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West Girls take Bay State Games
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WPL director retires after 32 years

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Library Director Karen Ball is officially retiring after 32 years of service to the community.

A Retirement Open House with coffee and donuts will be held on Friday, Aug. 29, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for the community to express best wishes to Ball on her last day.

Ball explained she's retiring to care for her father.

Ball began her career at the library as a part-time library assistant, with her first job pulling the card sets from the old card catalog from books being deleted and adding card sets for new books coming in.

"I used to check books before they went out for overdue notices. We don't do that anymore in person, that now happens automatically



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers
Wilbraham Public Library Director Karen Ball is officially retiring after 32 years serving the town of Wilbraham at the library. INSET: A throwback photo of Karen Ball working the circulation desk at the Wilbraham Public Library back in 1993.



through CWMARS," Ball said. "Certainly, the Internet

changed a lot. We no longer have the type of reference

Please see **RETIREES**, page 3

School Committee reviews Select Board meet proposal

Invite to be extended to Hampden Selectboard

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The School Committee reviewed a request to meet with the Select Board during their Aug. 21 meeting.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost read a letter dated Aug. 14 from Select Board Chair Michael Squindo, which explained the meeting would be "to discuss the budget process for FY27."

"Specifically, the Select Board wants to understand how the School Committee views the impact on the budget process following the document issued by DESE dated March 25. This is the document on which Wilbraham Town Counsel Brian Winner provided his opinion to the Select Board," Provost read. "The main question is how does the School Committee intend to seek input and guidance from the Finance Committee prior to providing an

assessment figure to member communities."

Another request concerning discussing the capital planning process "for both district properties and town-owned properties."

"The Select Board and Finance Committee have concerns about capital projects for the district properties as to whether or not they will be discussed with them or simply presented as a figure," Provost read. "They also want to discuss the process for consideration of for town-owned properties, especially regarding the accuracy of cost estimates and, in particular cases, the efficacy or other ramifications of the projects themselves."

The requested meeting, Provost read on, would be for mid-September.

Vice Chair Sean Kennedy said he had no problem meeting or talking with the board.

"How we deal with FinCom, I mean, that's been an ongoing evolution, but it seems like there's this idea in Wilbraham town governance we just, 'Here's our

Please see **PROPOSAL**, page 8

Retired town employees honored at SB meeting

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard and state legislators honored recently retired town employees on Aug. 18.

Those honored included Town Accountant Cliff Bombard, Board of Health Director Jane Budynkiewicz, and Police Sgt. Michael Cooney.

Police Chief Scott Trombly, who retired last month after over three decades of service, was recognized as well. However, he was unable to attend the meeting due to being on vacation.

State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow) and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) were also in attendance

to hand out citations from the state.

Chair John Flynn explained how the town has "been fortunate over the years to have people that have really dedicated their lives to serving the town as neighbors."

"I have three individuals in front of me right now that I'm proud to call friends and friends to everybody in town," Flynn said.

Flynn said Bombard served as the town accountant for 53 years.

"Never a dime out of place. My gosh, he has been commended by the state for accuracy, for the free cash, just doing a terrific job," Flynn said. "I can't believe he's finally stepping down. Seri-



Photo courtesy of John Flynn

From the left, Ret Police Sgt. Michael Cooney, State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Selectboard Member Don Davenport, Ret. Town Accountant Cliff Bombard, Ret. Board of Health Director Jane Budynkiewicz, Selectboard Chair John Flynn, Selectboard Member Erik Vanderleeden and State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow) in a group photo.

ously. You were here when dad was here."

On Cooney, Flynn shared he grew up in town and "brought service back to

Hampden."

"Anybody—this is going to sound weird—anybody who was ever pulled over by Mike knew he wanted to

find out why first. How can I help you?" Flynn said. "He was the embodiment of community policing, which was great because he learned from

some of the guys, George Stone, etc. It's like find out

Please see **EMPLOYEES**, page 13

Ready to Spar



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan
Allison Pettengill teaches basic long swordsmanship.

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Patrons making their way into the library on Aug. 19 stopped short at the sight of a group of teens wielding 40-inch aluminum swords on the library lawn.

They were learning the basics of German long-swords, a historical European martial art. Instructor Allison Pettengill, of Monson, demonstrated grips, stances, cuts and blocks using the longswords.

Longsword fighting, with origins in medieval Germany, is a lost art, explained Pettengill.

"Once Europeans discovered gunpowder they

Please see **SPAR**, page 8

Federated Community Church of Hampden welcomes new pastor

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Federated Community Church of Hampden has recently welcomed its new pastor, Eunji Lee, to town.

Since arriving in Hampden, Lee has made visits to the fire and police departments, the post office and the senior center, with plans to visit the Town House soon.

Residents will also have the opportunity to meet Lee during an upcoming Celebration Sunday Cookout at the church on Sunday, Sept. 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lee explained how the denomination transfers pastors to different locations every couple of years and it's her first time serving as pastor of

a church after graduating from the Boston University School of Theology in May.

"I have been praying for my church for a long time and I just kept asking God, 'What is your plan where I should be.' But, I think God led me to be here. I have been discovering why God put me here—so positive ways—so it's been really good," Lee said. "It's good to be here."

She also expressed excitement about exploring more of the town, having recently visited The Bagel Nook and other local establishments.

"I've enjoyed getting to know people, my church and I think the neighbors are kind

and friendly, so I feel really welcomed by this community," Lee said.

Lee was surprised by how proactive the church members are in "trying to reach out to others and help each other and be together for the joys, for the concerns together."

Also, for their support, sharing how the members helped her during a graveside service after her arrival and during Sunday services.

"I think I learned so many things, how they build community between people—not only for the church—but out-

Please see **PASTOR**, page 13



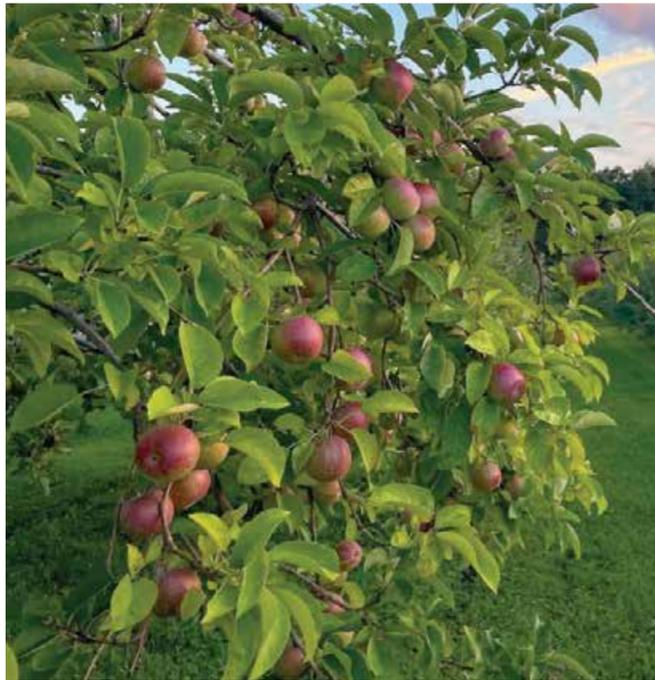
Pastor Eunji Lee



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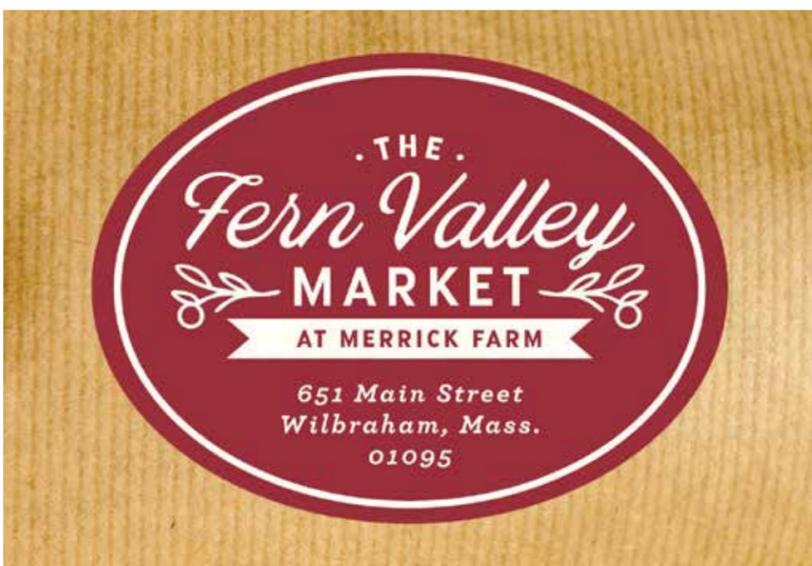
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'Treasures from the Attic' at Old Meeting House Museum Sept. 7

Curious items had been 'stashed away' in the museum attic for years

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

WILBRAHAM – When the Wilbraham Atheneum Society unveils their "Treasures from the Attic" exhibit for 2025, at their Sunday, Sept. 7 Open House from 2 to 4 p.m., it will be highlighting a mystery within a mystery.

