUE, DIAMOND CUT HEADS** 46,000 Original miles, many extras including stock parts, new carburetor, always garaged \$4,500.00 call Mike (413)547-8755

## CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

**FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839**

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT

**\$900 LUDLOW.** Utilities included. Quiet, cozy, 1 bedroom, 1 full bath w/ small kitchen/living room. Easy access to Mass Pike, parking, laundry on-site. No smoking, no pets. 413-543-3062.



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

**TWO BEDROOM APT.,** Bristol State Apts., 181 State Street, Ludlow. Central heat, AC. Includes stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer hookups. No smoking. No pets. 413-315-0368.

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

## TREE WORK

**DL & G TREE SERVICE.** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

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**SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR**  
**A&M TUNE-UPS**  
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.  
Work done at your home.  
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Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured  
413-213-5470

## Classified Advertising DEADLINES

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN	HILLTOWNS
FRIDAY AT NOON	MONDAY AT NOON

## HOME

# FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON  
or call: 413-283-8393 HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$27.00	Base Price \$27.50
22	Base Price \$28.50	Base Price \$29.00	Base Price \$29.50
23	Base Price \$30.50	Base Price \$31.00	Base Price \$31.50
24	Base Price \$32.50	Base Price \$33.00	Base Price \$33.50
25	Base Price \$34.50	Base Price \$35.00	Base Price \$35.50
26	Base Price \$36.50	Base Price \$37.00	Base Price \$37.50
27	Base Price \$38.50	Base Price \$39.00	Base Price \$39.50
28	Base Price \$40.50	Base Price \$41.00	Base Price \$41.50
29	Base Price \$42.50	Base Price \$43.00	Base Price \$43.50
30	Base Price \$44.50	Base Price \$45.00	Base Price \$45.50
31	Base Price \$46.50	Base Price \$47.00	Base Price \$47.50
32	Base Price \$48.50	Base Price \$49.00	Base Price \$49.50
33	Base Price \$50.50	Base Price \$51.00	Base Price \$51.50
34	Base Price \$52.50	Base Price \$53.00	Base Price \$53.50
35	Base Price \$54.50	Base Price \$55.00	Base Price \$55.50
36	Base Price \$56.50	Base Price \$57.00	Base Price \$57.50
37	Base Price \$58.50	Base Price \$59.00	Base Price \$59.50
38	Base Price \$60.50	Base Price \$61.00	Base Price \$61.50
39	Base Price \$62.50	Base Price \$63.00	Base Price \$63.50
40	Base Price \$64.50	Base Price \$65.00	Base Price \$65.50

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

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

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**  
Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**  
Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):  
 Quabbin  
 Suburban  
 Hilltowns

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

# The Dance Studio recognized with multiple awards at the Fly Dance Competition



WILBRAHAM — The Dance Studio owner Angela Vital-Martowski said, “Our team’s focus is not to dance to win but to dance as an art.” Improving from year to year and striving to be better is a goal that each dancer wants for themselves and for their team. However, it is more about mastering the art of dance and having fun than winning competitions.

“When we enter competitions and come home with awards it is an acknowledgment that we are becoming better dancers, artists and performers,” she said.

The Dance Studio dancers attended the Regional Fly Dance Competition in West Springfield, held March 31 – April 2. Their goal of focusing on the enjoyment of dance and self-improvement paid off when their overall group won multiple awards. A few of the dances that Vital-Martowski’s students won awards for were, “Watch Me Glow”, “Water”, “Strut”, “Queen B”, “Blame it on the Beat”, “Oh, so quiet”, “Runaway baby” and “Royals”, all received 1st place Elite Platinum awards at Elite

Performance Challenge and senior Nicole Vazquez Garcia, received a title award, overall winner of the weekend, from Fly Dance awards. Their team also received three special awards “Novice Knock-out”, “Creative Choreography”, and “Sophisticated Style”.

Winning competitions such as these just reinforces the goal of Vital-Martowski and her teachers to focus their students on dance as an art-form, for the beauty, grace, entertainment and teamwork they learn. And the greatest reward for the students is knowing their hard work and dedication paid off!

This philosophy of dance has worked for over 20 years. The Dance Studio has students that have started dance classes as young tots and continued to dance throughout their teen years and beyond, growing in confidence and creating lasting friendships. Some have gone on to dance in college and professionally or have become teachers themselves and others dance as adults to remain fit and just for the pure enjoyment

of it! Angela is proud of her teaching team, all of whom have degrees in dance education and the students they have had the privilege of working with over the past 23 years.

# Upcoming adult programming at the Wilb. Public Library

WILBRAHAM – The following events will occur in the coming weeks at the Wilbraham Public Library at Crane Park Drive.

