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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Holocaust Survivor Abraham Rodstein shares his story about surviving the Holocaust during a talk at the Wilbraham Public Library on Aug. 19.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR Abraham Rodstein holds talk at WPL

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The library's Brooks Room was packed on Aug. 19 as attendees came to hear Holocaust Survivor Abraham Rodstein share his story of resilience and survival.

Joined by local writer Thomas Slawiak, Rodstein, who is 95 years old, shared his journey before, during and after World War II, including his home country of Lithuania--where he was born in Siauliai in 1928--and surviving the Kovno

Ghetto and Dachau concentration camp.

His parents, also, survived the Holocaust.

Rodstein, who lives in Ludlow, later emigrated to America and has also done an oral history interview with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Rodstein and Slawiak have brought their talk to many venues including schools, libraries, senior centers and private venues, working on educating people about the Holocaust and preventing such horrors as this from happening ever again.

During the talk, Slawiak shared

it was the eighth time he and Rodstein have done this, with the two men first meeting two years ago at the Mills, thanks to a puppy named Enzo.

"He likes to walk on the riverwalk, so what we did on a hot July day, we took him for a nice stroll. He got tired and decided he needed a break, so we sat down on a bench," Slawiak said. "We looked up and there's Mr. Rodstein standing there looking and he says 'Hi, how are you? I'm Abe Rodstein.' We talk for a few minutes and he

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Wilbraham Senior Center hosting Shop Local Vendor Fair



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The Wilbraham Senior Center is hosting a Local Vendor Fair showcasing the many local businesses you can find in Wilbraham on Sept. 27.

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - A Shop Local Vendor Fair showcasing what local businesses have to offer the community will take place at the senior center on Sept. 27.

The fair runs from 1 to 3 p.m. with many brick-and-mortar businesses participating including Pafumi's, LUSO Federal Credit Union, Fern Valley Farms, Life-Care, Guidance by Li, MC Salon, Peace Within, The Flower Shed, Wilbraham Funeral Home and more.

No sign-up is required and it's open to all, with non-seniors especially encouraged to attend.

Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs, explained the vendor fair is an opportunity to thank the local businesses that supported the senior center--including in the last couple of years--with donations and more.

With several new brick-and-mortar businesses recently opening in the center of town, Dubord wanted them to be included and also to introduce them to the community.

"We felt what a great way to thank people and to showcase some of the local businesses, so that's kind of how we started and came up with this idea to hold a vendor fair," Dubord said.

On what attendees can expect, Dubord shared this.

"The vendors will be providing their information on

Please see **SHOP LOCAL**, page 12

Hampden Senior Center hosts Everything Must Go Sale

Event supported Senior Building Expansion Fund

By Hannah Yeasley
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - The senior center held its "Everything Must Go" tag sale on Sept. 7 to close out their month-long fundraiser.

The sale was from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and was hosted in the Great Room, with the original time having been 9 a.m. to Noon until it was later changed to give more attendees time to browse and shop.

The spread of goods available consisted of clothes of all styles and sizes, shoes and jewelry, as well as decor, glassware, Christmas decora-

tions, books and many more.

Diane Marino, the senior center's activities coordinator, said that they accepted donations for the tag sale all month long and would go through everything to decide what to sell and donate the rest.

"Everyone can use everything all the time, everyone has different needs," Marino said. "That's one of the great things about tag sales, there's something here for everybody and it's nice to donate things that are still usable to others."

Marino also thanked those who donated items at any point during the preparation and execution of the tag sale:

"I want to give my utmost appreciation to all those who made such generous donations to support our fundraiser. We could have never had this amazing fundraising event with-

out your kindness and generosity!" Marino said.

The event, organized mainly by Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens and Marino, aimed to raise money for the Building Expansion Fund.

"It's so wonderful to see all the work the Friends have done for the building expansion, especially with this tag sale," Marino said. "We definitely need the space; even getting donations for this sale it was difficult to find a place to set it all up that it wasn't in the way of another activity. People come here and there's a sense

Please see **SALE**, page 13

Turley photos by Hannah Yeasley
A mannequin set up with a shirt and skirt combo, feather boa, and hat that were all for sale.



The latest on the Great Horse zone change request

Authorization receives two abstentions

By Kristin Rivers
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HAMPDEN - After meeting with the Board of Selectmen on Aug. 26, attorneys from Fitzgerald Law Firm returned on Sept. 9 to discuss the latest with the Great Horse zone change request.

To recap, the zone change request would change 128 Wilbraham Rd. to 231 Wilbraham Rd--or 61A to 61B--and change the zoning from residential to golf recreational for Great Horse, but to be done, the request would need to be on the town warrant for Fall Town Meeting.

The Planning Board would, also, need to make a recommendation on the request.

The zone change would specifically focus on the potential expansion of the golf course use on the properties while, also, keeping allowed farming use and the move of a golf maintenance storage shed, with Great Horse also giving up the ability to do residential redevelopment of the acreage.

Chair Don Davenport began the discussion with this clarification to the attorneys representing Great Horse, Rachel Fancy and Seth Stratton, regarding a comment made previously about the golf course being the largest taxpayer, largest land owner and largest employer in town, under-



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Hampden Town House

standing they were advocating for the client in question.

"I just want to make it very clear it doesn't matter. When you come before the board, our decisions are based on the merits of your proposal and the issues. Not whether you're the biggest employer or the biggest taxpayer or the biggest (land owner)," Davenport said.

Davenport's other concern centered on living on one of the streets that will probably be impacted by any zone changes, along with owning property that abuts Great Horse.

"So, I'm going to ask the town counsel if I can participate in it, these votes and things," Davenport said. "So, I'll be abstaining tonight."

Fancy thanked the board for

having them return along with the expediency of the matter from the town.

"As it says in my note, we are looking to get on the town warrant because we feel as though the town itself has a greater impact on a zone change being heard at the Fall Town Meeting, rather than a subsequent, maybe, Special Town Meeting, which would require 200 signatures," Fancy said.

After recapping the reasons for the zone change request, Fancy said this.

"But as I said, we do think it would be appropriate for you to authorize us to put it on the warrant as it would be a substantial change in the town and the Fall Town Meeting is different than other town special meetings, where it's more largely attended, it's more largely advertised, so anyone who would like to have a say on this or give any sort of input would be more likely to come to Fall Meeting than a subse-

quent 200-signature special town meeting," Fancy said.

After this, there was a brief discussion on the legal terms as Selectman Craig Rivest clarified what special town meeting and fall town meeting were.

Rivest then asked Fancy this. "You had mentioned moving the building from the current location to the old Keddy Farm would be a zoning violation," Rivest said. "Why do you believe that?"

Fancy replied it was due to the accessory to use golf recreation facility.

"Currently, one of the only areas where you can do it is in golf recreation, so because they store equipment--which is maintenance and other golf-related facility equipment in that shed--they moved it into a residential zone and they couldn't currently have it on that property without a zoning violation which they obviously do not want to do," Fancy said.