Last season, after a few years dominated by the Covid Pandemic, the local history museum's curator, Lucy Peltier, assisted by trustee Marty Lyman, created a stir among history buffs and curious locals by digging into the museum's attic storage space and bringing out for display historical items so old, most people didn't know what it was used for.

"After museum visitors found out what the historical item was used, for back in Wilbraham's early days," said Peltier. "It all made sense,"

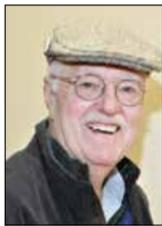
she said.

Peltier, The Old Meeting House Museum's chief curator, past president and treasurer came up with the idea last season for an interesting exhibit to show off at the museum's September Open House. It will be repeated again this year on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Open House at the museum at 450 Main Street will feature artifacts from the Wilbraham Atheneum Society's collections that have rarely, if ever, been displayed. (The Atheneum Society oversees the town-owned museum.)

"We are going to do it again this year, but with all newly discovered objects, and we have added a new series of mystery questions called the 'Historical Wilbraham Trivia Contest.'"

The questions were put together by historian David Bourcier, president of the Board of Trustees of the Atheneum Society. And the organization's Vice President Karen Geaghan will emcee the trivia contest. Here are several samples of trivia questions that attendees will be asked:



Charlie Bennett



Do you know what this antique was used for?...

Which famous General transported artillery to support General Washington during the Revolutionary War, following a route that roughly traced the Old Boston Post Road through North Wilbraham around January 15 or 16, 1776?

What year did the first Massachusetts Turnpike pass through the town of Wilbraham? NOTE: This could be a stump question because most people would say 1957, when the last Massachusetts Turnpike opened, which also passes through Wilbraham.

You will have to come to the Sept. 7 Open House to find out the answers.

Can You Guess?

Echoing old Yankee Magazine articles that test if people can identify what a historical item is used for, the open house will also feature a "Can you guess what this is?" display of unusual items. Visitors are invited to guess the purpose and function of these items that used to be common, but are now unfamiliar to many, according to Peltier.

Museum Schedule

For the past several seasons the Museum, has held guest talks nearby at the Wilbraham & Monson Chapel or at the Wilbraham Library. But this season the open houses have come back home to Sundays at the Old Meeting House, built in 1794 as the first Methodist meeting house in New England.

The Sept. 7 event follows previous open houses featuring Rich Howell, historical re-enactor and Kristin Rivers, editor of the Wilbraham-Hampden Times who

demonstrated that newspapering is the first draft of history. The July 10 open house was the Ice Cream Social. The next open houses are as follows:

October 26 – "Early gravestone carvers of Wilbraham" by Derek Strahan. Have you ever wondered where families got their ideas as to what to put on a gravestone?

November 9 – Popular storyteller Dennis Picard will talk about the Hessians, mercenary soldiers for the British in the Revolutionary War.

December 7 – The popular Christmas Tree Festival where Wilbraham organizations decorate a Christmas Tree in their own unique style. An ice carver, holiday treats and kids activities.

The Atheneum Society was incorporated in 1963 as a non-profit organization by a group of concerned townspeople that include people like Charles and Llewlyn Merrick, Jesse Rice and Peter Ablondi. Their purpose was to form a permanent local group to preserve artifacts and memorabilia relating to the people and history of Wilbraham.

The Atheneum Gift Shop sells a number of Wilbraham history books. For more information about the Open Houses or the Museum, search "Old Meeting House Museum" on Facebook or Instagram.

Times Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Wilbraham Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society.

Charlie Bennett is a member of the Wilbraham Historical Commission and a Trustee of the Atheneum Society.



(Charles F. Bennett photo)

Do you know the story behind this stuffed pheasant that has been hiding in the Old Meeting Museum's attic for many years? Is there a connection to the old pheasant farm on Tinkham Road that is now Fountain Park?

RETIREES from page 1

collections that we did when I started in the '90s. Most of the reference sets are now available online, so a lot of that is more eBook-related and e-resources. Even magazines and newspapers, we used to keep five to 10 years worth of magazines for kids to do their reports. They would look in the old green Reader's Guide to Periodicals set that we used to have. All of the indexes are online and articles are online. Very different, physically."

Ball noted other changes over the years included renovations to the mezzanine level when Christine Bergquist was director, forming a one-service desk model and adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic through virtual programming and events; also expanding home delivery services and adding curbside pickup during that time.

On what inspired her to become a librarian, Ball shared she had worked at the Law School library at Western New England University as a student assistant and had originally planned to pursue math.

"I was waitlisted in this program that I wanted to go to for graduate school, so I needed a job that had health insurance right away and there was a part-time opening here that had opened up and since I had the library experience, I was intrigued. So, I went into that position thinking that it would be temporary and I would go into another program for math in the next academic year," Ball said. "But I loved it so much and all the people that were here. Paula Polk was the director at the time and she encouraged me to pursue library school, so I ended up

doing that."

After finishing her degree, a full-time position was created for an Adult Services Librarian, giving Ball the opportunity to utilize her campus activities experience for the role.

Becoming the director, meanwhile, came later on.

"When Chris retired in 2011, I actually hadn't applied for the job immediately. I was made the interim director," Ball said. "Things happened with the finalists and it didn't work out for them, so when the town was going back to the table to advertise again, I had decided to try it for real because I was doing it for a few months, and I never regretted the decision. It's been a great opportunity. I always tell people it's really rare you can have your whole career in libraries in one place. Usually, people start part-time in one place and then get a full-time position somewhere else, so this has been a really amazing opportunity for me to be in Wilbraham for over 30 years." Reflecting further, what's stayed with Ball most are the families she got to know, including those who were kids when she started and then came back with kids of their own. "It's been a great community," Ball said.

On what's most fulfilled her, it's the variety in library work from collection work and programming for the Adult Services Librarian to administration and strategic planning. Also, the budget process and opportunities for staffing and hiring.

"I've enjoyed building a good team and we have a lot of people with different talents that bring that for services," Ball said.

The biggest project she's proud of, though, is the StoryWalk, crediting Melissa Graves, DPW Director Tonya Capparello and Bill Sperrazza for their help.

"We have families that use it constantly. We have people that come and just walk their dogs, but it's a great use of the wooded space that we have near us that had not been used otherwise. So, it's a great walking trail," Ball said.

Also, the Board of Trustees and Hampden Master Gardener Toi Graham for improving the landscape around the library.

"I think everything at the library here is always a team effort," Ball said. "We always work together to make things happen."

She summed up her career this way: building on what's been done and taking it to the next level.

"I don't believe in legacy so much. I think that you do your best while you're in the position, but then when the next person comes around,

they should have full reign to do whatever they want," Ball said.

Ball expressed her gratitude to the community, the Friends of the Wilbraham Public Library, Board of Trustees and her staff.

"I've been so lucky to have a job that I love in a community that's been incredibly supportive over the years. I will definitely miss many people," Ball said. "I have a little card with my information and stuff. I'd like to stay in touch with some people. I read letters too, so I can be a pen pal."

Her message for her successor, Melissa Harter, was this.

"Enjoy it! This is a great town to work in. There are a lot of exciting things in libraries. I think it's a nice-size community to be able to explore new services. We certainly have historically been well-funded, so I think she'll have a lot of opportunities to try new things, and I hope she does," Ball said.

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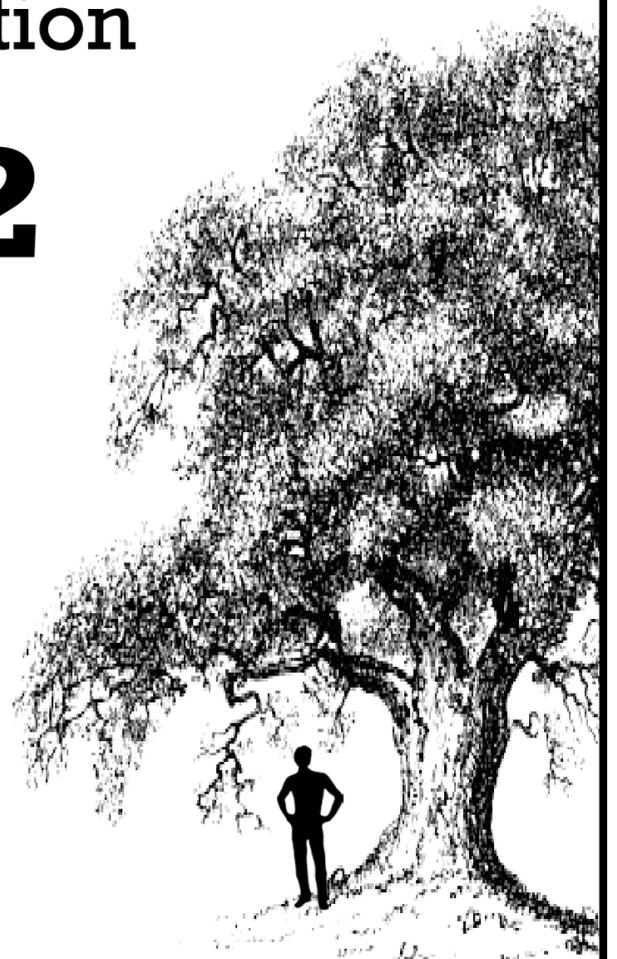
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INSURED AND CERTIFIED

New library director to begin Aug. 25

Melissa Harter is Head of Access Services at UMass

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – A new era is set to begin shortly at the Wilbraham Public Library.

