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A close-up of the damage after the collapse and fire at the Red Bridge Hydro Plant on Red Bridge Road on Aug. 22. The investigation into the cause of the collapse and fire is ongoing.

The latest on the Red Bridge Hydro Plant building collapse

The collapse happened on Aug. 22.

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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WILBRAHAM -- The Red Bridge Hydro Plant on Red Bridge Road experienced a building collapse and fire on Aug. 22 that is now under investigation.

The power plant, located over the Chicopee River, is owned by Patriot Hydro, an affiliate of LS Power and private entity. The building is not owned by the town.

Building Inspector John Walsh explained that "a good size portion" of the building collapsed and fell into the riverbed, with the cause undetermined.



A full shot of the Red Bridge Hydro Plant on 5 Red Bridge Rd. which experienced a building collapse and small fire on Aug. 22.

No one was inside the building at the time.

"The fire department got the call first because there was

smoke in the area and at that point, they didn't know what it was so they responded, and

Please see **COLLAPSE**, page 4

Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmao

Select Boards and Councils gather for regional government meeting



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

A wide shot of quorums of the Wilbraham Select Board, Hampden Select Board, East Longmeadow Town Council, Longmeadow Select Board, Monson Select Board and Ludlow Select Board and two representatives from State Rep. Angelo Puppolo's office (D-Springfield) discussing issues affecting the region during the Aug. 29 Regional Government Meeting at the Wilbraham Police Department.

The meeting took place at the Wilbraham Police Department

Rep. Angelo Puppolo's office (D-Springfield) were in attendance.

Other state legislators were unable to attend.

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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WILBRAHAM -- Quorums of five Select Boards and Town Councils came together on Aug. 29 for a regional government meeting discussing varying topics affecting the region.

The quorums included the Wilbraham Select Board, Hampden Select Board, Longmeadow Select Board, Monson Select Board and the East Longmeadow Town Council.

Additionally, Bruce Adams and Cheryl Spinks from State

Regional Dispatch

Regional Communications Director at Central Dispatch, Anthony Gentile, explained how Wilbraham and Hampden merged three years ago and "so far it's been great for both communities."

"Both communities have seen an increase in services and faster services. Later last year, Belchertown approached us, requesting to see if they could join the Wilbraham Regional Center and, actually, last week, they signed their letter of attestation

Please see **REGIONAL**, page 5

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

Mile Tree School is the site of 1742 landmark

An antique treasure-trove was demolished to make way for the school in 1962

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

While looking through some news clippings from the daily newspaper, the Springfield Morning Union, of a September 1962 issue I came across a news article written by my mother, Ethel Bennett, the newspaper's Wilbraham reporter. The story noted that a Main Street landmark was to be razed to make



Charles F. Bennett

way for an elementary school. (I couldn't determine the specific date that it ran but I know it ran in September of that year.)

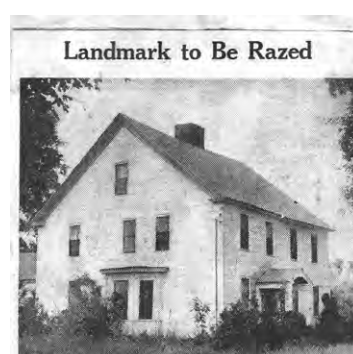
Later the new 12-room school would be named The Mile Tree School with the funds to build it authorized by a special town meeting. It wasn't the first Mile Tree School, which was the little schoolhouse across from the famous Mile Tree on the corner of Tinkham Road and Main Street (After World War II it was the American Legion Post and now is the Children's Museum.) But the new building approved by the voters in 1962 because the growing town had increased its enrollment, would become the second Mile Tree

School, which today is active and doing well near the entrance of Minnechaug.

Headlined "Landmark to Be Razed" the Morning Union story was actually a small history lesson about an historic house, owned by the Herman Heiden Family, built in Wilbraham in 1742 and the site of the first lending library in the Connecticut Valley.

Treasure Trove Demolished

The Heidens owned a large dairy farm on Main Street and sold their land to the town to make way for Minnechaug Regional High School which sits on the Heiden's former corn field. I remember they owned a large tract of land full of field corn that they grew and stored in a silo next to the barn where the cows were milked. The corn



One of the Wilbraham's landmarks, this 10-room former home of Herman Heiden and his family of Old West Warren Rd., Warren, located near five other farm buildings on South Main St. near Minnechaug Regional High School, will be razed to make room for a proposed new 12-classroom elementary school of which specifications and plans will be the subject of the special town meeting slated for Monday night at 8 in Wilbraham's Memorial School. The home, the former owner said, is believed to have been built in 1742 and is the site of the first lending library to be established in the Connecticut Valley.

(Times file photo)

Portion of news article in 1962 Springfield Morning Union.

was grown to feed their producing milk cattle. The Heiden farm

scene was right out of Currier & Ives.

The first Minnechaug building opened its doors to 366 students in ninth, tenth and eleventh grades on Sept. 9, 1959. My class of 1961 was the first class to graduate and as I write this, we are planning a reunion this month at the Country Club of Wilbraham combined with the classes of 1962 and 1963. We call ourselves "The Minnechaug Originals". (Check us out on Facebook)

Our classes selected the school colors, founded the school newspaper "The Smoke Signal" started the yearbook "The Falcon" had a state championship gymnastic team and generally got the school off to a good start.

The second Minnechaug Please see **HISTORICAL**, page 10

'Dancing with the Stars II' to occur Sept. 30

HAMPDEN -- "Dancing with the Stars II", a benefit for the Theatre Guild of Hampden, will occur on Saturday, Sept. 30 at Thornton Burgess Middle School at 85 Wilbraham Road in Hampden. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m. Enjoy desserts and beverages, a raffle and gift baskets and a fun night for all ages.

Tickets can be purchased at Lou's Bagel Nook on Somers Road, 413-566-1515, or at Mark Henry Florist on Main Street in Indian Orchard, 413-543-4203. The requested donation is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children aged 12 and under.

Theatre Guild of Hampden announces auditions for 'Oklahoma'

HAMPDEN -- The Theatre Guild of Hampden has announced auditions for Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical "Oklahoma".

Audition dates are Monday, Sept. 18 and Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Hampden Senior Center on Allen Street. The show dates are April 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21, 2024 at the Red Barn at Fountain Park on Tinkham Road.

Christopher Rojas and Mark Giza are directors. Tom Slowik is the Musical Director and Dina DelBuono is the Choreographer.

For more information, one can reach Giza at 413-204-5333 or 413-543-4203.

Polanie Club to hold important meeting Sept. 11

LUDLOW -- The POLANIE CLUB will hold a very important meeting on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Polish American Citizen's Club 355 East Street, Ludlow. MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND

You're invited to Hampden's Homecoming!

HAMPDEN -- The Federated Community Church on Main Street invites you to bring your chairs, blankets and funny bones on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 5-7 p.m. for Hampden's Homecoming.

A cookout will occur from 5-6 p.m., including grilled burgers and dogs, chips, lemonade and make your own sundaes.

The event will feature the Michael Wald Comedy Magic Show, fun for all ages. Be part of the show from 6-7 p.m.

A ball game will take place between local police and fire after the show at Spec Pond in Wilbraham.

Catie's Closet is collecting new and gently used school clothes for students of all ages. CatiesCloset.org.

Help fill the bus for kids in need by donating clothing and toiletries to help pre-K through Grade 12 children and their families who are economically and emotionally impacted this school year.

Most needed items: New and gently used clothing, youth styles in sizes 4-20, teen styles in sizes XS-3X. T-Shirts, long sleeves, coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, sweatpants, pants, shorts, leggings and jeans are being sought.

New full-sized toiletries and youth and teen products. Needed are shampoo, soap, body wash, deodorant, new socks and undies, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving products and feminine products.

Rick's Place Golf Classic registration open

WILBRAHAM - Registration is currently open for the Rick's Place Golf Classic. The Golf Classic will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Country Club of Wilbraham. The tournament is open to all golfers and is an 18-hole shotgun scramble starting at 12:30 pm.

The entry fee is \$175 per person or \$700 per foursome and includes green fees, cart rental, lunch and dinner. We also encourage those who do not golf to attend the dinner for \$40 per person. There will be a raffle and silent auction at the event. Consider becoming a sponsor or purchasing a tee&green sign.

The Rick's Place Golf Classic serves as one of our primary fundraisers and proceeds will benefit Rick's Place grief support programs for youth and families who have had a death loss. We hope to see you there!

To register for the tournament, please visit ricksplacema.org. For more information, contact info@ricksplacema.org

Established in memory of Rick Thorpe, who died in Tower Two of the World Trade Center on 9/11, Rick's Place opened in March 2007. We are honored to offer young people and their families, from all over Western MA and Northern CT, our free grief support services.

Library announces teen programming

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham Public Library's Teen Advisory Board announces its first monthly meeting of the school year on Monday, Sept. 18 from 4 - 5 p.m. in the Brooks Room. TAB helps the Teen Librarian design the best programs for teens, recommends YA books and more for the Teen Loft, and makes the library a great place for teens. Online registration is required

call us at 413-596-6141. Grades 6 - 12 can sign up, join us and let your teen voice be heard! Snacks will be served, and the group is always looking for new members! TAB is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Teens Who Code will have their first meeting of the school year on Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 3:30-5 p.m. in the Brooks Room of the library. Facilitated by Mrs. Christine Goonan, this club is looking for new members. Grades 6-12 can explore

project-based coding in a fun and friendly environment. Meetings are typically once a month in the Brooks Room, and all attendees need a laptop to join in. Online registration is required at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org or call 413-596-6141. After registering, teens will receive more info by email. This is a free program hosted by the Wilbraham Public Library.

