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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Deb Gormley, membership director for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Mary Gauthier, corresponding secretary for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Wayne Douillard, the winner of the \$500 in lottery tickets raffle prize, Chuck Pelouze, Lisa Coolidge, Theresa Munn and Judy Godfrey in a group photo.

Friends of Wilbraham Seniors announces lotto raffle winner

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The time finally arrived on Aug. 24 to announce the winner of the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors' \$500 in lottery tickets raffle.

The winner is Wayne Douillard of Palmer.

The raffle, which went on for the past few months, had participants trying their luck for one chance for \$5, three chances for \$10, seven chances for \$20 and 25 chances for \$50.

All the proceeds from the fundraiser support the senior center.

On Aug. 24, members of the Friends gathered at the front porch

of the senior center to welcome last-minute entries from 1 to 3 p.m. and at 3 p.m., the wheel was spun by Lisa Coolidge, Theresa Munn and Judy Godfrey to choose the lucky winner.

Then, after Coolidge chose the winner, Dee Mitchell, corresponding secretary for the Friends, called Douillard to let him know he had won, with him later arriving to pick up the prize.

Douillard was humbled and shocked at winning, sharing he took part to give back to the senior center.

"I don't believe I won. I never won anything that big. Never did. I never thought I'd win," Douillard said.

Douillard specifically credited

Barbara Harrington, social services coordinator, for her support, adding, "I think the world of" her.

"She helped me out to guide me on back taxes on my house. She guided me along, talked to the manager of the town and we worked things out with Medicare, MassHealth and she's going to help me out again with Social Security," Douillard said. "She's been more than helpful. I can't say nothing bad about these people."

Douillard heard about the raffle two weeks before and submitted his entries right at the senior center, then returned on Aug. 23--last Friday--to submit more entries.

He also thanked Jen Finnigan,

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School Comm. to enter negotiations with Hampden Selectmen to return TWB

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WILBRAHAM - School Committee voted on Aug. 22 to enter negotiations with Hampden's Board of Selectmen to return Thornton W. Burgess Middle School to them by June 30, 2025.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School: The School Committee voted to enter negotiations with Hampden's Board of Selectmen to return Thornton W. Burgess Middle School during their Aug. 22 meeting.

Hampden Board of Selectmen Chair Don Davenport explained a letter was sent to the committee about this and the lease requires that "if there's any modification on the lease or amendment on the lease that it has to be in a written agreement" between the school district and Hampden.

"So, I'd like to pursue that this evening and actually have you take a vote to proceed with us negotiating a change of the lease to release Thornton Burgess School to the Town of Hampden by June 30, 2025," Davenport said.

After School Committee member Michael Tirabassi asked Superintendent Dr. John Provost if the committee "would be prepared" to enter negotiations, he responded yes.

Provost said there was "a slight modification of the schedule" that he shared with the committee.

"At this point, we would be looking to have students moved by second semester and we would have

Please see **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**, page 7

Fall into some fun: Upcoming Fall Events at WPL

By Hannah Yeasley
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - As the summer draws to a close, the library is gearing up for fall events, some age specific and others open to all ages.

Events that are ongoing throughout this fall are:

"Storytime" on Thursdays starting Sept. 19 and ending Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., for children ages three and a half to five to enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Registration will be for all six weeks.

"Graphic Novel Book Club" will meet once a month starting Thursday, Sept. 19 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. This program is intended for second to fifth graders, and a new title will be

picked each month.

"Read to Cadence" on Mondays starting Sept. 9 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Once a month, anyone in grades K-5 can read to Cadence the dog for ten minutes.

"6th Grade Book Club" happening Tuesdays from 2 to 2:45 p.m. starting on Oct. 17. This book club will take place at Wilbraham Middle School and the first book can be checked out from the library starting in September.

"Teen Advisory Board" meets monthly on Mondays from 4 to 5 p.m. Starting Sept. 16, teens in grades six through 12 can have a direct say in teen programs, books, and other events at the library.

Upcoming one-time events at the library are:



Turley photos by Hannah Yeasley

A spread of flyers for some of the events coming up this fall at the Wilbraham Public Library.

"Recycled Book Pumpkin" on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 10 a.m. to Noon. Designed for adults, this event will turn a paperback book into a décor pumpkin. Supplies will be provided.

"Too Human: A Celebration of Song" on Wednesday, Sept. 11 from 6 to 7 p.m. a live jazz concert for all ages with musicians Roger Bruno, Ellen Schwartz and Keala Kaumeheewa. Registration is encouraged, but not required.

"Intro to Ancestry Library Edition" on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. Assistant Library Director Mary Bell will show adults how to use the online database and give tips to researching genealogy.

"Long Sword Basics" on

Please see **EVENTS**, page 14

Events for all ages at Hampden Public Library this Fall



Turley photos by Hannah Yeasley
The outside of the Hampden Town House, where the library is located.



A shot of the Sheila R. Flynn Teen Center where anyone can sit and do crafts, read or hang out.



The inviting signs along the sidewalk leading up to the Hampden Public Library.

By Hannah Yeasley
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - The library is transitioning from summer to fall as they prepare to host many fun upcoming events.

These events are:
“Grow, Play and Learn Playgroup” on Mondays at 11 a.m. This group is for newborns to children age five and their adult caregivers to focus on early childhood development while also listening to stories and songs. The event is ongoing and registration is online.

“1,000 Books before Kindergarten” is an ongoing reading challenge for children pre-k and younger to read as close to 1,000 books as they can before they enter kindergarten.

“Preschool Story Time” starts Tuesdays at 11 a.m. for children ages three to five. Listen to a fun new story each week. Registration is online.

“Silent Book Club” starts Sept. 14 at Noon to 2 p.m. This group for all ages meets in the Rochford Reading Room

on the second Saturday of the month all through the school year, ending in June. Bring your favorite book or audiobook, settle in with a beverage like coffee or tea, and enjoy one full hour of quiet reading. Then, enjoy the last hour of chatting and sharing with other readers until the library closes for the day.

“Stitch and Sip Crochet Club” starting Saturday, Sept. 7 at 11 a.m. This group meets monthly on the first Saturday of each month, with the last meeting on Dec. 7. Teens in grades fifth through twelfth of any skill level can join to learn how to crochet, or sit and chat and work on already started projects. Materials will be provided, as well as a different mocktail each month. September’s is a “Sunrise Mocktail”. Register online or in person.

“Anime & Manga Club” starts on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 4 to 5 p.m. They meet on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, besides November where they will only meet on Nov. 14. Teens can come share their favorite anime or manga, participate in activities based on them,

and even have snacks that exist inside those universes.

“Painted Wooden Trinket Boxes” on Saturday, Sept. 14 at Noon. During this event, teens will decorate their own trinket boxes with paint, stickers, and other fun things. Materials are provided, registration is required.

“Johnny Cash: Songs and Stories with Matt York” on Saturday, Sept. 21 at Noon. This live concert features Matt York as he sings the songs of Johnny Cash while also telling the story about his life, rise to fame, marriage to June Carter and his death. This event is open to all ages and registration is not required.

“Book to Movie Club” on the fourth Saturday of each month starting at 11 a.m. Geared towards teens, this event will be showing the film adaptation of four popular books. There will be a brief discussion of the books beforehand, but having read it is not required. After the film showing, there is potential time to discuss differences between the two. The films are as follows: Sept. 28: “A Wrinkle In Time.” Oct. 26: “Coraline.” Nov. 23: “How To Train Your Dragon.” Dec. 28: “Princess Diaries.”

Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard has had her hands full designing and organizing events for this fall.

“We’re still solidifying some of the one-time craft or crafts for each month, but some of them I’m really excited about. There’s an idea to do a Franken-Doll activity for the teens, where we take donated stuffed animals, cut them up and reattach using parts from whichever ones they want to make their own Halloween monsters,” Girard said. “Things like the Anime and Manga Club have been pretty popular in the past. I’m also super hopeful for new things like the Crochet Club, since that’s my specialty and I’m hoping the Book to Movie Club has a really good turnout, since this is the first time we’re trying a book club like this.”

While at the library, it’s not just books



A display of new arrivals at the Hampden Public Library.

to read or events to attend; there are other activities to participate in while there including puzzles, a large TV with gaming chairs and some consoles in the Sheila R. Flynn Teen Center, as well as a collaborative ‘paint by sticker’ poster in the hallway.

No time to read? Not a problem for this library; checkout a playaway, put a battery into it, plug in headphones or into a speaker and the chosen book gets read out loud. They offer playaways for children, teens, and adults.

Other fall events are still in the works, and more information will be posted online and in person at the front desk soon.

To learn more, visit hampdenpubliclibrary.org.

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Select Board approves moving forward with MA Complete Streets

Drinking Water Asset Management Project also moving forward

By **Kristin Rivers**
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Select Board approved on Aug. 26 to move forward as a community in pursuing the MA Complete Streets policy program.

Tonya Capparello, director of the Department of Public Works, explained how this was discussed at a previous meeting and she was seeking approval from the board to move forward, with the next step being Town Administrator Nick Breault send a letter of commitment, stating "We will pass a Complete Streets program policy within one year of the date of that letter."

"We discussed having some feedback from the Planning Board and the ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeals), both of which have agreed in (to) support us moving forward," Capparello said. "I believe that all parties would be involved

in the policy, so my plan is to--I think you guys already have a draft--but make sure that it's well-vetted, we have feedback if there's any concerns, we certainly have it been discussed publicly."

Capparello added one of the Planning Board's comments was "that we're not tied into some obligation that we wouldn't normally do."

"We want to follow the process that we're already doing for sidewalks and crosswalks and just have it be something that, hopefully, we can get some funding for," Capparello said. "So, if you guys approve that motion, then I'll be back with some policy information for you, but we will move forward to send the letter if it's approved."

Clerk Marc Ducey said he watched the Planning Board meeting about this item.

"They have the same skepticism I do, but it doesn't seem to be many handcuffs on it," Ducey said. Vice Chair Michael



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Squindo also watched the meeting and shared this.

"I guess, my understanding was basically this is a commitment to follow a certain structure and a thought process when we put together street planning," Squindo said. "It's not a commitment to do x, y or z beyond that."

Capparello confirmed Squindo's point was correct. Ducey then added this.

"And then, it's simply us--at this point, once we get approved for this--we then have to apply for the money and then if they say yes, we get the money and we know full well what the obligations are," Ducey said.

Capparello confirmed Ducey's thoughts were correct.