After clarifications on the car path and easement access were answered along with questions about what's going on at the top of the hill--an access road that would bring material into the back--Selectman John Flynn reviewed what was before the board that evening and received confirmation there would be a public hearing about this with the Planning Board on Sept. 25.

That meeting will take place in the town house auditorium at 6 p.m.

Flynn then made the motion to authorize, which received one yes and two abstentions, with Rivest abstaining along with Davenport, leading to the motion not passing.

"Can I ask, Craig, why would you abstain?" Flynn said.

Rivest replied this.

"I want to get the Planning Board referral, hear their referral on the 25th. Do we still have time to close the warrant to put it on the warrant the week--on the 30th (of September)--for the

closing," Rivest said. "So, at that point, if Planning Board feels it's favorable, then I would vote for it, yes."

"So, basically at that point, it'd be a referral from the Planning Board for a warrant article?" Flynn said.

"Correct, because they would have to go for (a) public hearing," Rivest said.

After Flynn said that made more sense, Rivest clarified he wasn't denying the authorization.

"I'm not denying it, no. I'd like to hear the Planning Board's referral and any input from the residents that may be at that hearing," Rivest said.

Fancy understood the abstention but said it would put them "at a significant disadvantage" due to the five-day window from that public hearing to the closing of the town warrant.

"So, that obviously puts an impediment to getting the 100 signatures that we are trying to get," Fancy said.

Seth Stratton also conceded this point.

"So, it is what it is but because when are you next meeting before the deadline?" Stratton said.

The next meeting date before the deadline would be Sept. 30, but Flynn clarified "the date we set to close the warrant is our date" and has opened the warrant to add articles and then close it again.

"So, it's not a date set in law. It's a date set for convenience," Flynn said. "We want to make sure that every board and committee has engagement in the process."

There is a placeholder at this time for this item, which was also clarified.

More on this as it develops.



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Library hosts first-ever Sip and Stitch Crochet Club

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

HAMPDEN – The library hosted its first-ever Sip and Stitch Crochet Club event in the Sheila R. Flynn Teen Center on Sept. 7.

Inside the library, people from grades five through 12 brought their materials, crocheted with their friends and enjoyed mocktails.

It was a way for everyone to come together and learn to crochet, or work on their current crochet projects if they have them currently. To make it even more fun, the library offered a sunrise mocktail station.

The club session was led by Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard, who advised the club and was always willing to help anyone when it came to crocheting.

Girard mentioned this regarding the crochet club, the newest teen activity offer at the library.

“Everyone is welcome. All of our teens and tweens regardless of if they know how to crochet or don’t know. It’s just kind of a place to practice and try to make things. I’m hoping we’ll have more people participate as it goes on and we can all learn from each other and just kind of have a fun little community of crafters,” Girard said.

One of the newest members of the crochet club--and Minnechaug Regional High School freshman--Irelyn Coffey was hard at work crocheting.

Coffey started volunteering at the library over the summer and learned how to crochet from Girard before the club was announced a few weeks ago.

“It’s just something to do when you’re done with your homework and you don’t want to sit there and watch anything or play a game,” Coffey said.

Regarding crocheting in general, she wants people



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen
Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard Holds up a basket of yarn that is used for crocheting

to know this.

“That there’s other things that you can do than just watch TV,” Coffey said.

It was a great way for people to get together and focus on the hobby of crocheting. From starting out and learning something new to being a veteran at the craft, everyone was able to come together and bond with the interest of crocheting in mind.

The club shows that it is never too late to find a new hobby, and to use that hobby instead of other distractions such as electronics. It is a productive hobby and craft which can be able to connect people in a gathering to form bonds over the craft.

The library plans to meet for the club on the first Saturday of each month going forward from 11 a.m. to Noon. in the Sheila R. Flynn Teen Center, with those in grades five through 12 encouraged to check it out.

The next teen events coming up are a DIY Trinket Box event on Sept. 14 from 11 a.m. to Noon to paint your town trinket box and the first-ever Book to Movie Book Club from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 28, where the club will discuss “A Wrinkle In Time” by Madeline L’Engle and watch the film.

For more information on the Sip and Stitch Crochet Club as well as other crafty, fun events coming up at the library, check out their website at hampden-library.org/events.



Irelyn Coffey sits at a table where she crocheted for the day.

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Falcon Swim Club

It’s time for the Falcon’s Swim Club Fall/Winter season!

Stroke and Turn Clinic:

September 30 to October 11.

Cost: \$100

Times: Monday-Friday 6:00-7:00 p.m. for age 10 and Under
7:00-8:00 p.m. for age 11 and up.

*** Anyone new to our club must try out before the team starts. Each new swimmer will be asked to swim the length of the pool (25 yards) without help. Try-outs for new swimmers are on 9/30 at 5 pm at Minnechaug Pool.

FSC Team:

Tuesday, October 11 through January 24-25.

Group 1

Monday-Thursday 6:00-6:50 p.m. – \$230

For all swimmers age 8 and under and non-high schoolers who are new to FSC

Group 2

Monday-Thursday 6:50-8:00 p.m. – \$255

For age 9 through 8th grade, who have at least one season of past experience with FSC.

Group 3

Monday-Thursday & Friday 3:00-4:30 p.m. – \$305

This Group is all High School swimmers plus middle school swimmers with permission from Coach Mandell.

Any questions or concerns, please email fscswimrec@gmail.com. See you at the pool!

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School Committee approves updated Bullying Prevention Plan

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - School Committee unanimously approved the school district's updated Bullying Prevention Plan on Sept. 4.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost explained how although the statute allows Bullying Prevention Plans to run for 48 months, the district equity audit recommended "the district reprioritize a reexamination of its strategies for preventing bullying due to the high rates of bullying reported by some of our families."

"So, we're bringing this new plan to you, which is a year ahead of schedule, in response to that," Provost said.

Provost said the District DEI Committee focused on updating the plan over several meetings last spring, with the updated plan including additional resources from the DESE website and information on how to file a complaint or concern with DESE if families "feel the district isn't taking appropriate actions to prevent bullying."

"Additionally, Internet safety is added as a strategy for addressing bullying as much of this behavior occurs online," Provost said. "The chart on page 11 is also extensively provided to reflect new strategies that the district has adopted to address bullying such as the Kindness Project, the Equity Circles as well as proactive measures to address schools such as Shut Down the School. These reflect the feedback we've received from students and families encouraging us to begin explicit bullying efforts at a younger age."



Of the highlights presented in school improvement plans from area schools, Provost said they included the revision date change and a change in professional development.

"The prior version said that professional development was for teachers, specifically, and we are expanding that to include all staff because we think all staff impact students' lives and have the ability to create a culture that is resistant to bullying," Provost said.

For resources, he reiterated the additional information on the DESE website and the Kindness Project and Equity Circles.

"We heard one thing from students we were talking to about this is 'You need to start earlier, because we may be see bullying at the middle school, but the seeds of it begin much earlier,'" Provost said. "So, we're trying to take a much more proactive approach to this plan. Section eight is a complete new section. This is the section where we get families information about filing a complaint or a concern with

the state if they feel we're not addressing it properly and then the other change is to update the student services section to reflect current personnel."