St. Mary's Hampden Religious Education Classes Returning this Fall. Help your child grow in their faith!



Registration for grades 1-11 is now open. Classes will meet in person.

Registration forms are available at St. Mary's Parish or on our website at www.stmaryshampden.org

For more information or if you are interested in volunteering with our program, please contact us by email at stmaryshampden@gmail.com or call us at 413.566.8843

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Select Board hears presentation on Memorial School Study

Also, comments and questions on pickleball

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM — The Select Board met with CHA Consulting Inc. and the Playground & Recreation Commission on Aug. 28 for a presentation on the Parks and Recreation Department's Memorial School Study.

Landscape Architect Michael Moonan, Project Architect Karl Leabo and Tom Diehl of CHA Consulting and Brian Hoar from the Playground & Recreation Commission led the presentation.

Moonan explained the study's purpose was "to look at Memorial School as a proposed community center and what other uses it could have" including a gymnasium, meeting/classroom spaces, a teen center and a special event space/banquet hall.

"The outcomes of the project was that we were basically looking for consensus on a proposed plan and proposed uses through the community engagement and input process," Moonan said.

Diehl, sharing a PowerPoint via GoTo Meeting, said the feedback included the need for intergenerational programs, the funding and budget, clear timelines and plans, analysis of the costs for construction and operating the facilities, concerns about not enough gym space and the aging facility and more.

"We came up with multiple dif-

ferent options and then through a series of meetings determined what was everyone's opinion in the best facility, how it would best meet the community and it included making as many functional spaces as possible and moving the Parks and Recreation Department up to the school," Diehl said.

The proposed programs include dance and family programs, arts/theater/music spaces, banquet area, wrestling, meeting rooms/flex space, the Parks and Recreation office and a camp/teen center/youth spaces for inside the school, while outside would be pickleball, volleyball and basketball courts, community gardens, a fitness trail with stations and playgrounds or play pods.

The total estimated building construction—including moderate/light and heavy renovations, demolition area and new construction—would be between \$14,012,000 and \$17,661,500.

After Chairman Theresa Goodrich asked if the report would include a new survey and received confirmation from Hoar, she shared her thoughts.

"I think it's above and beyond what a lot of people had envisioned for that area and that building and that space. We're definitely going to need to get the public's input on what's before us now, because this is a really big undertaking should we proceed with anything," Goodrich said.

John Hegarty, a resident, said the town approved \$300,000 for a recreational complex for pickleball in May 2021 for Stony Hill Road but "it went nowhere," explaining his unan-

swered questions about the location change.

Hegarty added the \$300,000 went back to the taxpayers and was later approved again.

"I'd like to see pickleball courts built according to the will of the voters of Wilbraham somewhere. Whether it's Spec Pond, whether it's Memorial School, we need to act on this and I'll echo what Brian said a little while ago: this needs some quick action because this has been dragged on way too long," Hegarty said.

Hoar explained the non-binding vote on the \$300,000 took place during town meeting and Memorial School has "been on the radar for 10 years."

"We were moving forward with the soccer complex because we were told that at the Board of Selectmen meeting that, 'Don't touch Memorial. Nothing's going to be done with it.' Shortly thereafter, we were told Memorial's back on the plate, potentially moving our offices there," Hoar said.

Sue Bunnell also asked about the \$300,000.

"If, in fact, it appears that this is going to move forward in some way, shape or form, is there a way that that money—that \$300,000—could actually get those pickleball courts up and running in the place where they would need to be given the master plan?" Bunnell said.

Leabo said yes.

The full report can be found at https://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5728/Report-Wilbraham-MS-8-23-2023_Draft.

Wilbraham Cub Scout Pack 177 Welcomes all to balloon launching and fun

WILBRAHAM — Wilbraham Cub Scout Pack #177 will hold their annual balloon launch and Scout year kick-off on Wednesday, September 13 at 6 PM. The event will be held on the front lawn of the Wilbraham United Church, 500 Main Street, Wilbraham, Massachusetts.

The event is an opportunity to sign up, meet our leaders and current

scouts. There will be a balloon

launcher for the kids to have some fun with as well! No sign-up prior needed, just show up! Boys and girls in grades Kindergarten to five can start at any grade level with no prior experience needed. We have kids from all over, you do not need to be from Wilbraham or affiliated with the Wilbraham United Church to join.

For over 80 years, Cub Scouts have been having the time of their lives making new friends and learning new things in an environment designed to help them succeed. From building their own pinewood derby car to learning how to roast

the perfect marshmallow with their best friends at a family campout, your child will LOVE being a Cub Scout. The scouting program reinforces values like honesty, respect, environmental stewardship, cooperation, responsibility, health and fitness, courage, and good citizenship. Cub Scouts take field trips to fun and exciting places, do community service projects, and enjoy the great outdoors with hikes and camping.

If you have any questions beforehand, please call or email Cubmaster Jeff Choinski at 413.658.7145 or jchoinski@gmail.com.



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Grace Union Church welcomes Pastor Dorothy “Darcy” Borden

Borden is also the new pastor of The First Church in Ludlow

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- Grace Union Church on Chapel Street welcomed Pastor Dorothy “Darcy” Borden on Aug. 29 as their new pastor.

Borden is also the new pastor of The First Church in Ludlow, starting her role there on Aug. 28.

Borden explained she became a pastor when she was called at a young age to serve God and her faith.

“All my life I’ve tried to find ways to do that and it’s led me to ordained ministry. I’ve been ordained now for 15 years and I’ve been serving in churches for 24 years. It’s just been the call of my life. I love helping people, so this is what I do,” Borden said.

Borden previously served in churches in North Dakota, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts, adding how attending seminary for ordination brought her back to Massachusetts.

Borden was drawn to First Church and Grace Union Church for the people, calling them warm, loving and caring.

“They do whatever they can to help others. I love their sense of purpose and what they try to do,” Borden said. “They’re just good people and I saw that from the get-go and I just thought ‘I want to be part of this.’ If I’m able to be part of this I want to be a part of this.”

Borden has also served two churches previously, saying “It’s more of a chance to be of service” to others and her calling.

“It means a lot to me because I have done multiple-point charges before,” Borden said. “It means each congregation has its own needs and things that are important to them and try to be there for all.”

Borden shared what each church offers: for Wilbraham, Barn Sales every Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and the Thrift Shop. For Ludlow, the Victorian Tea Room, Drive-Thru Food Collections the first Saturday of every month and the Hummingbird Shop.

“I’m a community member of Wilbraham but, also this is my church. I don’t live in Ludlow and this is my church. I consider both places my sacred home, so I want to get to know them and hopefully, they get to know me,” Borden said.



Pastor Dorothy “Darcy” Borden stands outside the main entrance of Grace Union Church on Chapel Street in Wilbraham. Borden began her service at the church on Aug. 29.

Borden’s goals include reintroducing the churches to the community, bringing more people in and getting to know the people and communities she’s serving.

“There’s nothing specific but just mostly getting to know the community both inside the church and outside the church and let them know that I’m there and our church is there,” Borden said.

Borden added she will be working at Grace Union Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays and First Church on Mondays and Wednesdays, alternating Sunday services for each church.

“So I get to know the congregations, everything. They have in the past been two separate services but they’re trying, right now, to work together. I think that’s wonderful,” Borden said.

Borden emphasized the opportunity to connect with and serve both churches will help her get to know more people, both individually and as a community.

“It’s nice. There’s similarities probably which I’ll find out and there’s differences I’ll probably find out, but at the core, they’re communities of faith and I’m here to serve them all,” Borden said.

Borden wants both communities to know she’s ready to hit the ground running to serve the churches, she and the congregation care and “we would love to welcome you here, to come visit and see what we’re about.”

“If I can help people get to know First Church in Ludlow and Grace Union Church in Wilbraham again or for the first time, then I know I’ve done something worthwhile,” Borden said.



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmao

An exterior shot of the Red Bridge Hydro Plant after the building collapse and small fire that took place on Aug. 22.

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that’s when they found out about the collapse and then they called me,” Walsh said. “So police, fire, conservation were all called and responded. (The Department of Environmental Protection) was also there.”

In addition to debris, oil drums had also fallen into the river.

Walsh explained how much fell in would be part of the investigation.

“We don’t know what kind of oil it was,” Walsh said.

In a statement to the Times, Patriot Hydro explained the collapse took place around 9 a.m. on Aug. 22 when a section of the building collapsed and there was no danger to residents.

“The site, comprised of historic wooden and brick structures, is not accessible to the public, limiting any immediate danger to the community. The 4.5 megawatt power generation plant was offline at the time of the incident and the gates that control water flow to the powerhouse have since been closed. There was no impact on local power supply. The powerhouse is the building where the power generation equipment is located,” they said.

The statement said the situation is being assessed by “plant personnel, structural engineering experts, local and state public safety and environmental agencies.”

“Plant personnel promptly notified state and federal agencies of the incident and will be coordinating stabilization and assessment efforts,” they said.

Walsh did receive updates since the collapse, explaining he attended an Aug. 31 meeting with representatives from the hydro plant, their insurance company, the fire department and Associated Building Wreckers.

Since the meeting, the river around the building is being pumped out, with a temporary dam approximately 600 feet from the building set up.

“So they’re pumping the water from the building so that they can make an access wing down to the building and get some heavy equip-

ment down there from Associated Building Wreckers, so that they can clear the riverbed, first of all, and they’re going to start working on the rest of the building to remove any parts of the building that are unsafe,” Walsh said.