The motion to approve the DPW director's request to develop a Complete Streets policy and to allow the town administrator to sign a letter of commitment to pass a Clean Streets policy passed 3-0.

Another highlight was moving forward on the Drinking Water Asset Management Project.

Here, Capparello said the item was presented at Annual Town Meeting for authorization to borrow.

"Which, it's actually going to be a grant where we have a match, so we went to town meeting and got approved. This is through the Water Department," Capparello said. "So, we are going to be moving forward on that project."

One of the steps, she added, is "a formality that needs to be taken tonight" by the board.

"So, there's a motion that's before you--there are going to be two actually--and Mister Squindo has them, so he's going to go ahead and read them," Capparello said.

After Squindo read the two motions--which passed 3-0--Capparello finished the discussion on this item sharing this is long-term planning for water structure improvements.

"It's basically what it says: an asset management plan, what we have and where we're going to go with our infrastructure," Capparello said. "That information will be discussed routinely at our Water Commissioners meetings and I certainly will come in and give you guys updates as we move along in the process, especially if something substantial comes up. If it's a large project that we want to move forward on for funding, I'll make sure that you guys are informed."



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Board of Selectmen provides thoughts on HFD warrant articles

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Board of Selectmen provided their thoughts on potential town warrant articles from the fire department on Aug. 26.

Fire Chief Ed Poulin shared the first is about the squad--which is a special operations apparatus to carry tools and equipment for heavy rescues--having water being taken on in the fuel system, with a maintenance tech coming to examine it.

"What's happening is when we fill the water tank that's in the truck itself, the overflow empties right out onto the diesel tank that's in the truck and the tanks are having problems already rusting out. So, that's where we're getting water into our fuel system," Poulin said.

For this, Poulin has three bids.

"It seems like the lowest one's around \$2,500 to have that done. I really wouldn't want to take that out of my budget if the town meeting--Special Town Meeting--is available for this," Poulin said.

Selectman John Flynn said, "It seems like kind of a low amount."

"I mean, you have money to cover it in which might run you short at the end of the year and then we have to do some transfer," Flynn said. "It seems like this is very similar to what we saw with the emergency expenses last year for the dog officer. When you have enough money to cover it in your account, I think the same thing and the advisory always says 'We want you to get close to expending it and then come back in the spring when, at that point, you're actually running short.'"

On Flynn's question regarding if this issue is a defect or design flaw and known for the model, Poulin was unsure but agreed it was a corrosion problem.

Selectman Craig Rivest affirmed this.

"When I worked in a dealer job, you would see lots of F-150 series trucks come in with salt and sand and the tanks would rot from the top down because of all that corrosion that just builds up over there," Rivest said. "It's just inherent New England into the design."

When Poulin sought clarification on if he spends the money, runs out of money in the budget to carry out the year and what he would do, Flynn said the board



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

would go to the Advisory Committee for a Reserve Fund transfer.

"I don't think it qualifies for an emergency right now because you have plenty of money in that maintenance account," Flynn said.

Next, an abatement for asbestos tiles has three quotes gathered, with Poulin explaining the Building Committee went through the reports on the building assessment.

"Especially, one particular person on the committee really

feels like that's a major safety hazard and would like that area shut down immediately, but we're still functioning upon that building, so it does need to be addressed," Poulin said.

The cheapest cost, Poulin said, is \$10,000, or specifically \$9,995.

"We'd also have to hire a hygienist to monitor the air for the abatements going on. That just runs \$650," Poulin said. "And, obviously we'll layer concrete after we're done, so we'll have to seal it at the minimum."

Poulin added if something was done with the building--like tearing it down--the abatement would still need to be done.

After Flynn said Poulin would have specifics later given the current discussion was about the placeholder, Rivest added how during the abatement process, the fire department needing to move for four or five days possibly while the tiles were removed was brought up by the committee.

Poulin confirmed yes.

"So, they would come in, remove all that--the black mass--and grind the floors down and layer this with concrete," Poulin said.

The final one was for new gas meters, but Poulin said that's been resolved.

"With Craig Rivest, we're going to use the MEMA Grant on those to replace our gas meter. We had a gas meter that was provided for us by Eversource for a long time. They've actually calibrated it for us," Poulin said.

He added the fire department is looking to change to a different meter.

"We thought we could replace it, but the calibration, gas and setup is like \$7,000 and that's not in our budget to do that," Poulin said.

Wilbraham In-Person Early Voting Hours

WILBRAHAM - The State Primary is being held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. Registered voters in Massachusetts will be able to cast their ballots in-person before the State Primary. Registered voters in Wilbraham can come to Town Hall during scheduled business hours listed below to cast their ballot. In-person Early Voting will take place at the Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield St., on the following dates/times:



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VIEWPOINTS

Maintenance tips for flowering annuals

Recently, we've had a lot of heat and humidity, and a fair share of downpours, too.

There are many times that I don't feel like going out into the flower garden. But then, sometimes around 7 or 8 o'clock at night, after it has cooled down a bit, I'll get out there like a woman on a mission.

Read on for a reminder of important tasks you should consider tackling this month to keep your annuals blooming through to the first frost!

I deadhead. A lot. Deadheading is a fun term used to describe the removal of spent flowers.

A plant produces flowers for one purpose: to survive. You see, once a flower has been pollinated it will produce seed, seed that will grow future plants. If a plant has produced enough flowers that have gone to seed it will consider its job to be done, flower production will cease, and it will begin to decline.

By deadheading, we keep the plant in reproductive mode, in other words, in flower! When you remove dying blossoms, make sure to pinch off the entire flower, not just the petals, or it will do no good. Include the stem as well to keep the plant tidy.

Petunias, marigolds, zinnias and salvia, among others, are examples of plants that require regular deadheading to look their best throughout the growing season.

Some annuals start to get a leggy appearance about now. Others may have brown tips.



These plants require more drastic measures to bring back youthful good looks. Consider shearing them back.

Usually you can look within the plant and find healthy, green growth. Cut calendulas, pansies and snapdragon back to that point. Plants like alyssum or lobelia can often be sheared to within inches of the ground.

Don't worry; they won't look bad for long! You can jump start regrowth with a bit of liquid fertilizer.

I feed, feed, feed them, especially if lower leaves start to yellow. It means flowering plants are hungry for nitrogen.

If flowering has slowed, phosphorus may be in low supply. Annuals planted in soilless mix of containers or "reused" soil in raised beds will especially need a boost.

You can use a balanced, water soluble, liquid feed every couple of weeks. If going natural is your cup of tea, make some!

Compost or manure tea has long been used to keep growth lush. Steep a burlap bag of either compost or aged manure in a large trash bucket filled with water and use as needed.

Smaller batches can be made right in a watering can. Likewise, there are numerous blends of seaweed and fish emulsions on the market that can be watered in or sprayed on the surface of the leaves as a foliar feed.

If Mother Nature decides to delay the deluges, don't forget to water your plants. I know this task is not nearly as much fun as it was when they were first installed, but don't stop now!

Sometimes plants show signs of a nutrient deficiency, especially a nitrogen deficiency simply because they haven't had a drink. When you water the garden, remember to do so longer but less often to encourage deep, penetrating roots.

Watering at the soil line either early in the day or after the sun has set are your best options.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



My daughter, Paula and family along with their dog JoJo experienced an unusual bird sighting.

Last week my daughter, Paula and family were running on the rail trail from the covered bridge to the Gilbertville mill. She said, "A hawk dropped a dead pigeon into the woods about ten feet away from us. JoJo thought it was a food delivery for him. I couldn't tell what kind of hawk it was, but it didn't seem big enough for a red-tailed."

It was rusty/brown color on wings and back and barred feathers on underside. They didn't see it come back for the poor pigeon.

Since it was smaller than a red-tailed hawk, I think it might be a sharp-shinned hawk. The sharp-shinned hawk is 11 inches long and has rounded wings with a long narrow tail. It has

heaving streaking on the breast and belly. It has reddish brown barring. The adult is blue gray above. The immature is dark brown above, lighter brown below and keeps that plumage for one year.

Sharp-shinned hawks feed by catching small birds in mid-air and carrying them off to eat. They also may hunt around bird feeders. A plump pigeon would be quite heavy for this smaller hawk and probably that is why it dropped it.

The female lays three to eight whitish eggs with dark marks in a platform nest of sticks lined with bark, placed in a tree. They inhabit mixed deciduous and coniferous woods in summer and winters in woods and near bird feeders.

They make a rapid series of high "kek kek kek kek" notes given during alarm. The largest number of sharp-shinned hawks are seen on spring and fall migrations as it flies alone the coasts or mountain ridges.

Hummingbirds

I saw at least two ruby throated hummingbirds feeding on the flowers on my hostas and on the tall phlox in my yard. I knew it was two



Sharp-shinned hawk

different birds because I saw them at the same time and the flowers are located about 15 feet away from each other. Usually, hummingbird moths come for nectar at the tall phlox, but I have not seen one yet.

Wild turkeys

Wild turkeys are a common site and I often seen them when driving. Usually, there are several turkeys and sometimes I see poult with the adults.

Foxes

Tuesday night I saw two foxes and in different towns. The first fox was smaller than the second one. I saw its eyes reflect in my headlights near Deacon Allen Drive on Barre Road. The second fox was a bit larger and I saw it on Depot Road in Barre near the Oakham line. Both looked healthy and had good coats of fur.

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.

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 kriver@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.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

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Editorial Policy

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

Correction Policy

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

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

Hampden State Primary Election Voting

HAMPDEN - Voting for the 2024 State Primary Election will begin soon.

Residents have four ways to vote in this election.

Absentee Ballot

Early Voting by Mail

Early Voting In Person

In Person Voting on Election Day

1. **Absentee Ballot Voting** – For those who qualify, absentee voting can be done by mail or in the Town Clerk's Office. Voting in the Clerk's Office is allowed until Noon on Thursday,

August 29, 2024.

2. **Early Voting by Mail** – To request a Vote by Mail ballot, a signed application or any signed form of written communication requesting a ballot is sufficient. Please state your name and voter address, and if you are an unenrolled (unaffiliated) voter, the party ballot desired for a Primary Election. Requests must be received at the Town Clerk's Office before 5 p.m. on Monday, August 26, 2024.

Absentee or Mail in Early Voter ballots can be returned:

*By mail using the envelopes provided

*Placed in the drop box located behind the Town House by the parking lot.

*Hand delivered to the Town Clerk's Office.

All Ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on September 3, 2024

3. **Early In-Person Voting** will take place in the auditorium at the Hampden Town House located at 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA 01036 the following dates and times.

Thursday – August 29, 2024 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

4. **In Person Voting on Election Day**, Tuesday, September 3, 2024 – Voting will take place in the Town House auditorium located at 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA 01036 between the hours of 7:am – 8:pm

Wilbraham Vote-By-Mail and Absentee Voting

WILBRAHAM - Vote-by-mail ballots and absentee ballots are now available for the upcoming

State Primary scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2024. A request in writing is

required for obtaining an early or absentee ballot. An application to request a ballot can

be found on the Wilbraham Town Website and Secretary of State's website. Please call

596-2800, ext. 200 if you have any questions.

For the Vote by Mail Paper Application, visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/download/vote-by-mail-applications/vote-by-mail-paper-application-2023.pdf>.

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

Fall Storytime at the Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM– A fall storytime session will be held at the Wilbraham Public Library starting on Thursday, September 19 and continuing weekly for six weeks. Children ages 3 1/2 - 5 are invited to join us at the library for a fun-filled time of stories, songs, and crafts. Kids must come in independently and parents/ caretaker must wait in the library. 10 to 10:45 a.m. Thursday Sept. 19, Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 10, Oct. 17 and Oct. 24.

Registration is required and starts on August 19 at 9 a.m. Space is limited! Sign ups are for the six week session. To sign up, visit the Event Calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org or contact the library at 413-596-6141. This programs is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Fall into Art Art Show

HAMPDEN – The Scantic River Artisans present the "Fall into Art Art Show" on Sept. 13 and 14 at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School on 85 Wilbraham Rd. in Hampden.

We invite you to experience, explore and purchase the diverse art on display.

The two-day show takes place from 3 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 13, and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 14, with a reception from Noon to 2 p.m.

The New England Mosaic will also be featured in the show!

The New England Mosaic is a 24-foot fine art wall made up of 264 individual canvas "tiles" painted by over 200 area artists that capture the beauty and diversity of New England life. The tiles will be for sale and the proceeds will fund scholarships for area art students.

To learn more, email: info@scanticriverartisans.com or visit www.scanticriverartisans.com.

"Fall into Fun" Card & Game Party & Luncheon Sept. 26

WILBRAHAM - "Fall Into Fun" Card & Game Party & Luncheon sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club will be held Thursday, Sept. 26, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with a delicious lunch served at Noon. Bring friends and play any game of your choice (bridge, whist, canasta, dominoes, Scrabble, etc.). The donation is \$10 and there will also be a raffle for cash prizes. The profit is used for the club's scholarships and other charitable endeavors. For reservations, please call Sue Agnew, 596-9480.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE from page 1

staff ready to be moved at any time, really, during that time," Provost said. "At that point, all that's really left is any kind of disposing of items that are left in the building or moving items that need to be moved to other schools. So, I think that's a realistic timeline for us."

The second semester, Provost clarified, would end in the middle of January.

Vice Chair Sean Kennedy asked this.

"John, do we have a full plan on what the reorganization of the HWRSD would look like for facilities for the coming future?" Kennedy said.

Provost replied, "If the question has to do with the future status of eighth grade and things like that," we "sort of have started to pursue as a result of where things ended up (during) that discussion last year."

"But, I would say that we would have what you just described is a comprehensive plan. It's something that we're trying to figure out options as we go forward," Provost said. "The first options developed were not necessarily supported."

Kennedy next asked, "So, any of the future options that are left, would any of them possibly include TWB or not?"

"For any of the plans that we have moving forward," he added.

Provost said, "At this point, no."

"We did have four options, two of which included TWB as a possibility. Those were the first ones that were, sort of, rejected by the Planning Committee," Provost said. "We had anticipated that there would be a significant cost in the first year and then probable, ongoing costs to bring everything back up to the standards of the other schools and so that, I think, was important in the decision of the Planning Committee."

Provost added he thought "the fact its relatively small size means that it would be useful for one full complete grade."

"And we talked about not wanting to create a school that had just one grade when we already had some concerns about schools that have two grades, so I think

those two factors weighed in on the Planning Committee's mind," Provost said.

On other items that could be put there or used as a facility in the near future, it was clarified a pathway item would be moved to the high school as it serves grades 9 through 12 and can include grade eight.

Kennedy shared he asked his questions to check if "is there any way that we would possibly use TWB for any different configurations," with Provost saying, in his thinking, after the study done by the Planning Committee over the course of the last year, he "doesn't foresee that as a realistic option at this point."

Davenport said his hope is the new lease agreement would be signed on Sept. 19, which would only include Green Meadows Elementary School after it's signed.

Kennedy then said, "I totally support this" after Davenport shared the plans for TWB to serve as a site for a new town hall and "kind of a community center" when cultural events were brought up during the discussion.

"Everything that I looked at showed there was no way that we could use or get it back into play or should be back into play, so hearing that from you confirming what I thought. I support giving it back to the town by June 30, 2025," Kennedy said.

After committee members summarized the overall discussion for School Committee Member Timothy Collins due to technical issues, Davenport added how Hampden Selectman John Flynn previously said the regional agreement was one of the obstacles of concern too.

"You wouldn't be able to get students from Wilbraham over there unless we change the regional agreement. That

doesn't look like that's in the near future," Davenport said.

As Kennedy explained this portion, Collins expressed concerns.

"Well, then how do you get all those Hampden kids going to Wilbraham Middle School and all that?" Collins said.

Kennedy responded that was done "on a case-by-case basis with each family requesting that" and "going through that process that took several years."

Collins then said this.

"It sounds like a contradiction to the agreement, but my concern--my overall concern--is during the campaign and looking at the voter registration, the number of households that have people who are 75 years old living in those big old houses has a concern for me that we're going to see an influx of new families move into town," Collins said. "We already don't have enough room in our middle schools and giving up a potential school building at this point in time doesn't seem to make a whole lot of sense to me."

Provost thought Collins' point was fair as, with the entry plan, he looked at the population pyramids for both communities.

"In both communities, things are

stacked now with elderly residents, so there will be a transition one way or another somehow," Provost said.

He added in reviewing Nasdaq predictions for the next 20 years, there will be an increase in student enrollment, but "it's probably something more in the range of 100 or so" and "not real significant increases."

"I think in part that's because families are just smaller now and so, in the future, it's likely that as those houses turn over, they may be going from families that once had three or four kids to families that had one or two kids," Provost said.

Tirabassi said Hampden "is making a very reasonable request."

"We're not using the building. It's definitely a valuable resource to the community of Hampden and the region and, if we're not using it, we should do our part to our partners and turn the building back over to them," Tirabassi said.

The motion to have the School Committee enter negotiations with Hampden's Board of Selectmen to return Thornton W. Burgess Middle School to them by June 30, 2025, and anything that might be intended passed 6-1.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Labor Day, the **CLASSIFIEDS** have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.**

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Friday, August 30

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OBITUARIES

Death Notices

Thomas P. O'Connor
Died on Aug. 11, 2024
Services are private
New England Funeral
& Cremation Center

Thomas P. O'Connor February 15, 1945 – August 11, 2024

Thomas P. O'Connor died on August 11, 2024 at Baystate Medical Center. Thomas was born on February 15, 1945 and was a lifelong resident of Wilbraham, Massachusetts where he was a partner in the family business, O'Connors Goodyear Service Center on Boston Road in Wilbraham. After graduating from Cathedral High School in 1963 he served in the Army National Guard. When not working, Tom enjoyed restoring and driving a variety of cars with a focus on Hot Rods and Corvettes. Tom wouldn't miss a chance to go to a car or an air show whenever he travelled. He also went to Barrett Jackson Car Auctions to admire the many finely restored automobiles. During his forties Tom worked for American Airlines Operations at Bradley Field in Connecticut. While in his twenties, inspired by his childhood television hero, "Sky King", Tom's sights were set on flying. He earned an instrument rated pilot's license at Barnes Airport in Westfield and subsequently purchased a Cessna 172. He took many trips to the islands surrounding Massachusetts and Connecticut and any and every airport that could be a day trip. Flights down the Hudson and around the Statue of Liberty were always a highlight for guests as was a flight to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina where the Wright brothers had the first flight. He also flew to Oshkosh, Wisconsin for the annual Experimental Aircraft Show. Tom was an active member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). Tom was always eager to travel taking ocean cruises and tours in the U.S., Canada, Europe and often went to Leahill, County Cork, Ireland to visit his aunt Kathleen. Tom proudly obtained an Irish passport because of his Irish ancestry. Tom liked sun, surf and escapes to his Florida apartment once lymphoma in 2012 curtailed his ability to work. The family is grateful to Dr. Dennis Cooper at Yale/Smilow Hospital for treating him through three remissions. Thomas P. O'Connor leaves behind his wife Evelyn Goss, his son, Anthony Maspo and wife, Laura of Holyoke and his grandsons Joe and Jack, all of whom he was very proud. He also leaves his sister, Kathleen Larkin of Scottsdale, Arizona, brother, Kevin O'Connor and his wife, Marie; two sisters-in-law, Patricia O'Connor and Beverly Adamick, his cousin, Nancy Parent and nieces and nephews. Tom was predeceased by his brother, Terrence O'Connor and sister, Marylou O'Connor. From his youth Tom was blessed with friends, Paul Murray and Robert Eaton and a friend he hoped to meet up with on the other side, Jack Mayer. Whenever Tom's family and friends look up at the sky, I hope that they will picture Tom flying above and at peace. All services will be private. New England Funeral & Cremation Center, 25 Mill Street, Springfield, MA has been entrusted with the arrangements. Please visit Tom's memorial page at www.nefcc.net for expressions of sympathy.



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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

NOTICE

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

Update on Early Voted Ballot Items

WILBRAHAM – The town clerk's office shared an update regarding the advanced removal of early voted ballots from envelopes and advanced depositing of early voted ballots.

Originally slated for Aug. 24, this date was canceled and updated to Aug. 31.

The latest information is below:
In accordance with the Secretary of State Regulations 47.12 and under the provisions of section 7(k) of

Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020, the Town of Wilbraham will be opening and/or depositing early voted ballots at the Town Offices, 240 Springfield Street at the following sessions:

Saturday, Aug. 31, 2024 8 a.m. until

completed

As the Town Offices is closed to the public on Saturday, August 31, 2024, we respectfully ask that observers register by emailing clerks@wilbraham-ma.gov in advance of all processing of early voted ballots sessions.