After decades of service in the role, Library Director Karen Ball is set to retire from her position. The town's Select Board acknowledged her upcoming departure during its meeting on Monday, Aug. 11.

Town Administrator Nick Breault began his regular updates by letting residents know when they can say goodbye to Ball, who has served the community with excellence over the years.

"I'd like to remind the Select Board and public in general that our current library director Karen Ball will be working her final week the week of Aug. 25-29. If you want to come by and wish her well, I'd say hurry up and get there," Breault said.

Ball has worked at the Wilbraham Public Library for 32 years. Her retirement was announced in a library Facebook post in early April.

Breault also announced that Melissa Harter, of Granby, will follow in Ball's footsteps.

According to her LinkedIn page, Harter has served as Head of Access Services

at the University of Massachusetts Amherst since January 2024.

In the role, she has managed resources and planning while overseeing a team of 21 people. Harter has also worked actively with other department heads to library-wide problem solve, coordinate services and create partnerships.

Breault provided an update on when Harter will begin officially.

"For Melissa Harter, our new library director, the contract is going to be finally executed [on Aug. 12], and she plans to start on Monday, Aug. 25, which is what we had hoped for... That's moving along; I just wanted to let the Select Board know," Breault said.

Prior to her time at UMass, Harter worked for nearly a decade at the Noel Wien Public Library in Fairbanks, Ark.

For more than six-and-a-half years there, she was the library director. In the position, she led a team of 55 workers, engaging in developing and deploying a robust range of programs.

Harter also collected experience as a digital literacy librarian and automated services manager in Fairbanks, Alaska for about a year-and-a-half.

Patrons of the Wilbraham Public Library can rest easy knowing that their next library director brings to town a wealth of experience collected in library environments from coast to coast.

Wilbraham Select Board discusses potential goals

Municipal broadband and aggregation programs were discussed.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Select Board discussed its potential goals moving forward during the meeting that occurred on the evening of Aug. 11.

Vice Chair Marc Ducey helped introduce the item.

"I think we should probably come up with three or four or five of these," Ducey said. "I mean, how many goals are you comfortable with having? If you have too many, it's as bad as not having any... So, where do we start?"

Clerk Sue Bunnell noted that in terms of goals that impact their work, "three to five is probably as much as

we can handle, especially because it's late August."

Bunnell leaned toward prioritizing municipal broadband and aggregation.

Municipal broadband would involve bringing high-speed, reliable internet to the community, while aggregation entails local governments purchasing electricity on behalf of their community members from alternate suppliers for several reasons.

These reasons could involve lowering prices, creating more effective renewable energy content or stabilizing budgets.

Both ideas would need to be supported by residents at town meeting.

Bunnell acknowledged it might be difficult to tackle both items in the same town meeting.

"I don't know if I would look to do municipal aggregation and broadband in the same town meeting, so I suppose I would prioritize broadband over aggregation," she said.

Ducey expressed reserva-

tions about municipal aggregation. He recalled a memory from a long while ago.

"The one thing that immediately pops into mind when we did something similar to this is we tried to do it for trash removal – many, many years ago. It was a horrible deal and got voted down at town meeting. The whole point of it was let's get one provider in town and we can get a better deal for everybody, and it ended up being far more expensive," Ducey said.

Ducey presented multiple ideas of his own for board goals.

The primary one involved addressing a non-union compensation plan.

"I just think it's really important to do that now largely because we're entering contract years for unions. I think we need to take a look at that very closely," Ducey said.

Select Board Chair Michael Squindo said he didn't know enough about municipal aggregation to address that idea but added that he

certainly wouldn't want to see municipal broadband delayed. However, he pointed out that the town already has a municipal Broadband Committee.

"What's our immediate role versus their responsibility? I understand that the process right now is [getting the question to the state]," Squindo said. "I'm fine with that being a goal, and I think it's a very easy initial step, but the destination is a little trickier."

Squindo said at one point that there were 13 possible goals, and 9 of them are non-budget specific. Then it appeared they narrowed it down to six goals.

"These are just concepts at this point, so I think we can vet what these goals become," Squindo noted.

Ducey said he hoped to finalize the list of goals at the next meeting on Monday, Aug. 25.

More information about the Select Board's goals will appear in a future edition of the Wilbraham-Hampden Times.

Theatre Guild of Hampden celebrating 20 Years with gala

HAMPDEN - The Theatre Guild of Hampden will mark 20 years in a gala event at the Country Club of Wilbraham on Sept. 14.

The event takes place from 5 to 9 p.m.

The evening will include hors d'oeuvres, a cocktail hour, music by Kyle Langlois, raffles, surprise performances from local theater actors, including Ally Reardon and

Anna Giza, who've performed with the guild over the years, tributes to Tracey Hebert and Beau Reardon and more.

Attendees are encouraged to dress to impress.

Tickets are \$50 per person and tables reserved for eight are \$375 and they can be purchased online at theatreguildofhampden.org or by calling Mark Giza at 413-204-5333.

Luncheon Card & Game Party Luncheon Sept. 25

WILBRAHAM - Fall into Fun at the Luncheon Card & Game Party sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club on Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham.

Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with a delicious luncheon served at Noon. Bring friends and come to play any game of your choice (dom-

inoes, mahjong, bridge, canasta, scrabble, etc.).

Donation is \$10 and there will be a raffle for cash prizes. Proceeds help to fund our scholarships and donations to charitable organizations in the area.

For reservations, please call Sue Agnew, 596-9480. Hope you will join us for a fun afternoon.

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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

How do I apply for Social Security and receive my payments?

Dear Rusty:

I'm ready to apply for my Social Security benefits, and I'm aware of how my benefits are calculated. What I would like to know about is how the application process actually works and how my benefits are received.

Signed: Ready to Collect

Dear Ready to Collect:

Essentially, you have two main options for applying for Social Security benefits, and also two separate options for receiving your payments:

To apply for benefits, you can either contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make a telephone appointment to complete your application while speaking to an SSA representative on the phone or you can submit your application for SS benefits online.

When using the telephone option, you will be guided by an SSA agent while completing your application and can discuss your benefit options directly with that agent, just be sure to be available to receive SSA's call at the scheduled time. You can also make an appointment by calling your local SS field office directly get the number for your local SS office at this link: www.ssa.gov/locator. It is not usually necessary to visit your local SSA office in person to apply.

If you are reasonably proficient with computers, you can, instead, apply online, but you will first need to create your personal SSA account online at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you will be able to see your estimated benefit amount at different claim ages, which should help you decide when it is best to apply. Here is a short video which explains the process for applying for benefits online: https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm.

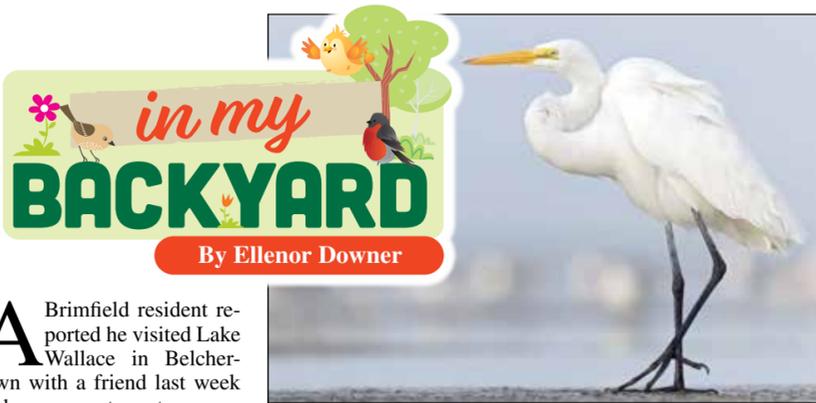
If applying online, you can start your online application at www.ssa.gov/apply and re-access it multiple times as needed until you are ready to submit it; just be sure to write down the "reentry code," which is provided when you begin your online applica-

tion.

When you are ready to submit the application, just select "Submit" and your application will be sent to SSA's application processing unit for review. They will contact you if there are any questions about your application or if any additional documentation is needed. Note that it typically takes a couple of months for your payments to start and note that payment is made in the month following the month earned. For example, if you begin your benefits in August your first payment will be received in September on either the second, third or fourth Wednesday of each month thereafter, depending on your birthday.