Walsh added there was also a setback due to “water coming back to the building” even with the temporary dam in place.

“So at this point, they’re talking about making a steel-type dam closer to the building to keep the water away from them and then be able to get down there with the machines and remove all the debris from the riverbed,” Walsh said.

After the debris is removed, Walsh said the engineers can conduct their evaluation.

The town of Palmer also responded to the collapse as the plant is located between the two towns.

Town Manager Ryan McNutt said the town is not directly involved with the reconstruction. As the road hasn’t been closed, the impact to local traffic will be minimal, but McNutt said he hopes it will be reconstructed quickly.

“This is a location that I think a lot of folks use for recreation, a lot of folks fish down there,” McNutt said.

McNutt added it’s important for aged infrastructure in the state to be addressed and properly funded.

“We have a lot of aged infrastructure in this commonwealth, and we really need to focus on fixing it, because as you can see, sometimes it fails,” McNutt said.

Patriot Hydro also provided us with the following update on Sept. 1.

“We continue to work closely with state and local public safety and environmental agencies, as well as external experts, to determine the source and fully assess the impact of this incident. Clean-up is already underway, and we have taken steps to protect against downstream impacts, including with the placement of booms across the canal. Patriot Hydro is committed to safety and the integrity of our facilities. We will continue to provide updates as the evaluation progresses,” they said.

Walsh asked for patience “to let the experts do their job” as they conduct their evaluations because “it will take some time.”

The access points, he added, are closed at this time.

“I expect them in the next couple of weeks to have it secured,” Walsh said.

More on this story as the investigation continues.

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REGIONAL from page 1

for the state, letting the state know they're committing to regionalizing with the Wilbraham Regional Communications Center," Gentile said.

Longmeadow Town Manager Lyn Simmons shared she is the Chair of the Board of Directors for WestCom Regional Dispatch Center, which covers Monson, East Longmeadow, Ware and Chicopee.

Simmons explained if anyone is interested, a director would attend a board or committee meeting and conduct a presentation.

"We also provide contract dispatch services for specialty units through the Sheriff's Department. Been up and running since December 2019 with Longmeadow and Chicopee as the lead communities and then the other communities have come on board since then. We have purchased Salter College off of the Pike. It's currently in the design phase right now and is going to be undergoing substantial renovation and then the doors will be wide open to accept as many more communities in the Western Mass area as are willing to join us," Simmons said.

Veteran's Services

Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz shared the town's full-time Veterans Agent departed recently and they connected with Wilbraham Town Administrator Nick Breault to have Jered Sasen, director of Veteran's Services, help them out.

"Our goal is to create a district agreement with Wilbraham and possibly other communities if they are willing to do that. The Veteran's Services is a very unique, municipal department where you can live in any community and go to any community to get your services," Wolowicz said.

Ludlow Select Board Vice Chairman Derek DeBarge said the town opened a Veteran's Center five months earlier.

"Since we've opened, we've been getting veterans from all over the area," DeBarge said. "Actually, just this week, started a Regional Veterans Service Rep that will be at our center two days a week from here on out that will be able to do things that our great Veterans Service Director cannot attend to which is mostly out of town veterans needing services."

Broadband

After Wilbraham Select Board Vice Chairman Sue Bunnell provided an overview of broadband and answered questions from Ludlow Town Administrator Marc Strange on providing municipal broadband and who administers Mobile Location Protocol or MLP, Hampden Town Administrator Bob Markel shared the town is moving in a similar direction as Wilbraham, with prior town meetings approving the steps.

Hampden uses Westfield Gas & Electric, or Whip City Fiber, for their broadband.

"We have received a \$250,000 grant under the Community Compact Program to start off by connecting town buildings



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Wilbraham Select Board Vice Chairman Sue Bunnell provides insight as Wilbraham Select Board Clerk Michael Squindo, Wilbraham Select Board Chairman Theresa Goodrich, Monson Select Board Member Peter Warren and Monson Select Board Vice Chair John Morrell listen during the Aug. 29 Regional Government Meeting at the Wilbraham Police Department.

and the goal is very similar that we'll be connecting, eventually, all residents who choose to be connected," Markel said. "The estimate is we need about 50% of the residents to take the service in order to break even and service our bond which will be somewhere in the range of five to six million dollars as well to have a certain surplus to service the system."

East Longmeadow Town Manager Tom Christensen said the town is in a similar direction as Hampden.

"What they've proposed to us is sort of a full service. They do the billing, the marketing, construction, bidding, procurement, the whole bit and we charge the customer and give them their cut and that's about the extent of our involvement," Christensen said.

Upon Wolowicz's suggestion on regionalizing broadband, Wilbraham Select Board Chairman Theresa Goodrich presented the idea of the town managers and administrators meeting to discuss this further.

Additionally, the chairs of all boards meet once a month to discuss what each town is working on.

"Maybe we can collaborate on some things and ultimately save money and effort and time on projects and get things done fast and more efficiently," Goodrich said. "We're all small towns, we're all very similar demographics. Just kind of seems to make sense."

The idea to meet was unanimous.

Health Services

Simmons explained the towns of Longmeadow, Monson, Hampden and Wilbraham are part of the Eastern Hampden Shared Public Health Services, providing public health services to all the communities.

Hampden Selectmen Donald Davenport praised its success.

"The important part for us was that we were able to keep the fees in the town or

any other permits that the inspector would do the permits we keep the fees, which helps offset our portion of the payments, so it's really worked well it's been great," Davenport said.

Strange said Ludlow recently signed a similar contract with the towns of Warren, West Brookfield and Palmer.

"We also get money for admin support, so what we'll be able to do is take money from admin support and turn any part-time admin in our Human Resources Department into a full-time position so that's going to really help us and I'm really looking forward to it," Strange said.

Trash Collection

East Longmeadow Town Manager Mark Gold was concerned about future contract negotiations for trash collection individually, explaining there was a regional approach before and "we had a better price for it."

"I think we really need to reconsider regionalization because I saw how effective it was back when we did it," Gold said. "I don't have an answer but we really ought to consider the strength of negotiating as a group because we have 5,000 curbside but when we're together with other communities we had like 15, 20 or 25,000 curbside pickups and that made a big difference."

Longmeadow Select Board Chair Thomas Lachiusa brought up composting and organic waste, saying "It's pretty heavy stuff" and "Everybody develops a lot of it." "If we could set up some kind of system where, you know, compost all this kind of organic waste safely, it might be something we could do in our own communities," Lachiusa said.

Crime Statistics

Wolowicz stressed the importance of fighting the opioid crisis in her report.

"I think from the chief's point of view, I think really that's where a lot of the focus should be from your select boards and town councils is support your chiefs with the fight against the opioids and the drugs," Wolowicz said. "It's in every community and it's just really unfortunate there's this underground world that is affecting the quality of life for all of us."

Christensen said East Longmeadow had traffic and bylaw offenses, followed by all other offenses and shoplifting as their top items.

"We haven't seen any real uptick and we're almost right on par with last year," Christensen said.

Hampden Select Board Chair John Flynn said for them and Wilbraham, car break-ins have been the top issue.

"I think we see a lot of that in social media, the warnings 'don't leave them unattended, don't leave them open' and even if we don't leave them open, they're still getting in," Flynn said. "Other crimes there's barely any other crime in Hampden."

School Enrollment Trends & Budgeting

Davenport explained how "there's quite a bit of disparity" between the Hampden and Wilbraham populations for the schools.

"Right now, we're looking how to reconfigure the school system in order to not only get the utilization of school, the best-educated schools, but also to do something about the disparity of the funding," Davenport said.

Ludlow Select Board Chairman James Gennette shared that their district is also experiencing a decrease in its student population and concerns about "running into another budget crisis."

"But we have a new superintendent of schools who is doing a wonderful job, a new business manager she's doing great, they're truly trying to hone in everything in the school department, so we're hoping for some better results this year than we've had in the past couple of years," Gennette said.

The meeting concluded with plans for future meetings between the boards and councils and invitations for state legislators to attend.

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VIEWPOINTS

What about all the money Congress stole from Social Security?

Dear Rusty

Is there any way that Congress will vote to pay back the Social Security funds they took for their stupid reasons, and left IOUs in place of the funds?

Because of the funds they took going back many years, we didn't have any decent Cost Of Living Adjustments for a few years. In fact, there were I think three to five years that we didn't get any COLA. Please Rusty, can you find out if this is true or false? Help us seniors.

Signed: Resentful Senior

Dear Resentful Senior

I can assure you that I've fully investigated the allegation that politicians have squandered Social Security's money and found that charge to be, simply speaking, a myth. I've gone back and looked at Social Security revenues and expenses since the government first started collecting FICA payroll taxes in 1937 and found that every dollar ever collected for Social Security has been used only for Social Security purposes. Over the years, various claims have been made that the money has been used for other things, but I've researched each of these charges and found them all to be false.

Where the misconception mostly originates is that any excess money collected from working Americans for Social Security is invested in "special issue government bonds," which pay interest, as mandated by President Roosevelt when Social Security began. As with any investment, a financial obligation instrument is given in return for dollars received.

Remember when we used to buy "U.S. Savings Bonds?" We'd use our money to buy those bonds, hold them and later redeem them



for a higher amount than we paid. That's exactly how Social Security contributions have always worked – excess money collected from working Americans is used to purchase special issue government bonds, which are held in reserve, earning interest, for future Social Security needs.

These special bonds reside in a Social Security Trust Fund and, as of the end of 2022, were worth about \$2.8 trillion. Are these bonds "worthless IOUs" as some would claim? Hardly, since they are redeemable as needed to pay Social Security benefits.

