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TIMES

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MINNECHAUG celebrates first day of school



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen

Students participate in a hula hoop contest during the pep rally at Minnechaug Regional High School to kick off the first day of school.

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District opened its doors for the 2024-2025 school year on Aug. 29, with Minnechaug Regional High School awake and prepared early in the morning for the day ahead.

Principal Stephen Hale was at the community entrance welcoming all the students, new and returning.

"We're excited and anxious, all the big emotions are on the first day of school," Hale said. "Hopefully everyone comes back with a great attitude and have some fun, to engage in their learning, prepare themselves for the future. And as far as new, we are very excited about our 'Vision of the Graduate' that we're continuing to roll out this year."

First, each student went to their homeroom, where they were given their schedules for the semester. In each freshman advisory, members of Minnechaug's Peer Mentors

helped give the freshmen their new school-issued Chromebooks, which they will use for online schoolwork.

Then, each grade was dismissed from their advisories to go to the football field for the annual First-Day-of-School Pep Rally.

Once everyone was on the field, Assistant Principal Joanne White welcomed everyone to the celebration.

From there, she introduced the Minnechaug Student Council Executive Board: Co-Presidents Mackenzie DaFonsaca and Ryan Oldread, Vice President Ethan Purcell, Secretary Abdullah Khan, Communications Officer Brayden O'Sullivan, Treasurer McKenna Hale, Junior Delegates Hannah Donovan and Richard Hale, and WMASC, or Western Massachusetts Association of Student Councils, Delegate Evan Liversidge.

White then introduced all of the new faculty members to the school, where they walked to the center of the football field and shook hands

with the executive board.

Once the formalities were finished, it was time for the festivities.

DaFonsaca and Oldread introduced the games while members of the executive board helped with props and making sure everything ran smoothly. The first game was a hula hoop contest where the competitors would try to balance more hula hoops as the game progressed.

Junior Cal Blanchard won the competition.

The next game was a relay race where students and faculty members spun around, balanced an egg on a spoon, carried a balloon without using their hands, and rolled to win the game.

The class relay race was won by the junior class of 2026.

Next up for the festivities was a "Finish the Lyric" challenge. Two students from each grade had to listen to a song and finish its lyrics.

After a three-class tiebreaker, the

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 20



MRHS hosts Freshmen Orientation before first day of school

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Aug. 28, just a day before the first day of school, students of Minnechaug Regional High School held their annual Freshmen Orientation.

Freshmen Orientation is led by the Peer Mentors of Minnechaug, who Science Teacher Lea Fitzgerald advises. They consist of sophomores, juniors and seniors who strive to create a welcoming environment for the student body.

The group's primary goal is to facilitate a comfortable transition from middle school to high school. In addition to introducing new students to the "We are Chaug" mindset, peer mentors serve as positive role models and ongoing support for students to seek out for direction, advice and guidance.

The Peer Mentors started their day preparing for the orientation by assigning themselves to an advisory, making a sign for the freshmen to recognize which advisory they were in, making name tags and getting

Please see **MRHS**, page 7

School Committee addresses WMS mold concerns

First day of school later delayed

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The School Committee addressed mold concerns at Wilbraham Middle School during their Aug. 22 meeting.

Aaron Osborne, assistant superintendent for finance, operations and human resources, explained Superintendent Dr. John Provost sent out messages to the district and that mold was dis-

covered in tiles and "a handful of classrooms" in early August.

"In general, the mold was caused by condensation as a result of unusually high humidity this summer and temperature differences between the floors," Osborne said. "So, as air conditioning is running in one area and not running in another for periods of time, just like condensation on your water bottles and things like that, we get condensation in some of these gaps in the ceilings. That's a lot of what happened."

Osborne said, at this point, "the bulk of the rooms" were inspected and confirmed clean,

with awaiting results for six other classrooms and two closets.

He added there are two methods for testing called air testing and tape testing.

"So, they literally put a piece of tape on the surface and they pull it up and then they test that for spores," Osborne said. "Our challenge has actually been tape poles on our univents, so those sort of ventilation devices against the wall have a lot of nooks and crannies in them where things like mold spores can hide. When they get going, the air gets moving and those

Please see **MOLD**, page 7



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Wilbraham Middle School delayed their first day of school due to mold concerns found at the middle school. The problem has since been addressed.

Board of Selectmen hear GreatHorse zoning change request

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Board of Selectmen met with attorneys from Fitzgerald Law Firm on Aug. 26 regarding a zone change request for GreatHorse.

After Chair Don Davenport explained how a letter was received from the law firm--on behalf of GreatHorse--requesting the zone change to change 128 Wilbraham Rd. to 231 Wilbraham Rd., he added this would change zoning from residential to golf recreational.

"So, I guess the first part of this is the Selectmen's only obligation here is to pass it on to the Planning Board within 14 days," Davenport said. "That's it. That's our obligation by law, right? Chapter 40A, section five?"

Attorneys Rachel Fancy and Seth Stratton--on behalf of GreatHorse--said yes.

Davenport said the other question concerned the warrant as the Selectmen created it.

"So, would we put the question--the zone change--on the warrant, on that?" Davenport said. "I think we have to wait to see what the Planning Board decides to do. They have 65 days to have a hearing. I don't know what their business is, what their schedule is. My calculations are that if we gave it to them on Wednesday when they meet--65

days--if they wait the whole 65 days, you'd still be short a few days before Town Meeting, because the meeting is the 29th of October."

Davenport added he thinks they--the Selectmen--"would want to send it over to Planning and then hear from them what their schedule is when they can conduct a hearing and then we can make a decision whether to put it on or not."

Selectman John Flynn added this clarification.

"So, basically, we're not against it, we're not for. Basically, the ball's in Planning's court right now?" Flynn said.

Davenport confirmed yes, with Flynn then asking this question.

"So, is the land currently 61A or 61B?" Flynn said.

Stratton replied it was 61A, sharing this.

"So, I guess the question we would have is, so it doesn't need to be approved by the Planning Board. It just needs to have a recommendation, correct?" Stratton said. "And so, the concern you have is putting it on the warrant not knowing if they would make any recommendation in time?"

Davenport affirmed yes, reiterating his earlier thoughts, particularly the unknowns around the schedule for the Planning Board.

"So, whether they would be able to get the hearing done and make a recommendation in time



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Hampden Town House

for the Town Meeting," Davenport said.

Stratton then asked this.

"What would be the downside to--and this is honestly a question that you could probably answer better than us--but have it on the warrant...and I guess--you know this--but GreatHorse is the largest taxpayer, largest employer--and I think maybe the largest landowner in town--making a reasonable request for to save," Stratton said. "Otherwise, we'll have to go get 100 signatures."

Davenport said, "We could do that," with Stratton adding "which we prefer not to do, obviously."

"If they for some reason can't make a recommendation or just exercise the entire 65 days,

there's two questions," Stratton said. "There's one can still be voted on by that Town Meeting absent that recommendation but, also, what if it's on the warrant without the recommendation? What's the downside?"

Flynn said, "At that point, potentially take no action" as a downside.

"So, put a placeholder on no matter what," Flynn said.

Stratton agreed on that.

"That would be our request because, again, I think it's important it's GreatHorse and I think ABS at being referred by that Select Board, we'd have to go collect signatures, which we feel like we could get, but it's a lot of time and energy and we'd be in the same situation if the Planning Board does not (re-

commend)," Stratton said.

When Davenport asked if the Planning Board will hold a hearing on Sept. 25, Fancy confirmed yes and that's why she and Stratton met with the Selectmen during their meeting.

"I've been in contact with Joanne and she has basically said she can try and work it out. She can't make any guarantees, so we're hopeful," Fancy said.

Selectman Craig Rivest then presented a motion to refer the zoning petition to the Planning Board for a public hearing. It was seconded by Flynn and will be referred to the Planning Board.

As the discussion concluded, Stratton explained the zone change request is for the potential expansion of the golf course use on the properties while, also, keeping allowed farming use.

"The primary goal is to move the maintenance shed off of Wilbraham Road...because it's accessory use of golf course," Stratton said. "There's space on the farm but because it's the underlying zoning is residential, golf course accessory use, it can't be relocated absent this recommendation, so that's the immediate short-term goal."

He added GreatHorse giving up the ability to do residential redevelopment of the acreage would also be part of this zone change request.

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Find more information at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/184/disposal-recycling-center.com or call 413-596-2800 x225.

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**Purchase your 2025 DRC Sticker and additional fee items passes at the Town Offices or by mail (240 Springfield St.) or online www.wilbraham-ma.gov select 'Online Payment'

"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.

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Planning Board recommends battery energy storage systems moratorium

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Planning Board recommended a temporary six-month moratorium for battery energy storage systems on Aug. 14.

Board of Selectmen Chair Don Davenport provided an overview of BESS to the board, explaining it's a zoning amendment to have a six-month moratorium to study the rules and regulations, "which is the next iteration of the whole solar type thing."

"We've had a couple of inquiries in town. There's been no real application or anything, but it would behoove us, I believe, to get regulations in place that protect the health, safety and welfare and the people in the town," Davenport said.

A particular concern, Davenport said, focused on the protection of the town's water and the protection of property in the case of battery storage fires.

"We have a really small fire department that would not be able to handle any kind of serious fire that would protect the property," Davenport said. "Also, the noise generated by the fans for the cooling of it and then a whole thing like the solar panels, the decommissioning and the cleanup if there's some kind of problem with them."

Davenport added the attorney gen-

eral has been strict "on allowing moratoriums," but felt a six-month moratorium could be given "based on what I need to do here."

"I've collected a couple of zoning bylaws from Ware and from Medway and I believe Wilbraham has their battery storage one now. So, that's where it stands for before the Town Meeting in October and we see what happens," Davenport said.

When Planning Board member Patrick Coyne asked Davenport why the moratorium was six months versus 9 months, it was clarified six months to the next Town Meeting.

Davenport added the attorney general is "very suspect of moratoriums because they think it's the town's ways of blocking it," which can be done.

"So, I thought six months would be reasonable seeing so many towns have gotten these already," Davenport said.

Planning Board Chair Madison Pixley asked this.

"So, we're going to get to another solar or immediate ESS Committee to put this bylaw together? Do you think we have enough to do it from the other towns?" Pixley said.

Davenport said, "I don't think we have to do it from the other towns."

"Most of the stuff is pretty straightforward," Davenport said.

Planning Board member John Matthews said if the committee puts "forward an effort to do this, we should be

able to get it done" without a committee.

"I think there's enough information out there--as you said Don--and I think we may want to add our own caveats to it because of the fact that the fire department situation in Hampden, okay, and the lack of water in Hampden, okay?" Matthews said. "So, some of that plays into this."

Matthews said he believes they, also, need to put in a revamp of the "whole solar bylaw."

"Because of the ONM--Operations and Management Plan--needs to include a testing schedule for these, whether it's an insulation resistance dialectic testing, things of that nature," Matthews said. "That would help to ensure from year to year and that schedule would be a year to year, a yearly thing and, again, the results would either go to the Building Department or for review from the town's selected engineering group for a review."

Matthews added how there's "a lot to it."

"When I say a lot to it, meaning that revamping the solar bylaw to accommodate these batteries," Matthews said.

The motion to have ready for the Special Town Meeting on Oct. 29 to establish a temporary six-month moratorium for battery energy storage systems passed unanimously.