In accordance with the Regulations 47.12 and the provisions of section 7(k) of Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020, no results shall be determined or announced until after the time the polls close on Sept. 3, 2024. At that time the results from the advance processed ballots will be added to the election day results and posted in a public place.

Save the Date: Hartsprings Foundation Truck coming to HSC

HAMPDEN - On Saturday, Oct. 5 - from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Hartsprings Foundation Truck will be at the Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen Street, Hampden.

As you do your Fall Cleaning, please set aside and bring to this fundraiser for the Hampden Senior Center. By using the truck, larger type items such as Good Usable Suitcases can be dropped off along with duffel bags or backpacks. Also, you will be able to use large size trash bags to put your clothing, sheets, bedding, towels

or the like in. No bed pillows can be taken though. We will also take books that are boxed up, small kitchen appliances or small tables or lamps.

The bin will remain in place in the parking lot of the Senior Center, but by using the truck larger items can be accommodated for you.

If you have any questions or have a need to drop off earlier than the scheduled date of the truck, please call Joan Shea at 413-566-8224.

Medicare Made Easy takes place Sept. 11

WILBRAHAM – A Medicare Made Easy event will be taking place at Christ the King – Epiphany Church on 758 Main St. in Wilbraham starting at 7 p.m.

Medicare is complicated. We are here to help. Join your host, Licensed Insurance Agent, Steve Corbin from Dowd Agencies, for this educational event so that you can get a better understanding of options are for additional coverage.

Learn More About:
Traditional Medicare - what is and is not covered
MediGap plans
Medicare Advantage
Part D Drug Plans
What's changing in 2025



Submitted photo and caption Joan Shea

Shown is a shopper at The Hampden Senior Center Boutique, 104 Allen Street in Hampden, which will run through next week. Also in the picture are just some of the beautiful items that are for sale and more are added daily.

Pop-Up Boutique Update

HAMPDEN - On Sept. 7, a Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., a huge tag sale will take place inside the Hampden Senior Center's Great Room. Bring your bags and find all those precious items that you will love. There will be something for everyone that day with lots of Volunteers from The Friends of The Hampden Senior Center to help you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joan Shea at 413-566-8224

Wilbraham Hiking Clubs September Hikes

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Hiking Club has six (or maybe seven) hikes planned for September:

Sept. 5 - Sidewalk walk - last 13ish miles of the Boston Marathon Route

September (tentative addition to schedule, date tbd) - Moderate to Challenging Hike (stay tuned for location, details and date)

Sept. 9 - Laughing Brook, Hampden (and Reid's Corner)

Sept. 17 - Emily Dickinson and Amherst College Trails, Amherst, MA

Sept. 22 - Camp Aya Po, Somers

Sept. 25 - Moderate Quiet Hike at Peaked Mountain

Sept. 28 - Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, Wales

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

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Labor Day,

PUBLIC NOTICES

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- Thank you!

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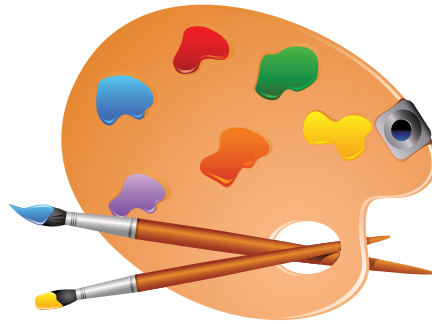


Submitted photos Karen Wahlberg

Class of 1974 Reunion announces reunion activities

HAMPDEN/WILBRAHAM – As the many classes before them have done, the Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 1974 will soon be gathering to celebrate their 50th Class Reunion. The Reunion Planning Committee has put together a fun weekend of activities – Friday, September 13, through Sunday, September 15 - so classmates will have several opportunities to get together and reminisce about “the old days” and catch up on each other’s lives over the last 50 years! Friday’s offerings include a Class of ‘74 Meet & Greet Reception at Cima Restaurant and a MRHS Falcons home football game and tour of the “new” Minnechaug. On Saturday, Class of ‘74 members are invited to join members of the Class of ‘73 at an afternoon outdoor concert at Fern Valley Farm in Wilbraham starting at noon, featuring local musician Elliot Friesian, Fieldcrest Brewery, and Fern Valley food and ice cream. The main event – the MRHS Class of 1974 50th Reunion Celebration – is at The Starting Gate at GreatHorse Country Club in Hampden, one of the area’s premier country clubs and special event venues. The Class of ‘74 is very fortunate that due to the extraordinary generosity of some 1974 classmates who are covering the majority cost of the event, the price for the Saturday night 50th Reunion Celebration is only \$50/person. On Sunday there will be a Class of ‘74 Farewell Sunday Brunch at The Local Restaurant. In addition to the planned activities, a classmate is putting together a slideshow for the event and classmates, whether or not they are attending, are invited to send up to three pictures to be incorporated into the presentation.

It is not too late to register! Members of the MRHS Class of 1974, especially those still living in the area, are encouraged to attend these once-in-a-lifetime events. Classmates from Wyoming, Texas, and Florida have already registered. To RSVP or for more information, including details on where to send pictures for the slideshow, email Karen Wahlberg at mrhsc-lassof74@gmail.com.



The Wilbraham Friends of the Library Annual Art Exhibit Call to Artists

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL) will present their Annual Art Exhibit, taking place at the Brooks Room of the Wilbraham Public Library from Oct. 3 to Oct. 30 with a reception for artists, Friends and the public, Saturday, Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Artists will be able to sell additional unframed pieces at the reception. The library is located at 25 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham.

The show is open for various art media, and Chairman Mary Bandouveres is now welcoming artist’s applications. Respond early at wplartshow@gmail.com to insure your spot. Entry deadline is Sept. 23.

The event is free and open to the public. This show is always popular and many of the artists will have pieces for sale.

The show is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library which was established in 1973. The Friends of the Library fund programs for children, teens, and adults, as well as the library’s popular Museum Pass program, furnishings, and other library equipment.

For more information, contact the Friends at friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Wilbraham Friends of the Library to hold Pollinator Plant Sale Oct. 5

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL) is holding a pollinator plant sale on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Wilbraham Public Library, 25 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham. Cash or checks only.

There will be a variety of pollinator friendly biennials, perennials, shrubs and vines available for sale at the library. Early October is an excellent time to plant, the ground is warm enough to support root growth and there is plenty of time for plants to get established before winter sets in.



According to the USDA, “Three-fourths of the world’s flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world’s food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. That’s one out of every three bites of food you eat. More than 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths, birds and bats, and beetles and other insects.”

Help keep these important pollinators fed by planting their favorite food sources in your garden. Proceeds from the sale will benefit both the Wilbraham Public Library and Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

The sale is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library which was established in 1973. The Friends of the Library fund programs for children, teens, and adults, as well as the library’s popular Museum Pass program, furnishings, and other library equipment.

For more information, contact the Friends at friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Teens make copper bookmarks at WPL



Teens enjoyed a Teen Copper Metalsmith Workshop at the Wilbraham Public Library on July 30. This workshop was sponsored in part by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency and the Wilbraham Friends of the Library. Metalsmith Heather Beck taught this workshop and each teen created their own handmade copper bookmark.

Submitted photos and caption Rachel Hapgood

Life in & HAM

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

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN

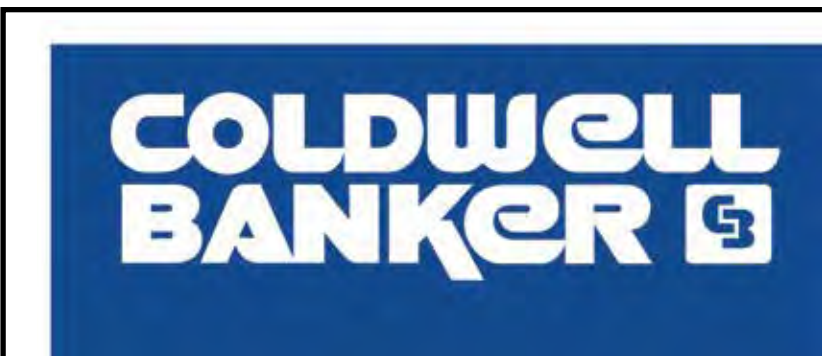


Photo courtesy of Hampden Police Department

Telephone pole falls onto Bennett Road in Hampden

The Hampden Police Department responded to a telephone pole falling on Bennett Road on Aug. 21. The road was closed for a time while the situation was addressed, later reopening once the all-clear was given.

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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Community Bulletin Board

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.....

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please keep it to less than 50 words.
Please send to krivers@turley.com**



HPD receives cupcakes

Photo courtesy of Hampden Police Department

The Hampden Police Department received a sweet treat on Aug. 21 when two boxes of delicious cupcakes arrived. The police department later shared a thank you on their Facebook page.



WPL hosts Holocaust Survivor Talk



Submitted photos Emilie Lang

The Wilbraham Public Library welcomed Holocaust Survivor Abraham Rodstein and local writer Thomas Slawiak to the Brooks Room on Aug. 21 for a talk with residents, where Rodstein recounted his story to a packed audience of growing up in Lithuania to surviving the Kovno Ghetto and Dachau concentration camp and his later emigration to America. Rodstein and Slawiak have given this talk at senior centers, libraries, schools and private venues to educate communities about the Holocaust.

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Hampden Senior Center presenting evening programs this fall

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The senior center is ushering in new evening programs this fall that is, also, open to the entire community.

The offerings are the following:
"Trees Downsize in Autumn... YOU CAN TOO!!" with special guest, author Bonnie Borromeo Tomlinson, on Sept. 10 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., free to attend with books available for purchase and sponsored by the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens

"Intro Class for African Drumming with Jason" on Sept. 17 from 6 to 7 p.m., free to attend, with preference to be given to new students on a first-come, first-serve basis, with all welcome to observe and sponsored by the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens

Crystal Bowl Sound Healing Meditation with Chantal, co-owner and manager of Nirvana Spa and Wellness, on Sept. 24 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., \$10 per person, with attendees advised to bring a yoga mat or zero-gravity chair if they have one, a pillow, a blanket and a water bottle

All Levels Yoga with Lisa Zizza from 6 to 7 p.m. from Sept. 19 through Oct. 24, \$25 if paid in full for the five-week class--and receive one free class--or \$6 per class, with advice to bring a yoga mat, a water bottle and dress comfortably, along with calling ahead for availability

Basic Beginner Drawing with Joyce Belliveau from 6 to 7 p.m. from Sept. 26 through Oct. 10, \$20 paid in full for the three-week class and all supplies provided

Space for all programs is limited.