Considering that, since 2010, Social Security's income from payroll taxes on American workers has been less than needed to cover benefits paid out, redemption of bonds held in the Trust Fund is the only reason that Social Security has been able to continue paying full benefits to every beneficiary. The Trust Fund is a financial safety net, which is now protecting all SS beneficiaries from having their benefits cut.

Problem is, unless Congress acts soon to reform Social Security's financial picture, the Trust Fund will be fully depleted in about 2033 resulting in about a 23% cut in everyone's monthly Social Security benefit. I'm optimistic that will not happen (it would be political suicide) and, hopefully, Congress will act soon to reform Social Security and restore it to fi-

financial solvency and avoid a future cut in everyone's benefits.

Regarding Cost of Living Adjustment and the lack thereof for several past years, COLA is determined by the government's standard inflation measure, the Consumer Price Index (CPI). There were several years (2010, 2011, and 2016) in which the CPI showed no inflation so, therefore, no COLA increase was given.

Last year, due to soaring inflation, everyone got an 8.7% increase in their Social Security benefit, but that doesn't happen every year. FYI, the average annual COLA increase over the last two decades has been about 2.6%, although COLA for each year can be wildly different depending on each year's inflation measure.

In any case, the lack of a COLA increase in past years was not a result of any political chicanery, it was the result of low inflation during those years.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Cherry tomatoes cracked? Mine are too

I love it when my good friends pose me gardening questions.

Lots of times I turn the questions into columns. My friend Jacquie sent a text with a question about her cherry tomatoes.

She was curious if she could eat them even though they were cracked. Alas, I will delve a little deeper into this topic.

Tomatoes crack when the inside of the fruit expands at a rate that the outer skin can't support. Usually, a soaking rain after a period of drought causes this to happen.

This year we have had pretty constant precipitation, but the cracking happened anyway. As soon as the rain ended a couple days back, I went out to the garden and began picking my cherry tomatoes.

Anything that cracked in my hand or when I put it into the basket could be used.

Cracked fruit still on the plant that had started to heal over I decided to give to the chickens. I didn't want to risk eating fungus, mold or bacteria from fruit flies in the fruit that had scabbed over.

If you don't have chickens, the fruit is perfectly safe to add to the compost pile.

There is little you can do to stop tomatoes from cracking. Some people purposely pick almost ripe tomatoes prior to a storm, and let them finish ripening on the counter.

You can also pick unripe tomatoes and place them in a bag with a ripening banana or an apple and the ethylene gas they release will induce ripening.

For this to work, the tomatoes have to feel softish and show slight coloration. You can also use this trick just prior to the last frost.

Pick all of your unripe fruit and try it!

Taste is sacrificed here somewhat - think of a grocery store tomato but maybe a step above. I usually risk the inevitable cracking after a storm because the whole point of growing your own tomatoes is to eat them ripened by the sun!

There are a few varieties that are touted as being resistant to cracking. I have never grown a cherry tomato, at least in my most recent memory, that was truly crack resistant, but I am willing to experiment.

You may wonder what I do with all the tomatoes I pick.

After separating out the bad tomatoes, I cut the good ones in half, added a splash of olive oil, some garlic cloves and slivers of basil and



set it all in a shallow roasting pan at 375 degrees. I moved them around every 20 minutes or so, taking the tray out in about an hour, after the skins had blistered.

You can either eat the roasted tomatoes this way, as a chunky topping for pasta or pizza or blend it into sauce. Add seasonings to your specific taste. It can be frozen either way.

Cherry tomatoes are also great dehydrated or sun dried. One summer years ago I sliced some and set them on a tray in the greenhouse at work.

The greenhouse was closed up for my an-

nual weed and bug "fry." In a matter of two days, I had the tastiest little tidbits.

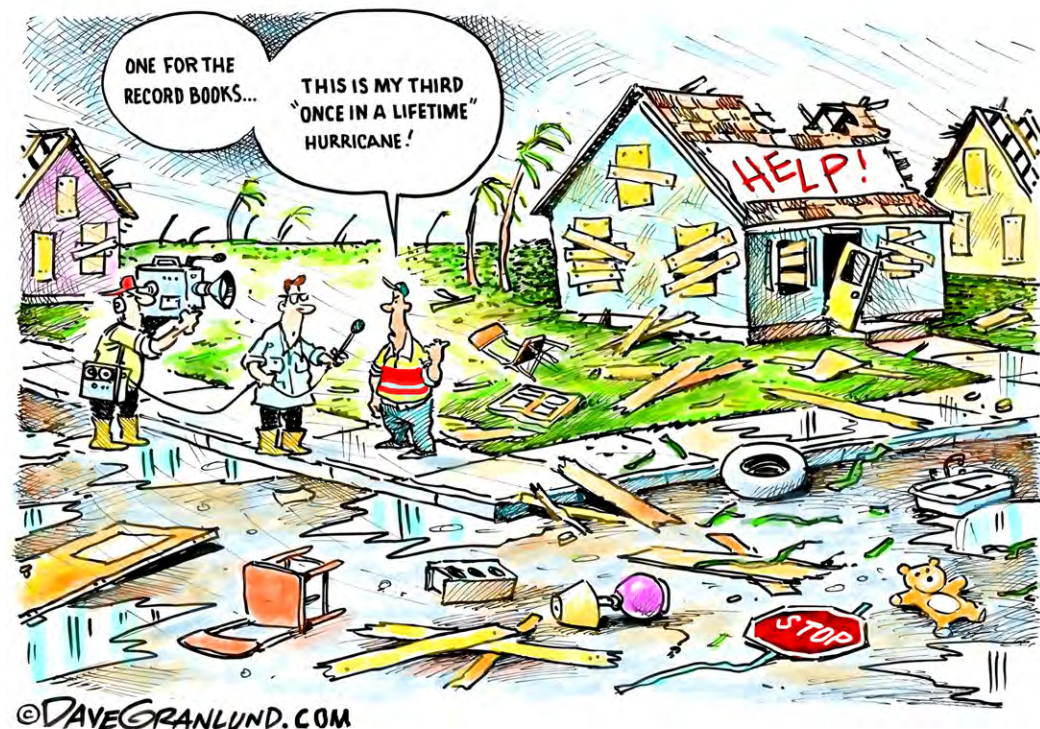
It's amazing how all that tomato flavor can be so incredibly concentrated in this round disk! I stored them in a zip lock bag in the fridge.

Some people don't feel it necessary to refrigerate sun dried tomatoes, but I wanted to be extra cautious since I didn't use any sort of preservative on the fruit.

Dehydrators are all different. I think it took at least 8 hours for ours to produce that leathery, "done" texture.

Sun dried tomatoes are a great pizza topping, and can be blended into hummus or other savory dishes.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.



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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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Managing separation anxiety on the first day of school

SPRINGFIELD — Anxiety — just about everyone, no matter what age, experiences the uncomfortable feeling at some point in their lives.

For kids returning to school, changing schools or for first-time kindergarten students, anxiety on the first day of school isn't a rarity and can often be prevented.

"First and foremost, parents need to manage their own anxiety over the separation, or any worry about their child's ability to handle it," said Dr. Bruce Waslick, chief, Child Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry at Baystate Health.

He noted that parents should make sure children can handle what will be expected of them in school, such as managing their

own clothes when they use the bathroom.

For example, children might feel more confident if they have pants with an elastic waist rather than a zipper, and shoes with Velcro rather than laces. In addition, make sure your child knows how to seek help from adults. Parents can help their children practice this with other adults such as neighbors, librarians, and store clerks, and can also role-play with their children.

Waslick noted parents should exude confidence in their child's ability to handle school and in the adults who will be taking care of him or her in the classroom.

"Talk with your child to learn if he or she has any concerns about going to school. Address

those concerns and provide reassurance by letting them know how proud you are. Let them know that they are not alone in their feelings, that many other children are experiencing the same concerns as they go to school for the first time," he said.

Children can benefit from meeting their teacher and seeing their school beforehand, especially the classroom, bathroom and lunchroom. Some children feel less anxious if they can bring something special from home, like a small stuffed animal or even a picture of their parents.

Additional tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics to help your child manage the first day of school include:

Point out the positive aspects of starting school to help your

kids look forward to the first day of class. Talk about how they will see old friends and meet new ones, for example.

Find another child in the neighborhood your child can walk to school or ride with on the bus.

If you feel it is needed, even though your youngster is a bus student, drive your child (or walk with them) to school and pick them up on the first day. Get there early on the first day to cut down on unnecessary stress.

And, when it comes time to drop your child off at school, Waslick said don't prolong the goodbye.

"Tell your child when you will return and try not to be a minute late," he said.

When first starting school,

some children may return to problems they had at one time, but have since overcome, such as sleeping, eating, temper tantrums, thumb sucking, and others.

"Your child may simply need a little extra nurturing to support them at a time when they are stretching the boundaries of their independence. However, if the problem persists or worsens, consider discussing it with your child's pediatrician, who may suggest a mental health professional if needed," said Waslick.

For more information if your child needs behavioral medicine, talk to an intake coordinator at Baystate's confidential intake line at 413-794-5555.

PET OF THE MONTH

Meet Leo!

Meet Leo! He turned a year old in February. He is a short legged, Jack Russell. He is very photogenic, and is very lovable. He loves to play with his toys and chase birds and squirrels in the yard. He is loved by the Reid family!



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.

The Benefits of Letting Your Cat Go Outside

Cats are not naturally indoor animals. While there are some valid reasons why you may want to keep your cat inside, they naturally love the outdoors and most of them will take easily to it. There are benefits to letting your cat go outside. These include better health, more mental stimulation and more natural living conditions. Many people do not allow outside access for their cats because of the hazards, however, it is possible for your kitty to have the best of both worlds.