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 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.

Drop-In Tech Help at the WPL

WILBRAHAM- Need help setting up an email account, updating your phone, or figuring out a new device? Starting September 6, students from Wilbraham & Monson Academy (WMA) will be at the Wilbraham Public Library on Fridays

from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Technology assistance will be available on a first come, first served basis. Please bring any relevant devices and/or log-in and password information. Contact the library at 413-596-6141 with any questions.



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Old Meeting House takes part in Historical Society Event



It was a beautiful day for the Old Meeting House in Wilbraham on the day of the tour as part of the 5-Town Museum Tour Event.



The inside of the house is filled with historical artifacts, depicting the history of Wilbraham.



A vintage piano is displayed in the Old Meeting House.



A corner is filled with vintage plates, teacups and teapots.



A drawing of the old community house is displayed inside the Old Meeting House in Wilbraham.

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent



David Bourcier, president of the Antheneum Society of Wilbraham, stands in the gift shop before a drawing of the United States.



A corner of a children's room displays old dolls and clothing.

WILBRAHAM - On Aug. 17, it was time for Wilbraham to host their part of the annual Historical Society 5-Town Museum Event.

The event was an open house for historical museums


in Wilbraham, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Enfield, and Hampden, with Wilbraham hosting their part of the event at the Old Meeting House.

The Old Meeting House was formed by the Antheneum Society of Wilbraham, incorporated in 1963 as a non-profit organization by a group of concerned townspeople. Their purpose was to form a permanent local group to preserve artifacts and memorabilia relating to the people and history of Wilbraham.

The Society still continues to this day and is made up entirely of volunteers, driven with the love of preserving history.


The operation of their organization is funded entirely by dues, gifts, and activity of their membership, which is

Please see **OLD MEETING HOUSE**, page 7



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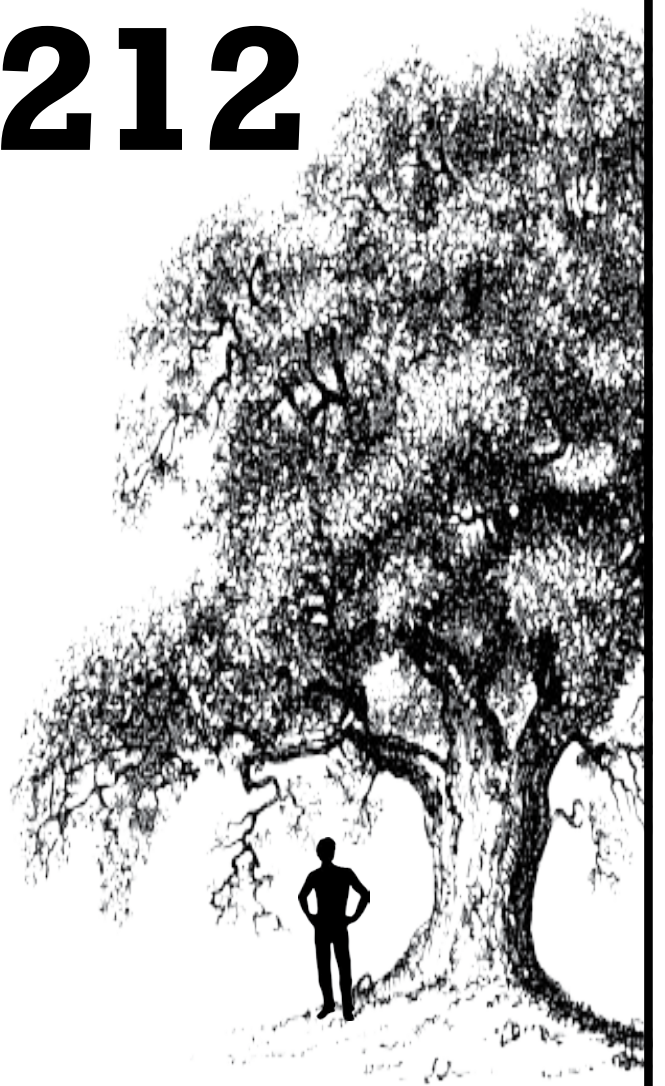
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VIEWPOINTS

Help wanted

Volunteering is an essential component of Habitat

By **Brandice J. O'Brien**

Marketing and Communications Manager,
Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD—Volunteering is not just an opportunity offered at Habitat for Humanity, it's the soul of the nonprofit organization. Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) can't function without volunteers. In fact, there's just three paid construction positions and three administration staffers at the affiliate. Volunteers make up the remainder of the team.

On average, Greater Springfield Habitat builds one to three homes a year and takes on a half dozen home preservation projects for low-income seniors who want to age in place, limited-income families and veterans. The affiliate also attends several community events, hosts fundraisers and projects that support recycling and green building, workshops on financial stability, and many administrative tasks in the West Springfield office.

"I was aware of Jimmy Carter's role as a volunteer and I had long thought that I would like to try it. My wife, Anne, and I have done many do-it-yourself projects together as homeowners over the years so I thought it would be something I could do," said Tom Eisenman, a retiree who began volunteering at GSHFH approximately 13 years ago. "I did like it. I've done other things besides construction, including Christmas gift wrapping, event planning, and serving on the Family Services committee. I found that people who choose to volunteer or work for Habitat tend to be very nice folks."

Construction volunteer Christopher Daly agreed. He said he's been aware of Greater Springfield Habitat for years, but it wasn't until he visited a build site following a New England Public Media fundraising campaign held with GSHFH held in summer 2021 that he realized an opportunity to volunteer. Christopher is an on-air fund drive director for the nonprofit broadcasting station headquartered in Springfield.

"I really enjoy working on the builds, seeing, and learning what it takes to complete a home. Also, the people at the job site are terrific," Christopher said. It's a good, productive way to fill free time."



Appleton moving concrete at Dwight St.



Springdale nailing in base floor at Dwight St.

Volunteers come to Habitat for many reasons. Some are students looking to fulfill a community service graduation requirement. Others work for corporations and want to participate as a team. Some are individuals like Tom and Christopher, or part of a church group. This year, at least a dozen corporations, vocational high school groups, and families have volunteered at Habitat.

Some, like Sue Zielenski, enjoy making a difference in the financial lives of the Greater Springfield community. Sue manages the day-to-day operations at the Bank of America Holyoke Lincoln Financial Center and frequently teaches 90-minute financial literacy seminars that started this year.

"It makes me smile when I see one of the



MassMutual preps for window installation.

participants is enlightened by the lesson," Sue said. "I also love the energy in the room and the participants actively engaging in the discussion."

Signing up to volunteer at Greater Springfield Habitat is simple. Visit habitatspringfield.org/volunteer, and click the "volunteer calendar" button. Select a preferred day and opportunity. Click the "register" button and follow the prompts to create a volunteer profile account.

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A question that will encourage blooms for a non-blooming peony

A reader wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady regarding Peony culture: "I hope you can offer some suggestions for me. I have a couple peonies that my mother-in-law gave me. I just kind of put them in the back of our property. They are sad in that they do have foliage but no flowers. I want to

transplant. My question is, where do I plant them and at what time of the year?"

You are in luck! Peonies are best planted in the fall, September or October in our area. This timing will give the plants an oppor-

Please see **GARDEN**, page 13

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 dzbiarski@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.

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Election letters to the editor welcome

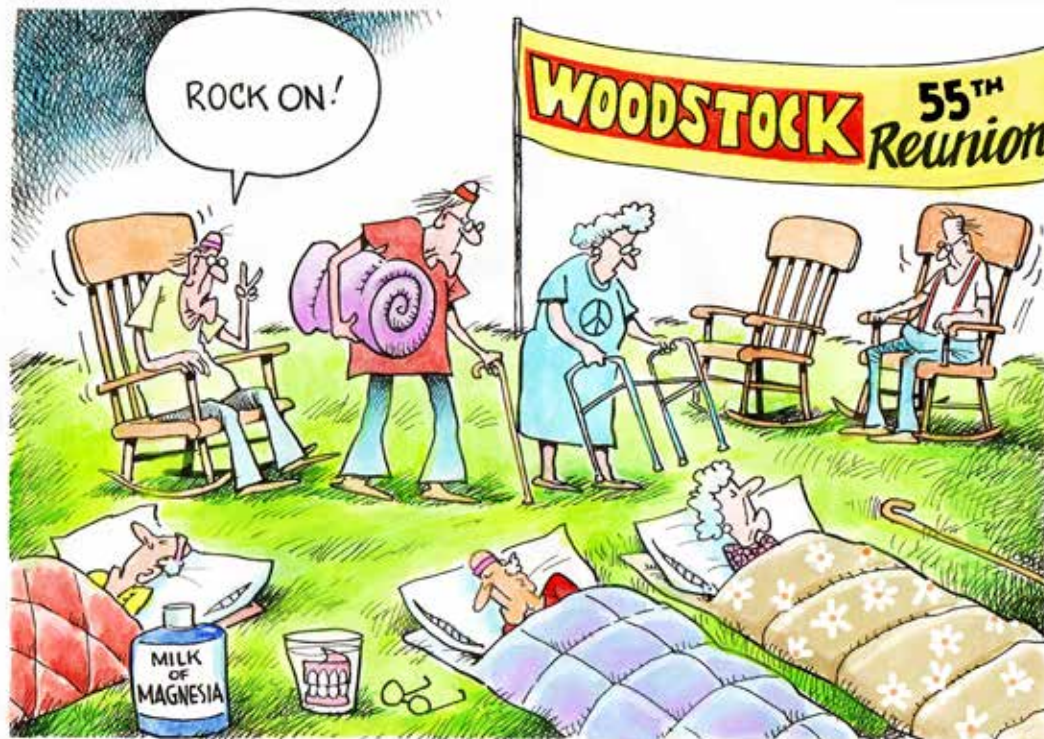
The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden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

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

Campaign news

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

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



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

OLD MEETING HOUSE from page 1

open to all interested people from Wilbraham and other communities.

The house, which currently is Wilbraham's museum, was built in 1793 and is one of the oldest standing in New England, home of the Wilbraham Methodists until the congregation outgrew the building in 1835.

In that year, it reverted to the Bruer family who converted it into a two-family dwelling. The Historical Society also maintains the old Hearse House which was built circa 1870, with both buildings located at 450 Main St. in Wilbraham.

Inside the meeting house, David Bourcier, the president of the Antheneum Society of Wilbraham, along with the members and the trustees of the Society, tries to keep the history of Wilbraham alive for the community.

"It's very important as time goes on a lot of this history is lost. So, as a Society which started in 1963, our goal is to preserve a lot of these historical artifacts that you see in the museum here. And our main goal is to get that information about history of the events that have happened throughout time out to the public, out to the people that live here or may be visiting here. So that's really our goal of our Society," Bourcier said.

All of the rooms in the museum were filled with historical artifacts from the town, including historical clothing, a record play-

er, old news articles and tools. There was even an entire room that appeared to be a replica of a child's room hundreds of years ago, filled with old toys that a child would have played with in the past.

At the end of the museum was a little gift shop full of Wilbraham-related memorabilia.

"We are a non-profit society, we are all volunteers. So, it's the love of doing this that's really the driving force of doing this, it's the love of history, the love of preserving history," Bourcier said.