Before making the motion to approve, Vice Chair Sean Kennedy thanked Provost for including all staff in the revisions, reflecting on a cafeteria worker he had back when he was in middle school.

"She said, 'We are the only people that see every single student every single day,' and I was like, 'Wow, that's pretty great,' so thank you for including them," Kennedy said.

Rich Rediker asked about the identifying of the bullies and the identifying of the targets.

"What are you using to identify them?" Rediker said.

Provost replied they're able to identify primarily through bullying and harassment reports, which "have a place" where the reporter is asked to identify all individuals that may be involved as perpetrators and all individuals who may be involved as targets.

"We take a look at it in sort of an annual basis to see what patterns (are) involved," Provost said. "Last winter, we did provide reports to the School Committee on some of the patterns and they were quite striking. One of the things we found was that the ages really are the middle school ages where we see the largest spike of this, but I think, to me, the issue that is still most striking is that it was almost entirely a male student phenomenon."

Provost continued that there was an opportunity to talk to some of the female students who were part of the DEI Committee about this, with one of their suggestions was "We may be seeing it that way because the bullying behavior looks a little bit different from male students and female students."

He added for male students, that aligns with research saying the bullying is moreover external "which is easier to identify and substantiate."

"For females, it can look more like social exclusion, which is really harder to pick up on," Provost said. "So, I do think that there may be some overidentification of males in that and I do think that there may be some under-identification at the earlier levels before middle school. I think part of that is around shifting some thinking about, well, how young can students be when they actually have harassing behavior as part of the repertoire."

Provost con-

cluded his response by saying part of the goal of bringing interventions down and instruction down to "a younger level" is to say "No."

"Young kids, second graders, third graders can be engaged in harassment, they can be engaged in racial harassment or sexual harassment and trying to address it directly for what it is at that age will, hopefully, cause us to have a reduction in bullying overall as time goes on," Provost said.

Rediker shared he asked those questions as he wasn't sure about what systems were being used to track those items, as when they're put in, the system tells you the targets and who the bullies are and other information.

"I'm not sure that's what you're using or using something else but it just kind of to help computers identify this that you might not know. This kid might be a target for bullying, you might want to say, specially targeted for some reason, to be able to speak to them as well," Rediker said. "So, I'm not sure if you're using it from K to 12 or where you use the system. It all kind of comes together to actually produce reports that it can be really helpful."

The motion to adopt the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan revised in September 2024 passed 7-0.

Cookbook Club at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library Cookbook Club is meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m.

"This month we're reading and cooking from 'Falastin' by Sami Tamimi and Tara Wigley," said Assistant Director Mary Bell. "Interspersed between recipes is information about Palestinian food and culture."

Sign up is required; please let the library know what you're bringing so we do not duplicate recipes. Cooking is encouraged but not required for attendance. Copies of the book are available at the Service Desk.

The Cookbook Club meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m. The following meeting will be on Dec. 4.

This program is free and open to the public, and registration is required. For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

Fall into Art Art Show

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

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

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

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

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

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VIEWPOINTS



Dear Rusty:

I will be turning 70 (yikes) this coming November. I will begin taking my Social Security benefit at that time. My age 70 SS benefit will be approximately \$4,500 per month. My spouse (who is currently 74) began receiving her SS benefits about 10 years ago before her Full Retirement Age. She receives approximately \$1,900 per month.

My question is, based on my expected SS monthly benefit of approximately \$4,500, would my spouse be eligible for an increase in her monthly SS benefit? I've read some articles about this topic, but none of them seem to be on point so I thought I'd reach out to you.

Signal: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking:

Congratulations on choosing a claiming strategy, which will maximize your Social Security. Waiting until age 70 to claim guarantees you will get the most you can personally re-

Will my wife get a spousal benefit from me?

ceive for the rest of your life, along with annual Cost of Living Adjustments. But the spouse benefits available to your wife when you claim are not based on your age 70 amount. Rather, spouse benefits are calculated using Full Retirement Age amounts. Here's what that means:

If your age 70 benefit will be about \$4,500 then your FRA amount was likely around \$3,450. If your wife claimed at, say, 64, then her FRA entitlement would probably have been around \$2,200. Your wife will only get a spousal boost if 50% of your FRA amount (not your age 70 amount) is more than her own FRA entitlement. From what you've shared, 50% of your FRA amount would be about \$1,750, which is less than your wife's FRA entitlement and her current age 64 amount, which means that she would not be eligible for a spousal boost to her own amount from you.

Spouse benefits can be tricky, because they're based on FRA entitlements, regardless of the age at which benefits are actually claimed. That is not so, however, for surviving spouse benefits. If you were to predecease

your wife, her benefit would be your entire \$4,500 amount, instead of her own smaller current amount. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount each of you are currently receiving, not on your amounts at your full retirement age.

I hope this answers your question, but we're always here if you need any further assistance.

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I received an email from a Brimfield resident who said, "On Aug. 1 at the no named pond in Warren on New Reed Street there were three great egrets near the far shore. The birds would sometimes be out of sight in the vegetation near the shore." He also saw two great blue herons and a belted kingfisher.

The great egret is a large, 39 inches, white heron with a yellow bill and black legs. In breeding season, both males and females have long white plumes on their backs. Like other herons, the great egret feeds by slowly walking, head erect and then striking its prey. It forages in shallow water for small fish and amphibians. It also feeds on land for insects, reptiles and small mammals.

Great egrets nest in colonies with other herons, ibises and cormorants or they nest singly. The female lays one to six pale bluish eggs in a flimsy platform nest of sticks, twigs and reeds placed in a tree from eight to 40 feet above ground or in cattails. They inhabit marshes, swamps, seashores and lake margins.

In the past, they were hunted for the plumes used in the feather trade. Since the ban on hunting and on the use of DDT, which caused fragile eggshells, their population increased.

Eagle sighting and more

My daughter, Paula, saw a belted kingfisher at Tully Lake in Royalston on Aug. 3. She saw two cormorants, two female mallards and a juvenile bald eagle at Hardwick Pond on Aug. 10. The bald eagle was diving, unsuccessfully, for fish not too far from her canoe. She said, "[It] was really cool to see."

Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident, who saw the great egrets, said, "I have a bird bath with a drip. On a recent hot afternoon the birdbath got a workout; catbird, blue jay, titmouse, house finch, Baltimore oriole, rose-breasted grosbeak, song sparrow and chipping sparrow all took a bath and goldfinch were getting a drink from the drip."

He also said, "In the yard yesterday (Aug. 2) I saw two Carolina wrens. I've seen two Carolina

wrens in the yard infrequently since spring but I don't think they have nested nearby because I've never heard them singing. And at the very top of a dead tree (where else) I saw a male scarlet tanager." He said the male ruby-throated hummingbirds are still around and there is more activity at the feeders now that the recently fledged young are out and about.

He also reported at the pond on South Street the four great blue herons nests are all

empty, the twelve chicks have all fledged and the three osprey chicks are out of the nest and flying around the pond.