For receiving your monthly SS payments: you will (on you application) be able to specify how you wish your monthly payments to be made. The preferred option used by most beneficiaries is to have your monthly Social Security payment deposited into a financial (e.g., bank) account, details for which you will specify when applying. However, you can also choose to receive your monthly payments in the form of a debit card called "Direct Express," which will be replenished monthly. If you choose to have your payment deposited in your bank account, be sure to have your bank account information ready when you apply. Note that Social Security no longer issues payments via printed checks except in rare circumstances.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



A Brimfield resident reported he visited Lake Wallace in Belchertown with a friend last week and saw a great egret.

They also saw a great blue heron, at least three green herons, a few Phoebes and an Eastern kingbird. There were also several ducks, mallards and wood ducks. The two male wood ducks were in eclipse plumage.

The great egret is slightly smaller than the great blue heron, but they are still large birds with an impressive wingspan. They hunt in the classic heron way standing immobile or wading through water to capture fish with their bill. At one point, egrets were hunted to near extinction for their feathers for hat decoration. The great egret is the symbol of the National Audubon Society.

Rivalry among nestlings is common and the larger chicks frequently kill their smaller siblings. The great egret is white with a yellow bill and black legs. During breeding, a patch of skin on its face turns neon green and long plumes grow from its back called aigrettes. These aigrettes were prized for ladies hats.

Great egrets fly slowly, but powerfully with just two wingbeats per second at a speed of about 25 miles per hour. The oldest known Great Egret was 22 years, 10 months old and was banded in Ohio.

Eagle sighting

A New Braintree resident and a friend went bass fishing on Brooks Pond in North Brookfield in a canoe recently. Half way out on the pond, they started to hear the seagull like calls of an eagle. As they rounded a little peninsula on the left side up in the top of a broken pine was a large eagle's nest.

The broken pine made a perfect platform for them to build a nest. They then saw the two mature adult pair with their white heads on a stump near the water. Up in the pine near the nest were two juvenile eagles, all dark brown. They weren't flying, but just squeaking for food.

They actually looked quite big for baby eagles. His friend said it was because they still had their fluffy feathers and developing new feathers.

They fished nearby and watched them hop around. They seemed unbothered by them being about 60 feet from the shore of the peninsula. Eventually the two adult

eagles flew off probably in search of a meal for their big babies. So neat to be able to see eagles fairly common now in Massachusetts.

Male cardinal

I received this email, "I was just walking the dog after dark and my flashlight came upon this guy (male cardinal). I have seen him every night since. We just stare at each other for a few seconds and say good night."

Loon census

The Loon Preservation Committee reported on Saturday, July 19 from 8-9 a.m., 566 volunteers simultaneously surveyed 135 lakes across New Hampshire for loons. Together, they counted 541 adult loons and 109 loon chicks during the census hour. The New Hampshire loon census is part of a larger regional effort. While N.H. participants were out surveying for loons on their lakes, hundreds of volunteers in Maine, Vermont, and New York were doing the same. This simultaneous survey of so many lakes helps create a "snapshot in time" of not just the loon population here in New Hampshire, but across the Northeast.

Helping birds

A reader from South Hadley suggested I include a section about ways to help birds. She even provided several tips for future columns. Some people also continue to put out suet and that is so dangerous. It gets rancid in the heat and that's bad for birds. Perhaps even worse, it gets their feet and chest feathers greasy and when the preen, they spread the grease all over their bodies. This interferes with a bird's natural waterproofing and can also cause their nestling to be covered in grease.

Sandhill cranes

An Oakham resident saw two sandhill cranes in Barre on Aug. 14 in a field across from the Listening Center. Sandhill cranes also visit his field in Oakham as well.

Warren birds

The Brimfield resident said, "In Warren this week there are still adult ospreys about, on two visits I saw and

adult on or near the nest. I have not seen a juvenile out of the nest so am not sure if any young fledged this year. I saw one chick in the nest earlier this summer and there is an eBird report from July with a picture of a fully grown chick in the nest with an adult. It's unknown if the chick fledged successfully?" In Warren at the pond on New Reed Street the past several years I had seen Great Egrets there in August but none have been seen there this year.

Cedar waxwings

The Brimfield resident in referring to recent mention in this column about cedar waxwings, said a large part of their diet is fruit based. He read an article that stated that because their diet is mostly fruit based that if a waxwing nest is parasitized by a brown-headed cowbird the cowbird chick is not likely to survive because it can't survive on the fruit based diet.

I visited the section of Ware River recently where my daughter has seen cedar waxwings and I was not disappointed. I stood and watched them fly over the water and into nearby trees. They moved so quickly I was unsuccessful in watching them through binoculars.

Bird bath

The Brimfield resident reports the bird bath in his yard is getting lots of use, especially by catbirds and blue jays. Goldfinch show up and drink from the drip as well as black-capped chickadees, chipping sparrows and house finches.

Four juvenile raccoons are regular visitors to the bird bath. He has a trail camera near the bird bath and it captures lots of pictures of the raccoons in the bird bath. Not sure what they are doing, it doesn't look like they are drinking and sometime the stones in the bath are moved around. A couple of times he's seen a pickerel frog in the bird bath.

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

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM



EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

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www.turley.com

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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.

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.



Rust is no joke

This time of year I always get a few questions from gardeners who wonder what type of disease is afflicting their treasured hollyhocks.

Sadly, it's affecting mine too. Read on for more information on this malady.

Two years ago I planted Hollyhock seeds indoors. The plants grew wonderfully that first year with nice deep green basal foliage.

Being biennial in nature, year two is when they came into their glory with incredibly beautiful pink flowers on towering six to seven

foot spikes. Now it's year three – a gift when biennials are concerned.

The plants started out fine and then I noticed a few raised orange-brown spots on the leaves. By season's end, the plants are pale in color and covered with the rusty orange spots.

Most of the lower foliage has been destroyed and has dropped to the ground.

My hollyhocks are suffering from a fungal problem by the name of rust. It first appears as waxy orange blisters, known as "pustules" on the undersides of the lower most foliage. On the surface of the leaves small, orange-yellow spots form.

Please see **GARDEN**, page 10



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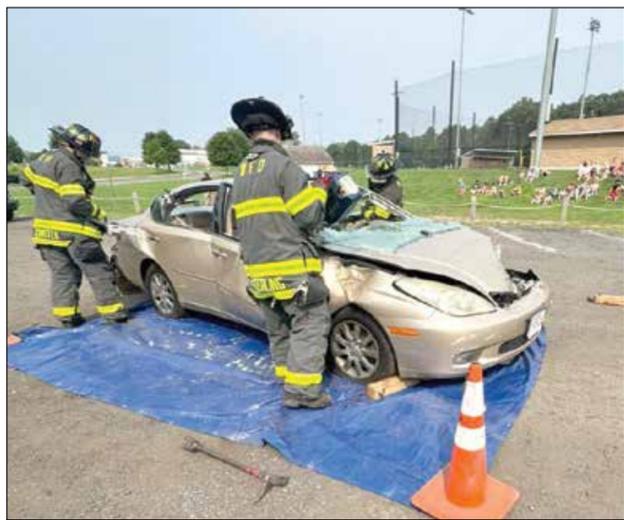
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Life in

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

WFD visits Spec Pond Day Camp



Photos and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department
Exciting morning at Spec Pond Day Camp. Members of the Wilbraham Fire Department paid a visit, performing a Jaws of Life demonstration and sharing crucial fire safety tips, including the safe usage of lithium batteries used to power our everyday devices. A big thank you to Luzi Towing for providing a car for our demonstration.

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Submitted photo and caption Barbara Rosas

1,000 books before Kindergarten

Jacob Quinones is the latest Hampden Free Public Library patron to read 1,000 books before kindergarten!



Submitted photo and caption Kate Rumpalik

Local book group donates to WPL



Submitted photo and caption Karen Ball

Bilingual Storytime kicks off!

Bilingual Storytime kicked off at the Wilbraham library on Aug. 1. 11 children signed up. Bilingual Storytime is led by local volunteer Brooklyn Rosas, Wilbraham resident and incoming Junior at Minnechaug. She's assisted by her mother, Barbara Rosas, and her sisters Brielle and Camila. The picture also shows Jason Dimitropolis, Wilbraham firefighter and his girls, Vada and Ettie.

A local book group, The Wild Women Book Group, lost one of their members, Joy Hibsher, in February. They decided to honor their friend with a donation to the Wilbraham Public Library to purchase materials for three book club kits that other groups may use. As Joy Hibsher was interested in social justice and women's issues, the titles that were purchased deal with those subjects. Two of the kits are available for loan now - "The Ride of Her Library: The True Story of a Woman, Her Horse, and Their Last-Chance Journey Across America," by Elizabeth Letts and "I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity," by Izzeldin Abuelaish. When the paperback of "The Women," by Kristin Hannah is released, another book club kit will be added.

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SPAR from Page 1

stopped handing down martial arts traditions," Pettengill said.