"What I really love about it is the five towns that are involved...We're really all connected. When you really think about it and go way back in time during colonial period, we were all part of the settlement of Springfield...All these people that live in all these separate towns were all one town. So, it's all the same families. If you go back in time the Bliss family in Connecticut today are the same Bliss family that came further up the Connecticut River to Wilbraham...But really what we're hoping to get out of this is the five museums working together, sharing what we have. And that's another thing that is so important, that we share our history with these other museums and they share their history with us. Because we are all connected."

For more history on the building and the Society, please visit Wilbraham Historical Tidbits at <https://david-bourcier.wixsite.com/wilbraham-tidbits/post/the-atheneum-society-of-wilbraham-and-it-s-meeting-house>.

MOLD from page 1

mold spores get kicked up."

The next move, Osborne said, would be to "encapsulate the mold in those devices."

"Which means more or less painting them, right?" Osborne said. "So, anything that's still in there will be encapsulated within the paint material. That's the next step."

There was also damage to books and other paper items due to the mold.

"We met with the adjuster yesterday. We really let him know that our intent is to replace those items. The work involved in opening books up, drawing every page, testing every page for mold and things like that is just unrealistic relative to the cost of replacing the books," Osborne said. "So, by and large, we're going to inventory those items and make sure those get replaced."

An insurance claim was, also, filed. "Our deductible is \$5,000 on things like this, so we'll put money out of pocket but we should receive funds back from our insurance company," Osborne said.

Osborne stressed there are things "we are doing to try to make sure that this doesn't happen again."

"One of those is instead of replacing the ceiling tiles with light ceiling tiles, we are buying mold-resistant ceiling tiles. So, we will be reimbursed by the insurance company for the cost of the standard tiles," Osborne said. "But, we will spend the extra money to make sure we have mold resistance tiles."

Provost later clarified results were received that day, with more to come the following day and that coming Monday.

"Because we have a few spaces that we're still cleaning and they'll be tested tomorrow and those results come in Monday," Provost said.

Vice Chair Sean Kennedy said the communications through the emails to the district and the School Committee members "has been excellent."

"Transparent, straightforward, de-

tailed. Really excellent job to you and your team, really," Kennedy said. "I was really impressed by that. Glad to know we're out of only \$5,000 for that. Hopefully, it won't cost us with increased premiums moving forward, but what was the overall cost so far to this process? I know we're getting reimbursed."

Osborne replied he was unsure about the overall cost and just got the invoice for testing, which was \$28,000.

"I'm guessing the cleaning will eclipse that fairly significantly, so I don't know where we're going to end up. Some of the cleaning has to do with how many times they have to keep coming back after the testing," Osborne said. "So, if they came once and we tested and everything was fantastic, the cost would be vastly below what we're going to end up with because we had to test so many times."

18 air scrubbers, he added, were also donated by the Distributor Corporation of New England to the schools in general just as the situation was going on, with hopes to get more for a second draw.

Further results would be sent out via email or addressed at the next School Committee meeting.

Post-Meeting Latest

Since this meeting, it was later reported by local news outlets, including Western Mass News, that the first day of school--which would have been Aug. 29--was delayed out of an abundance of caution and to help give teachers time to set up their rooms.

The decision was made after an all-clear was given to the middle school earlier that week.

Provost had also informed local outlets the two missed days would be made up at the end of the year.

A Wilbraham Middle School Book Drive hosted by the Wilbraham Parent Teacher Organization will also run from Sept. 3 through 6 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the middle school entrance.

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 under-

standing 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

MRHS from page 1

their yearly Peer Mentor bandanas for students to recognize them as Peer Mentors.

Then, they went into the auditorium and got the schedules for the students in the advisory that they would be with for the day. From there, they were all ready to open the doors for the freshmen class of 2028.

Once all the freshmen were seated in the auditorium, they were welcomed by Principal Stephen Hale, Associate Principal Nicole Smith, Assistant Principals Trina Roberts and Joanne White and Athletic Director Steven Burndrett.

From there, each one of them welcomed the students and showed them all of the opportunities that Minnechaug has to offer in academics, activities and sports. They also showcased their "Vision of the Graduate," their theme for the year which focuses on how they want each student to practice the Minnechaug values of challenge, honor, adapt, understand, and grow, as they start from freshmen year until graduation.

The Peer Mentors then took their advisory groups, gave them their schedules and took them on a tour of the school. Once the tour was finished, the freshmen went into the cafeteria for the "Falcon Way," a showcase centering around introducing the freshmen to all of the different kinds of clubs that Minnechaug has to offer.

From there, the freshmen could learn from the student officers of the club, and put their names on a signup sheet so that they could join the club for the upcoming school year.

The day finished off with the students writing their names on their class of 2028 banner and graduation gown, as well as receiving freeze pops from the Peer Mentors.

Along with Fitzgerald, Peer Mentors is also led by Student President Isabelle Manning. She was inspired to join Peer Mentors as she liked the idea of welcoming the freshmen to the school. After her first tour with a Peer Mentor when she was a freshman, Manning felt more at ease and excited for high school.

"I think first impressions can make or break the freshman year experience," Manning said.

She wants the freshmen to "really try to enjoy their freshman year and take the advice given by the Peer Mentors and admin to help navigate through the year."

Regarding Peer Mentors, Manning added this.

"We're always accepting new members and our goals are to better the Chaug community and help new students settle into Chaug. I also think it's a really fun club, it builds a sense of leadership," Manning said.

Freshmen Orientation was a great way for the freshmen to be introduced to their new school and all of the opportunities that they have here and it was a moment for them to fully immerse themselves into the spirit of Minnechaug before their first day.

For anyone interested in becoming a peer mentor, applications are open to freshmen, sophomores and juniors in the spring.

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Wilbraham Hampden Times

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OBITUARIES

Death Notices

Chase Michael Goncalves

February 2, 2024 - August 25, 2024
Services have been entrusted to Wilbraham Funeral Home

H. Carl Boyer

Died July 30, 2024
Services Sept. 6, 2024
Lombard Funeral Home

Matthew Scott McCorkindale

Died August 14, 2024

H. Carl Boyer 1937-2024

WILBRAHAM —H. Carl Boyer of Wilbraham, Massachusetts, died on Tuesday, July 30, 2024. He was 87 years old.

Born on May 26, 1937, he was the third child of Henry and Dorothy (Hamilton) Boyer and resided his entire life in Wilbraham, save for his tour of duty with the United States Army. He received his primary education in the public schools of Wilbraham but attended high school in Springfield. He graduated in 1955 with honors from Springfield Trade High School, where he had served as president of the senior class. Having studied drafting while at Trade, he continued his studies first at American International College and later at Western New England College, where he studied mechanical engineering.

While working his way through college he entered the work force as a draftsman at American Bosch in Springfield. He remained with local engineering firms for the rest of his life, at times working for R.E. Phelon, Zero Manufacturing, Art Cement Products, Mercury Plastics, Galileo Electro Optics, and finally retiring at the age of 70 from Caliper Life Sciences.

He served with United States Army in the U.S. Caribbean Command, stationed at Ft. Amador in the Panama Canal Zone. It was there that he met his future wife, Oderay Moscoso, a native of Panama. They married in 1961. Following his return to the United States, he purchased a 5-acre property on Beebe Road in Wilbraham where, with the aid of his elder brother Hank, he built the house where he and his wife would live for the rest of their lives.



He was a natural athlete. His skillful play on the hockey, baseball, and football teams of Trade High was often mentioned in the Springfield newspapers of the day. In later years he took up squash, tennis, and racquetball, each time learning so adeptly that he soon surpassed his teachers. His progress at skiing, which he did not take up until his twenties, was so rapid that within two years he was a ski instructor at Okemo ski area in Ludlow, Vermont. He would later teach at Berkshire East ski area in Charlemont, Massachusetts, where he was for many years the assistant director of the ski school.

His pastimes were varied and wide-ranging. He liked sailing and boating. He enjoyed building and flying model airplanes, and racing 1960s-era slot-cars. These interests were also reflected at full scale: he would later study flying, progressing as far as making solo flights, and enjoyed watching sports car racing, owning during his lifetime two Alfa Romeo roadsters. He enjoyed reading adventure and espionage novels, and was, along with his wife of 62 years, a fan of Golden Age Hollywood musicals and garden work, be it with a rake or at the wheel of his New Holland tractor. Though not averse to travel, he was never happier than when spending time with his family at the home that he built himself.

He is predeceased by his wife, Oderay, and by his brother Henry (Hank). He is survived by his sister, Dorothy, of Ludlow, Massachusetts; his three sons: Adolfo and his wife, Luz, of Boca Raton, Florida; Carl Peter and his wife, Halina, of Monson, Massachusetts; and John, of North Granby, Connecticut; his three grandchildren: Michael Chandeck and his wife, Meghan, of Green Bay, Wisconsin; Marc Chandeck and his wife, Kristen, of San Jose, California; and Nicole Chandeck, of Miami, Florida; and many nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Visiting hours will be held on Friday, Sept. 6, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Lombard Funeral Home in Monson. A memorial mass will be given on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 10 a.m. at St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church in Wilbraham, followed by a burial service at Glendale Cemetery in Wilbraham. For online condolences/directions please visit lombardfuneralhome.com.

Matthew Scott McCorkindale

March 9, 1988 – August 14, 2024

Matthew Scott McCorkindale, age 36, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024. He is survived by his mother Gail Merkel of Ware, Mass. his father Edward McCorkindale III & wife Janet Vitkus of Wilbraham, MA and his brother Edward McCorkindale IV of Albuquerque, NM. Matt leaves behind his dedicated and loving partner Samantha Pagan of Easthampton, MA. Matt attended Massachusetts College of Art and Design as an Interrelated Media major, was a teachers assistant for Sound Design Studio & Immersive Media and was the recipient of the Micah Krueger Danemayer Scholarship.



Matt was fiercely independent, generous, held strong morals of autonomy and compassion, and helped others see their own creative potential. Matt was reliable; consistently supporting neighbors, friends and family throughout hardships no matter their own circumstances.

Multimedia arts was Matt's lifelong passion as they created exceptional audio/visual content that explored topics of: Multiculturalism, Natural Phenomena, Science Fiction and Psychedelia. Matt produced original music that was performed at professional events across the Northeast and had a plethora of self learned skills such as: Woodwind flute crafting, stagecraft carpentry, and electrical engineering among many others. Each were incredibly valuable to society and the festival industry in which they worked.

Matt's legacy will live on in every artist/musician of the Boston Burner Community, in their chosen family of Camp Lamp of Boston, MA, their friends at Smith College Javanese Gamelan Ensemble and in their beloved chosen family of Western Massachusetts.