Bird bath

I wish I had the activity at my birdbath this Brimfield resident has. I have yet to see a bird use it. My daughter's dog drinks from it whenever he visits.

Hovering hummingbird

Recently, I let my daughter Jenny's dogs out. While I watched them from the window in the door a ruby-throated female hummingbird came name the door and hovered as if looking in the window at me. Ironically, I was wearing a tee shirt with hummingbirds and bee balm. Maybe it was attracted to the red bee balm.

Hummingbirds and more

The Brimfield resident said in response to my email telling him about my hummingbird experience, "I've had hummingbirds hover in front of me a couple of times, pretty cool. Also yesterday I saw some motion out of a window and when I looked it was a hummingbird and a female common yellowthroat having a 'discussion.' The hummingbird was upset I believe because the warbler was near where it perches between visits to a nearby feeder."

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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



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

Correction Policy

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

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

Residents create recycled book pumpkins at WPL



Adult Services Librarian Emilie Lang provides instructions on creating recycled book pumpkins during the Recycled Book Pumpkin event in the Brooks Room at the Wilbraham Public Library.



A close-up shot of an attendee using an x-acto knife to trace a shape from an old book to create a recycled book pumpkin.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

The recycled book pumpkin process involves varying steps, including utilizing hot glue to make sure the edges come together to form the pumpkin shape, as demonstrated here.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Residents stopped by the library's Brooks Room from 10 a.m. to Noon on Sept. 7 to enjoy a Recycled Book Pumpkin craft.

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

Led by Adult Services Librarian Emilie Lang, participants cut out pages from old books to create an upcycled decorative pumpkin to welcome the incoming fall season, utilizing a template and set of instructions, an x-acto knife, hot glue and festive fall, Halloween or other nature-themed ribbons.

Lang said the craft is "definitely fitting" as we welcome fall, having found the idea online.

"I wanted something that was both seasonal and had to do very directly with the library. Obviously, as a library we love books, but we can't have every book all the time," Lang said. "We do a process that's called weeding (which) is getting rid of old books or books that are underused. The books that we kind of tore apart today and reused were ones that were leaving our collection anyways, so I wanted to give them a second life and be able to reuse them in a way that felt

transformative."

She added with old or underused books, the library does try to resell them or recycle them "or turn them into a new creation," as was done with the recycled book pumpkins.

Lang said people "really like paper crafts" and adults enjoy crafting just like the kids and teens do.

"A lot of times a lot of our crafts are geared towards teens and kids and things like that, so I wanted something that catered to more of an adult audience," Lang said.

Lang was thrilled with the turnout.

"We really appreciate it. Usually in all of our crafts and all of our programs in general, I see a lot of familiar faces but usually, without fail, every time, I'll get a couple new people," Lang said. "At least a few people were saying, 'This is the first time I've ever been here, but I saw that you were doing this craft and I really wanted to come,' so I really appreciate the fact that we had a mix of both regular returnees and new people who were interested in trying something."

For anyone who may be interested in making their own recycled book pumpkin, Lang explained the process.

"It's pretty straightforward. I provided templates for people to be able to either trace and cut out and to follow the guide that I provided, but it's very customizable," Lang said. "I would say you real-

ly can make it your own. I would say definitely look up a tutorial. It's not difficult to do on your own. It requires very basic supplies. You got a craft knife and an old book you can probably put it together. It's definitely something that you can tackle solo."

Lang enjoyed overseeing the craft as it gave her an opportunity to be creative herself.

"What's really fun to me is seeing everyone's finished creations and seeing how happy they were," Lang said.

Lang encourages the community to check out future events throughout the month and try a new craft.

"I want to say use the library. I don't think as many people as we would like are aware of the resources that we offer. There's so many things that people aren't aware of," Lang said. "Libraries are not just books. They're community centers, they're a community resource. All of the things that we offer for everyone are free."

Also, to sign up for your library card as September is Library Card Sign-Up Month.

"We really try our best to push that and to encourage people to sign up for library cards, to really have an idea of all of the things they can access just by being a resident of the town," Lang said. "Or as

a resident of Central and Western Massachusetts. Wilbraham Public Library is a member of CWMARS and that allows them to access the resources and all of the materials of most public libraries in the area, so even just signing up in Wilbraham opens up an entire world in the state pretty much."

Lang thanked everyone for attending, hoping they enjoyed their recycled book pumpkin creations.

"Thank you for your time, first of all. I really appreciate the amount of trust people put into things like this," Lang said. "I really try my best to make it a welcoming environment and make crafts accessible to people of all skill levels, so I'd like to say thanks for trusting me with that."



A finished recycled book pumpkin with a daisy ribbon.



A larger recycled book pumpkin adorned with an orange ribbon, one of the colors of the fall season.



Examples of recycled book pumpkins attendees used as guide as they made their own during the event.



This spooky recycled book pumpkin with a Halloween-themed ribbon was a unique creation.

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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



A child looks on in curiosity during the Look Park visit families at Christina's House got to enjoy.



Families from Christina's House enjoy some Zen as they visit animals at Look Park.



A child enjoys a fishy water fountain at Look Park.



Goats get fed by families from Christina's House during their recent outing at Look Park.



A baby and mom pose for a photo at Look Park.

As part of their many ways of giving back to the community, the Wilbraham Women's Club recently supported Christina's House during a fun outing at Look Park. The club's donated funds supported lunches, a train ride, petting animals and a spray park visit.

Christina's House is a home for women and children transitioning from homelessness, giving them and their children a safe environment, job training and more to help them be able to move out and be on their own successfully. They have three locations, including a transitional next step home called the "Freedom House" on Main Street in Hampden.

Families from Christina's House enjoying a fun train ride during their outing at Look Park.

Life in &

WIL HAM

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

Wilbraham Women's Club supports Christina's House

Photos courtesy of Amy Basile



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A group photo of families from Christina's House smiling and enjoying lunch at Look Park.



Families from Christina's House enjoy a fun time at Look Park, an outing supported by the Wilbraham Women's Club.



Families hug and smile for photos during the Look Park outing.



Fun times were had for families supported by Christina's House as they enjoyed their Look Park outing.



An outing to Look Park isn't complete without a delicious lunch and smiles!

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Fall Storytime at the Wilbraham Public Library

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

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

“Fall into Fun” Card & Game Party & Luncheon Sept. 26

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

HS presents ‘Wilbraham Historical Tidbits’

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Historical Society at Academy Hall, 616 Main St., presents The “Wilbraham Historical Tidbits” program.

The program delves into the captivating stories and rich history featured on the website dedicated to the town of Wilbraham, MA. Led by David Bourcier, a retired fire chief and passionate local historian, this program offers an engaging exploration of Wilbraham’s past. With his meticulous research and storytelling prowess, Bourcier crafts compelling narratives that illuminates the town’s evolution from its colonial origins to its 20th century development.

Bourcier’s website, “Wilbraham’s Historical Tidbits,” is a treasure trove of the intriguing stories he has unearthed, providing a vivid portrayal of the people and events that have shaped the town. Whether you’re a long-time Wilbraham resident or simply fascinated by the history of small New England towns, this program offers a captivating and educational journey into the heart of Wilbraham’s past.

