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Federated Church hosts 'Hampden's Homecoming'

Event collected items for Catie's Closet, featured magician

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- Not even rain could put a damper on the Hampden Federated Community Church's celebration last Saturday, as dinner was enjoyed outside before the skies opened and a magician performed indoors.

New and gently used clothing, toiletries and teen products were also collected for Catie's Closet, a local nonprofit that gives students in need life-changing access to clothing and basic necessities.

Dubbed "Hampden's Homecoming", the event occurred from 5-7 p.m. on Sept. 10 and began with an outdoors cook-out that included grilled burgers, hot dogs, chips, lemonade and make-your-own sundaes. Then, as the rain began, the group of several dozen people moved inside the church, where they enjoyed Michael Wald's Comedy Magic Show.

Pastor Kwan Kim partook in the event for the first time. He weighed in on what made it special.

"Church is not a building. Church is a community of faith, so this is always a wonderful joy to have the community together, especially with Catie's Closet.

Please see **HAMPDEN**, page 4



Mark Casey, Jack Germain and Pastor Kwan Kim cooked burgers and dogs during "Hampden's Homecoming" on Sept. 10.

Aspiring geologist travels to Montana for research

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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Photos submitted by Olivia Ranck
Olivia Ranck, of Wilbraham, researched volcanic basalt in Montana this summer.

BRIDGEWATER -- A Wilbraham native spent the most exciting 10 days of her summer in Montana, pursuing her dream of becoming a geologist.

Olivia Ranck, a junior geology major at Bridgewater State University and graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School, traveled to Southwestern Montana from July 8-18 to research volcanic basalt, an igneous rock.

"I'm very passionate about geology; I love it. Looking at rocks, I'm like a kid looking at a candy store," Ranck said. "This has been an opportunity of a lifetime, and I'm filled with thankfulness and gratefulness just for getting to go on a trip like this."

Ranck was accompanied by fellow geology major Julia Lee, a junior, Professor Michael Krol and Laboratory Staff Assistant Jessica Campbell. Ranck and Lee received funding from the Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research and Creative Work and the Richard Enright Field Scholarship.

Krol gave Ranck the freedom to choose specifically what she wanted to study on the trip. She noted that there is a lava flow in the area she researched with unknown origins.

"It's just kind of there, but it had to come from somewhere, whether it was volcano or a fissure eruption through the earth that just popped up and burst out a bunch of lava," Ranck said.

Ranck's project consisted of connecting the lava flow to the Yellowstone hot spot range.

Please see **GEOLOGIST**, page 5

Watercolor Crayon Painting Workshop fosters creativity and wellness

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM-- Teens visited the library's Brooks Room on Sept. 5 to create watercolor crayon paintings with The Burncoat Center for Arts and Wellness.

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

During the event, teens chose either a blank piece of watercolor paper for their own creations or a pre-drawn image to color or draw with watercolor crayons, followed by paint.

The creations ranged from hearts, flowers and mushrooms to a gerbil with laser eyes, half or full-moons and ice cream.

Kim Mowers of The Burncoat Center for Arts and Well-



Participants show off their watercolor crayon painting creations in a group photo during the Teen Watercolor Crayons Painting Workshop event at Wilbraham Public Library.

Please see **WATERCOLOR**, page 9

Fast EV chargers could be installed in Hampden for 'little to no cost'

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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HAMPDEN -- The Board of Selectmen discussed the possibility of installing Level 3 DC fast chargers in Hampden multiple times this summer; the equipment has the capacity to fully charge electric vehicles in less than an hour.

Jerry Olivetti, head of project development for Rise Engineering's commercial EV charging team, spoke to the board on Sept. 11. He informed the Selectmen that now is the time to install the fast chargers because of the available incentives and the impact the chargers can have.

"This is a tremendous opportunity right now to get very high quality, very expensive electric infrastructure brought not only to the town but any other commercial property for little to no cost," Olivetti said.

A year ago, before joining Rise Engineering, Olivetti came to Hampden to discuss potentially installing Level 2 chargers at Town Hall. Level 2 chargers take several hours longer to charge an electric vehicle than Level 3s.