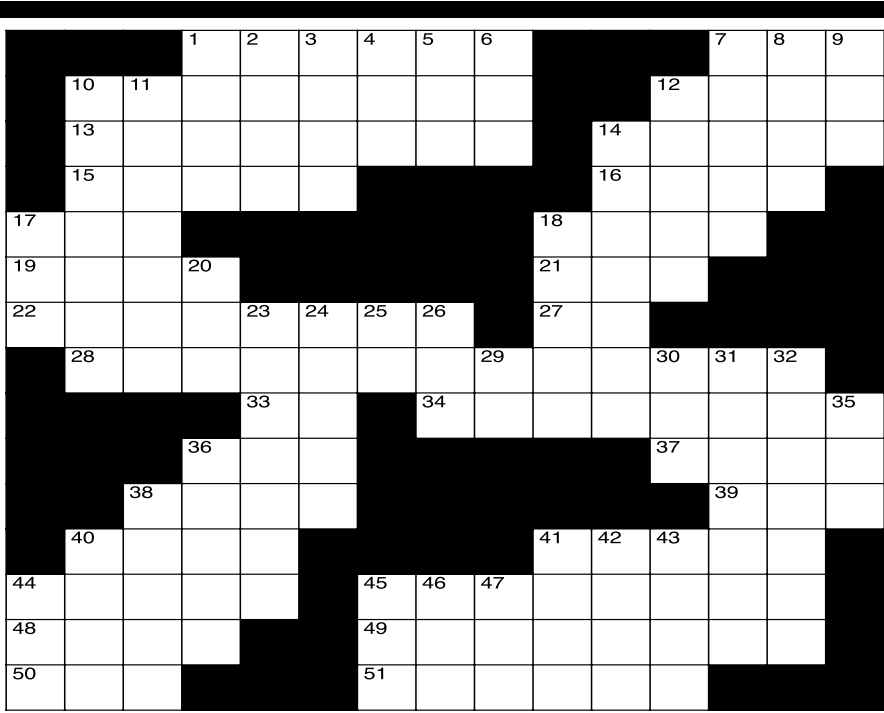
MRHS Class of 1974 Reunion announces reunion activities

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](mailto:karen.wahlberg@mrhsclassof74@gmail.com) at mrhsclassof74@gmail.com.

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Current unit
- 7. Reciprocal of an ohm
- 10. God of the sea
- 12. A way to disfigure
- 13. Positioned
- 14. Tall tropical American tree
- 15. Large deciduous trees
- 16. ___ and ends
- 17. Part of a machine
- 18. Brews
- 19. One who leads prayers in a mosque
- 21. Indian state
- 22. Partisans
- 27. Top lawyer in the land
- 28. Former Dodgers MVP
- 33. Title for women
- 34. Heated and

- allowed to slowly cool
- 36. Copycat
- 37. Sounds
- 38. One-time Israeli diplomat Abba
- 39. Part of (abbr.)
- 40. Hateful
- 41. Collide
- 44. European football heavyweight
- 45. One who works for you
- 48. Song
- 49. Ancient marvels
- 50. Bridge building degree
- 51. Delivery boys

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Continent
- 2. Submissive
- 3. There's a lot in a bowling alley
- 4. Sun up in New York

- 5. Court decision ___ v. Wade
- 6. Finish line
- 7. Young women
- 8. Hives of activity
- 9. Hyman Roth's right-hand man Johnny
- 10. Eastern U.S. river
- 11. Popular cooking ingredient
- 12. Greek mythological princess
- 14. Scent for men
- 17. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- 18. Once more
- 20. Irrate
- 23. Triangular spaces above a door
- 24. Norwegian playwright and poet Henrik

- 25. Atomic #58
- 26. Patti Hearst's captors
- 29. Natural logarithm
- 30. Talk incessantly
- 31. Went by
- 32. Strives
- 35. Fall back
- 36. Manila hemp
- 38. Not easily explained
- 40. Former “Double Dare” host Summers
- 41. Mollusk
- 42. Capital of Togo
- 43. Letter of Semitic scripts
- 44. Founder of Babism
- 45. Indicates near
- 46. Family of regulator genes
- 47. Indicates before

Wilbraham-Hampden Times

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

Bells tolled throughout our history

The bells of Wilbraham's past

By **Charles F. Bennett**
Times Editor Emeritus

Part II
(Continued from Aug. 8)

Editor's note: Guided by the 1966 book "The Sound of Bells" by Eric Sloan, begun in last month's Times, we are continuing the tales of how bells were a vital part of New England and Wilbraham's past.

At the beginning of this summer, prompted by the celebration of the Fourth of July, we were urged by retired Minnechaug Athletic Director Mike Kober to look over a 1966 book he loaned to us about the history of bells in New England. The custom was to ring town bells to commemorate our country's independence, said the book's author and illustrator Eric Sloane of Warren, Conn.

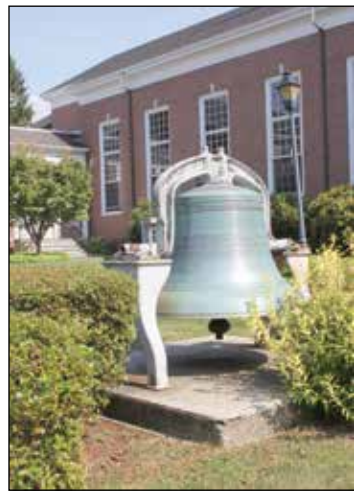
It gave us a chance in last month's column to tell the story of how the Second Baptist Church Bell, blown down in the 1938 Hurricane, was rescued by Jesse Rice and re-located to the garden of the Old Meeting House Museum where it is today. (Please see photo I took of it in this issue).

Nine Miles

I began a review of Sloan's book in last month's Historical Wilbraham column. And the more I learned from the book, the more I delved into the history of some of our town's bells.

According to experts the average limit of a bell's sound was nine miles. It might not be a coincidence that it is nine miles from Springfield to the Center Village of Wilbraham or to the appropriately named Nine Mile Pond on Boston Road.

People enjoyed their town and church bells and were eager to listen for them and to hear their message. Knowing that the sound of bells could carry quite far, they were proud that the bell at their church could have "A rare or fine tone!" Some could even tell the weather by the sound of a distant bell, like when



The bell from the old Congregational church was saved and installed in front of the new United Church, dedicated in 1958 at 500 Main Street. (Charles F. Bennett photo)

the air pressure lowers as it does before it rains, said Sloan.

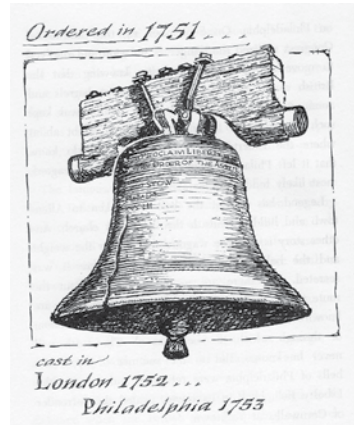
Wagon bells jingled and clanged mostly because of the roughness of the roads. But that's the way farmers and travelers wanted them to sound. The were really "jingle bells". The small bells were mounted on the harnesses of the horses, otherwise they would not "jingle".

Snow sleighs were obviously quiet as they glided along and the sleigh bells had to be mounted on the horses to create the seasonal sound.

United Church Bell

Anyone traveling along Wilbraham's Main Street can easily spot the bell mounted on the ground near the front of the church. That bell has an interesting history says longtime church member Marjorie Alsing Trimble. The church began as The Congregational Church in its first meeting house on Wigwam Hill. It was moved down the Mountain from Tinkham Road and used on Main Street until a new church was built and used from 1857 until it burned down in 1877. The third church was struck by lightning on July 5, 1911. The next church was built and dedicated in 1913.

According to the Charles Merrick history book a new bell containing metal salvaged from the burned church, was cast and installed in 1916, a gift of Mrs. Lucie S Foskit, who also paid



The Liberty Bell tolled for John Adams and Thomas Jefferson on the day they both died, July 4, 1826. (Illustration by Eric Sloan)

**62 Years Ago
Train Fire Spotted**

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From Sept. 12, 1962. "A freight car on a westbound New York Central train was damaged extensively by fire here Tuesday night. Wilbraham Police notified Springfield police that the fire was noticed as the train passed through town.

As City firefighters stretched hose across the tracks, word came that an east-bound freight was due to pass the spot in minutes. They pulled back their hoses and waited. But crew members of the stopped train managed to flag down the east-bound freight less than 200 yards from where the hoses had been stretched. The freight car was an empty Pacific Fruit Express Co. refrigerated car."

for the Soldier's Statue in Crane Park and the Wilbraham Grange building. Legend has it that the bell dedicated in 1913 was always rung on Halloween by some town rascals according to Trimble.



The bell from the Second Baptist Church on Boston Road, blown down by the 1938 Hurricane, was rescued by Jesse Rice and now graces the Old Meeting House Museum Garden. (Charles F. Bennett photo)

The bell (see photo) from the previous church (razed in 1962) was saved and installed in front of the new United Church, which was dedicated in 1958 at 500 Main Street and remains active today. However, said Trimble, the steeple and carillon are deteriorating with age. So, a fundraising campaign was started to get it back in shape. Residents may send a donation to the church to help. Mail to United Church, 500 Main St. Wilbraham, MA 01095. For more information call 413-596-2511. Trimble said when the church organ is played the music that comes out of the chimes is very pleasant.

The Liberty Bell

Perhaps the most well-known bell in the world, with a crack, is the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. The bell was cast in early 1752 at the Whitechapel Foundry in England and delivered to Philadelphia. It was set up in the Philadelphia State House yard for testing. But when it rang for tone, a crack appeared. Two workmen offered to melt it down and cast it again. They added 1 1/2 ounces of copper for each pound of the old bell's metal and this time the bell was sound.

Most Americans believe the Liberty Bell was made for the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. There is controversy whether it rang on that day because there are no written records of it having rung on that day. But it would have been unusual if it didn't ring at the end of the meeting on

that day of July 4.

The Liberty Bell bears a timeless message: "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof" The Liberty Bell and many other American bells rang when the Declaration was read on the eighth of July, 1776 and all the following day.

One little-known fact is that the Liberty Bell managed to toll the death of each signer of the Declaration of Independence, but when the 50th-year jubilee of Independence Day arrived, July 4, 1826, it tolled the death of both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson on the same day. "Hardly before one death knell had finished, the toll for the other great man began," wrote Sloan.

He finished his book with a statement that on July 8, 1835 it tolled the death of John Marshall, the last of the Federalist statesmen who shaped the early Republic. At that moment it cracked.

Sources: "The Sound of Bells" by Eric Sloan published by Doubleday, 1966. National Historic Park, Philadelphia, Pa "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick. Thanks to Mike Kober for the idea.

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

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Falcons Baseball comes out on top!