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 6:30 p.m. All welcome, refreshments to be served. Questions, call Linda at 413-566-8447.

Drop-In Tech Help at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM— Need help setting up an email account, updating your phone, or figuring out a new device? Starting September 6, students from Wilbraham & Monson Academy (WMA) will be at the Wilbraham Public Library on Fridays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Technology assistance will be available on a first come, first served basis. Please bring any relevant devices and/or log-in and password information. Contact the library at 413-596-6141 with any questions.

Hampden Garden Club hosting ‘Grow Your Own Mushrooms’

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Garden Club, celebrating its 92nd year, will be presenting a program on Growing Your Own Mushrooms on Thursday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m. at Academy Hall, 616 Main St., Hampden.

Guest speaker is Dillon Moriarty. He will be covering multiple ways to grow gourmet mushrooms in your home and will even have a few volunteers make their own kits that night to take home.

For more information, call Lil at 566-1137. Guest fee is \$5.

Save the Date: Hartsprings Foundation Truck coming to HSC

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

As you do your Fall Cleaning, please set aside and bring to this fundraiser for the Hampden Senior Center. By using the truck, larger type items such as Good Usable Suitcases can be dropped off along with duffel bags or backpacks. Also, you will be able to use large size trash bags to put your clothing, sheets, bedding, towels or the like in. No bed pillows can be taken though. We will also take books that are boxed up, small kitchen appliances or small tables or lamps.

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

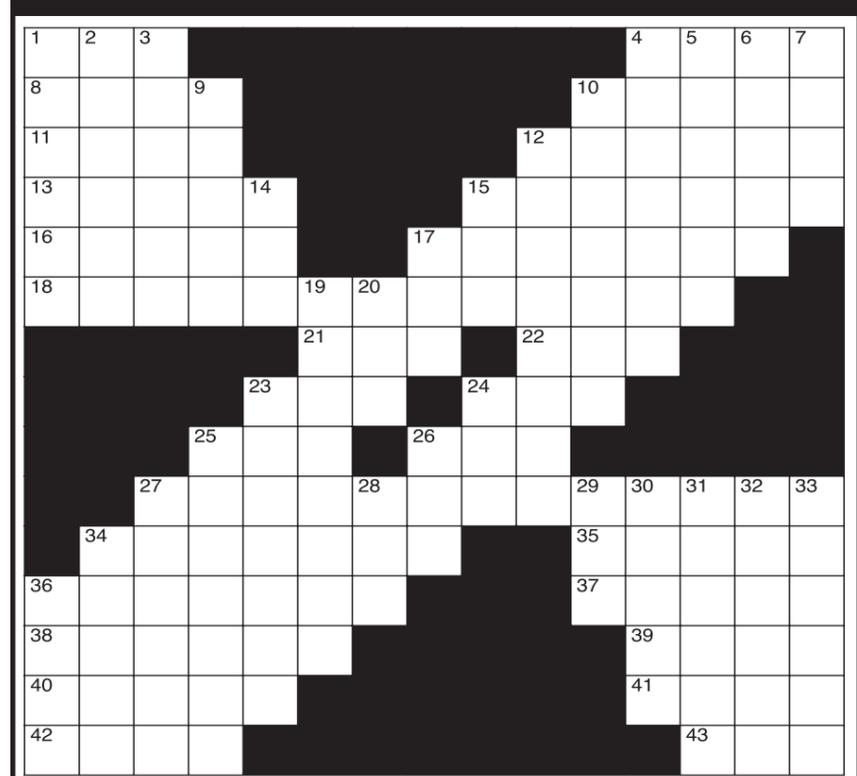
If you have any questions or have a need to drop off earlier than the scheduled date of the truck, please call Joan Shea at 413-566-8224.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Engine additive
4. A type of test
8. Curtail
10. Irish surname
11. The opposite of good
12. Got rid of
13. Central parts of a church building
15. Stylistically
16. Intestinal
17. Negative potential outcomes
18. Lived up to a standard
21. Snag
22. Time units (abbr.)
23. Ad ___
24. “Partridge”

actress Susan

25. For each
26. ___ Paulo, city
27. League titles
34. More intensely black
35. Slang for lovely
36. Petrarch is known for them
37. Old Eurasian wheat
38. Body part
39. Swedish rock group
40. They’re worth avoiding
41. Rising and falling of the voice
42. Wings
43. Enzyme import for respiration

CLUES DOWN

1. Idyllic
2. South Pacific island nations
3. Shrub of the olive family
4. Boundaries
5. Encircle
6. Weights
7. Samberg is one
9. Sheep sound
10. European country
12. Respected group of people
14. Trigraph
15. Prosecutors
17. Assign a nickname
19. Huge size
20. Partner to cheese
23. Fastballs

24. Principle underlying the universe
25. Distinct units of sound
26. Title of respect
27. Against
28. Foot (Latin)
29. One point east of due south
30. Concerning the blood
31. Type of pentameter
32. North American peoples
33. Layers of rock
34. Georges ___, French philosopher
36. Lengthy tale

Hampden Senior Center Building Committee Update

HAMPDEN - Following the Spring Town Meeting in May, the Hampden Senior Center Building Committee, with support and funding from the Board of Selectmen, has continued to meet every two weeks and has been working to revise the original plan put forth at the Town Meeting. The Committee is addressing the continuing needs of the Senior Center as well as the concerns expressed by Town residents and input from the Board of Selectmen.

The Committee and its consultant from edm STUDIO have reviewed the plan and have discussed the pros and cons of both renovation as well as expansion. The cost to renovate the existing Center, based on 2025 construction pricing, is approximately 2 million dollars. Work would include a new roof, bathroom and lighting upgrades, a fire sprinkler system, HVAC system upgrade and additional kitchen workspace. The renovations provide no new space for storage or programs

and may result in reductions for both of these important needs. The Committee has also worked with the consultant to review the expansion plan with regard to cost concerns. The revised plan is a smaller expansion and reduces the cost by approximately 6 hundred thousand dollars. This revised plan meets the needs of the Center for current and future storage space, but reduces the space needed for future programs.

The Building Committee, along with the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens, Inc., will be setting up a capital fundraising campaign. The monies raised by this campaign will help to reduce the cost impact on Town residents. An open Forum will be conducted by the Committee on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center to present the information and revised plan. All Town residents are welcome and encouraged to attend this important Forum.

Minnechaug Mountain Fall Maintenance Hike

HAMPDEN- The Minnechaug Land Trust will be hosting its first fall maintenance hike on Saturday Sept. 28 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Minnechaug Mountain. Those who have hiked Minnechaug know that after traversing the moderately steep terrain on the way up, you are rewarded with amazing views of the Pioneer Valley at the summit. With all of the warm, wet summer weather, the shrubs and brush along the parking lot and at the top of the mountain have started to take over.