## Wilbraham library’s Classics Book Club to tackle “Middlemarch”

The Classics Book Club at the Wilbraham library will be discussing George Eliot’s masterpiece, “Middlemarch”, on Wednesday, Aug. 23 at 6 p.m. in the Brooks Room. “Middlemarch” is about life in an English village in the 1830s, and the stories of the village’s memorable characters intersect throughout. Readers can pick up a copy of the classic for Sept. 27: “The Grapes of Wrath”, by John Steinbeck.

## History Book Club to End the Summer with “Freedom Summer”

The American History Book Club will be talking about what happened in Mississippi during the civil rights movement in 1964. Bruce Watson’s book, “Freedom Summer: The Savage Season That Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy”, covers the violence that voting registers faced from Southern racists and the KKK in the summer of 1964. Freedom Summer also conveys the courage and persistence of black and white volunteers who tried to get America to live up to its promise of equality. The discussion will take place in the Brooks Room at 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 28. The book for the next meeting, scheduled for Monday, Sept. 25, will be available: “Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President”, by Candace Millard.

## Cookbook Book Club Going Meatless in September

The Cookbook Book Club at the Wilbraham library will meet on Monday, Sept. 11 in the Brooks Room at 6:30 pm to share vegetarian dishes from the book “Vegan Vegetarian Omnivore: Dinner for Everyone at the Table”, by Anna Thomas.

With dishes inspired by the vibrant produce of farmers’ markets and private gardens, Vegan Vegetarian Omnivore shows us how to navigate a world of change and bring all our friends and family together at one big, generous table.

## Important Political Music

Bring your lawn chairs to the library for an important outdoor concert given by singer-songwriter and jazz musician Pamela Means on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. Pamela’s political music has been compared to a cross between Suzanne Vega and Jimi Hendrix. Even Neil Young has given her positive reviews. Her performance should be both entertaining and informative, and it comes at an important time. Register for this event on the library website: [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org).

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of August 25, 2023 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:  
Vehicle: 2000 Volkswagen Beetle  
VIN: 3VWBC21C84M12804  
COLOR: Yellow  
LKO: Madeline Cortez  
112 Lyons St  
Indian Orchard MA 01151  
R & S Assoc. Inc.  
Wilbraham MA 01095  
413-596-4374  
08/10, 08/17, 08/24/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103

## (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1682EA Estate of: Mary Lee Russell Date of Death: 02/12/2005 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Robert W. Russell of Wilbraham, 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: Robert W. Russell of Wilbraham, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal 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 09/06/2023.

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 09, 2023  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
08/17/2023

Notice The Massachusetts State Lottery Commission (MSLC) has received a KENO License application from:

Via Appia Ristorante  
2133 Boston Road  
Wilbraham, MA  
Estimated weekly traffic: (number of people): 500.

Current No. of Cashier positions selling Lottery products: 0

Percentage of floor space currently devoted to Lottery sales: 0%

Percentage of floor space for KENO sales: 5%

Estimated annual gross revenues of current Lottery products: \$0.

Estimated percentage of gross revenues from sales of Lottery products: 7%

Estimated net income to be derived from sales of KENO products at this location: \$6,000.

If you object to these

agent(s) receiving a monitor, you must do so, in writing, within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of this letter. If applicable, please address your written objection to the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, Legal Department, 150 Mount Vernon Street, Dorchester, MA 02125 and send via email to [cporsche@masslottery.com](mailto:cporsche@masslottery.com) or by mail. Should you have any questions regarding this program or any other issues relative to the Lottery, please call the Lottery’s General Counsel, Greg Polin, at 781-917-6057 or via email at [gpolin@masslottery.com](mailto:gpolin@masslottery.com). We look forward to working with you as the Lottery continues its efforts to support the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth.  
08/17/2023

# Join the fun – at the Bushels of Fun Fest!

WILBRAHAM — Are you feeling FESTive? The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors are excited to be bringing “Bushels of Fun Fest” to the surrounding communities on Aug. 27 at Fern Valley Farms, 758 Main St., Wilbraham across from Rice Fruit Farm. This one-day event is sure to be a fantastic celebration of music by “One Was Johnny” and “DRB” Bands.

Over 20 crafters from around the region and local farms will be selling their fresh picked produce. Food Trucks will offer sweet and savory delights, and Fieldcrest Brewing Company will be serving their “Made in Wilbraham” Craft Beer! Batch Ice Cream will also be on hand!