As a result, there are no actual swordmasters anymore and fighting techniques must be reconstructed from old illustrated texts.

Pettengill showed the teens a facsimile copy of Bauman's "Fight Book," a colorful 16th-century German fencing manual.

"We can learn from this," Pettengill said. "But a lot of information is missing. We have to do it to figure out what they are actually talking about. How does it work?"

She also brought along instructions in verse written by German longsword master Sigmund Ainingrck.

"He wrote in rhyme to help his students remember," Pettengill said.

One of Ainingrck's verses reads: "Toward head and body forth you race. The skirmish you should then embrace."

Alongside the growth of LARPing, cosplay and historical reenactments, there has been a recent revival of historic European martial arts, called HEMA, including longsword fighting.

"A lot has been learned in the last 30 years," said Pettengill said.

She learned to use a longsword in middle school and has since launched an enterprise, called Castle Nitor, with the goal of buying land and building a cooperative community of flexible housing for people who are passionate about history.

Pettengill and her group now offer historical craft classes as well as longsword instruction.

"I love to get hands-on with history," Pettengill said. "If history is just names, dates and facts it's boring. This is fun and fascinating. We have the physical activity, but also

the challenge of learning from the historical texts."

Reed Libbey of Hampden, who is entering sixth grade, came to the class because of his interest in swords.

"I've always found them exciting," Libbey said. "I have Scottish heritage and I've always heard how the Scots are so strong and tough."

By the end of the two-hour session, Libbey learned enough longsword techniques to spar with fellow participants.

Pettengill told the teens: "Never move forward with your body first when you're cutting. It's a really, really bad idea. Follow the sword as you make the cut."



Pettengill shows Juliana Vargas a thrust.



Jack Bolduc wields his longsword.



An illustration from a medieval longsword text.

"It's awesome when they get into it," said Rachel Hapgood, teen services/young adult librarian. "It's cool how much they learn."

Hapgood picked up a sword herself and practiced fight stances and cuts.

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

The first two teen events at the WPL for the fall will be a Watercolor Workshop on Sept. 2 at 5:30 pm and the first meeting of the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) on Sept. 15 at 4 pm. Register online at wil-

brahamlibrary.org or call 413-596-6141.



Reed Libbey focuses on sword instruction.



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan
Colin Paige finishes a cut.



Drake Cafarelli and Reed Libbey's swords are "in a bind," the moment in combat when blades meet.

PROPOSAL from page 1

capital projects. We're just going to throw them out at you and you guys have to fund them or it's going to go on the budget.' We have several conversations back and forth—right?—I mean, we have meetings with Capital, we have meetings with FinCom to see what we can do? Here's what we'd like to do this year. What can we do this year?" Kennedy said. "Here's what we put as tier one, tier two. I mean, we divided up so many different ways."

Michael Tirabassi agreed with Kennedy.

"I'm starting to get the feeling like we show up with the bill, right? And nobody likes the people who show up with the bill, and we have the biggest bill for each town. Each town contributes well more than half of their tax revenue to the school district—which is wonderful that they prioritize the kids and they support the kids and we have a phenomenal

school district. Wilbraham, in particular, which was just recently recognized as a really great place to live not just on the state scale, on the national scale—and schools have been a huge part of that kind of stuff," Tirabassi said. "But, costs go up. There's an increase every year. I would love nothing more than to present to FinCom, present to the Select Board, 'Hey, guess what guys? No change in the budget this year.' I think most of us would love to present that, but it's not reality."

He added one disconnect he's realized is capital is talked about during the fall "because we don't have the numbers for the operating budget until we hear from the states and all that kind of stuff."

Also, members for the Capital Review Committee haven't been picked yet around that time.

"All we can do, I think, is try to be as open and transparent as we can," Tirabassi said. "Remember that they're our neighbors and work together



to do the best we can to advocate for the kids, but also to advocate for the taxpayers by doing what we can to keep costs under control."

Kennedy added the committee also works hard on accuracy for cost projections, noting the replacement of seating in the alumni stadium as an example which was put forward 9 years ago.

"If we spend the time to really update every single quote every year to get it so it's ready to go, it's a lot of

energy and a lot of time. So, we do try to come up with accuracy," Kennedy said. "But I do understand that frustration, but still it's the nature, unfortunately, of the beast."

Tirabassi added the meeting should be "a working meeting" with an agenda of items to be discussed and engaged in discussion. Also, to invite the Hampden Selectboard after they meet with Wilbraham.

After Rich Rediker shared his interpretation of the request, Chair Michal Boudreau offered her thoughts next, referencing Squindo's letter.

"It stated asking about what the budget process for FY27 was going to look like.

So, that sounds like a conversation to be had because we are partners with both towns and then asking, also, how does the School Committee intend to seek guidance from Finance Committee and Capital. Again, understanding the process before we embark upon the budget season. Making sure that we are transparent. Making sure that we're on the same page," Boudreau said. "So, I think it really is important for us to be in more regular conversation and communication and transparent with the governing bodies in both towns and determining what do we want our process to look like."

Boudreau also emphasized looking at what can be done better for this process.

"What does that look like? What will our ask be? How would you like this handled when we present bids on something. What is the process going to look like," Boudreau said.

After Provost brought up Hampden and Kennedy agreed to include their board for the meeting too, Rediker said, "it might be helpful to meet altogether."

"Because I'm not sure Hampden shares the thought that there's as big a problem

as Wilbraham does, and also, you have an answer to that question Sean just asked. How are we going to work with Advisory when it comes down to push comes to shove, to say this is what we're going to present," Rediker said.

Secretary Lisa Murray also agreed on Hampden's inclusion for the meeting.

"I think we're all kind of on the same page of transparency and meeting and trying to work together. I don't think that's changed because of this," Murray said. "Again, we don't want them to think we're discussing things without them."

After further discussion on what to prep for the meeting and comments from Timothy Collins on also addressing the air quality concerns at Wilbraham Middle School, it was agreed to send a letter to the Hampden Selectboard about the meeting, a draft agenda would be created by Provost and Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations and Human Resources Dr. Douglas Slaughter for the School Committee to review, share the agenda with both towns and then come up with a date to meet.

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West dominates Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—The West boys' soccer team won the gold medal at the 2022 and 2023 Bay State Summer Games. After finishing in third place a year ago, the West squad didn't have very much trouble capturing the gold medal this year.

The boys' soccer showcase took place at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg last month July 10 to 12.

The West team began the tournament with a pair of victories.

After overcoming an early 1-0 deficit to defeat Metro, 5-1, in the morning match last Thursday, the West team dispatched the Central team, 6-0, in the afternoon affair.

"We're off to a very good start in this tournament, but we haven't accomplished anything yet," said Hugo Destapdo, who coached the West boys' soccer team at the Bay State Summer Games for the first time. "We do have a solid group of players, but we're going to be facing some very good competition during the next couple of days."

During the fall, Destapdo is the boys' varsity coach at Chicopee High School. He replaced Marc Atkins as the West coach at the Bay State games.

The members of the 2025 West boys' soccer team, who are from the Turley Publica-



Enrique Galfour heads up the field.



Evan Tyrrell looks up the field as he makes a pass.



Caleb Iborra sends a pass away for Central Mass.

tions coverage area, are John Carra (Agawam), Timothy Haley (Belchertown), Yousif Hamid (Chicopee), Spencer Parsons (South Hadley), Tyler Supczak (Wilbraham), Evan Tyrrell (Chicopee), Griffen Wrisley (Chicopee), Chase Henderson (Wilbraham), Tiago Destapdo (Chicopee), and Braeden Fitzgerald (Agawam/Pope Francis).

"Several college coaches will be attending these games, so this is a very good showcase for the players," Destapdo said. "There are a lot of talented soccer players in Western Mass."

The worst part of being a coach of an All-Star team is having to make cuts at try-outs.

"We had 35 players try-out, and we have 20 players on our team," Destapdo said. "Having to make cuts is very difficult. I wish we could've taken all 35 players."

The duo Henderson and Max Graham (Southwick/Pope Francis) combined to post the shutout against Central.

"They're different types of goalies," Destapdo said. "Chase is just tremendous with his feet. If he wasn't a goalie, he would be a very good field player. Max is a physical goalie."

Henderson, who's a raising senior, played the first half against the Central team.

Graham, who's a raising

Please see **BOYS**, page 10



Griffen Wrisley, of Chicopee, heads for the goal with possession of the ball.



Brandon Barker is pressured near the opposing goal.



Fikayomi Ankitan starts up the field after making a play on defense.



The Orioles claimed the 2025 Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League Championship on Sunday, Aug. 17, beating the Twins 8-7.