Executive Director Rebecca Moriarty explained the new fall schedule is to "allow more people access to great things here at the senior center" and other upcoming offerings include the FBI holding a talk on scams and fraud and being joined by author Sandra Howell, who will also talk about her latest book, "Izzy, the Reluctant Spy," with free dinner provided, a U.S. Presidential History program and the annual Medicare Open Enrollment program.

"Senior center staff understands that not everyone in the community is able to access programs during the day because they may still be working or have other commitments," Moriarty said. "The evening program schedule was created to encourage more people to come to the senior center and take part in programs and events."

Moriarty said the programming schedule came together through feedback provided at open forums and the Annual Town

Meeting, where the Senior Center Building Committee presented the proposed senior center building renovation and expansion.

The proposal was defeated at Annual Town Meeting on May 13, followed by defeat at the ballot box a week later during the annual town election.

Moriarty added how the staff "listened very carefully" to the feedback provided from residents during ATM and the open forums.

"(The) staff heard that some residents in the community feel they are not able to access programs at the senior center because of the hours the building is currently open. The staff heard and listened to these concerns and is happy to offer evening programs in September and October," Moriarty said. "It is the hope that these evening programs will be well attended and will allow for more people to benefit from programs and services right here in Hampden."

Reflecting on the upcoming programming, Moriarty expressed excitement for the speakers, presenters and teachers, calling them "all amazing."

"We were very excited that so many people were interested in coming out in the evening to offer programs and classes. We are also looking forward to welcoming new participants who may have never been to the senior center and providing them with information about what we do and what programs and services are available," Moriarty said.

Moriarty also hopes the evening programming brings more people together.

"Evening programs are a great way to bring people together at a time when many people are still working and cannot get together during the day. Evenings can be a time of loneliness for some people if they are living alone. Having evening programs available can reduce isolation and loneliness and give people the opportunity to make new friends while enjoying a class, program or dinner," Moriarty said.

Moriarty encourages the community to stop by and check out the new programs.

"The community should know that the evening schedule was created as a direct response to comments heard directly from community members about not being able to use the center because it is only open during the day. We hope people will take advantage of this exciting new opportunity," Moriarty said.

To register and learn more, call 413-566-5588, check out the senior center newsletter or visit their Facebook page.



Charles F. Bennett photo

Do you know what these are?...

These vintage objects on display at the Old Meeting House Museum are Native American soapstone tools, over 5,000 years old, dug up when Bittersweet Lane was developed in the 1970s. Donated by David Putnam.

Rare Wilbraham artifacts on display

WILBRAHAM - The Old Meeting House Museum has dug into its rarely seen exhibits and artifacts and will have them on display in their "Treasures from the Attic" Open House on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served and the event is free and open to the public.

Part of the exhibit is "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.

"We have searched through boxes, closets, and chests in the storage room and attic of the Old Meeting House to find items of various areas of interest," said Curator Lucy Peltier. "This is a chance for the public to see historical items from the greater Wilbraham area which have been hiding in storage for years," she said.

For more information about the museum or the Wilbraham Atheneum society email president@wilbrahamatheneum.org.

support community journalism

Wilbraham Friends of the Library Clothing and Household Textile Drive to benefit all

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL), a non-profit committed to raising funds for the Wilbraham Public Library, is holding a clothing drive on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

With millions of pounds of clothing and household textiles ending up in U.S. landfills each year, the Friends are working to raise awareness of waste and inspire consumers to take responsible action through donations and upcycling.

The Friends will receive a per pound payment for these items which will go directly to the library for programs, museum passes, equipment and other needed items. The donated items will be given a second life with new owners - at an affordable price - instead of adding to the already overwhelming landfill situation.

Join us with your clothing drive donations on Sept. 28, learn more about the Friends, and receive a coupon for a free book at our Annual Book Sale which is

scheduled to take place in May 2025.

For more information on the Wilbraham Friends of the Library visit them on the web at <http://wilbrahamlibrary.org/friends.asp>, on Facebook or via email at friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

To learn more, contact: Mary Bandoueres, Wilbraham Friends of the Library, friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org, 413-222-2972

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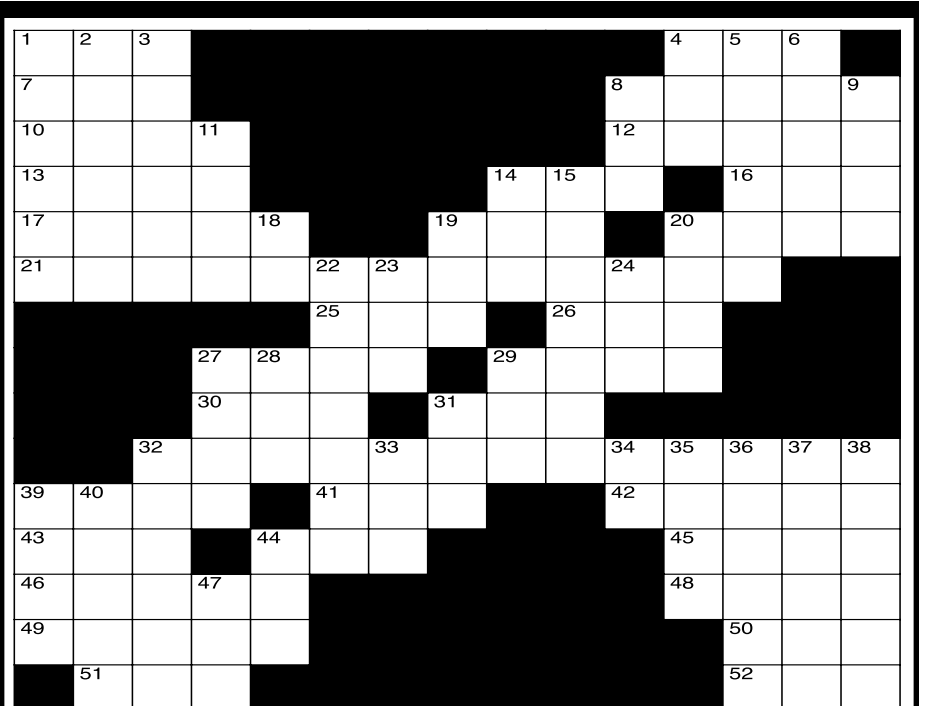
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Microgram
- 4. After B
- 7. Everything
- 8. An unfortunate development
- 10. Coat with sticky substance
- 12. Cylinder of tobacco for smoking
- 13. Minimum interval take off
- 14. Yuck!
- 16. NBA sensation Jeremy
- 17. Where some rockers work
- 19. Midway between northeast and east
- 20. Snake-like fishes
- 21. Groups of homes
- 25. Swiss river
- 26. Useful towel
- 27. "The Wire"
- 29. Oafish creature
- 30. A major division of geological time
- 31. Bird-like Chinese dinosaur
- 32. Sporting events
- 39. Body part
- 41. Clerical vestment
- 42. Shows data
- 43. Some are "special"
- 44. Expression of disappointment
- 45. Students' rights document (abbr.)
- 46. Vacation locale Costa ___
- 48. Pop singer
- 49. Distract outside a city
- 50. Mark Wahlberg comedy
- 51. Coniferous tree
- 52. Midway between

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Lunatic
- 2. Actress Danes
- 3. Buttock muscles
- 4. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
- 5. Popular 70s rockers
- 6. Electronic communication
- 8. Trigraph
- 9. Sea eagles
- 11. Low-pitched, resonant sound
- 14. Northeastern US university (abbr.)
- 15. Home of the Bulldogs
- 18. Exclamation of surprise
- 19. Make a mistake
- 20. Advantage
- 22. Monkeys love
- 23. Wood
- 24. Paddle
- 27. Past participle of be
- 28. Tall, rounded vase
- 29. Device manufacturers
- 31. Financial institution (abbr.)
- 32. Paper product
- 33. A type
- 34. Atomic #43
- 35. Red Hot Chili Peppers' drummer
- 36. Behaviors
- 37. Decays
- 38. Walked confidently
- 39. Voice (Italian)
- 40. Class of adhesives
- 44. Bar bill
- 47. One-time aerospace firm



Part of the kids selection inside the Wilbraham Public Library.



An exterior shot of the Wilbraham Public Library with posted hours.



The Wilbraham Public Library staff members pick some of their favorite books to recommend this season, replacing them as they get checked out or as new favorites arise.



The Wilbraham Public Library also offers various outdoor games depending on interest, weather, and timing. Information can be found at the service desk.

Turley photos by Hannah Yeasley

EVENTS from page 1

Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. where teens can learn German Long-Sword. This event takes place outside at the library and registration online begins on Sept. 9 at 9 a.m.

“New Volunteer Orientation” on Sept. 27 at 3:30 p.m. The library is always looking for volunteers of anyone ages 14 and up. At this orientation, volunteers will learn about the way the library works and other special projects.

“An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe” on Monday, Sept. 30 from 6 to 7:15 p.m. A live performance, meant for adult au-

diences, about the life and death of the ‘master of the macabre’. Registration opens Sept. 9.

“Author Talk: Ray Anderson discusses LIFT” on Monday, Oct. 7 from 6 to 7 p.m. “LIFT: The Rise of Mathe-Lingua-Musica” is a futuristic novel in which a universal language must be created and used to save the human race from total extinction. Designed for adults, author Ray Anderson will discuss his book at this event. Registration is encouraged.

“Dog Obedience Demonstration” on Monday, Oct. 21 from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Dog trainer Heather Hitchcock will be at the library with her dog Choo Choo Charlie

to show his skills and offer tips about how to understand your dog. Registration opens Sept. 20.

“Paint Sip Fun” on Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 5 to 6 :30 p.m. This teen event is back again this fall and more information will be posted online soon.

“Teen Mystery Room: Monster Mash” on Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. Teens can sign up for this event as solos or in teams of up to four. Find out if you’re a Vampire, Werewolf, or Witch in this tricky puzzle game.

“Jack-O-Lantern Display” on Wednesday evening, Oct. 30. All ages are welcome to attend this event that’s back for the third year. Halloween themed activities, books, and goodie bags will be available. Further details will be posted soon.