Healthier Body and Mind

When you keep a cat inside it's quite hard to give it enough exercise and mental stimulation. Indoor cats sleep longer than outdoor ones. Even providing indoor climbing frames and adventure space may not supply enough exercise. This can result in health issues, weak muscles and an underdeveloped rear end. When a cat is outside it naturally moves more for a longer period of time and has a larger range of movement.

More Stimulation of Your Cats Mind

Simply being outside will give your cat much more stimulation than it would have indoors. All the sights, sounds and smells; the insects and the birds to look at, all help to stimulate your cat's mind, keep him occupied and tire him out. While indoors they can look out of the window (and love to do so) they are still separated from the activity. There is the added benefit of being able to use their sense of smell, which is absent when sitting at a closed window.

Limited Outdoor Access

Even with an indoor cat there are ways to allow safe outdoor access. Catios and runs are good alternatives. The advantages are that you can attach them to your house and your cat can come and go as it pleases in safety. Taking your cat out for walks on a harness or lead is another option. Not all cats will take to the harness. If you decide to try this as an option go slowly and take notice of your cats reactions. There are ways to train your cat to accept the harness and go for walks.



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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Smiling threesome...

A smiling threesome schmoozes at the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors booth supporting the new Wilbraham Senior Center at the Bushels of Fun Fest at Fern Valley Farm in Wilbraham on Aug. 27. (Center) John Hegarty of the Knights of Columbus (left and right) Matt Villiamaino and Steve Cooper of the Capital Campaign Committee.

(Charles F. Bennett photo)



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Spreading the word...

Active town residents Ron and Patty Serra (left) of Wilbraham receive information from Friends of Wilbraham Seniors Campaign Committee volunteer Mary Ellen Scott about supporting the new Wilbraham Senior Center at the Bushels of Fun Fest at Fern Valley Farm in Wilbraham on Aug. 27.

(Charles F. Bennett photo)

Supporting the new Senior Center...

Wilbraham's State Rep. Angelo Puppolo (D-Springfield) receives information for supporting the new Wilbraham Senior Center from Capital Campaign Committee member Mary Ellen Scott at the Bushels of Fun Fest at Fern Valley Farm Aug. 27. (Charles F. Bennett photo)



Steve Cooper of the Capital Campaign Committee chats with Co-chair of the Bushels of Fun Fest Co-Chair Maria Cacela of the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors about supporting the new Wilbraham Senior Center at the festival at Fern Valley Farm in Wilbraham on Aug. 27. Not pictured: Chuck Pelouze.

(Charles F. Bennett photo)



Gift-Giving information...

Jen Chapin of Wilbraham stops in at the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors Capital Campaign Committee booth with Steve Cooper about supporting the new Wilbraham Senior Center at the Bushels of Fun Fest at Fern Valley Farm in Wilbraham on Aug. 27. (Charles F. Bennett photo)

(Charles F. Bennett photo)

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Greeting the Vice President . . .

Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club president Don Flannery (right) greets the club's new vice president Chris O'Connor at the club's Aug. 23 meeting at the Country Club of Wilbraham. O'Connor explained his role as a financial advisor at Edward Jones on Boston Road in Wilbraham. (Submitted photo)

... Campaign Committee booth to receive gift-giving information from Friends of Fun Fest at Fern Valley Farm in Wilbraham on Aug. 27. (Charles F. ...)

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HISTORICAL from page 1

building was sited west of the original building, still sitting on the former Heiden Dairy Farmland and barns, and its first students entered that building for the first time in August of 2012. (For the history of Minnechaug see "Wilbraham History and Culture Volume IV -1963-2013 edited by Joan Paris for the town's 250th anniversary. The book is available at the Old Meeting House Museum Gift Shop.)

The 1742 farmhouse was still standing in 1962, fronting Main Street by the entrance to the new Minnechaug. The white farmhouse was a two-story structure and looked much the same as the historic farmhouse my grandfather owned at the Bennett Turkey Farm originally built by Deacon Nathaniel Warriner at 599 Main St.

The Heiden family had sold the land and moved to a dairy farm in Warren. But they left behind in their historic farmhouse a treasure trove of built-in antiques and lots of stories to be told about the house by none-other-than the Heiden's neighbor Charlie Merrick who was deemed the town historian and had edited the "History of Wilbraham" in 1963 in time for the town's bicentennial, its 200th birthday. Charlie Merrick had gotten together with my mother before she wrote the 1962 news story and filled her in on the history of the building.

What Happened Next?

Since most of our characters in this story have passed away now, we have to rely on my mother's news article and Charlie Merrick's former memory to understand the history of the house. Armed with Merrick's preparation, my mother, accompanied by a Morning Union Pho-

tographer and a Wilbraham antique enthusiast, Mrs. William E. Dion and her daughter, toured the doomed farmhouse together with Mr. Heiden that September.

Some of the things they found were an antique fancier's treasure trove. Starting in the dining room, they found more ornate features there than any of the other rooms. They encountered an early-American fireplace intact with ovens for baking bread, a built-in corner cupboard bearing the same antique paneling in three other rooms and decorative designs. Awestruck, Mrs. Dion remarked, "It brought us back to yesteryear and to ponder over the many stories that could be told today (1962)!"

The entrance way to the house was particularly admired and pointed out by Dion. It had a lower door, raised panels and 15 panes of glass when first used. Heiden told them the hand-blown glass contained bubbles. He then showed them a nearby 10-foot plate glass mirror with a quarter-inch thickness that filled a wall in the staircase to the ceiling, the frame of which was built by Heiden's uncle, the late Ludolph Nehring of Florence, Mass. He was a well-known craftsman cabinet maker.

The mirror frame was designed to blend in with the rest of the house; it had a pedestal at the bottom and round crown at the top. Wide floorboards measuring 12 to 15 inches were in evidence in the upstairs as well as the first floor except for the dining room and kitchen.

The Heidens left behind what was described as a 10-sided round, oak desk. Also remaining in the house was a five-foot high headboard bed, clothes that were 50 to 60 years old and a pair of child's old-fashioned clamp-on ice skates. The hand-hewn beams in the attic stood out to the visitors. Heiden pointed out that the original mud mortar was intact on the

old chimney, which had four flues. The article quoted Dion: "The room, formerly used as a parlor, also had a fireplace to be envied by antique admirers as it was designed with a protruding mantel and side pillars on a pedestal."

Provenance of the House

Merrick had told my mother that the first owner was probably a Warriner. Capt. James Warriner may have lived there, he said, but early records were not kept. Warriner's son Solomon, a librarian, is credited with establishing and operating the first lending library in the house in the Connecticut Valley in 1781.

The house was passed down to Solomon's heirs, then sold to Pynchon Bliss, then passed on to Lorenzo Bliss and then left to Frederick Merrick who died in 1909. The next owners were, in order, L. L. Stone, a family called Phinney, followed by John Mckeam who sold it to Heiden in 1933. After that it was sold to the town to make way for Minnechaug.

Assessors' Assessor

I am passing on to my readers the following letter in response to our Times April 13 "Historical Wilbraham" column about Henry Edson and his job as a town assessor.

Dear Charlie:

We have enjoyed your Historical Wilbraham editorial for years. The article "Assessing the Life of an Assessor" was especially insightful. As former employees of the Town of Wilbraham's Assessing Department with over 20 years of combined service, we were compelled to write you.

Principal Assessor Manny Silva served as the first assessor in-house for the town,

and not as a member of the board, for 35 years. He began in 1985 with pen and paper measuring and listing every residential and commercial property in town. His hand-drawn field cards can be found in many files. Mr. Silva was proficient and professional in his field and western Massachusetts communities would refer to him for his expertise.

Manny was president of the Hampden/Hampshire County Assessors Association, a Realtor, and serves on the Select Board of his hometown involving himself with all aspects so that he could stay on top of the ever-changing assessing world and gaining a reputation as a top leader in his assessing career.

In reading your column we believe credit should be given to the assessor Manny Silva. It was an honor to work and learn from him,

The historical handwritten valuation books you wrote about are in the possession of the Assessors Department along with historical books and documents and are quite fascinating to view.

Thank you for your enlightening and enjoyable work.

"Tap" Robinson, Wilbraham
Cathy A. Barnes, Monson

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; Chauncey Peck who wrote "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913. The Springfield Morning Union, 1962.

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

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Falcons ready for start of season



The Minnechaug Regional High School boys soccer team practices last Thursday as they continue to prepare for the regular season.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

WILBRAHAM – Last Thursday afternoon, preseason practices continued for teams, includ-

ing Minnechaug Regional boys soccer. The Falcons were getting prepared for their season opener

against East Longmeadow. They will then face Ludlow on the road on Monday, Sept. 11 at 4:30 p.m.



Chad Santos and Ryan Atkin go over a play with their coach.



Kyle Atkins makes a pass.