Fest goers can browse and buy many handmade products including unique carvings, art, jewelry and more! There will be three opportunities to test your skills at the Cornhole Tournaments- and maybe take home a trophy. Take your shot at the Disc Golf contest or learn all about the many Community Partners... maybe even get a relaxing chair massage or partake in the standing yoga session! A raffle will offer chances to win a \$500 Lotto Scratch Ticket Basket and a Sports

themed Raffle with prizes from a signed Boston Bruins puck to a one-year family membership to Scantic Valley YMCA, to Swag basket from Springfield Thunderbirds, and two- hour long Massages!

There’s also a contest to guess the number of apples in our bushels of apples.

To service Veterans, our local Veterans agent Jered Sasen will be present with the Mobile Veterans Center to provide Veterans with immediate on-site services. If you know a Veteran, pass along the info!

Children can enjoy lawn games, crafts, face painting, temporary tattoos, sit for storytime, get a free book to take home, take a ride on the farm tractor or hop on the 1930 Firetruck for a picture! Also, look around for the Springfield Thunderbirds BOOMER, or the Fest mascot “Appletonia”, they’ll be ready for photo ops!

This event runs from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., on the over 80 Acre Fern Valley Farms. The fest is held rain or shine, and you can bring your lawn chairs or blankets. Coolers or backpacks are not allowed. There will be a \$5 parking donation. Proceeds from this event will help fund programs, services & support the new Senior Center.

Bushels of Fun Fest is a community event with Fun for everyone. For more information check out their website BushelsOfFunFest.com or call either Maria Cacula 413-250-1928 or Chuck Pelouze 413-596 5089.

# STCC, MassHire partner to offer free CNC training in September

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield Technical Community College and the MassHire Workforce System have partnered to offer no-cost training that can open the door to a career in advanced manufacturing.

Funded by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, the training begins Sept. 11 at STCC. Participants will learn to operate CNC machinery in the state-of-the-art lab at Springfield Technology Park.

The training, which runs through Dec. 19, is open to those who are unemployed or underemployed (working part-time or making less than \$17 per hour). Classes are scheduled Mondays through Thursdays, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Participants must be 18 or older, have a high school diploma, GED or HiSET completion, among other requirements. Two-week prerequisite training is required before starting the program. For more information, including full applicant training requirements, visit [stcc.io/cnc](http://stcc.io/cnc).

“This no-cost training program provides an excellent opportunity to learn the fundamentals to begin a career pathway that can lead to becoming a CNC machinist or tool maker,” said Larry Martin, Director of Labor Market Research and Business Services for the Hampden County Workforce Board.

Gladys Franco, Assistant Vice President for Workforce Development at STCC, said, “We are excited to partner with MassHire to help people get trained for in-demand jobs with competitive wages and benefits. The CNC training will help people get a foot in the door.

Springfield-area advanced manufacturing businesses have positions available, but they often tell us they need us to help candidates learn the skills required to get hired.”

Participants will train on CNC machines used in manufacturing and also in STCC academic programs. STCC offers a two-year associate degree program in Mechanical Engineering Technology and a one-year certificate in CNC operations.

STCC faculty will teach the classes offered at no cost this fall. Trainees will learn blueprint reading, shop math, precision measuring tools and how to operate CNC machinery.

“This is a terrific opportunity for people who are unemployed or underemployed, because the labor pool is dry right now,” said Thomas Minor, a professor and coordinator of the MET program. “The MET program has more job opportunities than we are able to fill with our day and night students. These aren’t just jobs, they are high-paying careers with benefits and upward mobility.”

Upon completion of the 15-week training, participants must actively seek full-time employment. Participants might consider enrolling in an STCC program while working, Minor said.

“Some of our students work full-time while pursuing a degree or certificate,” Minor said. “We offer flexibility in our programs to help them succeed.”

For more information about free CNC operator training, visit [stcc.io/cnc](http://stcc.io/cnc) or contact Larry Martin at (413) 755-1361 or [lmartin@masshirehcbw.com](mailto:lmartin@masshirehcbw.com).

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**291 Moody St., Ludlow, MA**  
**413-800-6022**

Celebrating Over  
20 Years of Dance!



*The Dance Studio*

Classes Start  
Sept. 11th!

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL CLASSES!

OPEN HOUSE Thursday, September 7th 5-7pm

In person registration every Tuesday 5-7pm

Family and Multi-class Discount  
1 hour classes, 90 minute recitals  
Professional Adult College Educated Instructors

Classes for Toddler through Adult

Classical Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Musical Theater Dance, Modern/Contemporary, Pre-dance, Ballet Fairy Tales, Combo Classes, Street Hip-Hop, Break Dance and Funk, Competition & Performance Team Toddler Class

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