The Land Trust is looking for volunteers to clear brush both at the summit overlook and at the parking lot around existing bog bridges. Volunteers should plan to meet at the South Rd parking entrance at 9 am. The parking entrance is located roughly 0.5 miles from Main Street, Hampden, on the right-hand side of South Rd. Hikers who are familiar with the trails

are welcome to park at any of the entrances to Minnechaug and meet us at the top of the mountain during the maintenance hike.

A digital copy of the trail map can be found at our website: <https://minnechauglandtrust.org/minnechaug-mountain/>

Sturdy shoes, clothes that can get dirty, gloves, water, bug spray, and a backpack are recommended, other tools will be provided. Feel free to email Jenn at jenn.bagge@gmail.com with any questions. Come enjoy stellar views of the Valley while working together to preserve and enhance one of our favorite places to explore. Thank you for your support. Without you, our lovely trail systems, serene woodlands, and iconic views would not exist. Fingers crossed for good weather; we look forward to seeing you soon.

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Pair of losses to start season for Falcons



Alivia Grono heads up the field.



Audrey Izzo guides the ball up the left side.



Alayna Lucas looks to keep the ball from going over the sideline.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Tess Morrow winds up for a long hit.

WILBRAHAM – Minnechaug Regional High School field hockey had a couple of big games right off the bat. They suffered a 2-0 loss in a rematch of the Western Mass. title game with Longmeadow last Wednesday, and then lost on the road at Algonquin 5-2. The Falcons start out 0-2 and hope to rebound. Their next matchup is Saturday morning against Shrewsbury at 11 a.m.



Ciara Rielly tries to backhand a pass away.



Kendall Gates looks to stop a rolling ball with a backhand stop.



Corrine Gates moves up the middle of the field.



Anna O'Toole goes for the score.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.



Emma Powell winds up for a spike.



Nehir Elcin attempts to keep the ball inbounds.

Falcons swept in opener

WILBRAHAM – Last Saturday morning, Shrewsbury High School scored a sweep of Minnechaug 3-0 in the season opener for the Falcons. After a matchup with Algonquin, the Falcons will face Westfield on Sept. 11 and then Longmeadow on Friday, Sept. 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Falcons soccer suffer shutout in first match

WILBRAHAM – Last week, Minnechaug boys soccer opened up the regular season on the road at East Longmeadow High School. The rivals had a very hard-fought game with East Longmeadow squeezing out just one goal in the matchup. That goal stood up for a 1-0 win and Minnechaug fell to 0-1 on the season.

Minnechaug had a big matchup with rival Ludlow earlier this week, and next face Amherst and Longmeadow this week.

MIAA looks to honor officials

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is looking to collectively recognize the efforts of our Game Officials. The fall National Officials Appreciation Week will be held Oct. 6 to 12. Once again, MIAA staff members will travel around the state to personally thank officials and support their efforts on the local level. We hope that you will consider recognizing them in some manner. The Winter Officials Appreciation Week will be Jan. 13-18, 2025 and the Spring Officials Appreciation Week will be April 6-12, 2025.

Railers trainer moves into AHL position

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) announced today that Alex Maring has been hired by the Tampa Bay Lightning to be the next Head Athletic Trainer of the American Hockey League's Syracuse Crunch.

Maring, 24, goes to Syracuse after serving as the head athletic trainer for the Railers for the 2022-23 & 2023-24 seasons. He first joined the Railers after serving as an athletic training intern with the Springfield Thunderbirds of the American Hockey League during the 2021-22 season, joining them on their way to an AHL Eastern Conference championship and Calder Cup Finals appearance. He shadowed with the Utica Comets of the AHL during

the 2015-16 season, working under current St. Louis Blues assistant trainer Dustin Flynn.

"We're excited to see Alex take the next step in his career," Chief Operating Officer Michael G. Myers said. "This is something that's well deserved, and we look forward to following his success in the coming years. The Railers are extremely proud of our track record and commitment to developing employees to get to the next level both on and off the ice."

The New Hartford, NY native graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training from Springfield College in May of 2021. Maring graduated from Springfield College's Master of Education in Sport and Exercise Psychology program in May of 2023.

"I'd like to thank the Rail-

ers organization and the city of Worcester for the past two years," Maring said. "The Railers gave me the opportunity to provide the best possible care to every athlete that came through the door. I was able to foster great relationships with all of our amazing partners and staff in Worcester. I look forward to maintaining the connections I made in Worcester for a lifetime."

The Worcester Railers HC 2024-25 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Sat., Oct. 19th and Sun., Oct. 20th vs. the Reading Royals. The new 508 Club is now on sale for the 2024-25 season! Get access to games this season, exclusive events and additional benefits by calling the Railers front office at 508-365-1750 or by visiting RailersHC.com.

T-Birds announce season of great promotions

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds are cranking up the volume on their impending ninth season of play in the American Hockey League with a loaded promotional schedule that features brand-new giveaways, returning staple events, and some never-before-seen elements at the Thunderdome.

It all starts on Saturday, Oct. 12 with Opening Night presented by MGM Springfield. Before puck drop, fans can flock to the Plaza

at MGM Springfield for the Community Bank N.A. season-opening Block Party, with support from the Springfield BID, from 4 to 6 p.m., featuring live music, food & drink to drop the puck on another magnificent season. The team anticipates a ninth consecutive Opening Night sellout and a 15th consecutive sellout dating back to last season.

Fans can expect to see five specialty jerseys corresponding to the team's traditional theme nights: Teddy Bear Toss, Throwback

Night, Ice-O-Topes Night, Military Appreciation Night, and Pink in the Rink. Should we do six specialty jerseys? Stay tuned for more info. The fan-favorite blue third jerseys will return this season on the following game nights: Friday, Oct. 25; Friday, Nov. 22; Tuesday, Dec. 31; Monday, Jan. 20; Friday, March 28; and Friday, April 18.

The full promotional schedule can be found at www.springfieldthunderbirds.com

SHOP LOCAL from page 1

what they provide. Services, goods, things like that. We'll be having a raffle. Some folks will be bringing samples with them and they'll all have information that folks can take home with them," Dubord said.

On how the idea began, Dubord said she was looking at the senior center's donation board and realized a lot of businesses were listed and she "really wanted to thank them somehow" for their support.

"We had a lovely event when we opened the senior center for our large donors, but we'd love to share what these folks have to offer people in town and we thought this would be a great way," Dubord said. "Great way to showcase these businesses and to get people to come in who have not been in the senior center yet who are maybe curious or just want to see what we offer."

Dubord said when the event was being advertised, there was a lot of interest from different types of vendors, hoping to have more vendor fairs in the future if it's a success.

"We'd love to have this be like a, maybe, biannual thing and open it up to the public," Dubord said. "There's so many small businesses in town that when we started making a list, we were kind of surprised ourselves by the number of folks that are out there, so we're hoping to have a good turnout."

Dubord stressed the importance of an event like this as it helps raise awareness for the local small businesses, expressing her gratitude for their support.

"Let's say Pafumi's. Whenever we've needed anything, they have stepped to the plate, they have helped us in so many ways as have so many other businesses. All of the local banks are wonderful that they sponsor events, things here," Dubord said. "We just wanted to show our thanks by having this fair and helping to bring in maybe a wider variety of customers for them."