“Finger Loop Braiding” on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Learn to braid several things like belts, bookmarks, and zipper pulls in this historical craft. Registration for this adult event opens Oct. 21.

“The O-Tones” visit the library for a live concert on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. This Swing & Motown band appeals to all ages, featuring John Caban, Mary Witt, and Ben Kohn. Registration is encouraged.

“Viking Wire Weaving” on Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 5 to 6 p.m. During this event, teens will learn one of the techniques used by Vikings to decorate helmets, armor, and weapons and also take their creations home.

“Gingerbread House Workshop” on Monday, Dec. 2. This event has two sessions: one for children in grades third, fourth, and fifth from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and a teen session at 5:30 p.m. Space is limited for each and sign ups start late November.

For the teens, there will also be movie screenings monthly with dates and times to be determined.

Pathways for Parents will also be visiting the library with several events:

“Grow, Play, Learn” on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. This program is for children ages birth to age five with an adult, where an early childhood developmental trained staff member will guide adults in strengthening interactions with their child. September dates are: 9/10, 9/17 and 9/24. October dates are: 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29. November dates are: 11/5, 11/12 and 11/19.

“Yoga with Lisa Katz” on Thursday, Sept. 12 and Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. This event is an early introduction to mindfulness for children ages two to five with their adult caregivers. Registration is for each date separately.

“STEAM with Ms. Jennifer” on Fridays starting Sept. 6 and ending Sept. 27 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Designed for children ages three to six, attendees will

learn about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math with a provided activity.

“Music & Movement with Ms. Jennifer” on Fridays starting Oct. 4 and ending Nov. 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Children ages two to five can enjoy this music-based group with their adult caregiver as they use song to highlight important skills like following directions while also learning to use their senses and build awareness of their own bodies.

“Pre-K Pals with Ms. Joanne” Mondays, Oct. 7 and Oct. 21 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. This event is aimed towards children ages two to five and has activities that support earning learning skills as well as cognitive and social emotional skills. Registration includes both weeks.

“You, Me, & We with Ms. Jennifer” on Fridays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. starting Nov. 8 and ending Dec. 20. This class is designed for children ages three to five and is focused on developing social-emotional skills. Registration is for all six weeks.

After the record-breaking success of the summer reading program, the librarians at the Wilbraham Public Library are ready for these fun and exciting fall activities.

Emilie Lang, the Adult Services Librarian, is especially excited for the two concerts and the Edgar Allan Poe event, which is a new one.

Lang also would like to remind everyone that September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month.

“There are no age restrictions for applying, so library cards are available to all Wilbraham residents. Use your card to borrow books, audiobooks, music, movies, and more. In addition to the thousands of print materials we have in-house, the Wilbraham Public Library also offers a variety of physical and digital resources for patrons of all ages to enjoy,” Lang said.

Alongside book materials, the library offers materials for other activities as well.

“We have video game consoles, air quality monitors, ukuleles, and a large collection of jigsaw puzzles. Some items even encourage you to take your activity outdoors, including two metal detectors and a telescope. A sewing machine, turntable, and portable DVD player are our latest additions available to check out,” Lang said.

The library card also includes free or discounted admission to several local museums and attractions, which can be found easily online. More information about library cards or how to sign up for one can be provided at the front desk of the library.

To learn more, visit wilbrahampubliclibrary.org.

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Chaug goalie Darby Burgmyer plays the ball off her foot.



Alivia Grono chases down a loose ball.



Cami Colon looks to shoot.

WILBRAHAM – Last year included a big celebration for the Minnechaug Regional High School field hockey team, as it won the Western Mass. Class A Championship in overtime with a defeat of perennial powerhouse Long-

meadow. Now, the Falcons look to defend their title and make a run at a state title this fall. Minnechaug opens the regular season on Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 6:30 p.m. with a rematch against Longmeadow.

Former Red Sox prospect leads new baseball camp

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Many sports camps were held throughout Western Massachusetts during the past several months.

The Summer Sendoff Baseball Camp took place on the baseball fields at Spec Pond in Wilbraham from Au-



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Alex Nunlist fields a grounder.

gust 19-22. The camp was run by Dustin Brisson, who played Minor League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox.

“I held a couple of private baseball clinics with Doug Clark, who’s the WooSox hitting coach, during the off-season,” Brisson said. “I spoke with the Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department about holding a baseball camp during the summertime. All these kids just love playing the game of baseball. I really wanted them to have high quality instruction and the resources to be successful.”

Brisson was aided at the four day camp by Bryan Barnowski, Ace Adams, Gary Burnham, who was an All-American baseball player at Clemson University,

Please see **CAMP**, page 16

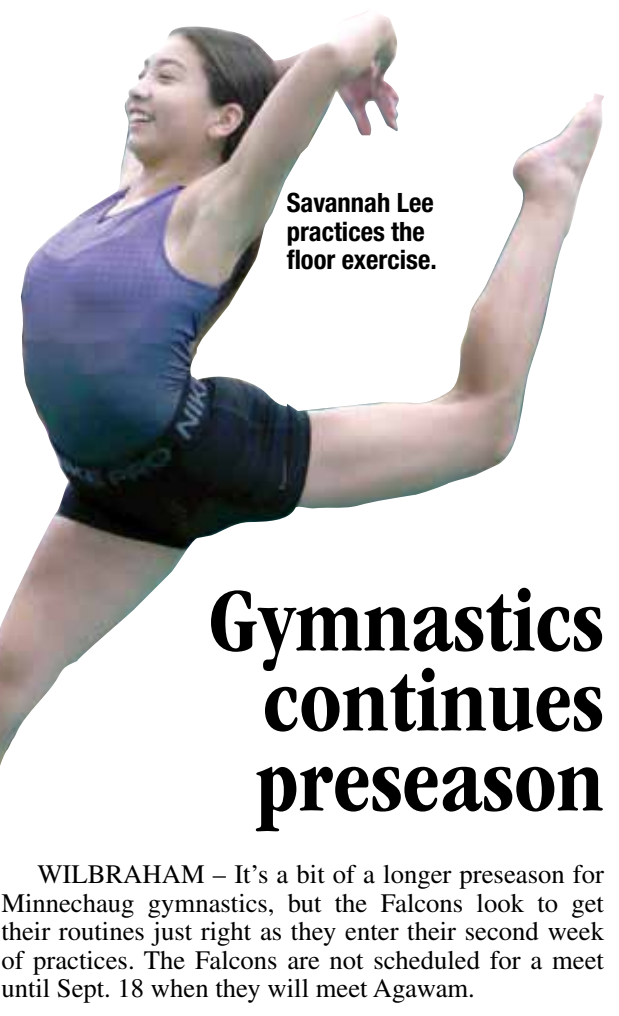


Minnechaug gymnastics practice last Tuesday at home.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Maxyne Evon works on the beam.



Savannah Lee practices the floor exercise.

Gymnastics continues preseason

WILBRAHAM – It’s a bit of a longer preseason for Minnechaug gymnastics, but the Falcons look to get their routines just right as they enter their second week of practices. The Falcons are not scheduled for a meet until Sept. 18 when they will meet Agawam.

T-Birds announce series of front office promotions

SPRINGFIELD – With Opening Night less than two months away, the Springfield Thunderbirds proudly announced that six veteran front office staff members will take on promotions to their roles for the 2024-25 season.

Last season, the team achieved multiple franchise milestones, including all-time Springfield hockey records in average attendance per game (6,321), sellout games (20), season ticket members, and group sales revenue. The team ended the 2023-24 season by posting an incredible 14 consecutive sellouts.

Jessica Hansen has been promoted to Senior Director of Finance and Human Resources. Hansen, an alumna of Western New England University and a native of Feeding Hills, Mass., has been on the Thunderbirds

staff since 2017. In addition to her finance and HR responsibilities, she has been integral in growing the team's in-game charitable presence through 50/50, jersey raffle, and Chuck-a-Puck sales. She has also served a supervisory role in the club's charitable foundation matters and merchandise.

Drew Supenor has been promoted to Senior Manager of Brand Development & Merchandise. A Springfield native and Springfield College alumnus, Supenor has grown the Thunderbirds' merchandise revenues each season since the club's inception in 2016 through many unique product lines, such as the team's various specialty night rebrands throughout the year. In 2023-24, the team generated six times greater revenue in merchandise when compared to the final season of the Springfield

Falcons in 2015-16. In recognition of his customer service and dedication, Supenor was honored with a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence this past May.

Lauren Blanchard has been promoted to Senior Account Executive, Groups and Experiences. An Agawam, Mass. native, Blanchard joined the Thunderbirds in 2021 and has set multiple team records for group tickets, including the most sold for a single game. Thanks to Blanchard's efforts and the entirety of the ticket sales department, the Thunderbirds' group sales revenue has grown 77% over the last six years. The department spearheaded the franchise to the 2021-22 President's Award for AHL Team of the Year. Blanchard was also nominated for a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence.

Shae Koharski has been promoted to Manager of Social Media & Digital Marketing. A Russell, Mass. native, Koharski has been with the Thunderbirds since 2021. She has exponentially grown Thunderbirds' social media accounts, as the club has eclipsed 80,000 followers across X, Facebook, and Instagram. Her acumen for social media trends has allowed the Thunderbirds' social media to not only provide fun content for fans, but grow the brand in the marketplace while evolving to current trends.

Lucas Armstrong has been promoted to Art Director. An East Amherst, N.Y. native, Armstrong has been instrumental in creating and implementing the Thunderbirds' graphic design as a "keeper of the brand" since joining the organization in 2019. An industry veteran with over 20 years of experience across pro-

fessional sports and nationally acclaimed brands, Armstrong's work alongside his creative colleagues was recognized with the AHL's Marketing Campaign of the Year award in 2022 for the club's "We Are 413" tagline.

Steve Brousseau has been promoted to Account Executive, Membership Sales & Service. A Springfield College alumnus and a native of Freeport, Maine, Brousseau joined the team full-time in 2021 after interning for the organization previously. An exemplary builder of relationships with his ticket members, Brousseau will specialize in servicing the Thunderbirds' season ticket members throughout the 2024-25 season as the organization looks to break its season ticket holder record for a ninth consecutive season.



Parker Duquette dives for a barehanded catch.



Wesley Beer lunges for a catch.

CAMP from page 15

and Dan Gomez, who's the head baseball coach at Western New England University. Minnechaug Regional varsity baseball coach Mike Netkovich worked at the camp for one day. Ray Fagnant, who's the Boston Red Sox Northeast Regional Scouting Supervisor, also attended the camp for a day. Fagnant grew up in Chisopee.