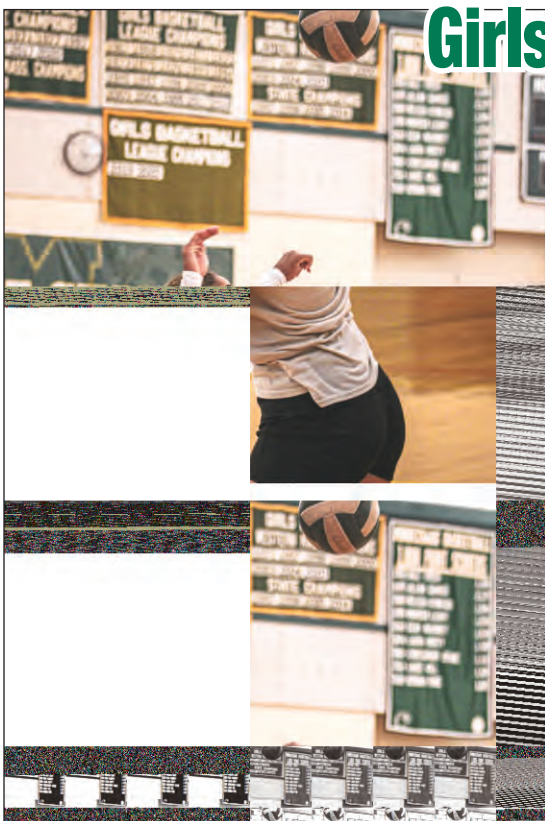


Brady Suomala plays a ball off his chest.



Ryan Purchase tries to corral the ball.

Girls volleyball puts finishing touches on preseason



Saja Stewart serves the ball away.



Anna O'Toole attempts a spike.



Anna O'Toole gets the bump.

WILBRAHAM – Last week, Minnechaug girls volleyball finished up practices as they prepared to play their season opener against Algonquin early this week. The Falcons were also scheduled to meet Amherst on Wednesday. Next, Minnechaug takes a road trip to Shrewsbury for a 6:15 p.m. game on Monday, Sept. 11.



Ava Murray, Veera Patel, and Siena Dansereau occupy the front line.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



Siena Dansereau takes the low hit.

Pioneers cap season with Festa match



Monson's Connor Hicks receives a pass and makes his way up the field.

LUDLOW – After another season with a playoff appearance in the USL-2 League, the Western Mass. Pioneers got together one last time for the annual Friendly Festa game on Sunday afternoon. The exhibition has been happening for the past several years during the town's Festa celebration.



Max Robbins looks to catch up with the ball.



Kyle Tomas winds up for a long kick.



Noah Rivera stops the ball.



Goalie Al Albano sends the ball up the field.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

1	2	3				4	5	6				
7						8			9			
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39	40			41				42				
43			44					45				
46			47					48				
49										50		
	51									52		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Second sight
 - 4. Standard electrode potential
 - 7. Type of gibbon
 - 8. John Joseph ____: American industrialist
 - 10. Manning and Whitney are two
 - 12. Abrupt
 - 13. Baroque musical instrument
 - 14. Post-burning residue
 - 16. When you hope to arrive
 - 17. Sign up (Brit. Eng.)
 - 19. Sun up in New York
 - 20. Employee stock ownership plan
 - 21. Where people live
 - 25. Method to record
 - 26. Angry
 - 27. No longer living
 - 29. Simple
 - 30. Swiss river
 - 31. Portion of a play
 - 32. It's under the tree
 - 39. Wood sorrels
 - 41. No (Scottish)
 - 42. Dialect of English
 - 43. Former Steelers' QB
 - 44. Popular beer
 - 45. It can make you sick
 - 46. Tropical tree and fruit
 - 48. Company officer
 - 49. Contact lens term
 - 50. Your consciousness of your own identity
 - 51. "Ghetto Superstar" singer
 - 52. Piece of turf
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Number of players on each side in a football game
 - 2. Containing salt
 - 3. Reasoning or knowledge: a ____
 - 4. Car mechanics group
 - 5. Leave a place
 - 6. Southern Colombian capital
 - 8. Old English letter
 - 9. Tide
 - 11. Walk heavily
 - 14. Chemical compound (abbr.)
 - 15. Artificial openings
 - 18. Luteinizing hormone
 - 19. Unit of energy
 - 20. Circular movement of
 - 22. A way of holding
 - 23. Popular book of words (abbr.)
 - 24. States' group
 - 27. Dashes
 - 28. Body part
 - 29. Electronic countermeasures
 - 31. Consumed
 - 32. Small bird
 - 33. Unhappy
 - 34. Football's big game (abbr.)
 - 35. Valued object offered in good faith
 - 36. Wild goats
 - 37. Precede in place
 - 38. Small edible fish
 - 39. Notice of death
 - 40. Body cavity of a metazoan
 - 44. Partner to cheese
 - 47. Not around

Railers name new VP

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) is pleased to welcome David Aitken to the front office staff as the Vice President of Tickets & Corporate Partnerships.

"David has a proven track record of driving revenue in minor league sports," said Railers HC President, Stephanie Ramey. "He has been a direct contributor of significant AHL ticket sales growth in both Rochester and Cleveland and will bring new ideas to enhance the Railers experience for fans and sponsors."

Aitken will oversee all revenue channels for the Railers and will help further develop the ticket sales and corporate sponsorships departments. Most recently, Aitken spent nearly five years as the Director of Ticket Sales with the Rochester Americans (AHL) and Rochester Knights Hawks (NLL), as part of Pegula Sports and Entertainment, the parent company of the Buffalo Sabres and Buffalo Bills. His responsibilities included strategy, budgeting, and personnel.

Under Aitken's leadership, the Amerks achieved their highest season ticket numbers and ticket sales revenue in the franchise's 67-year history. The Amerks concluded the 2023 Calder Cup Playoffs with the highest attendance for the AHL clubs playing more than one home playoff game, which featured three of six home games with a sell-out crowd of 10,662 at their venue.

Prior to his time in Rochester, Ait-

ken spent eight seasons with the Cleveland Monsters (AHL) as part of the Cleveland Cavaliers (NBA) organization. His position with the team was Sr. Manager of Business Development where he led all new business ticket sales efforts, as well as managed a senior level team of ticket representatives. During this time, Aitken was also responsible for youth hockey game-day programming and community outreach efforts for six seasons and was instrumental in the founding of the Monsters' "Grow the Game" and Learn to Play initiatives in Northeast Ohio.

Aitken's tenure in Cleveland was highlighted by placing among the AHL's top 10 in group sales for five seasons and generated the most group sales in franchise history at that time in the 2015-16 season. He was also part of the 2016 Calder Cup champion Lake Erie Monsters staff which won the AHL's President's Award for Business Team of the Year.

Aitken is originally from Chester-town, NY in the Lake George region, and is relocating to Worcester with his wife Colleen, and their three daughters, Leah, Emma, and Olivia. His start date with the Railers is Monday, July 24.

The Worcester Railers HC 2023-24 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Saturday, Oct. 21 and Sunday, Oct. 22 vs. the Adirondack Thunder & Trois-Rivieres Lions. Season memberships, mini-plans, and group packages for the 2023-24 season are on sale now by calling the Railers front office at 508-365-1750 or by visiting RailersHC.com.

Events & announcements schedule

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

WILBRAHAM -- The Saint Cecilia Women's Club's first meeting of the new club year will be Tuesday evening, Sept. 12. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Mass followed by a Membership Tea in the Parish Center. All members of the parish are invited and welcome!! Past presidents and members celebrating a significant club anniversary will be recognized. Please join us and bring a guest!

'Halfway to St. Patrick's Day' Grab & Go Dinner

HAMPDEN -- Join the Hampden Senior Center on Allen Street as it celebrates its "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day" Grab & Go Dinner on Sunday, Sept. 17. Pick up is from 2-2:30 p.m.

Pick a delicious Grab & Go meal of Corned Beef and Cabbage complete with Rye Bread and Dessert.

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

All are welcome. \$10 per meal. Pre-registration and payment required. Call 566-5588.

The senior center thanks its generous sponsors: Byron Keenan Funeral Home & Cremation Tribute Center, Brodeur-Campbell Fence Company and Monson Savings Bank.

Griffin's Friends to host first ever Fun Color Run/Walk to support local families

AGAWAM -- Griffin's Friends Children's Cancer Fund is inviting the public to participate in the first-ever Color for the Kids Run/Walk, aimed at providing essential support to local families impacted by cancer. For 25 years, Griffin's Friends has been helping local families who have a child receiving cancer care at Baystate Children's Hospital.

Griffin's Friends was founded in 1994 and is named after Griffin D. Kelleher, who died from cancer after just 14 months of life. Since then, the Kelleher family has honored his memory by helping other families battling childhood cancer.

The Griffin's Friends Color for the Kids Run/Walk is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, at Agawam High School. The event will kick off with a vibrant burst of color at 11 a.m., with registration and check-in starting at 10 a.m. Participants and non-runners are invited to stay after the race to enjoy music, food, and entertainment.

This unique experience is open to all age groups, offering a two-mile color-filled course that perfect for both runner and walkers. Each registration, priced at \$25 for students, and \$35 for adults, includes a commemorative T-shirt and protective sunglasses, ensuring participants look stylish while contributing to a worthy cause.

To secure your spot and be a part of this unforgettable day, register now at www.GriffinsFriends.com.



'Fall into Fun' Card & Game Party & Luncheon to occur

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham Women's Club is holding its annual "Fall Into Fun" Card & Game Party & Luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 28, at the St. Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham.

Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon. There will also be a raffle for cash prizes.

The donation is \$8, and proceeds are used for the club's scholarships and other charitable endeavors. Please bring friends and join us for a delicious luncheon and play any game of your choice. For reservations, please call Sue Agnew, 596-9480.

50th Reunion for Minnechaug Class of 1973

WILBRAHAM -- The Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 1973 will commemorate their 50th reunion with a four-day, event-filled celebration from Thursday, Oct. 12, through Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023.

The October 2023 reunion will offer a wide array of options to celebrate and reconnect with classmates and the community, including a tour of the "new" Minnechaug, a trivia contest, gatherings at craft breweries, hikes, golf, a Falcon football game and tailgate and a dinner-dance at the Country Club of Wilbraham.