Dubord hopes the event reminds people to shop local.

"We're touting this as the Shop Local Vendor Fair. There's so many things, you don't even need to leave Wilbraham. You get almost all of

your needs taken care of right here in town," Dubord said. "Especially now with the center of town. We have Pafumi's, we have The Guilty Grape, you have the brewery, The Sugar Chalet, there's banks and dentists and everything and the library, all there within walking distance. We just want to remind people that we have great vendors in town and to stay local if you can, support them."

Dubord encourages the community to check out the fair and stresses it's open to the public.

"This is not just a senior event, that this really is for any resident, anyone from a surrounding community who is interested in our local vendors," Dubord said.

Dubord thanked everyone for their support so far.

"We just want to thank them, we want to help them really build a good customer base and just let people know what's available to them in our town," Dubord said.

To learn more, check out the senior center newsletter or visit their Facebook page.



Saniyah Dawkins looks to tip the ball over the net, splitting the defense.



Maliha Daubon gets the return hit.



Kadence Lilig goes low for a hit.



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HOLOCAUST from page 1

goes, 'I'm a Holocaust survivor.' As you can imagine, I was a little surprised, shocked, etc etc. So, we continued the conversation."

After Rodstein and Slawiak walked and talked, Slawiak said how he likes to write, later spending the next eight weeks interviewing Rodstein and later verifying what he was told online.

"Then we were approached and someone said, 'Well, would you mind putting something together then for a presentation?' So we've been doing this for a while and so we're absolutely thrilled to be here tonight," Slawiak said.

As the talk went on, Rodstein shared his memories, including how he and his family learned about what was going on.

"We had a clue what was going on, but we were not affected, not at all," Rodstein said. "The radio and newspapers. The only way you saw stuff was, pictorially, newsreels. Lithuania, we were very prosperous until 1940."

Another memory was when the Nazis arrived in Lithuania in 1940.

"They started right away by nationalizing everything and by saying 'You don't have private property anymore. Everything belongs to the state now.' My father became the manager of his own business. In other words, he became an employee of the business," Rodstein said. "Because the business wasn't his anymore."

One powerful moment was when Rodstein regaled the story of his mother's survival, who he and his father were separated from in a cattle car. Most of the women taken out of the cattle car were killed while the men continued for another two days as they were being transported to the Dachau concentration camp.

His mother also survived a death march.

"In the death march, my mother and two of her friends decided just to go up the road and either they'll find any place to go in or they would be shot, but they didn't care. So, they walked in into some foreigner's house--that was in West Russia, which is semi-German, semi-Polish," Rodstein said. "And the lady said she's very religious, she's being tested and she actually hid the three women until the Russians came."

The talk later concluded with a Q&A with the audience, with one question about forgiveness, especially to the younger generation of Germans, leaving the audience in awe when Rodstein shared how a woman told him she was afraid to talk to him because she was German.

Rodstein had asked the woman why in response. "It was a logical thing. Whoever didn't do anything is not responsible for anything," Rodstein said.

Slawiak was amazed at the turnout.

"We almost had to cap the attendance and I just thought, it's still an issue that people have a lot of concern with. It happened over--70 years ago or whenever--and it's still at the forefront of what's going on: antisemitism, hate and we just try to get a message out," Slawiak said.

Slawiak stressed the importance of sharing this talk throughout the community and beyond, especially as young people are beginning to learn about history.

He added Rodstein will continue to share his story whenever he can.

"It's very relevant and, hopefully, is a little more real when you hear these things from someone who survived it," Slawiak said.

Rodstein reminded people to stay alert so history does not happen again.

"Hitler was elected. People don't realize that and they used the democratic system to destroy the democratic system," Rodstein said.

The men thanked everyone for coming.

"Thank you to WPL, thank you to Emilie," Slawiak said.

"Thank you," Rodstein said.

To watch the full presentation, visit the Town of Wilbraham's Video on Demand page.



Activities Coordinator Diane Marino holds up one shoe, of many, for sale. Most of the shoes were only \$2 a pair!



Another table with glassware and decor.



The left side of the Great Room where the tag sale took place.



The Great Room, normally used as the cafeteria was filled with racks and tables with things to buy. Several shoppers and senior center volunteers alike look around at all there is to offer.



One table displays a variety of glassware and decor.



One of several tables with Christmas decorations for sale.

Turley photos by Hannah Yeasley

SALE from page 1

of community, some folks even spend all day here."

The plan for the building is to expand outward, towards the street, with things like a designated massage room and bigger activity rooms will help not only the current programming not be so crowded and stacked on top of each other, but also will allow the senior center to offer a larger variety of events and activities.

The Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens have been working hard to not just raise funds for the building expansion, but to also raise awareness.

At the Annual Town Meeting held on May 13, the senior center needed to receive a two-thirds majority in order for the expansion and renovations to be voted on by the rest of the town.

This vote was denied but Claudia Kapinos, the President of the Friends, hasn't lost hope.

"We're on the agenda for the next town meeting in October, and we've got all kinds of photos and proof that we really need more space here," Kapinos said. "We'll keep trying and trying, and no matter what we'll keep fundraising."

While the Friends are continuously working on ways to fundraise, the August tag sale was a huge success for them.

According to Marino, it started as a "Boutique of the Week" rack by her office door; she would put clothes out for people to grab if they wanted, with a little jar for money next to it.

It ended up being something that people coming in for other activities looked forward to, so she and the

Friends started planning the tag sale.

Tag sales, while a chance to find great deals, are also a point of nostalgia for many, as Marino reflected on going to them with her mother, and in turn taking her daughters, who now take their daughters.

One shopper, Theresa Porcello, had similar memories.

"Growing up I always went to tag sales with my mom, and now every once in a while I like to go out to them," Porcello said. "I stopped in this one during August when I came in for the drum circle, and that's also when I heard about this 'Everything Must Go', so I decided to pop in today."

The senior center is also starting new evening programs this month, with information on said programs found in The Scantic Scribe, the monthly newsletter that can be found on Hampden's town website.

To learn more about upcoming events, check out the newsletter.

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OAKHAM'S HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT is hiring part-time seasonal plow drivers. Class B CDL preferred. \$21/hr, over time after 8 hrs in a day. Contact Highway Superintendent, Harold Black at **508-882-5556.**

The Town of Oakham is seeking a qualified, experienced candidate to fill the **part-time position of TOWN CLERK.** The Town Clerk is the chief election officer for the town and the clerk of Town Meetings. For a full job description visit **www.oakham-ma.gov/clerks-office.** Salary negotiable based on experience.

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

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

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

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

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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BUY/SELL GRIN REPEAT WITH THE CLASSIFIEDS!

WHAT First Annual Family Fall Fest at Fern Valley Farms

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham-Hampden Academic Trust will hold their First Annual Family Fall Fest at Fern Valley Farms on Sunday, Sept. 29 from Noon to 4 p.m.