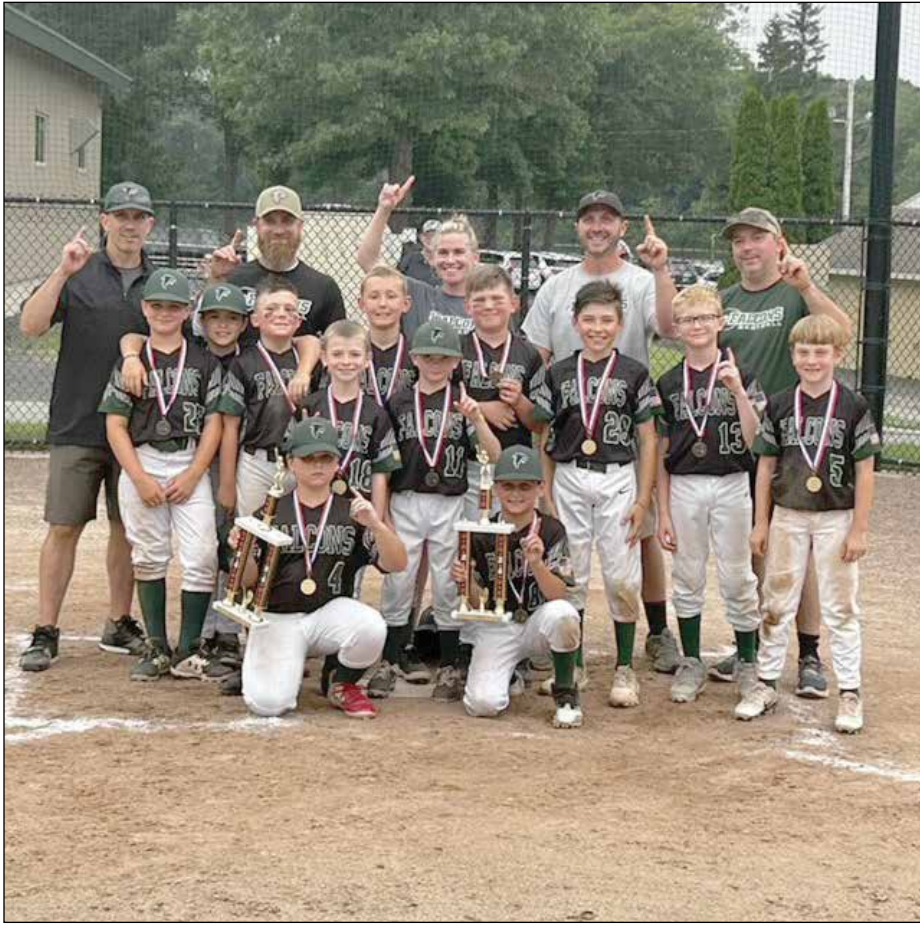


Photo and caption submitted by Jessie Donovan
Congratulations to our 10UA Falcons baseball squad for finishing in first place and bringing home the division championship. The team defeated East Longmeadow 11-6. Players: Ethan Appleby, Jake Appleby, Michael Clark, Evan Donovan, Gavin Fallon, Jack Fulton, Grayson Lemelin, Dominic Moretti, Vince Morin, Cam O'Sullivan, and Nolan Witek. Coaches: Pete Appleby, Jessie Donovan, Craig Fallon, Nick Morin and Jeff Witek.



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



A Walk at Spec Pond

Enjoy these photos from Spec Pond as David Henry enjoyed a lovely stroll with his dog, Sweetboy.

Turley photos by David Henry



Snoopy Rock
resent Snoopy



Gazebo Park i
sunshine.



A view of the
Labor Day we

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TUESDAY SPECIAL
\$20 Steak Dinner
 10 oz. Sirloin with Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Vegetables



WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



On Bennett Road in Hampden, a rock formation people painted to resemble the dog from Peanuts.



Wilbraham was picturesque with colorful flowers and loads of greenery.



Greens at the Country Club of Wilbraham as golfers enjoyed their weekend out on the course.



A touch of fall colors was found outside the Town House in Hampden. Fall is on the way!



A close-up of a flower in full bloom at Gerrish Park in Hampden.



A gentle creek at Hampden Memorial Park.

A drive around the towns!

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

On Labor Day, Wilbraham-Hampden Times Editor Kristin Rivers took a drive around Wilbraham and Hampden to enjoy the beautiful weather and some moments of Zen. Enjoy what caught her eye!



A beautiful view from GreatHorse in Hampden, with lines of green as far as the eye can see.

AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:

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PET PAGE

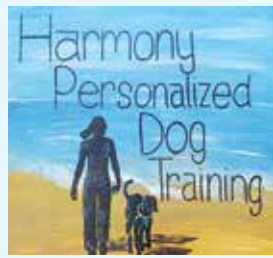
READERS!

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



PET OF THE MONTH Meet Toby!

He is 4 years old and lives with his parents Paula and Ed Nowak in Chicopee. He loves to play ball and take walks. Here he is just getting up from one of his many naps.



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The Science of Catnip

Anyone who has a cat knows how crazy their feline friend goes for catnip. What is catnip, though, and why does it drive cats crazy?

According to PetMD, catnip is an herb closely related to mint. When cats smell Nepetalactone oil, which is found in the leaves of catnip, it can cause behavioral changes as the scent is carried to their brains from pathways in their nose and mouth.

Cats will typically react to catnip by meowing, flipping, rolling, rubbing, and zoning out. Some cats may even become aggressive if you approach them while they are playing with catnip.

Other behavioral impacts of catnip include playfulness, affection and even relaxation. Cats experience different behaviors when they ingest catnip mellowing out, similar to how cannabis affects humans. Most cats will lose interest in catnip in around 10 minutes. The effects of catnip, however, can last up to two hours. After those two

hours a cat can be affected by catnip again.

In addition to the euphoric feeling catnip can help reduce stress, depression, and anxiety in cats by acting as a sedative. Catnip can also reduce bloating and stomach pain.

Not all cats exhibit the same effects from catnip, with about 20 percent not being attracted to the plant. Kittens less than eight weeks old and senior cats may also not experience a response.

Although catnip is safe for cats to ingest, it is possible for cats to have too much of the plant, so it is important to control how much your pet is exposed to it. However, it is not likely that your cat will overdose from catnip. Too much catnip can cause dizziness, diarrhea, trouble walking or vomiting in your pet, so speak with your veterinarian about the correct dosage for your feline friend. Frequent exposure to catnip can cause your cat to develop a tolerance to the plant, so it is best to limit it to once a week.

Conservation Commission issues order of conditions for East Brook Bridge replacement

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Conservation Commission issued an order of conditions on Aug. 21 after receiving the latest updates on the East Brook Bridge replacement project.

Christopher Lyman, lead civil engineer for Howard Stein Hudson, explained to the commission the project began through a grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, with many structures inspected in Hampden, focusing on culverts and bridges.

It has been in process for three years.

From there, Lyman said a prioritization plan was made for updating some of the town's structures, including stream structures.

"From this came the Main Street Bridge at East Brook. It's kind of how we got here," Lyman said. "This past year, we kind of got up to the point of 100% design for these plans. We're submitting the NOI to the Town of Hampden basically proposed to replace the existing Main Street Bridge at East Brook, which is currently a 26-foot wide bridge with a 32-foot long bridge to meet the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards to the greatest extent practical."

Lyman added the existing bridge is "structurally deficient" and there are barrels there currently.

"The potential of not replacing the bridge could lead to the loss of the roadway and potential damage to the environment around it," Lyman said. "The project is designed in a manner

to construct an impact to be minimized as much as possible. The project is located within riverfront area, inland bank, land underwater, bordering land subject to flooding as long as estimated priority habitat and priority habitat to rare species just for a couple of the resource areas that are around the project."

The project's impacts, he explained, include 571 square feet of temporary impacts to land underwater, 7,289 square feet of temporary impacts to riverfront area and 85 feet of temporary impacts to bank.

"These temporary impacts are mostly to replace the existing abutments of the existing bridge to become new abutments. There is also going to be some widening of the bridge as I said," Lyman said. "This will result in roughly 488 square feet of land underwater added, basically, to the ecosystem. There's also permanent impacts including 1,662 square feet of permanent impacts through riverfront area, 12 feet of permanent impacts to bank and there will be 32 cubic feet or yards of dredging. Again, these permanent impacts are basically due to the widening of the bridge and putting in these new abutments. Also, some bank work we're doing to stabilize the banks on all sides of the bridge and we're also constructing a sidewalk and pedestrian curb ramps on the bridge itself on either end."

Added 1,855 cubic feet of new flood storage is also included in the impacts due to reworking the bank to stabilize it and widening the bridge allowing for greater flood storage at the bank on either side.

"There's no direct impact to

any other of the wetland resources as the products proposed right now," Lyman said.

Alternative analysis done by Tetra Tech--which was a hydraulic analysis--included alternatives such as a 32-foot span by 22-foot channel bridge, a 32-foot span with a 26-foot channel and a 38-foot span with a 32-foot channel, with alternative two selected.

Steve Tyler, associate principal manager and principal in charge of the project at Howard Stein Hudson, added there are other elements including the close proximity of the historic structure for the caretaker's house for the Mass Audubon Society, particularly the driveway.

"So, there's greater impacts with those alternatives as well," Tyler said.

As Lyman and Tyler shared a presentation highlighting the work that would take place, Tyler addressed letters the Commission received from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for natural heritage and endangered species.

"The findings of natural heritage are that this project as currently proposed will not adversely affect the natural resource area habitat, state-protected, rare wildlife species. Therefore, it is our opinion that this project meets the state-listed species performance standards for the issuance for an order of condition," Tyler said. "Another key element that I'm sure you're aware of is as currently proposed must be conditioned to avoid a prohibited take of turtle species according to the regulations and to avoid a prohibitive take of turtle species the condi-

tions attached to this letter must be met and then it goes on to say the provided the attached conditions are met, fully implemented. There is no change to the project plan. This project will not result in a take of state-listed species. That's where we want to be. We don't want to have a take of state-listed species."

On avoiding a take of state-listed species, Tyler read the following conditions that must be met are to develop a turtle protection plan by a state-certified wildlife biologist and timing restrictions.

"I've been doing bridge replacements for something a little over 20 years. I've had a half dozen or so projects with the requirements just as this where we've had endangered species, particularly it's been turtles," Tyler said. "We will certainly have these requirements in there, but we won't be able to develop a turtle protection plan in advance of putting this out to bid. The way we handle this is this a means of methods that the contractor's held to because whatever these requirements are, the contractor has to be held to and that biologist really need to be available to the contractor throughout construction, to continually do inspections and so forth. So, what we do is we write a special provision that requires the contractor to hire a state-certified wildlife biologist, they submit this plan...what the project would ask of the Conservation Commission is to write that into the requirements of the order of conditions."

Tyler added prior to continuing with work, the contractor must present the Turtle Protection Plan and, after it goes out to

bid, the winning contractor "will have to submit that plan for your review."

"So that you make sure that that is taken care of during construction," Tyler said.

Time-of-year restrictions will also be included.

When Tyler clarified there would be no temporary bridge, it was explained it would be single-lane construction.

"So, what they'll do is close one side of the road at a time, there'll be temporary traffic signals on both sides of the bridge. People will approach the bridge, only one side can go at a time and they'll build one side of the bridge then they'll open that up and now, all traffic will be on the new bridge and there'll be still single lane alternating flow and then they'll build the second half of the bridge," Tyler said.

On the timeline, the design has already been submitted to MassDOT for Chapter 85 review, with the function of funding to play a role, with Tyler clarifying it's in year three of development and at 100% design, along with the town still needing to get funding for construction.

"I can't say what year it'll go to construction. The hope of the town is it goes to construction within the next couple of years. If not next year, the year after," Tyler said. "But without that funding in place, I can't say."

After the discussion, the Conservation Commission unanimously approved issuing the order of conditions for the project, with the conditions to be finalized and submitted to Howard Stein Hudson in the next 21 days from this meeting.

GARDEN from page 6

tunity to develop a healthy stand of feeder roots before the ground freezes. Choose a location that receives six or more hours of sun a day.

Without knowing the exact size of your plants or if you will be able to lift and move the whole clump, it's hard to advise on the exact size of the hole. Just make sure there is ample room around the plant so that the roots will be able to extend out easily.

If your soil is average, the addition of a balanced fertilizer may be all that is necessary at planting. Soils that are lean should be improved prior to planting by amending the hole with roughly equal parts good soil and aged compost or manure.