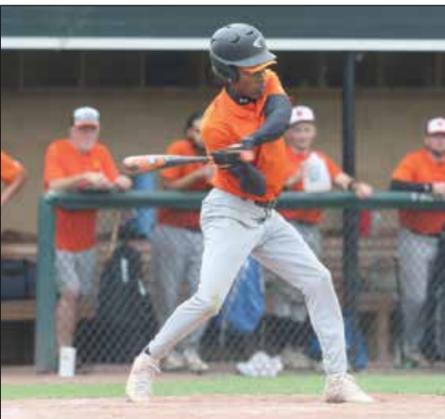
Quabbin Valley playoffs get underway

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Sunday, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League playoffs got underway with a pair of quarterfinal games. In one matchup, the Tigers defeated the Braves 12-8 thanks to some great pitching late in the game by the Tigers' Brad Bullough. The Dodgers walked off on the Pirates in the other matchup 17-16 when a hit by Andrew Tuck plated the winning run. The Cardinals defeated the Dodgers 9-7 and the Orioles defeated the Tigers 17-7 in the semifinals held on Aug. 24, setting up a Cardinals-Orioles championship game on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. Booster Field in Easthampton.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

The Dodgers' Josh Turner attempts to make a backhand.



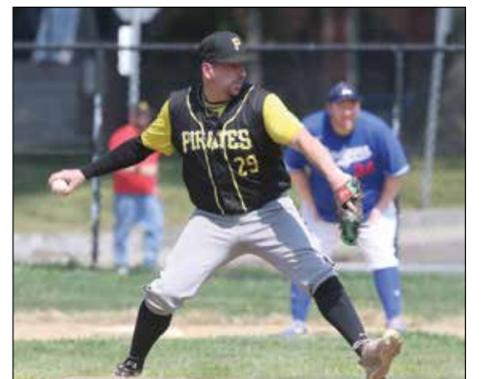
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Henry Henriquez takes a swing.

Orioles hold on for Valley Wheel title

WILBRAHAM – On Sunday, Aug. 17 at Spec Pond, the Orioles staved off a big comeback from the top-seeded Twins to win the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League championship. The Twins would hold a 4-2 lead until the Orioles rallied and eventually held an 8-4 lead going into the bottom of the ninth inning. The Twins would score three times and get the tying run to second base before the Orioles were finally able to close it out for the title.



Shortstop Aiden Breen makes a play.



The Pirates' Sam Crotto delivers to the plate.

Girls soccer gets bronze at Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—Both the Central and West girls' soccer teams began the annual Bay State Summer games with losses last month from July 10 to 12.

A couple of hours later, the West squad celebrated a 6-1 victory over the Central team at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg.

"We didn't play very well

in our first game this morning," said West head coach Matt Mosher, who also coaches the St. Mary's (Westfield) girls' varsity soccer team. "Once we got into a rhythm, especially during the second half, we took it to them in this game. We were a lot more aggressive."

The members of the West team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, are Allison Fleury (South Hadley), Kiana Ramos (South Hadley), Hannah

Haesaert (South Hadley), Kayleen Sullivan (Agawam), Lylia Ellis (Monson), Kyra Lippmann (Holyoke), Mia Oyler (Agawam), Riley Platt (South Hadley/Williston Northampton School), Kylie Warner (Agawam), Gabriella Ramos (Agawam), Alexis Canoa (Belchertown) and Laura Parolo (Agawam).

Mosher has been coaching at the Bay State Summer Games for the past five years. His teams have won two Silver Medals and two Bronze

Medals.

The West team also won the Bronze Medal this year after defeating Southeast, 6-1.

Mosher was assisted by Laura Wray-Ramos, who's the longtime girls' varsity soccer coach at Agawam High School.

"It took Laura and I a game to find out which players play well together. We moved some players around to different positions," Mosher

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Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Kallie Tevepaugh clears the ball away for Central.

VolleyHall announces 2025 induction celebration

HOLYOKE – The excitement is building in Holyoke as we prepare to welcome the volleyball world for the International Volleyball Hall of Fame’s 2025 Induction Celebration, taking place Saturday, Oct. 18. This year’s milestone event promises to be a weekend to remember, filled with inspiring speeches, historic moments, and the shared pride of honoring the sport’s greatest contributors.

The Class of 2025 brings together nine exceptional individuals whose achievements have left an indelible mark on volleyball across the globe. They include Kent Steffes of the USA, a dom-

inant force in men’s beach volleyball; Laura Ludwig of Germany, one of the most decorated women’s beach players in history; Dimitar Karov of Bulgaria, a trail-blazing men’s indoor player; Ivan Miljkovi of Serbia, a powerful and prolific scorer on the men’s indoor stage; Rosa García Rivas of Peru, a legendary women’s indoor player; Francesca Piccinini of Italy, a beloved women’s indoor star; Jürgen Wagner of Germany, an Olympic medal-winning beach volleyball coach; Barry Couzner of Australia, a transformative leader in ParaVolley; and Guillermo “Willy” Paredes of Argentina, a respected

international referee. In addition to this extraordinary class of inductees, five special award winners will also be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the sport. Joop Alberda will receive the Mintonette Medallion of Merit Award, Peter Diamond will be presented with the Mayoral Award for Excellence, Paul Sunderland will be honored with the Award for Media Excellence, the Court of Honor Award will go to PAVO – Professional Association of Volleyball Officials, and Elegant Affairs will be recognized with the William G. Morgan Award.

BOYS from page 9

sophomore, played the second half.

The West goalies received plenty of support from a locked down defensive unit led by Fitzgerald, Supczak, Hamid, and Casey Bestler (Frontier Reg.).

The West scored four goals during the first half against Central.

Glodie Manyegezi (Springfield Central) scored two of the goals. The other two first half goals were netted by Brandon Barker (West Springfield), and Will Sean-McNally (Northampton).

The two second half goals were scored by Cajun Benson (Smith Academy). Sean-McNally was credited



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Nicholas Jennings attempts to settle the ball.



with both assists. The following day, the West team won two more matches against Northeast, 2-0, and Southeast, 5-0. The West team then captured the Gold medal by squeaking out a 2-1 win against Coastal last Saturday morning. In their five Bay State matches, the West team outscored their opponents, 20-2.

Tiago Despatado, of Chicopee, goes after the loose ball.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Alivia Marcello chases down the loose ball.



Gabriella Ramos, who plays for Agawam High, sends a quick pass away.

GIRLS from page 9

er said. “A lot of the players have played on the same club teams. It’s been a lot of fun coaching at the Bay State Summer Games.”

Both starting goalies in last Thursday afternoon’s match attend Agawam High School

Sullivan was the starting goalie for the West team, while Talia Oliveira was the starting goalie for the Central squad, which took home the Gold medal last year.

Because there weren’t enough girls’ soccer players from Central Mass. to fill the Central team roster, more than half of the players listed on their roster are from Western Massachusetts.

“About five years ago, we noticed that the Central team didn’t have enough players,” said Central head coach Eric Wood, who also coaches the girls’ soccer team at the MacDuffie School in Granby. “We now fill out the Central roster with the players who don’t make the West team. We have 15 players from Western Mass. on this year’s team. It’s been a great situation.”

The other members of the Central team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, were Rylee Joesph (Holyoke/Hampshire Reg.), Eleanor Szlosek (Granby), Taylor Bartosz (Wilbraham/Minnechaug Reg.) Filomena Stellato (Agawam), Brenna Moreno (Granby), Grace Sherman (Holyoke. South Hadley H.S.) and Kali White (Granby).

Even though the Central team went 0-4, it was still an enjoyable experience for the players.

“I just want my players to have a lot of fun here,” Wood said. “I also keep in touch with the players throughout the year.

The Central squad took an early 1-0 lead following an unassisted goal by White.

A couple of minutes later, White had another shot attempt that clanged off the post.

The West team tied the score at 1-1 with less than two minutes remaining in the opening half.

Willow Claps (Northamp-



Grace Sherman, of Holyoke, passes the ball up the field.



Allison Fluery, of South Hadley, socks a shot away.



Hannah Haesaert, of South Hadley, plays the ball off her chest.

ton) blasted a shot that deflected off the goalie’s hands into the left corner of the net.

At the start of the second half, Warner put a shot into the upper left corner giving the West squad a 2-1 advantage. She also scored the final goal of the match.

The other three second half goals scored by the West

team during the second half were by Kate Moccio (Longmeadow), Addison Perich (Westfield), and Haesaert.

Central would end up going 0-4 during the Bay State Games while the West prevailed in the Bronze Medal Game on July 12, defeating Southeast 3-0. Coastal won the Gold for girls soccer.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Taxis
- Space Systems Command
- Plant seed by scattering
- Alliances
- Fiddler crabs
- Heroic tale
- Yemen capital
- Misleading gesture
- Cain and ___
- Simple shoe
- Hundredweight
- Children’s toy in the snow
- Gets rid of
- Free of deceit
- Performed a dance
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Exaggerated
- Refrain from inflicting

CLUES DOWN

- Home of “60 Minutes”
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- ___ fide: legitimate
- Immune response
- Assistance and support
- Glared
- Spanish saloon
- Pitch black
- S-shaped lines
- Statistical test
- ___ Paulo, city
- Graduation garb
- A way to record
- Not good
- Weather events
- A pituitary hormone
- Jamie Foxx film
- Rocker’s accessory
- One point east (clockwise) of due north

CLUES DOWN

- One who obtains pleasure from another’s pain
- Consume
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Sick
- Israeli city ___ Aviv
- Removed the husk
- Mass of rocks and sediment
- Two-year-old sheep
- Area units
- Prison overseer
- Walked
- Wartime escort aircraft carrier
- Tax
- 50 percent
- Swiss river
- Tattle
- Actor Idris
- Resist authority (slang)
- Egg of a louse

GARDEN from page 6

Hollyhock rust rarely kills its host, but it can make plants look quite unsightly. In a severe infestation like mine, premature leaf drop occurs.