There will be games, food, drinks and fun for the whole family, a bounce house and 40' obstacle course, kids games and crafts and a kid-staffed snack shack.

Other activities include custom brews from Fieldcrest Brewing Company, a Corn Hole tournament (with prizes!), s'mores around the fire pit, treats

from The Sugar Chalet and Frederyque's Delights and more.

Plus, Fern Valley will have live music featuring Johnny Taylor and John Cantalini, apple picking, food and ice cream and more!

Proceeds go directly to support WHAT grants to support HWRSD schools. Our two primary grants we are fundraising for at the moment focus on two significant projects: renovating the Stony Hill cafeteria and renovating the library at Mile Tree.

A thank you from the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors

WILBRAHAM - The Friends of the Wilbraham Seniors, Inc. want to thank all area residents and volunteers who supported our Lottery Ticket Raffle Fundraiser! We also want to recognize the following businesses and organizations who assisted us in accomplishing this event: Monson Savings Bank, Country Savings Bank, Manny's Appliances, Wilbraham Big Y, Nouria Gas, Turley Publications, Peach Blossom Festival, Fountain Park, Trailer Trash Band and the Wilbraham Farmers' Market.

The funds generated will be applied to support the programs and services offered by the Wilbraham Senior Center to enhance the lives of our Seniors. Thanks to everyone, we reached our goal.

We are very grateful for the cooperation the Friends received that made our fundraising project so successful.

Wilbraham Hiking Clubs September Hikes

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

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

Sept. 17 - Emily Dickinson and Amherst College Trails, Amherst, MA
Sept. 22 - Camp Aya Po, Somers
Sept. 25 - Moderate Quiet Hike at Peaked Mountain

Sept. 28 - Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, Wales

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

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

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

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

838-549).

Edward Kivari Jr.,
Chairman

09/05, 09/12/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield MA, 01103
Docket No. HD23P2115PM
In the matter of:
Faith Egan
Of: Wilbraham, MA
Protected Person/Disabled
Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
CONSERVATOR'S
ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the Temporary conservator's First and Final account(s) of Kimberly Benjamin-Prokop of Westfield, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s).

If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **09/23/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: August 19, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/12/2024

Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 6:30 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA for all persons interested in proposed amendments to the Hampden Zoning Map. Greathorse requests a zone change from the Residential-4/Residential-6 to Golf Recreational for Parcel

22-177-000, 38.6 acres; Parcel 17-120-000, 236.76 acres; Parcel 17-119-000, 4.5 acres; and Parcel 17-116-000, 12.25 acres. All parcels owned by The Farm at Greathorse LLC. Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours.

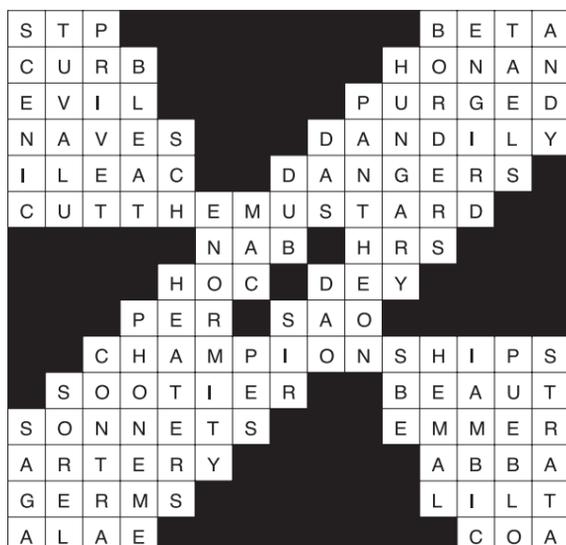
For the Board,
Madison Pixley, Chair,
Hampden Planning Board
09/05, 09/12/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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



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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

WFOL Clothing and Household Textile Drive to benefit all

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

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

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

Join us with your clothing drive donations on Sept. 28, learn more about the Friends, and receive a coupon for a free book at our Annual Book Sale which is scheduled to take place in May 2025.

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

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

YMCA Kicks Off Welcoming Week 2024: Embracing Diversity and Building Community

WILBRAHAM - The YMCA is excited to announce the launch of Welcoming Week 2024, an annual celebration dedicated to fostering inclusivity, diversity, and a sense of belonging within our community. Taking place from September 13, 2024 to September 22, 2024, the YMCA of Greater Springfield will provide a complimentary two-week membership to those who visit either YMCA of Greater Springfield location. The YMCA is a leading nonprofit organization committed to strengthening community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. With a focus on nurturing the potential of every child and teen, improving health and well-being, and providing opportunities to give back and support neighbors, the YMCA ensures that everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

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

MRHS Class of 1974 Reunion announces reunion activities

HAMPDEN/WILBRAHAM – As the many classes before them have done, the Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 1974 will soon be gathering to celebrate their 50th Class Reunion. The Reunion Planning Committee has put together a fun weekend of activities – Friday, September 13, through Sunday, September 15 - so classmates will have several opportunities to get together and reminisce about “the old days” and catch up on each other’s lives over the last 50 years! Friday’s offerings include a Class of ‘74 Meet & Greet Reception at Cima Restaurant and a MRHS Falcons home football game and tour of the “new” Minnechaug. On Saturday, Class of ‘74 members are invited to join

members of the Class of ‘73 at an afternoon outdoor concert at Fern Valley Farm in Wilbraham starting at noon, featuring local musician Elliot Friesian, Fieldcrest Brewery, and Fern Valley food and ice cream. The main event – the MRHS Class of 1974 50th Reunion Celebration – is at The Starting Gate at GreatHorse Country Club in Hampden, one of the area’s premier country clubs and special event venues. The Class of ‘74 is very fortunate that due to the extraordinary generosity of some 1974 classmates who are covering the majority cost of the event, the price for the Saturday night 50th Reunion Celebration is only \$50/person. On Sunday there will be a Class of ‘74 Farewell Sunday Brunch at The Local Restau-

rant. In addition to the planned activities, a classmate is putting together a slideshow for the event and classmates, whether or not they are attending, are invited to send up to three pictures to be incorporated into the presentation.

It is not too late to register! Members of the MRHS Class of 1974, especially those still living in the area, are encouraged to attend these once-in-a-lifetime events. Classmates from Wyoming, Texas, and Florida have already registered. To RSVP or for more information, including details on where to send pictures for the slideshow, email Karen Wahlberg at mrhsclas-sof74@gmail.com.

Rick’s Place Golf Classic to be held Sept. 21

WILBRAHAM - Registration is currently open for the Rick’s Place Golf Classic. The Golf Classic will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024 at the Country Club of Wilbraham. The tournament is open to all golfers and is an 18-hole shotgun scramble starting at 12:30 p.m. Registration opens at 1 a.m.. The entry fee is \$175 per person or \$700 per foursome and includes green fees, cart rental, lunch and dinner. We encourage those who do not golf to attend the dinner for \$40 per person. There will also be a raffle and silent auction at the event. 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.

The Scantic Valley Y Celebrates 20 Years of Community Impact!

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

Anniversary Celebration Highlights:

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

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

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

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

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

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



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