About 40 baseball players between the ages of 6-16 from Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the inaugural baseball camp.

"We have a few kids from South Hadley, Agawam, and East Longmeadow at this camp," Brisson added. "This is a very good group of kids to work with. All of them listen to us and they're having a lot of fun."

The players were split up into two groups.

"We play a lot more games with the younger kids, who are in grades 1-5," Brisson said. "We do more skills with the older kids."

Brisson, who was born in Florida, played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. He also played baseball in the prestigious Cape Cod League and is a member of PeoplesBank, which captured another Tri-County League championship title this summer.

He was drafted by the New York Mets and the Miami Marlins before signing with the Red Sox.

He advanced to Double A before his professional baseball career came to an end due to an injury.

"I was blessed to have the opportunity to play professional baseball," Brisson said. "I'm now doing what I can to give back."



Catcher TJ Ryan catches a ball at the plate.

Brisson also owns Forge Athletics. "I started Forge Athletics back in May," he said. "I want to run more baseball clinics in the future. I'm also looking forward to running this baseball camp again next year."

Barnowski, who lives in Southwick, was one of Brisson's teammates at the Single A level.

Bryan and I were teammates on a Single A team," Brisson said. "His sister and my wife have been friends for 40 years. I met my wife when I went to visit him during the offseason, and we've been married for 22 years. My wife's family is from Wilbraham, and we moved here in 2005. We love living in this community."

Because it rained on the first day, the camp was held indoors down the street at the Soccer City Sportscenter.

"Soccer City isn't really designed for



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
The Summer Sendoff Baseball Camp was held last week in Wilbraham.

baseball, but we made the best of it on the first day of the camp," Brisson said. "The people there were very accommodating. We were able to use both of their soccer fields. We were able to have a full workout. The only thing that we didn't do was to have a live batting practice. The baseball fields here at Spec Pond is one of the best in the area."

Brisson main goal was to teach the players the fundamentals of baseball. He and his staff also held a meeting each morning to map out the schedule for that day.

"My main goal is to teach the players the basic fundamentals of the game," he said. "I also want to keep the kids active. I really don't want them standing around doing nothing. We also talked to the kids about mental health."

Brayden Pacifico, who lives in Wilbraham, had a lot of fun at the baseball camp.

"It's awesome being here with my friends at this baseball camp," said Pacifico, who's a centerfielder. "I've learned a lot about baseball from the coaches, who have a lot of experience. Baseball is my favorite sport."

Baseball was also Brisson's favorite sport growing up. He was also a swimmer and a wrestler.

"I always tell kids to play multiple sports," Brisson said. "My daughter, Natalie, who's six years old, plays soccer and is a swimmer. We want her to experience everything. A lot of kids who only play one sport get burned out very quickly."

Brisson and his staff are already looking forward to holding the baseball camp again next summer.

WSU to hold swimming clinics

WESTFIELD – Westfield State swimming and diving coach Matt Nodell will host a Nike Swim Clinic at the Ely Pool on campus on Sept. 7 and 8.

Saturday, Sept. 7 is for co-ed athletes aged 8-12 years old, while Sunday, Sept. 8 is for athletes in

the 13-18 year old age groups.

“Participants can expect to learn and practice drills to help them swim easier and faster,” said Nodell. “All is done in a fun and engaging environment with contests and competitions.”

The clinics last from 9 a.m. to

12 noon each day, with check in at 8:45 a.m.

The fee for the clinic is \$125 and includes the morning training session, a camp t-shirt and prizes.

For more information or to register online, visit <https://www.usportscamps.com/swim/nike/>

westfield-state-swim-clinic

Ely Pool is the home of the Westfield State University Owls women’s swimming and diving team. The pool has recently seen upgrades with new starting blocks, an updated team locker room and records board, and features 1 and

3 meter diving boards. Nodell is starting his second season as the head coach of the Owls. He led the team to a fifth-place finish at the Little East Conference championships and a 3-3 mark in dual meets.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Taylor Meunier does her work on the balance beam.

Fanning captures win in Street Stocks

THOMPSON, CT — A perfect Wednesday, Aug. 14 afternoon in the quiet corner of Connecticut brought the fans in droves for the annual NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Wednesday night showcase at Thompson Speedway. The Thompson 150 presented by FloSports headlined a seven division card of racing on Wednesday night that also included a fan-favorite visit for the New England Supermodified Series and the five track championship divisions that call Thompson home throughout the season.

The Street Stocks started off the evening’s feature racing with Scott Sundeen at the head of the pack. Sundeen powered up looking to nab his first win of the season followed by Al Stone III, ‘Leadfoot’ Larry Barnett and Corey Fanning nose-to-tail behind him. The lone caution on lap 12 for the spinning Tim Poulin set up a final showdown between Sundeen and Fanning with Corey Fanning powering through to the win with Ryan Waterman making moves to take second and Al Stone III holding on for third.

Following NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour qualifying the Mini Stocks took on the highbanks with Steve Michalski and Rick LaFlesh. LaFlesh got the jump into the lead as heavy-hitters Jared Roy and Kevin Moore battled for second just inches off LaFlesh’s back bumper. Roy sling-shot into the lead powering out of turn four under the halfway crossed-flags. Jared Roy would put the peddle down to return to his winning ways followed by Kevin Moore and Ryan Pomposelli.

Rookie Isaiah Newcomb brought the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds to the green flag with Jon Puleo quick-

ly launching the head of the pack. By lap five, Todd Owen had charged up to second and began stalking the youngster with a few love taps on the bumper. Owen would charge under Puleo to lead lap seven with Puleo left to fend off Keith Rocco for second. Puleo would use the cross-over to lead lap 13 with Rocco and Owen getting physical for second. Content to run 1-2-3, the leaders waited for laps to wind down in their 30-lap main event and took it right down to the checkered flags with Jon Puleo taking his fifth win of the season followed by Keith Rocco and Todd Owen in victory lane.

Bobby Timmons and Jim Storace brought the New England Supermodified Series to green for their 30-lap main event. The heart-stopping move of the race would come on lap 4 as Ben Seitz and Dan Bowes took Storace three-wide, shooting off turn two and down the back straightaway with Bowes coming out with the lead. Coming from mid-pack, Jon McKennedy also rounded Storace to take third, made the long march to take on Seitz and dove underneath to take position on lap 21. With a straightaway lead Dan Bowes took the win just nine lightning-fast laps later followed by McKennedy and Seitz at the line.

Fast time, Mayhew Tools polesitter Patrick Emerling brought the 26-car NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour field to green and quickly shot out front ahead of Craig Lutz. Dave ‘Sap’ Sapienza brought out the first caution on lap 20 with a flat right rear sending him in the spin-cycle in turn three. Emerling would maintain the lead under the return to green flag racing with a rear-view mirror full of Justin Bonsignore. The leaders would begin taking on lap traffic on lap 53

but remained settled in for the long-haul strategy. The second caution on lap 60 for the spinning Woody Pitkat off turn two saw the entire field jump pit-side for tires and adjustments in preparation for the second half of the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports.

Patrick Emerling again maintained his lead position by an impatient Justin Bonsignore began to show his hand, diving under Emerling in a look to the near future. Jake Johnson would slam into the turn one wall on lap 76 from mid-pack with an apparent mechanical failure to rerack the field once more. The subsequent restart saw top-5 runner Chase Dowling quickly fall through the field with obvious issues under the hood to swamp a great day for the Tinio Motorsports group as Emerling continued to dominate at the front. The final stretch would see Patrick Emerling dominant the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports for his fifth career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win and first at Thompson Speedway followed by Justin Bonsignore and Craig Lutz.

The AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds and the Late Models wrapped up the Wednesday night racing action at Thompson. Cautions plagued the opening circuits of the SK Light feature, taking out point leader Tyler Chapman and rookie Steve Midford, leaving Meghan Fuller to battle Nick Hovey and John O’Sullivan. Nick Hovey would motor around Fuller for his first win of the season with John O’Sullivan coming home third. The Late Model 25-lap sprint would see Derek Gluchacki charge ahead of the field to take back-to-back wins followed by Nick Johnson and Matt Lowinski-Loh.

This Week in Rec

Erin Carroll
Assistant Director

WILBRAHAM - They say time flies when you are having fun and the WPRD knows this to be true! The summer of 2024 went fast and before we turn the page completely into the fall season we would like to acknowledge all the seasonal summer staff and program staff that helped make this summer fun and memorable for the youth of Wilbraham. Thank you for allowing us to offer a summer filled with something for everyone!

Now as we immerse ourselves in the fall season we would like to give a big shout out to all the volunteer coaches who are stepping up this fall to coach as well as thank all our volunteer coaches that help each season. We understand that everyone is busy but we feel fortunate to have hundreds of volunteer coaches that step-up each season to give back to the community by teaching children skill development, along with sportsmanship, how to work with others, and all the other positive experiences that come with team sports.

Thank you also to our Committee/Association members (football, wrestling, baseball, softball, football, lacrosse, etc.) that operate behind the scenes and spend hours making sure the kids have opportunities to progress within their sport, along with making sure everything runs smoothly. While we are thanking everyone involved with the WPRD, we cannot forget the Friends of Recreation and Recreation Commission members whose duties are too lengthy to list.

At the Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department are surrounded by many volunteers and staff members that give lots of time and energy to make Wilbraham a better place. So thank you!

Notes: Registration is open through Sept. 2 for Volleyball (Gr 3-8), Tennis (Gr 2-12), Cross Country (Gr 4-8), Preseason Suburban Basketball Clinic (Gr 5-8) and Dance (Ages 2-teen). You can register online at WilbrahamRec.com for all these programs or you can stop by the WPRD office to register.

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USDA INSP. 2 1/2 LB BOX KAYEM OLD TYME NATURAL CASING HOT DOGS	\$9⁹⁹ ea	happy LABOR DAY			

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Monthly Highlights for September at the Hampden Senior Center

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

Tag Sale Event – Everything Must Go! Bargains Galore!

Saturday, Sept. 7 from 9 a.m. to Noon
The August Boutique was a great success thanks to Diane Marino and our Friend of Hampden Senior Citizens. This is your last chance to find a bargain at our Tag Sale!

All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Hampden Senior Center Building Expansion Fund.

Thank you to those who donated and shopped at the August Boutique/Tag Sale. We also appreciate the volunteers who helped with the sale over the last several months.