Next spring, if I dare to grow hollyhocks again, I’ll have to do it in a different part of my landscape and escape any spores that the soil is harboring.

The best way to control hollyhock rust is to remove infected leaves and discard them in the trash. The quicker you act, the better.

Other members of the hollyhock family (Malvaceae) are prone to this disease as well, so scour your perennial bed for spotted leaves on Lavatera and Malva (Tall Mallow and Musk Mallow) and dispose of them.

A common weed that goes by the name “cheese weed” or “cheeses” is also a Malva and likewise is susceptible. Cut down on the chance of

infestation next year by removing all foliage and debris from these plants prior to winter. Even go as far as to remove the bark mulch beneath them to further reduce the spore population. Proper cultural practices also make a difference in combating hollyhock rust and most plant diseases. First, give perennials adequate space from one another to allow for good air flow.

In the case of hollyhocks, I’d recommend about 18 inches. We can’t control when and how often it rains, but when we supply the moisture timing and application count. Water around the base of the plants, without it touching the foliage, and do so early in the morning so that leaves have a chance to dry before nightfall.

Apply new bark mulch each spring to cover spores that may be waiting in the soil. And lastly, when planting new seedlings, locate them as far away as possible

from previously grown plants even if they didn’t have a serious infestation.

Although I’ve never tried this myself, I have read a few testimonials from gardeners who had luck applying corn meal to their soil in an effort to control soil borne fungal diseases such as rust. Reportedly it stimulates beneficial organisms that feed on pathogens. Two pounds per one hundred square feet is recommended.

Even if it doesn’t work, it probably won’t hurt!

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

HSC receives therapy horse visit

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN – The senior center received a special visit on Aug. 8 when a pair of therapy horses from Whispering Horse in East Longmeadow stopped by to say hello.

The horses, Chloe and Alice, are part of the Whispering Horse Therapeutic Riding Center, which is a community-oriented nonprofit organization offering therapeutic riding services since 2002.

According to their website, the trained professionals with assistance from volunteers help “assist individuals with disabilities to achieve their independence through a variety of therapeutic goals, such as, cognitive, emotional, educational, socially and behavioral.”

Therapy horses are horses

used in therapeutic settings to help people with a variety of physical, emotional and mental health challenges, assisting both children and adults to foster healing, personal growth and improved well-being.

During the visit, seniors along with the senior center staff took some time to pet, brush and enjoy the horses out on the back patio on a warm sunny day, providing smiles, laughter and a moment of relaxation and comfort for all.

I also took a moment to pet the horses because even us editors at the Times need a friendly animal friend to de-stress with. It was much needed after a busy week!

Enjoy these snapshots of the special visit.

To learn more about Whispering Horse, check them out on Facebook and visit whisperinghorse.net.



Local Author Talk at Hampden Senior Center set for Sept. 5

HAMPDEN – On Friday Sept. 5, 12:30 pm at The Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen Street Hampden.

A local author and historian, JR Greene will be visiting and talking about his book, “The Creation of Quabbin Reservoir.” Mr. Greene has published many books about the Quabbin and Pre-Quabbin history of The Swift River Valley.

Mr. Greene also published an Atlas about the Quabbin region in 1975 and he said that the history of the four towns that disappeared from the map more than 85 years ago remains a fascinating subject for readers.

Come and hear the stories he has to tell and learn all about the towns beneath the Quabbin. JR Greene will bring his books to sell which range from \$10 to \$25 and will be autographed upon request.

Cash only will be accepted to purchase the books, as a reminder.

Please call the Hampden Senior Center at (413) 566 5588 to reserve your space and if you would like lunch that day at the center at Noon, please advise the receptionist when you make your call.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Shea 566-8224. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

Celebration Sunday at Federated Church of Hampden

HAMPDEN - The Federated Community Church of Hampden at 590 Main St., invites members of the church and community to our “Celebration Sunday” cookout on Sept. 7.

It will be held just after Sunday Service from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be outside on our grounds, or if it rains, in Libby Hall.

This event will introduce and welcome our new Pastor, Eunji Lee to all our church members, their extended families, and to our

neighbors in the community.

This event will also be our Annual Registration for Sunday School, and will be held inside the church before Sunday Service from 9:30 to 10 a.m., and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the cookout.

We’ll have hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and beverages along with our featured dessert: Apple Crisp. You will be able to make your own Apple Crisp with ice cream or whipped cream.

Last year we had 13 different delicious Apple Crisp’s!

So, come to meet Pastor Eunji Lee, take a look at our Sunday School, and enjoy a picnic lunch with a Super Dessert.

For questions or information, our church office is open Mon., Weds, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please call, or leave a message after hours, 413-566-3711 Please follow us on FB & check out our website FB: <http://www.facebook.com/HampdenFederatedChurch>; website: <https://www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org/>

Travel expert to discuss Mt. Vesuvius and Pompeii at the library

WILBRAHAM— Author and retired Professor Matt Davis will present “Pompeii’s Final Day: The Eruption of Italy’s Mt. Vesuvius” at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. Considered one of the greatest disasters in history, Davis will share what the well-preserved ruins have taught us about life in Ancient Rome and discuss the volcanic risks still facing metropolitan Naples today.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is appreciated but not required.

Sign up at wilbrahamlibrary.org, or call the library at 413-596-6141.

St. Cecilia Women’s Club Meeting Sept. 9

WILBRAHAM - Our Annual Membership Tea will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9 with Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by tea, coffee and delicious treats!

We take this time every

year to honor our past president and to acknowledge members with significant years of membership.

It’s a wonderful chance to greet old friends and perhaps make new ones as

well! Please come and join us!

The meeting takes place at St. Cecilia Church at 42 Main St. in Wilbraham.

NOTICE

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Town of Blandford is seeking a fulltime **ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR.** Pay range \$29.50-\$37.50/hour. Please visit our website for full job description. Submit resume to **Administrator@townofblandford.com**

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Hampden Senior Center Tag Sale

HAMPDEN - The Friends of The Hampden Senior Center will hold a HUGE indoor Tag Sale from Tuesday, Aug. 26 through Sept. 12.

The Hampden Senior Center is located at 104 Allen Street in Hampden. Please consider cleaning out your closets and donate

gently used or new items for donation.

These items can be dropped off starting the week of July 28. What we are looking for are shoes, household items, clothes, etc.

We cannot take, however, large items such as furniture

pieces. Thank you as always for your generous contributions and support.

All proceeds will be used to benefit the programs and activities at The Hampden Senior Center. For more information, please feel free to contact Joan Shea at 413-566-8224.

PASTOR from page 1

side of church as well," Lee said. "Being a pastor, I don't think I can make it without my church members, so I have been really grateful to have my church members."

On what led her to become a pastor, Lee said as a teenager, she wanted to be a writer and write novels, which led to being interested in people's stories. She also loved being at church.

"Share who Jesus is, how Jesus loves you. It was kind of like an integral part to share who Jesus is to others, my friends, my teachers. But, when I went to seminary, at that time still I wasn't sure should I be a pastor because I wanted to be a pastoral counselor," Lee said. "So at that time, I just enjoyed being a student."

Seminary also led to many questions she pondered about God and her faith along with her time in youth group. A friend serving as a missionary sharing his joy with God gave her newfound perspective and to check out a mission organization in Sa-

lem, Oregon.

"I just want to know who God is. Like I just want to experience God's love. It was six months training, so it was really a turning point in my life to get to know God in my life," Lee said.

When she later went to the airport to head to Portland, plans changed. Later writing down what she felt, suddenly, she felt God tell her, "I'm really pleased you're here."

"I think the moment changed my life and changed my understanding of God," Lee said. "I think that moment led me here."

Now that she's in Hampden, her biggest goals are helping more engage with their spiritual side, build more community, bring more diversity to the church and help the next generation of worshippers.

Also, the possibilities are endless and open wide, open to anything.

"We are Christian, we have many different perspectives and understandings of God. I just want to cultivate to respect others' ways to un-

derstand God," Lee said. "I think my church is ready to have more people to serve."

Lee looks forward to also meeting more of the community at Celebration Sunday.

"I'm really honored to be a part of this community, so I'm looking forward to seeing and sensing and experiencing community in Hampden, to be together," Lee said. "What I've heard from many people—not from church members—but other people have really shared how great Hampden is because they have been here. I can see their love being here. It made this area more beautiful."