To give back to our communities and schools and to inspire the next generation of scientists, our class has established a fund to honor our classmate Dr. Janice E. Voss, a NASA astronaut who flew five shuttle missions in space before she passed away in 2012. Through this fund, the class of 1973 will donate STEM-related books for the libraries in the Wilbraham and Hampden schools, send one nine-to-eleven-year-old student to Space Camp in Huntsville, AL, and create a \$2,500 annual scholarship to be awarded to a graduating Minnechaug senior from Wilbraham or Hampden with plans to study for a career in STEM.

Organizers hope that all members of the class family will know that they are invited to attend this reunion. We experienced years together in the Hampden-Wilbraham school system, so we welcome others who may have been part of our educational journey, including teachers and friends whose time at Minnechaug overlapped with ours. If you know someone from the Minnechaug Class of 1973 (they would have been born in 1954 or 1955) or would like to know more about the Janice Voss Memorial projects, please contact Ricardo Perez at perezr9@gmail.com or 919-757-7679.

Hartsprings Bin to be located at senior center

HAMPDEN -- As a reminder, the Hartsprings Bin will be located at The Hampden Senior Center through the Summer and Fall. This bin is a fundraiser sponsored by The Friends Of the Hampden Seniors, and items such as clothing, shoes, pocketbooks, books, towels, sheets and bedspreads or comforters and any small kitchen item can be accepted. However, No BED PILLOWS or FLOOR RUGS can be placed in this bin. If you have any item that is in a box or large bag and does not fit in the bin's door, please contact Joan Shea at (413) 566-8224 and arrangements will be made to help you.

Any additional questions in regards to an item you have, please feel free to contact Joan.

Scantic Valley YMCA launches Parkinson's Total Body Class

WILBRAHAM -- Parkinson's Total Body Class uses interval-style instruction for individuals with Parkinson's disease. Meeting twice a week, activities include strength, cardio, boxing, cycling, agility, flexibility and balance training. This modality of exercise has been shown to increase neuronal activity, which is usually decreased in individuals with Parkinson's disease. Total Body Parkinson's class is an additional benefit of YMCA of Greater Springfield membership. Classes are also available to the community with a non-member fee of \$30 per month. This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the American Parkinson Disease Association Massachusetts Chapter.

For more information or to register, contact the Scantic Valley YMCA, a branch of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, at 413.596.2749 x3107.

Sept. 16 presentation: Taking 'professional' photos with your phone.

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

Each participant is allowed two pieces to photograph.

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

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

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

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

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham Friends of the Library will present their Annual Art Exhibit, taking place at the Brooks Room of the Wilbraham Public Library from Oct. 2 to Oct. 29 with a reception for artists, Friends and the public, Saturday, Oct. 14 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 September 22.

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.

Upcoming adult programming at the Wilbraham Public Library

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

Cookbook Book Club Going Meatless in September

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

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

Important Political Music

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

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

Armenian Food Festival

St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church will hold its annual Armenian Food Festival on Saturday, Sept. 30, from noon to 5 p.m. at 135 Goodwin Street, Indian Orchard. Visitors are invited to enjoy Armenian dinners including shish kebab and losh kebab along with rice pilaf. Baked goods will be featured such as paklava and spinach-cheese pie.

To place a take-out order or for more information, please call the church at (413) 543-4763.A

Hampden Senior Trips

HAMPDEN -- Below are the upcoming Hampden Senior Trips. For more information, call Bobbi at 413-566-8271 or email bobbij2@charter.net

Boston's Duck Boats Tuesday, Sept.12: with lunch @ Maggiano's Little Italy, Duck tour, Quincy Market; \$140/pp. Payment deadline Aug. 29.

Newport Playhouse Thursday, Sept. 28: All-You-Can-Eat Buffet, Hilarious Show "Ghost of a Chance" & Cabaret, NEW LOWER PRICE \$132/pp. Payment deadline Sept 14.

Atlantic City Tuesday -- Thursday, Oct. 10 -- 12: Caesars Resort Hotel, two shows, \$50 food & slot bonuses; \$295/pp double, \$285/pp triple, \$395/pp single; \$50 deposit due @ sign-up. Payment deadline Sept. 8. Cancellation Ins. Avail.

The Aqua Turf Club -- ELVIS ISIN THE BUILDING ! on Wednesday, Nov. 8; coffee/donuts, free drink, family-style lunch, show & door prizes, \$119/pp. Payment deadline Oct. 18.

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MAINTENANCE
20 TO 25 HOURS PER WEEK.
Experience required in all aspects of property maintenance and repair. Work includes, but is not limited to: snow removal, electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, and grounds keeping. Must be available every other week for after hours on call emergency maintenance requests. Valid driver's license and clean driving record. Professional references required. Candidates will be subject to a Criminal Background check. Insurance and full state benefits package available.
Please submit resume to: **WILBRAHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY, 88 Stony Hill Rd. Wilbraham, MA 01095**
Deadline for resumes is September 21, 2023 Equal Opportunity Employer

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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We get results!

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON | **HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON**

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

CATEGORY:			
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9	10	11	12
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Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

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

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**
Add a third ZONE **\$5.00** Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):
Subtotal _____
x Number of Weeks _____
TOTAL Enclosed _____

Quabbin
 Suburban
 Hilltowns

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Springfield Technical High School – Every Class Reunion Sept. 23

SPRINGFIELD -- The spirit and camaraderie of Springfield's Tech High School is alive and well, as they gear up for another exciting reunion on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany St. from 3-8 p.m. The reunion is open to ALL TECH CLASSES.

An outside barbecue will be held rain or shine under the lodge's pavilion and will include hot dogs, hamburgers, pulled pork, salads, vegan options, dessert and more. Cash bar. Free parking and handicap accessible.

A fun-filled afternoon will include DJ and dancing, cornhole and bocce games, raffles and time to reminisce with friends over the years and make new friends as well.

According to committee chair Mike Borecki, "Tech High was a great school, and many lifelong friendships were forged back then. It's our dream for everyone to have fun and to keep the Tech Spirit tradition alive for many years to come.

Seating is limited and tickets are \$25 each. All are on a first come, first served basis. Open seating. For tickets call Mike Borecki '72 at 413-351-6572, Margaret McCormick '74 at 413-531-4763, Dawn Duncan '71 413-896-3930, or Matt Villamaino '67 at 413-896-2206

Located on Elliot Street in Springfield, MA Technical High School was founded in 1906 and closed in 1986.

Valley Eye Radio seeking a board member

SPRINGFIELD -- Are you ready to get more involved??

Then you may want to consider becoming a board member with Valley Eye Radio.

Why?? Did you know we are the only accessible local news and information broadcasting service in the Pioneer Valley for those who can no longer read independently? We are dedicated to making sure that the lives of seniors, veterans and others who have vision challenges never feel socially isolated, vulnerable, or feel like they are losing their quality of life because they can no longer read.

Valley Eye Radio, formerly Valley Radio Reading Service, started almost 50 years ago when a group of dedicated citizens wanted to help their family members, friends and neighbors who were struggling due to eyesight issues. Since that time volunteer readers and passionate board members have continued what that small group started.

Today, Valley Eye Radio is using 21st century technology to be more accessible than ever, has more financial resources than ever, and needs new community members to join our board to help us define what our future growth should be for our listeners and the growing numbers of people who will need us in the next few years.

If you are that person and ready to get involved and join us, please contact Executive Director Barbara Loh at 413-747-7337 or bploh@valleyeyradio.org.

BBB Scam Alert: Six scams for college students to avoid

College students must spend money on tuition payments and school supplies to prepare for the new year. However, scammers are taking this opportunity to try to steal some of that money through various schemes and scams.

One tactic used to get student's personal information is a phishing email that claims to be from the school's "Financial Department." Messages via text or email may appear, instructing the student to click on a link provided in the email and log in with a student username and password. Don't do it; doing so could give the username, password, or other personal information to scammers while possibly downloading malware onto the device.

Whether you are starting school away from home or have young students who may be vulnerable to such scams, BBB recommends watching out for these financial scams before heading into the new semester.

• Fake credit cards - Offers to apply for the first credit card are tempting to many students. Not only could this create credit problems down the road due to unchecked spending, but some deals could be phony offers designed to access personal information. Research the offers from the credit card flyers and the banking institutions before applying. Review the BBB tip on credit card scams.

• Too good to be true apartments - It's hard not to jump on a convenient apartment so close to campus, especially if it advertises affordable rent. It's tempting to hand over credit card information online to lock in a great spot, but it's always worth seeing the apartment in person before a money transfer. This also applies to Craigslist and social media ads appearing to be from other students looking for roommates. Read more about rental scams.

• ID theft - It's a good idea to start practicing healthy money habits, and one such habit is regularly checking your credit report for unusual activity and possible ID fraud. The official government website to do this for free is annualcreditreport.com. Read BBB's article on How to know if someone stole your identity.

• Scholarship and grant scams - Be wary of phone calls from companies guaranteeing they can help reduce loan payments or offer a hefty grant. Searching the company's name online could bring up scam alerts or negative reviews from other consumers. Read reviews and complaints about the company at BBB.org and contact the school's financial aid office for advice and help regarding financing your education. Scholarship scams can affect college students even after graduation; read our tips on scholarship scams.

• Online shopping scams - Online purchase scams can be especially effective when set up through social media platforms and apps. BBB has tips for smart shopping online and a page dedicated to online shopping tips and scam alerts.