Computer Basics for Beginners with Joe Green

Tuesdays, Sept. 10 & 17, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Please bring your own personal device fully charged. We will focus on laptops, and pads/tablets.

Tablets are available for your use at the Hampden Senior Center, generously donated by Spectrum/Charter Communications. Sessions are free. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat. Space is limited.

Beekeeper Sue Kendrick will be here to talk about beekeeping, honey, and more! Join us for a look inside the hives and what it takes to keep honeybees alive.

Friday, September 13th at 12:30 pm
Sue cultivates and sells honey from her hives at her farm stand on South Monson Road, Hampden. Jars of honey and other products will be available for purchase at this event.

This is a FREE event. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat. Space is limited.

HALF-WAY to ST. PATRICK'S DAY FUNDRAISER GRAB AND GO DINNER

Sunday, Sept. 15, pick-up from 2 to 2:30 p.m.

Pick up a delicious Grab and Go meal

of Corned Beef and Cabbage, complete with Rye Bread & Dessert.

\$12 per meal. Pre-registration and payment is required. Please call 566-5588 today to make your reservation. All are welcome!

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Senior Center Building Fund.

Entertainment is provided by Jerry Murphy and Mary Ellen's Mad Deili Dancers.

Thank you to our Generous Sponsors: Brodeur-Campbell Fence Company, Great Horse, John D. Flynn, Polish National Credit Union

Living Stronger... Longer... with Lamar Moore 6-week session - through Oct. 22

Tuesdays, Sept. 17 & 24, 2:15 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Join Lamar to learn about balance and how it impacts your overall health and wellness. Get tips on strength training and cardiovascular endurance to increase mobility and flexibility.

"It's never too late to start making progress on your health span. Muscles and balance are the two things you can train and improve even as you age."

Cost is \$30 paid in full for the 6-week session and receive one free class, or \$6 per class - call ahead for availability. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Grandparents Luncheon, Thursday, Sept. 19, at Noon

Lunch is Jamaican Jerk Chicken, Col-lard Greens, Coconut Rice, Oatnut Bread, and Cookies. Provided by GSSSI. \$2 Suggested Donation

Followed by: BINGO with BOOMER and the Springfield Thunderbirds!

We will have Thunderbirds prizes, including game tickets, koozies, t-shirts, and more! This is a FREE event. Come and have your picture taken with Boomer and have fun!

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

Welcome Fall Luncheon, Wednesday, Sept. 25 at Noon

Join us as we kick off the fall season with a delicious luncheon of Spaghetti & Meatballs, Garlic Toast, Salad, and Dessert provided by GSSSI.

We will spend the afternoon reminiscing about our favorite TV shows from years past as the band takes us on a "Name That TV Theme" journey.

Entertainment is provided by Richard Plasse and the Premier Swing Band.

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

\$2.00 suggested donation to GSSSI. Please call 566-5588 to sign up starting September 3rd.

September Dinner Dance, Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Join us for a night of great food, music & dancing.

Includes Appetizers, One Complimentary Cocktail, Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner, and Dessert.

Cost is \$30.00 prepaid, per person. Reserve and purchase your tickets today by calling 566-5588.

All proceeds will benefit the Senior Center Building Fund.

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Toothpaste!

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

Common Threads Led by Joan Tompkins, PhD, Mondays from 1 to 2 p.m.

Do you feel lonely? The Surgeon General has just announced that loneliness is now an epidemic, especially amongst seniors. Did you know that socializing is one of the most important things we can do to ward off physical and mental decline in our later years? Come join us, we'll share many things such as:

Loneliness vs Feeling Lonely • Adapting to Life Changes • Finding purpose for

our life as Seniors

Bereavement as well as Joyous Moments

There is no charge to join this group. All are welcome. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat.

Create a Greeting Card with Ellie!

Tuesday, Sept. 3, 10 a.m. to Noon
Cost is \$3.00 per person. All materials are provided.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat, space is limited.

"African Drumming" with Jason

New 12-week session, Sept. 6 through Nov. 22.

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

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

Learn to Play the Recorder with Sue

Ongoing weekly classes, Mondays, 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

Learn to Play the Ukulele with Sue

Accepting new students.

New 10-week session, Sept. 9 through Nov. 25.

Mondays, 1:15 pm to 2:30 pm.
Accepting New Students.
Cost is \$50 paid in full for the 10-week session, and receive two free classes, or \$6.00 per class – call ahead for availability. Please pay cash or make checks payable to: Susan McHand.

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



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Chuck Pelouze watches as Lisa Coolidge sticks her hand in the wheel to choose the winner of the \$500 in lottery tickets raffle prize.



Dee Mitchell, corresponding secretary for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, presents the \$500 in lottery tickets raffle prize to Wayne Douillard of Palmer.



Dee Mitchell, corresponding secretary for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, and Chuck Pelouze pour the entries in for \$500 in lottery tickets raffle prize.

SENIORS from page 1

activities/volunteer coordinator, and Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs, for their support too, with what winnings he receives to go back to the senior center.

"I just wanted to give back to what the place had done for me over the years," Douillard said.

Chuck Pelouze, a member of the Friends, was at the drawing announcement and was excited to see the raffle go to someone who's benefited from the senior center.

"Now, he's won the top prize," Pelouze said. "He's hoping to win a few dollars along the way and give back to the senior center as a thank-you for what they have done for him. Very rewarding."

Pelouze reflected on the impact

this fundraiser had, along with the Friends in bringing the new senior center to where it is now.

"As a result of their efforts, they have contributed over \$450,000 for purchases that they needed to supply the interior of the senior center. So, it's very rewarding," Pelouze said. "So many of us give our time and now we can see the results as to what they've achieved. It's very rewarding from my standpoint."

Pelouze added how Wilbraham is "a strong community" and also receives support from neighboring communities as well.

"In fact, now they've become members of the new Wilbraham Senior Center. Almost 40% of the population here in Wilbraham is made up of seniors," Pelouze said. "Paula, the director here of the senior center,

has seen the attendance more than triple since they built the new senior center."

Pelouze thanked everyone for participating in the raffle fundraiser.

"We're very excited about the results. We'll have the final figures in the next five days," Pelouze said. "But we're very excited at this point in time how much money was raised, once again, by the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors."

Douillard encouraged people to take part in future raffles.

"Go for it! You never know," Douillard said.

He had this message for the Friends and the senior center staff.

"Damn good job! Keep it up," Douillard said. "I thank you all very much."

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HELP WANTED
 The Trustees of the Otis Library seek applicants for a **Library Director Position.** The position pays \$21-\$25 per hour commensurate with experience. The Director can expect to work between 25-30 hours per week. An application packet is available by emailing **otislibrary@cwmaris.org** or at the **Otis Library at 48 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253. (413) 269-0109.** The application deadline is September 13, 2024. The Otis Library Board of Trustees is an equal opportunity employer.

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING
 The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

Further information can be found on the Town's website:
www.worthington-ma.us

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: **worthingtonhighway@gmail.com** or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.
 The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

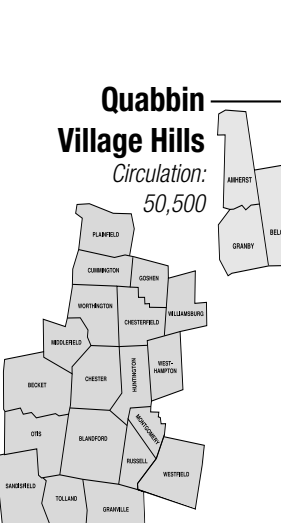
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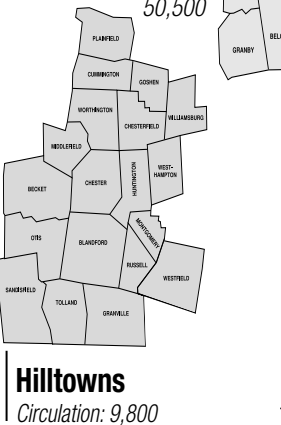
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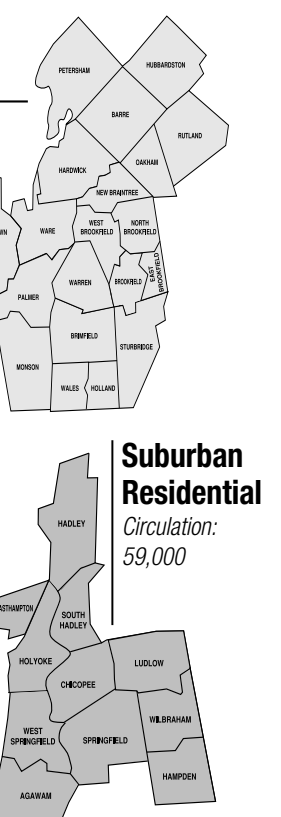
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Hampden Senior Center Fall Trips

HAMPDEN - The following senior trips are made available through the Hampden Senior Center. A minimum of 40 travelers are needed for any trip to run. All prices include a driver's tip. Flyers are available at the senior center on Allen

Street. Coach seat assigned as your \$20 deposit is received (unless otherwise noted).

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

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

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

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

Questions call 413-566-8271 or email bobbijg2@charter.net.

Polish Plate Dinner at Immaculate Conception Church

INDIAN ORCHARD - On Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. is a Polish Plate Dinner with four Pierogi, one Golabek, Kielbasa, Kapusta and Rye Bread.

\$20 per plate---Eat In or Take Out-- Frozen Polish Food Sale (Pierogi, Golabki, Kapusta)

Pierogi Available (Cabbage, Potato Cheese, Sweet Cheese or Blueberry) at Immaculate Conception Church Hall, 25 Parker St. Indian Orchard, MA

Tickets are available by calling: Maria Kowalski-413-222-6229, Irena Wurszt-413-427-5846 or Maryla Bukowski- 413-427-9464.

Basket Raffle sponsored by Youth Group, Children of Mary and Polish School, tickets are one ticket for \$2 or three tickets for \$5. \$120 worth Lottery Tree sponsored by the Rosary Sodality for \$5 each ticket.

On Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 10:00 am a Solemn Holy Mass celebrated by J. E. Ks. Bp Robert Chrzaszcz--Auxiliary Bishop of Krakow, Poland and Bishop William Byrne--Bishop of Springfield commemorating the laying of the cornerstone of Immaculate Conception Church on September 5, 1904. The First Mass was celebrated on October 2, 1904 in the basement of the church.



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