Lee's message to the community is this, also expressing appreciation for the town's genuine heart and welcomes.

"I still feel like I'm dreaming being here, so I'm just excited to see and meet new people," Lee said. "I'm honored to be a part of this community. I just want to see what God's plan for me to be a part of this community so I can serve more. I just want to find my part of being in this community as well."

EMPLOYEES from page 1

how I can help you first and not busting you, right? And I think you lived that and I want to thank you for what you've done."

Flynn said Budynkiewicz also grew up in Hampden and has been "a good friend of mine from the get-go."

"So many hats she wore in town," Flynn said. "I can't thank you enough for all you've done. You've been a friend. One thing we always knew when somebody came into the Town Hall, Jane was first and she pretty much knew everybody that walked in. Like my grandmother used to be chairman of the Board of Registrars; knew everybody that voted...But again, Jane, we all miss you already."

Ashe shared how "these are the fun parts of the job when you get to recognize people for the work they've done."

"For everything they put back into the town, the community that they lived in. So, it's an honor for myself and for Senator Oliveira to be here to support you three. I also know the chief could not make it tonight, he's also retiring," Ashe said. "But, on behalf of the House of Rep-

resentatives—I know the senator also too on behalf of the Senate—but we wanted to present you citations from the House of Representatives thanking you, congratulating you for your works, for your years of service, for everything you've given back to the community and, more importantly, wish you all the best for whatever you do in the next 53 years—whatever you're going to be doing, Cliff—but these are the really the special moments. You put your heart and soul into jobs, especially when you work in a community or you live in a community, you get to know everybody here. Sometimes it's easy to leave jobs, sometimes it's a little tougher when your heart's there and you have the passion."

Oliveira noted that amongst the group—not including the police chief—there was a combined total of over 100 years of service to the town.

"So, that's pretty impressive for a town like this that has dedicated people working for it to ensure that essential functions of government operate. Now, Brian and I both served in local government before we got to the legislature. We know

how hard it is in local government because you're the first line of defense, the closest to the people," Oliveira said. "And so when there is an issue in town, you're probably going to hear about it. It's not going to take long, and since you came from this town, you grew up in this town, you know how important it is, that personal touch."

Oliveira then wished everyone a happy retirement and noted his father, also, just retired this summer.

"The commitment that people have to their community is unmatched and we see that in full display in all of the communities that we represent," Oliveira said. "Congratulations to all three of you."

Flynn then acknowledged Trombly.

"He's on a well-deserved vacation today, good for him. He'll be back. He's serving as our interim chief right now, but this was the opportunity to have Jake and Brian here and we certainly do acknowledge the service Scott gave the town as well," Flynn said.

After the citations were given out, everyone enjoyed some cake to celebrate.

Terry L. Nelson

WILBRAHAM - It is with the deepest sadness that we announce the passing of Terry L. Nelson, ("Brick" to his Maine family and friends), on August 16, 2025. Terry passed at his home at the age of 81 holding the hand of Poppy, his high school sweetheart and wife of 59 years. He had waged a fierce battle with cancer for over 5 years.



Terry was born in Newport, Maine on May 22, 1944, to Zelda Metevier Nelson Peirce and Gerald Stanley Nelson. His stepfather was Lloyd W. Peirce and stepmother was Mary Nelson. Terry graduated from Newport High School in 1962 and the University of Maine Orono in 1966 with a BS in Chemical Engineering. In 1998 he received a MS in Industrial Organizational Psychology from Springfield College.

On June 18, 1966 he married Loralee (Poppy) Perkins. They moved to Springfield, MA where he began a 31 year career with Monsanto, retiring as Manufacturing Training and Development Director. Three years were spent at the plant in Trenton, MI. After retiring he started Terry Nelson Consulting Services, an independent human resource management company. He was active in the community as an Indian Guide leader, Boy Scout Troop 177 Leader, Springfield Youth Symphony Parents Council, Children's Protective Services Board, Wilbraham United Church Governing Board

Chair and Board of Deacons. He served two terms on the Wilbraham Select Board, Chair of the Peach Festival, President of the Wilbraham Community Association and Fountain Park Founder and Board of Directors. He loved being with his family, playing golf, fly fishing and spending time with Poppy on the coast of Maine.

Terry was pre-deceased by his parents, stepparents, brother Mark and very special daughter-in-law, Denise. He is survived by Poppy, his sons; John of Ayer, MA and Matthew (Melissa) of Scituate, MA, amazing grandchildren; Jack of Sarasota, FL, Laura and Mark of Ayer, MA, Evan of Scituate, MA, sisters; Bobbie Bryson of Clearwater, FL, Karen Nelson of NM, Kristin Izes (Bob) of WV and brother Lyle Peirce (Dianne) of Newport, ME. He also leaves cherished aunts, uncle, nephews, nieces and great nephew/niece. Three incredible women have also entered his life: Lorraine, Jean and Carol, thanks to John, Evan and Jack. Special thanks to Dr. Iyer and the "infusion angels" especially Lyndsay, of Sister Caritas Cancer Center at Mercy Hospital.

Visiting hours will be Wednesday, August 20, 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Wilbraham Funeral Home, 2551 Boston Rd, Wilbraham. Family and friends may meet for Terry's Celebration of Life Service on Thursday, August 21st at 11:00 a.m. at Wilbraham United Church.

In lieu of flowers, please

OBITUARY

DEATH NOTICES

Terry L. Nelson
Died Aug. 16, 2025
Wilbraham Funeral Home

Wilbraham-Hampden Times OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

consider contributing to Wilbraham United Church, 500 Main St., Wilbraham, MA 01095 or to Sister Caritas Cancer Center, 271 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Wilbraham Department of Public Works REQUEST FOR BIDS August 28, 2025

The Town of Wilbraham Department of Public Works requests internet bids through a municipal auction website on behalf of the Select Board of "Various Surplus Supplies, Property and Other Items". The auction bids will begin Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 8:00 AM with a closing date of Tuesday, September 16, 2025 with closing times staggered throughout the morning. At the end of the specific item listing time, the auction shall be closed. **Cash will not be accept-**

ed, verified bank check or money order only.

The municipal auction website address is: www.municipalbid.com
08/28/2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Department HAMPDEN, Division Docket No. HD25P0330PM

To all persons interested in the estate of Diane Fales of Hampden, in said County,

A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell

at private sale - public auction certain real estate of said Diane Fales for her maintenance.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at 50 State Street, Springfield, MA before 10:00 in the forenoon on the **22nd day of September, 2025**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 18th day of August, 2025.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register

08/28/2025

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of LABOR DAY, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.** To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, August 28**

Thank you!

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www.turley.com

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of LABOR DAY, **PUBLIC NOTICES** EARLY AD DEADLINE. Place your public notice no later than **NOON Thursday, August 28**

Thank you!

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Rep. Puppolo honors Wilbraham couple

SPRINGFIELD — Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. proudly recognized and celebrated the 60th wedding anniversary of Iconic Wilbraham residents, Peter and Joan Salerno, honoring their lifetime of love and devotion with an official citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

"This milestone is not only a celebration of sixty wonderful years together, but also a reflection of the strength and beauty of lifelong commitment," said Representative Puppolo. "It was my great honor to present Peter and



Joan with a citation recognizing their unwavering love, and dedication to family."

Fall Programs for kids at WPL

WILBRAHAM – Check out these upcoming fall programs for kids at the Wilbraham Public Library.

PRESCHOOL FUN WITH MRS. B

The Wilbraham Public Library is pleased to announce that registration will begin on Sept. 1 at 9 a.m. for the "Preschool Fun with Mrs. B" Fall program. This is a program for children ages three to six to come into independently, while care providers wait in the library. It is a fun-filled 45 min-

utes with stories, songs, movement and a craft. The program will run the following Thursday mornings from 10 to 10:45 a.m.; Sept. 11, Sept. 18, Sept. 25 (No program Oct. 2), Oct. 9, Oct. 16 and Oct. 23.

Themes such as "Teddy Bear's Picnic", "Budding Artists", Fall and Leaves, and the amazing stories by Ed Emberley will be included. Please register online at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Registration includes all six dates.

PRE-K and K DANCE PARTY!

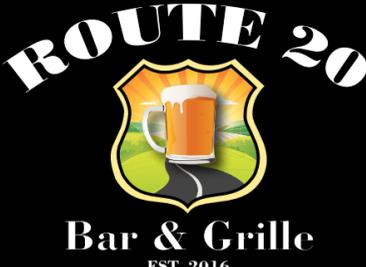
Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 to 10:45 a.m. join in the dancing fun as we dance to some familiar songs and learn some new ones! Complete with a disco ball and a "photo booth" for photo opportunities, wear your shiniest, movement-friendly clothes to dance! dance! dance!

This program is for Pre-K and K children with adult supervision (adults must remain in the program). Please register online beginning Sept. 1 at 9 a.m. at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.



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SAT., 8/30
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