• Awareness of current scams - As tech-savvy as current college students can be, a surprising number of scams reported to BBB's ScamTracker are from students who learned their lesson too late. Use BBB's Scam Tips to learn the latest scam trends and read local reports of specific incidents.

Read 9 ways for students to avoid ID theft on campus.

Contact your local BBB if you are unsure of something that could possibly be a scam, and report scams to BBB Scam Tracker.

PUBLIC NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. Probate & Family Court Dept. HD23E0037PP

To Amberly Matt of Hampden, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Jason W. Abeid of Indian Orchard, representing that they hold as tenants in common in an undivided part or share of land lying in Hampden in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at a private sale or public auction for not less than Four Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand (\$475,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable

claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **seventeenth day of October 2023**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 17th day of August 2023.

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register
08/31, 09/07, 09/14/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1853EA Estate of: Jeffrey R. Porter Date of Death: 03/21/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Mackenzie J. Porter of Springfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/29/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and

may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 01, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/07/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of September 8, 2023 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
E-Ton Moped
VIN: RFZ5BB0C95A003037
Color: Black
LKO: Unknown
R & S Assoc. Inc.
Wilbraham MA 01095
413-596-4374
08/24, 08/31, 09/07/2023

TOWN OF HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, (MGL CH 131, S 40), it's implementing regulations (310 CMP 10.00) and the Town of Hampden's Wetlands Protection Bylaws, the Hampden Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 6 PM** at the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, for a **Request for Determination of Applicability, (RDA)**, submitted by Cheryl Bronner for the purpose of removing

two trees at 167 Sessions Dr., Hampden, MA. Additional information relating to this request is on file in the Conservation Commission office and available for review by the public by contacting the Commission. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard on the request may appear at the time and place designated.

On Behalf of the Conservation Commission, **Judy McKinley-Brewer, Ted Zebert**, co-chairs
09/07/2023

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On Behalf of the

Conservation Commission, **Judy McKinley-Brewer, Ted Zebert**, co-chairs
09/07/2023

TOWN OF HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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On Behalf of the Conservation Commission, **Judy McKinley-Brewer, Ted Zebert**, co-chairs
09/07/2023

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SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
ACT	73 Genevieve, Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 2h bath Colonial	\$465,900	
ACT	37 Dalton St., Wilbraham	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Cape	\$339,900	
ACT	2 Oakland St, Wilbraham	9 room, 5 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial, Gambrel /Dutch	\$479,372	
PCG	114 Piney, Ludlow	6 room, 2 bed, 1f bath Cottage, Bungalow	\$310,000	
UAG	230 Prospect St., Ludlow	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Bungalow	\$299,900	
UAG	11 Pease Ave., Monson	6 room, 3 bed, 2f bath Colonial	\$260,000	
UAG	39 Shaw St, Palmer	5 room, 3 bed, 2f bath	\$270,000	
UAG	64 Old Farm Rd., Springfield	7 room, 4 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$259,900	
UAG	50 Slumber Ln., Springfield	5 room, 3 bed, 1f bath Ranch	\$279,000	
UAG	301 Springfield, Wilbraham	7 room, 4 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial	\$599,900	
SLD	144 Washington Rd., Brimfield	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Cape	\$214,000	\$200,000
SLD	843 Somers Rd., East Longmeadow	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$289,900	\$301,000
SLD	26 Anthony Dr., East Longmeadow	7 room, 4 bed, 2f bath Cape	\$379,900	\$375,000
SLD	20 Martin Rd., Hampden	6 room, 3 bed, 1f bath Ranch	\$399,900	\$375,000
SLD	41 Fernwood Dr., Hampden	8 room, 4 bed, 2f bath Cape	\$459,900	\$425,000
SLD	164 Lyon St., Ludlow	7 room, 3 bed, 2f bath Log	\$669,900	\$669,900
SLD	74 Judith St., Springfield	6 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$222,500	\$260,000
SLD	5 County St., Springfield	6 room, 4 bed, 1f bath Cape	\$249,000	\$265,000
SLD	53 Keith St., Springfield	12 room, 6 bed, 1f 1h bath	\$299,900	\$315,000
SLD	4 Inwood Dr., Wilbraham	8 room, 3 bed, 2f bath Ranch	\$380,000	\$362,000

CONDOMINIUMS LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
SLD	98 Fuller St., U:32, Ludlow	4 room, 2 bed, 1f bath Garden	\$219,000	\$215,000
SLD	235 State St., U:305, Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f bath Garden	\$169,900	\$169,900

LAND LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
ACT	0 Springhouse Rd., Hampden	0.72 Residential acres (31,531 SqFt)	\$87,000	
ACT	0 Old Reed Rd., lot:6, Monson	8.50 Residential acres (370,260 SqFt)	\$89,000	

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575-2898



Eileen O'Sullivan
505-9244



John Moltenbrey
427-5176



Tom Avezzie
218-7991



Nick Ferrara
386-4523



Luci Giguere
575-2837



Ann Paquette
626-6871



Kathy Esser
348-3803



Sue Rheaume
478-0671



Dot Lortie
478-1940



Zoe Czaplicki
519-9224



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Casa PIZZERIA

PIZZA is as individual as the state, region or even country that makes it!

Do you have a favorite hard-to-find pizza style or are you a super foodie who loves to discover new options?

Then Why Haven't You Been to Casa Pizzeria in Ludlow, MA Yet?

- Did you know Casa Pizzeria won **1st Place Best Pizza** award for the entire state starting out in the **SPRING 2018** with the MassLive (best of pizza) online poll?
- Did you know that pizza globetrotting mega celebrity **Dave Portnoy** from **Barstool Sports** made an exclusive trip to Ludlow **SPRING 2022** just to try Casa Pizzeria? Their score is so high on his "One Bite APP" he had to try it for himself, and he gave them a huge 7.9 score!
- Did you know in the **FALL of 2022** Casa Pizzeria won **1st Place at PIZZA PASTA EXPO** Atlantic City, New Jersey (the second largest pizza competition in the world!) winning the title **Best in Northeast!!** in the super elite Traditional Pizza Division?
- Did you know Casa Pizzeria was featured in **JAN 2023 PIZZA TODAY** Magazine? The largest pizza related magazine in the country.

Now That You Know...You Need to Go!
(But please, make sure you know how to order)

Casa Pizzeria doesn't make pizza like other shops! Other pizza shops make **one style** of pizza in **3 - 5 sizes**. Like you would make a sandwich on different types of bread, Casa Pizzeria makes pizza on **TEN** different bake styles of **the crust**, inspired by **pizzeria legends** in big U.S. cities and even around the world. It's like visiting multiple

HOURS:
TUESDAY-SUNDAY:
4PM-8PM ONLY
MONDAY CLOSED

pizza shops from around the country and around the world in one location!

Now you have options and choices...

- Basic styles such as **New York style** and **New Haven style** pizza crust can get you started.
- Rare styles like the thick **Detroit PAN** pizza, **Sicilian PAN** pizza or the exotic "Deep Fried" **Italian Montanara** pizza that nobody else in our area offers.
- You can always make it your own by choosing the style of crust then choosing your favorite toppings.

Just don't ask for a "regular," "normal" or "what-ever" pizza.

There is no such thing at Casa Pizzeria!

Real pizza lovers travel from everywhere, out of town and often out of state because they have read about Casa Pizzeria on Google, Facebook and Instagram. These foodie people are serious pizza connoisseurs and they come from everywhere expecting pizza greatness!

If this sounds like you then come on in and discover why their pizza family and friends love their concept and super rare options for our area. Visit with an open mind and a curiosity to try something different and they will go the extra mile for you!

"At Casa Pizzeria making pizza is a craft not a job."

6 CRAFT PIZZA STYLES

NEAPOLITAN CRUST

Typical size and style most common for the "wood fired" pizza's of Italy. OUR crust is high temp gas fired heat. We added more crispness and less super soft doughness.

NEW YORK CRUST

Iconic PIE CUT thin crust round pizza served everywhere in New York City. SUPER thin with a puffy crumb edge.

NEW HAVEN CRUST

SUPER THIN with a little char, all the way to the edge. An addictive crispy "Thin Crust" complete with that legendary well done, slight char similar to the Greatest New Haven pizza shops.

BOSTONIAN CRUST

This one is inspired by one of the oldest legendary pizza shops in Boston. At that shop they put toppings under the cheese! Then light splashes of red sauce on top of the cheese.

MONTANARA "DEEP FRIED" CRUST

The Montanara is a Deep Fried Crust that is making its way to the US as pizza lovers discover this rare delight.

GLUTEN FREE CRUST

Casa Pizzeria teamed up with an Artisan Gluten Free Crust Bakery to give up one of the finest GF think crusts we've ever tasted.

4 PAN PIZZA STYLES

GRANDMA PAN CRUST

"Thinner" version of the Sicilian PAN pizza. OUR take is topped with Mozzarella, light Red Sauce, fresh torn Basil, Olive Oil, and Parmesan.

SICILIAN PAN CRUST

A lot like the Grandma but MUCH THICKER. Topped with Premium Mozzarella cheese, lightly topped with OUR Italian Tomato Sauce, Fresh Basil, Corto Olive Oil, sprinkled with good Parmigiano.

DETROIT PAN CRUST

Super Thick like Sicilian, made with caramelized cheese baked into the edges of the pan topped with the classic two stripes of thick rich red sauce.

CHICAGO "DEEP DISH" PAN CRUST

Premium Mozzarella cheese base, topped with Italian Tomato Sauce, Basil, Olive Oil, finished with good Parmigiano.

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SCAN FOR MENU

325 East St. - Ludlow - 413-589-0468 - www.casapizzeria.com