Peonies prefer a pH of 6.0-7.0, a wide enough range to accommodate

most home garden situations. If your soil is more acidic than that, bring up your pH by adding lime.

Peonies fertilized at planting time require no additional food until the following fall. Bear in mind that too much nitrogen will encourage lots of leaves but few roots and flowers, and I know you are looking forward to flowers!

For that reason, choose a fertilizer that is lower in nitrogen than the other nutrients. After the third season fertilize after blooming, as well as in the fall.

An established peony is drought resistant, but if spring rains are scarce, a weekly watering will also help to promote good flowers.

Heavy peony flowers, especially the old-fashioned types will no doubt bow down to the ground in the wind and rain unless staked. I usually pick

some for the vase in the bud stage in an attempt to avoid this task, but nevertheless it makes the plant nice and tidy and should be accomplished.

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.

the bamboo, respectively. Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening as you go. If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don't tighten so much that it looks unnatural.

One year my peony buds wilted and dried up just prior to bloom. The culprit was botrytis.

Good hygiene can reduce the risk of this fungus invading your garden. Each fall simply cut the stems of herbaceous peonies down to the ground. Haul them off to the trash, don't compost. If watering is necessary, do so early in the morning and water at the plant's base rather than overhead to keep foliage dry.

Any stems that show signs of wilting should be cut away and thrown in the trash as well. Disinfect clippers in between cuts.

I hope that this additional information will help you to achieve the long-awaited flowers that you are hoping for! It may take a year or two for transplanted peonies to get adjusted and do their thing, but once set they will bloom happily for decades!

I hope that this additional information will help you to achieve the long-awaited flowers that you are hoping for! It may take a year or two for transplanted peonies to get adjusted and do their thing, but once set they will bloom happily for decades!

The Scantic Valley Y Celebrates 20 Years of Community Impact!

WILBRAHAM - The Scantic Valley YMCA is thrilled to announce the celebration of our 20th anniversary with a series of events and activities that reflect our commitment to strengthening community ties and promoting health and well-being.

Anniversary Celebration Highlights:

Dinner Dance Fundraiser: On Friday, Sept. 13, join us for an evening of fun, food and dancing starting at 5:30 p.m. This fundraising event will feature dinner, raffles, and music from the 60's and 70's.

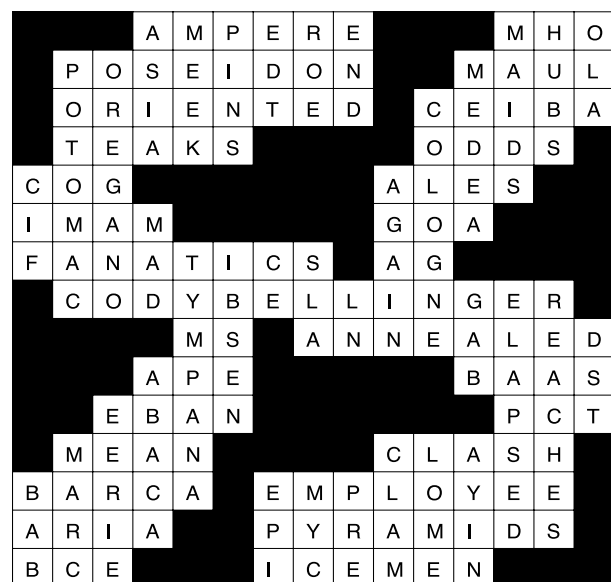
Family Field Day: On Saturday, Sept. 14 from 1 to 3 p.m., the Scantic Valley Y will host a Fun Day filled with activities for all ages. This event is FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY.

Water Safety Day: On Sunday, Sept. 15 from Noon to 2 p.m., Y lifeguards/instructors will teach essential water safety skills to children and their families. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY.

Welcoming Week: From Sept. 13 through 22, the Scantic Valley Y will offer a FREE TWO-Week Trial Membership to non-members. The Y believes our communities are stronger when everyone feels welcome. Financial assistance available.

The YMCA is dedicated to providing vital programs and services that enrich the lives of individuals and families across the region. From youth development and family programs to health and wellness initiatives, our focus remains on fostering a supportive environment where everyone can thrive.

For more information, contact the Scantic Valley YMCA at 413.596.2749.



'Treasures from the Attic' – Museum-style

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

WILBRAHAM – Old Meeting House Museum Curator Lucy Peltier is getting ready for the museum's next Open House on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

With the theme of "Treasures from the Attic" Peltier, aided by Trustee Marty Lyman, searched through donated historical items in boxes, closets, and chests in the storage room and attic of the Old Meeting House to find items of various areas of interest.

"This is a chance for the public to see historical items from the greater Wilbraham area which have been hiding in storage for years," said Peltier.

History buffs may remember the old small-size Yankee Magazines, which had a feature each month that highlighted an unfamiliar antique object that they wouldn't readily know what it was used for. But once they were told what it was,



The vintage object on display at the Old Meeting House Museum is an antique stereoscopic picture viewer. (Lucy Peltier photo)

for instance, like an electricity-free iron that would have been filled with hot coals to smooth out wrinkles, it made a lot of sense.

The Sept. 7 open house will feature



Atheneum Society President Dave Bourcier digs out an antique peach basket from the attic of the Old Meeting House Museum to be on display for the "Treasures from the Attic" Open House Sept. 7. (Charles F. Bennett photo)

the same kind of concept, artifacts from the Wilbraham Atheneum Society's collections that have rarely been displayed. The Society oversees the museum, owned by the town.

The open house will feature a "Can you guess what this is?" display of unusual items. Visitors are invited to guess the purpose and function of these items that used to be common, but are now unfamiliar to many.

Also this season visitors have been greeted with a redesigned gift shop, which is restocked with "Wilbraham" tee shirts for townies and visitors alike. There is an inventory of Wilbraham history books for those who want to know more about the town's origins. All museum events, from guest lectures to kids' activities like the historical Scavenger Hunt at the Christmas Tree Festival, are free and open to the public.

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

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

Wilbraham Friends of the Library 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.

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 Bandouveres, Wilbraham Friends of the Library, friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org, 413-222-2972.

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.

Events & announcements schedule

Memory Café at the Wilbraham Senior Center

WILBRAHAM – The senior center will be hosting a Memory Café the first Monday of every month at 11 a.m.

Memory Café is an informal social gathering where you can participate in activities that help retain and possibly improve memory skills. It is open to everyone who wants to work on their brain power. It is especially helpful to those suffering memory loss and their caregivers.

- Prevent social isolation
- Form new friendships
- Make the reality of memory loss less traumatic
- Stimulate happy memories through creative arts and music
- Give caregivers a chance to have fun with the mature adult
- Caregivers learn techniques to assist in their caregiver role

Call Barbara Harrington at 596-8379 to register and for more information.

Support Neurological Research at the Trot for Tom Run/Walk

WILBRAHAM - Registration is now open for the first and only Trot for Tom run/walk. Happening on Sept. 14 at Minnechaug Regional High School, the event features a 5K run or 1-mile walk honoring Dr. Thomas "Tom" Julian. Known for his curiosity and love of learning, Tom's career as a scientific researcher and academic was cut short, but his impact on those around him was undeniable.

The Trot for Tom event aims to continue his mission, raising funds for neurological disease research.

Lace-up your shoes and visit <https://www.runreg.com/trot-for-tom> to sign-up and learn more.

There will also be a silent auction for 2 tickets to the Basketball Hall of Fame enshrinement - see and four tickets to the Sept. 20 Red Sox game versus the Twins, and four Adirondack chairs.

Water Customer Notice from the Water Department

Metallic-Tasting Algae in Reservoir

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

The bloom is being monitored by Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and MWRA three days per week. Staff are collecting samples in the reservoir, performing microscopic analyses, and identifying and counting the algae concentrations. MWRA is also commu-

nicating with each of the Chicopee Valley Aqueduct communities several times per week. In addition, water quality is monitored continuously with on-line analyzers immediately before and after treatment at the Brutsch Water Treatment Facility, as well as further downstream.

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

Theatre Guild of Hampden seeking directors

HAMPDEN – The Theatre Guild of Hampden is looking for directors for our 2024-2025 season.

For more information, call Mark Giza at 413-204-5333.



SPORTS

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Falcons ready to make playoff run



Nora Kennedy sends a pass away.

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School girls soccer team got ready for the regular season by participating in a play day at South Hadley last week. The Falcon met Chicopee Comprehensive, Tantasqua, Agawam, and host South Hadley in short scrimmages. The Falcons are scheduled to open the regular season against East Longmeadow at home on Friday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m.



Zoriah Wray winds up for a long pass.



Katelyn Hoar starts a play on offense.



Zoe Pinnock tries to get through a pair of defenders.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Aleix Carreira makes her way up the field.



Goalie Makenzi Pastreck collects a loose ball.

Four-run eighth leads A's to Valley Wheel title

LONGMEADOW – The A's Dan Baker doubled in a run in the bottom of the eighth inning to break a scoreless tie and lead the Athletics to a 4-2 victory over the Cubs in the 18th Valley Wheel Baseball League championship game.

League Commissioner Jim Nason who sat right behind home plate for the action stated, "I think it might be the most exciting and best-played Valley Wheel game I've ever seen."

A picture-perfect day for baseball at DiPippo Park in Longmeadow turned into quite the pitcher's duel with defensive gems all over the field. The top seeded A's were taking on the 3rd seeded Cubs in a rematch of the 2023 Valley Wheel

Championship, in which the A's won 13-12 after erasing an early 7-0 deficit.

The Cubs have had revenge on their minds all season and came out swinging their sticks. A's starter Mike Bielen took a perfect game into the 5th inning when he faced the Cubs a month ago, but any thought of a no-hit bid ended when the Cubs leadoff hitter Jon Campbell singled to start the game. Cory Concardo fol-

Please see **VALLEY WHEEL**, page 17

Submitted photo

The Valley Wheel Athletics captured the championship on Sunday, Aug. 25. The A's defeated the Cubs 4-2 to take the title.



MINNECHAUG

2024

fall varsity schedule

Football

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|------------------|--------|
| Friday, Sept. 13 | Home | West Springfield | 6 p.m. |
| Friday, Sept. 20 | Away | East Longmeadow | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Sept. 27 | Away | Wachusett | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 4 | Home | Westfield | 6 p.m. |
| Thursday, Oct. 10 | Away | Holyoke | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 18 | Home | Central | 6 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 25 | Away | Longmeadow | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Nov. 1 | Away | Chicopee Comp. | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 8/9 | TBD | Week 9 - TBD | TBD |
| Nov. 15/16 | Away | Week 10 - TBD | TBD |

Boys Soccer

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|------------------|-----------|
| Tuesday, Sept. 3 | Away | East Longmeadow | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 9 | Home | Ludlow | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, Sept. 12 | Away | Amherst | 5:15 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 16 | Away | Longmeadow | 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 18 | Home | Westborough | 5 p.m. |
| Friday, Sept. 20 | Home | West Springfield | 4:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 23 | Away | Belchertown | 6 p.m. |
| Thursday, Sept. 26 | Home | East Longmeadow | 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Oct. 2 | Home | Pittsfield | 5 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 4 | Away | Ludlow | 3 p.m. |
| Monday, Oct. 7 | Home | Amherst | 7 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Oct. 9 | Home | Longmeadow | 4 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 11 | Away | West Springfield | 7 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Oct. 16 | Home | Belchertown | 4 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 18 | Away | Pittsfield | 4 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 22 | Home | South Hadley | 7 p.m. |

Girls Soccer

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|------------------|------------|
| Friday, Sept. 6 | Away | East Longmeadow | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 9 | Home | Ludlow | 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 11 | Away | Westfield | 5 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept. 17 | Home | West Springfield | 4 p.m. |
| Friday, Sept. 20 | Home | Longmeadow | 6:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept. 24 | Home | Belchertown | 4 p.m. |
| Thursday, Sept. 26 | Home | East Longmeadow | 7 p.m. |
| Saturday, Sept. 28 | Home | Westwood | 12:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 30 | Away | Ludlow | 6 p.m. |
| Thursday, Oct. 3 | Home | Westfield | 4 p.m. |
| Saturday, Oct. 5 | Home | Wachusett | 11 a.m. |
| Monday, Oct. 7 | Away | Belchertown | 5 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 11 | Away | West Springfield | 5 p.m. |
| Monday, Oct. 14 | Away | Longmeadow | 4 p.m. |
| Thursday, Oct. 17 | Home | Agawam | 6:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, Oct. 19 | Away | Westborough | 11 a.m. |

Field Hockey

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|------------------|-----------|
| Wednesday, Sept. 4 | Home | Longmeadow | 6:30 p.m. |
| Friday, Sept. 6 | Away | Algonquin | 4 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept. 10 | Home | Greenfield | 4 p.m. |
| Saturday, Sept. 14 | Home | Shrewsbury | 11 a.m. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 18 | Away | Frontier | 4 p.m. |
| Friday, Sept. 20 | Away | Agawam | 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept. 24 | Home | West Springfield | 6 p.m. |
| Thursday, Sept. 26 | Away | Longmeadow | 4:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, Sept. 28 | Away | Wachusett | 11 a.m. |
| Wednesday, Oct. 2 | Away | Greenfield | 4 p.m. |
| Saturday, Oct. 5 | Away | Andover | 2 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 8 | Home | Belchertown | 5 p.m. |
| Thursday, Oct. 10 | Home | Frontier | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Oct. 14 | Home | Agawam | 11 a.m. |
| Wednesday, Oct. 16 | Away | West Springfield | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 18 | Away | East Longmeadow | 7 p.m. |
| Monday, Oct. 21 | Home | Acton-Boxborough | 6:30 p.m. |

Golf

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|------------------|-----------|
| Tuesday, Sept. 3 | Home | Westfield | 3 p.m. |
| Thursday, Sept. 5 | Away | Agawam | 3 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 9 | Away | Longmeadow | 3 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 11 | Home | East Longmeadow | 3 p.m. |
| Thursday, Sept. 12 | Away | Ludlow | 3 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 16 | Away | Tantasqua | 3 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept. 17 | Home | West Springfield | 3 p.m. |
| Thursday, Sept. 19 | Away | Westfield | 3 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 23 | Home | Agawam | 3 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 25 | Home | Longmeadow | 3 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 30 | Away | East Longmeadow | 3 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Oct. 2 | Home | Pope Francis | 3 p.m. |
| Monday, Oct. 7 | Home | Southwick | 3 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 8 | Away | Northampton | 3:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Oct. 9 | Away | Pope Francis | 3 p.m. |

Boys Cross Country

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|--------------------|-----------|
| Tuesday, Sept. 3 | Home | Chicopee | 3:45 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept. 10 | Home | Ludlow | 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 18 | Home | Belchertown | 4 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept. 24 | Away | Northampton | 5 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 8 | Away | Westfield | 3:45 p.m. |
| Saturday, Oct. 12 | Home | Wilbraham & Monson | 1 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 15 | Home | Chicopee Comp. | 4 p.m. |

Girls Cross Country

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|--------------------|-----------|
| Tuesday, Sept. 3 | Home | Chicopee | 3:45 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept. 10 | Home | Ludlow | 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 18 | Home | Belchertown | 4 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept. 24 | Away | Northampton | 5 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 8 | Away | Westfield | 3:45 p.m. |
| Saturday, Oct. 12 | Home | Wilbraham & Monson | 1 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 15 | Home | Chicopee Comp. | 4 p.m. |

Gymnastics

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|----------------|--------|
| Wednesday, Sept. 18 | Away | Agawam | 6 p.m. |
| Saturday, Sept. 28 | Away | Westfield | 6 p.m. |
| Saturday, Oct. 5 | Away | Hampshire | 6 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 11 | Home | Chicopee Comp. | 6 p.m. |

Girls Volleyball

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|----------------|-----------|
| Saturday, Sept. 7 | Home | Shrewsbury | 11 a.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 9 | Away | Algonquin | 6:45 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 11 | Away | Westfield | 6:15 p.m. |
| Friday, Sept. 13 | Home | Longmeadow | 5:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 16 | Away | Amherst | 6:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept. 17 | Home | Central | 5:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Sept. 19 | Home | Frontier | 5:30 p.m. |
| Friday, Sept. 20 | Away | Agawam | 6:15 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 25 | Away | Pope Francis | 6 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 30 | Home | Amherst | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Oct. 2 | Away | Longmeadow | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 4 | Away | Chicopee Comp. | 6:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Oct. 7 | Home | Wachusett | 5:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 8 | Home | Westfield | 6:15 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 11 | Home | Pope Francis | 5:15 p.m. |
| Monday, Oct. 14 | Away | Hudson | 11 a.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 15 | Away | Central | 6 p.m. |
| Thursday, Oct. 17 | Away | Frontier | 7:15 p.m. |

National Champion UConn to play on Enshrinement Weekend

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame is excited to introduce the Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement Game benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer as part of Enshrinement Weekend. This special event will feature a matchup between the back-to-back NCAA National Champion Connecticut Huskies and the Rhode Island Rams on Monday, Oct. 14, at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut.

This game will be the Huskies' first appearance since clinching their second consecutive title in April. UConn head coach Dan Hurley previously led Rhode Island from 2012-18, guiding them to the NCAA Tournament in 2017-18.

"We are thrilled to host and partner on this exhibition game as part of our Enshrinement Weekend festivities," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "This game not only brings together two outstanding college basketball programs but also highlights the power of our sport to make a positive impact off the court. By supporting Coaches vs. Cancer, we are proud to contribute to the fight against a disease that has

touched so many lives. We look forward to a memorable weekend that celebrates the spirit of basketball and those who inspire us all."

The NCAA waiver-approved charity game will cap off the Hall of Fame's weekend's festivities, which also features the Class of 2024 Enshrinement Ceremony on Sunday, October 13, in Springfield, Massachusetts – the Birthplace of Basketball. All net proceeds from the game will benefit Coaches vs. Cancer and the American Cancer Society.

"We appreciate the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame's support of our work to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families," said Dr. Karen E. Knudsen, CEO of the American Cancer Society. "Our partnership with the NABC has been invaluable in helping us fund research and directly support those going through a cancer journey. The support and awareness this game will provide extends our reach even further and moves us closer to ensuring everyone has the opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer."

Coaches vs. Cancer is a nationwide partnership between the Amer-

ican Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). The program brings together coaches, fans, and the basketball community to support the American Cancer Society's efforts in advancing cancer research, providing patient support, and advocating for those affected by the disease. Currently raising over \$10 million annually, the Coaches vs. Cancer initiative has raised more than \$167 million to help fulfill the mission of ending cancer. For more information, please visit coaches.cancer.org.

"Mohegan Sun is a proud partner of both UConn and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, and we're once again thrilled to have an expanded role in Enshrinement Weekend, which will now include this marquee exhibition game inside the 10,000-seat Mohegan Sun Arena," said Jeff Hamilton, President & GM of Mohegan Sun. "UConn vs. URI on October 14th, benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer, will be a great experience for fans, and it is a great way to cap off one of the most exciting weekends of the year at Mohegan Sun."

Quabbin League seeking to start fall league

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hall hosts Community Day

SPRINGFIELD – On Thursday, Aug. 22, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame hosted NBA 2K Community Day for the first time. This exclusive, invite-only event brought together over 80 NBA 2K players from 10 different countries, giving them an early preview of the latest edition in the series, NBA 2K25.

“We were honored to be chosen to host NBA 2K Community Day and bring the international 2K community to the Birthplace of Basketball, showcasing our wonderful city of Springfield on a global stage,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Attendees of this year’s Community Day had an exclusive look at the all-new dribble engine, ProPLAY™ animation expansion, key updates across offense and defense, and more. Creators also had opportunities to explore the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Museum.

Additionally, the Hall of Fame welcomed a number of sports gaming media on Thursday as part of the NBA 2K Community Day celebration, including outlets from Australia, France, and the United Kingdom.

VALLEY WHEEL from page 15

lowed with another single before Bielen walked Mark Caputo to load the bases with no outs. Bielen would bear down. He got a strike out and two pop ups to leave the bases loaded and escape the jam. Bielen would only give up one more hit over his next five innings of work.

Cubs starting pitcher Jon Campbell was coming off a 10-strikeout performance in the Valley Wheel semi-finals and was just as dominate in the championship game. Campbell scattered three hits over six innings without giving up a run.

A’s manager/infielder Tim Provost continued to employ his playoff strategy of giving Bielen mid-game breaks so that he could start and finish the game. The A’s Erick Velez came on in relief in the 3rd inning and retired the side in order with two spectacular leaping catches by shortstop Kevin Hill. Bielen would return in the fourth inning and struck out two in a one, two, three frame.

Hill then stepped on the mound in the sixth inning and Campbell led off with a bunt single. Conardo followed with another hit. After a ground out that held the runners, Hill walked Bryan Ring to load the bases. Hill then induced a 4-6-3 double play to get out of the jam.

In the top of the sixth inning the game remained scoreless when Jason Mikesell walked and advanced to second on a wild pitch. The next hitter popped up down the first base fence line but A’s first baseman Ryan Walsh made a sliding catch for the second out and the runner held up. After another walk, Bielen got a pop up to end the inning.

In the top of the seventh, Hill returned in relief and with two outs gave up back-to-back singles to Aaron Holcomb and Ryan Lopes before hitting John Britt with a 1-2 pitch to load the bases. Hill then found an extra gear as he struck out the Cubs with their leadoff hitter up to end the inning.

In the bottom of the seventh inning with Britt on in relief, the A’s threatened for the first time all game. Bielen walked and got to third base with one out. Michael Waterhouse hit a hard grounder to third and Bielen was thrown out at the plate. After Hill singled the A’s would have second and third with two outs before Britt would get a pop up to end the inning.

With Bielen back on the bump, he retired the 2-3-4 hitters of the Cubs in order in the eighth inning. The game remained tied 0-0 heading into the bottom of the eighth inning when Dan Oleksak would leg out an infield single. Provost followed with a walk, before Dan Baker doubled over the head of the left fielder to plate the first run of the game. After an error, Provost scored. Baker would score on a wild pitch, before Walsh hit a sacrifice fly to center to give the A’s a 4-0 lead.

Bielen went out to close the game in the ninth inning, but walked Jonathan Downs to lead off the inning before Chris Curtis singled. Bielen retired the next two hitters before walking Greg Gallivan to load the bases. With the Cubs down to their last out, Paul Audette grounded to shortstop, but the A’s second baseman could not corral it giving the Cubs life and their first run. A wild pitch would plate another run and put the tying run at second base when Bielen got a ground ball he refused to let get by him. He tossed it to first for the final out of an epic game.

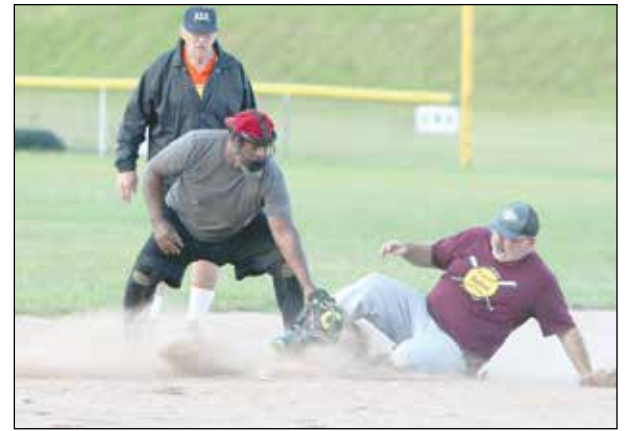
The A’s won their seventh Valley Wheel Championship and became the second team to win the pennant as the top seed in the regular season and win the championship in back-to-back seasons. The Indians did it in the inaugural two seasons in 2006 and 2007. The A’s who started off the season 0-3, finish by winning 12 of their last 14 games.



Dan Jasak delivers a pitch.



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



Derrick Green looks to tag out John Richards.



George Slattery looks to slide safely into second.



Jerry Ago sends a pitch away.

Relics put cap on season

LUDLOW - The Western Mass season a couple of weeks ago with top in the league, which is based in Ludlow. Relics, a softball league for elder playoffs and a championship game. citizens in the region, wrapped up its It was the Q-Tips who came out on

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 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.

HELP-WANTED: PART-TIME PODIATRY OFFICE, Portuguese speaking helpful. Ludlow, Mass. Email resume to podbill@aol.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

The Hampden Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 6 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA, for those interested in the petition of Joshua LaPorte for a Special Permit or Variance under Sections 4, 4.3.2 and Sections 7, 7.3 and Table 7.2 of the Hampden Zoning Bylaw to allow the placement of a shed within the front and side setback on the property located at 43 Echo Valley Drive owned by Conley M. Jones. The petition and related materials are on file in the Town Clerk's office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

For the Board,
L. Jed Berliner, Chair
09/05, 09/12/2024

WILBRAHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE Town of Wilbraham

The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Monday, September 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM** on the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Patrick Roach under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw. The request is to determine whether the work depicted on plans submitted is subject to the Wilbraham Wetland Bylaw and the Wetlands

Protection Act. The project includes repairing an existing septic system within 100' of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The property is located at 53 Lake Drive. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission.

Christopher Brown,
Chairman
09/05/2024

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 5:30 PM** on the application of Christopher Nascembeni for a variance (ZBA24-08) from Section 4.4.10 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow a single-family home on a lot with less than the minimum required frontage on property located at 4V Mohawk Street and 181 Manchonis Road as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/805838549> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 805-838-549).

Edward Kivari Jr.,
Chairman
09/05, 09/12/2024

Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 6:30 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA for all persons interested in proposed amendments to the Hampden Zoning Map. Greathorse requests a zone change from the Residential-4/Residential-6 to Golf Recreational for Parcel 22-177-000, 38.6 acres; Parcel 17-120-000, 236.76 acres; Parcel 17-119-000, 4.5 acres; and Parcel 17-116-000, 12.25 acres. All parcels owned by The Farm at Greathorse LLC. Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours.

For the Board,
Madison Pixley, Chair,
Hampden Planning Board
09/05, 09/12/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **September 19, 2024** the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

2005 Mercedes E
VIN: WPBRF64545F60114
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LKO: Victor Contreras
4 Ruggles Ct Apt 2
Three Rivers MA 01080

R & S Assoc. Inc.
Wilbraham MA
413-596-4374
09/05, 09/12, 09/19/2024

FY25 MULTI-TOWN INVITATION TO BID ROCK SALT FOR SNOW & ICE CONTROL

Sealed bids for Sodium Chloride (Rock Salt), for the purpose of snow and ice control, will be received by the Director

of Facilities & Operations Department of the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District at the office of the Superintendent of Schools, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095, **until Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 10:00 AM**, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. Bids received after the above stated time and date will be rejected. Towns included in this Multi-Town Bid are as follows: Agawam, Brimfield, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holland, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Wales, Ware, Warren, Wilbraham, and the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District. Bid specifications and other bid related information is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., excluding holidays, at the office of the Superintendent of Schools, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095, located at Minnechaug Regional

High School, and on the HWRSD website, www.hwrso.org, beginning Friday, August 30, 2024. No Specs will be Faxed.

Envelope to be marked: **"MULTI-TOWN BID: ROCK SALT FOR SNOW & ICE CONTROL — FY25"**

The Director may reject any and all bids or waive defects in same in the best interest of the towns.

This procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Procurement Act, M.G.L. Chapter 30B, Section 5, and those provisions are hereby incorporated by reference into this Invitation for Bid.

Michael Messier
Director of Facilities & Operations
Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District
09/05/2024

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From the left, Student Council Executive Board consisting of Evan Liverseidge, Hannah Donovan, Richard Hale, McKenna Hale, Brayden O'Sullivan, Abdullah Khan, Ethan Purcell, Ryan Oldread, and Mackenzie DaFonsaca stand with one of the student council advisors, Abigail O'Sullivan, to welcome the students to the pep rally.



New faculty members are welcomed to the district during the pep rally.



Students play a game of "Musical Hot Spots."

SCHOOL from page 1

senior class came out on top with a win from Josh Disa and Brandon Rosas.

For the last game, it was a competition of "Musical Hotspots" where they used rubber hotspots in replacement for chairs. After a challenging competition, senior Mason Belcamino came out on top.

The pep rally then finished up and the senior class stayed back to take their senior group photo before heading back to the school, meeting their new classes and teachers.

Regarding the school year, especially as a senior, Oldread said this.

"I'm excited for all the senior stuff that I'm going to be participating in, and planning all of it especially as a senior will be very cool," Oldread said.

DaFonsaca was also excited. "As student council co-president and a member of the graduating class, I am more than excited for this school year as my e-board and I have many great events and improvements we can't wait to introduce to the student body. Being a senior means a lot to me as I've watched my friends and classmates take the stage at graduation and set off to accomplish great things, so to have the honor to graduate with the class of 2025, I am more than grateful," DaFonsaca said. "I hope to help unite my class and ensure a fun year



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen

Assistant Principal Joanne White welcomes the students to the pep rally during the first day of school at Minnechaug Regional High School.

with many new and rekindled friendships. Having a strong bond with my classmates and student body is my top priority and I hope to make the 2024-25 school year one for the books."

It was a great start to the year for everyone at Minnechaug, including being able to welcome everyone back into the school in a very festive style.

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| SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| STATUS | ADDRESS | DESCRIPTION | LIST PRICE / SOLD PRICE |
| NEW | 154 Loopley St., Ludlow | 6 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath, Ranch | \$280,000 |
| NEW | 228 Piper Rd., West Springfield | 7 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath, Bungalow | \$365,000 |
| ACT | 465 Roosevelt Ave., Springfield | 7 room, 3 bed, 1f, 1h bath Colonial | \$384,900 |
| ACT | 495-497 Springfield St., Wilbraham | 9 room, 4 bed, 2f, 0h bath Colonial, Cottage | \$575,000 |
| ACT | 218 Mountain Rd., Wilbraham | 8 room, 4 bed, 2f, 0h bath Antique | \$654,900 |
| ACT | 35 Clement St., Springfield | 7 room, 3 bed, 1f, 1h bath Colonial | \$279,900 |
| UAG | 52 Simpson Cir., Agawam | 5 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Ranch | \$339,000 |
| UAG | 184 Parkview Dr., Agawam | 6 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath Ranch | \$389,900 |
| UAG | 232 Captain Rd., Longmeadow | 8 room, 4 bed, 3f, 1h bath Colonial | \$612,000 |
| UAG | 25 Bourne St., Palmer | 2 room, 0 bed, 1f, 0h bath Other | \$155,000 |
| UAG | 271 Bolton St., Springfield: Sixteen Acres | 6 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath Ranch | \$319,900 |
| SLD | 11 Mountainview St., Chicopee | 6 room, 4 bed, 1f, 2h bath Ranch | \$299,900 |
| SLD | 419 Chestnut., East Longmeadow | 5 room, 2 bed, 1f, 0h bath Ranch | \$284,900 |
| SLD | 69 Westernview Cir., East Longmeadow | 7 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath Cape | \$339,500 |
| SLD | 44 Ridge Rd., East Longmeadow | 5 room, 3 bed, 3f, 0h bath Ranch | \$469,900 |
| SLD | 32 Lincoln Rd., Longmeadow | 8 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath Colonial | \$389,900 |
| SLD | 79 E Akard St., Ludlow | 8 room, 4 bed, 2f, 1h bath Colonial | \$459,900 |
| SLD | 2022 Quaboag St., Palmer | 5 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Ranch | \$273,000 |
| SLD | 1205 Page Blvd., Springfield | 5 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Ranch | \$232,000 |
| SLD | 100 Rowland St., Springfield | 5 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Ranch | \$260,000 |
| SLD | 117 St. James Blvd., Springfield | 6 room, 4 bed, 1f, 1h bath Cape | \$264,900 |
| SLD | 66 Oregon St., Springfield | 5 room, 2 bed, 1f, 0h bath Colonial | \$294,900 |
| SLD | 214 Parkview St., Springfield | 5 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Bungalow | \$299,900 |
| SLD | 119 E. Gooseberry Rd., West Springfield | 6 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Ranch | \$339,900 |
| SLD | 768 Stony Hill Rd., Wilbraham | 7 room, 4 bed, 1f, 1h bath Colonial | \$284,000 |
| SLD | 12 Cedar Oak Dr., Wilbraham | 10 room, 6 bed, 2f, 1h bath, Colonial | \$485,000 |
| CONDOMINIUM LISTINGS | | | |
| UAG | 98 Tall Pines Rd U:98, Hampden | 6 room, 2 bed, 2f, 0h bath Garden | \$399,900 |
| UAG | 315 Blisswood Village Dr., U:315, Ludlow | 5 room, 2 bed, 1f, 1h bath Townhouse | \$239,900 |
| SLD | 235 State Street U:213, Springfield | 4 room, 2 bed, 1f, 0h bath Garden | \$229,000 |
| MULTI FAMILY LISTINGS | | | |
| SLD | 15 Elm St. Monson | 2 unit, 13 rooms, 6 bedrooms 2 Family - 2 Units Side by Side | \$329,900 |
| SLD | 4042-4044 Pine St., Palmer | 2 unit, 11 rooms, 6 bedrooms 2 Family - 2 Units Side by Side | \$368,000 |

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| Zoe Czaplicki 519-9224 | Linda Alston 246-8616 | Steve Lortie 427-4122 | Kathi Calabrese 374-5867 | Shari Lokey 218-8811 | Ann Marie Martin 206-1161 | Sandy Wegrzyn 519-1056 | Art Ferrara 348-5827 | Alyssa Rhodes 896-9269 | Susan Raimor 374-3348 | |

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