When he began in his new position, Olivetti contacted Town Administrator Bob Markel regarding the possibility of installing Level 3 DC fast chargers.

"We decided once the incentive programs were rolled out, it became clear that between both National Grid and Eversource, the incentive programs were favoring DC fast chargers. So, (Markel) expressed an interest in Level 3 charging, so we put together a proposal for the town for DC fast chargers," Olivetti said.

The original design included 60-kilowatt charging stations, each with two ports that would distribute 30-kW. Recently, in talking to Markel, Olivetti changed the design to 120-kW stations that would each feature two ports that could distribute 60-kW, taking advantage of the National Grid incentive program that is currently available.

"So, in redoing the proposal for the town with the 120-kW charger, two chargers, four ports total, four park-

ing spaces total, the out-of-pocket expense to the town would be zero. The beauty about this particular incentive program... National Grid is paying for 100% of the utility side of construction," Olivetti said.

Olivetti discussed the senior center and police department on Allen Street as "very attractive locations" where the chargers could be installed.

When looking at potential locations, he factored in that there are proximate high voltage wires, or the "appropriate infrastructure," that National Grid could access.

"When you combine that with the incentives that are available not only for the software that runs on the machines but the machines themselves, by putting two 120-kW charging stations, you get an out-of-pocket expense to the town of zero, so it's very beneficial and would behoove anyone who's in National Grid or Eversource territory to strongly consider accessing these programs," Olivetti said.

Rise Engineering has been contacted by National Grid inquiring if the town of Hampden will submit an application.

Olivetti advised that now is the time to strike, as at some point the expansion of the grids will slow down.

Olivetti said Hampden would be the first municipality in the area to install the Level 3 DC fast chargers. He noted most communities with charging equipment nearby have Level 2s.

"The key is the speed of it, and there are just no fast chargers in your area... The town of Hampden, being where you're located, it would be a tremendous asset to the region to have these fast chargers there," he said.

Olivetti noted that many companies are switching their fleets to electric vehicles. For instance, he said AAA of New England is electrifying its entire fleet, bringing in 200 Ford F-150 Lightnings, an all-electric truck, and they would be able to recharge in Hampden if needed.

Olivetti implied that people would deliberately drive through Hampden to charge their electric vehicles.

"Just knowing they're there when it

shows up on the apps and the screens, they'll be more apt to come to the area because they won't have that range anxiety," he said.

Selectman Donald Davenport said, "it's like a moth going to the light bulb," to which Olivetti responded, "that's one way to look at it."

Selectboard Chair John Flynn asked who owns the equipment; Olivetti said the town does, and billing for the equipment's use is handled through the town.

The town would be required to pay for upgrades to the equipment, but a parts and labor warranty could stretch for five years. Olivetti said the equipment is very low maintenance and only requires changing filters once a year; most malfunctions are a result of negligence or vandalism.

The equipment would also accommodate all electric vehicles.

"Right now, all the major manufacturers that you would want to even consider installing, have all announced that they are all going to be converting over to the NACS standard, which is the Tesla standard," Olivetti said.

Selectman Craig Rivest asked about safety concerns; at Rise, Olivetti has not had a problem with any of their installations on the Level 2 or 3 side.

Olivetti said he is happy to assist in conversations with local business owners, as the equipment could be installed on commercial property.

"Getting this type of infrastructure onto their property while it's available and while it's being paid for, we're finding that there aren't a lot of business owners who own property who aren't interested," he said.

While there is no application deadline, Olivetti urged the board to decide with urgency, as the incentive funds are allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

"We're not the only ones who have recognized the value on the DC fast side of this incentive program, and we do feel that pool of capital will be used up first so it would behoove you to decide on a location and get the applications in simply to get in the queue for funding and to secure your funding," he said.

Organizers thank community for successful 'Bushels of Fun Fest!'

WILBRAHAM -- A terrific time was had on Aug. 27 at the Bushels of Fun Fest, and the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors Board and Fest sub-committee wish to express their heartfelt gratitude for the support from the folks of Wilbraham and surrounding communities. The event at Fern Valley Farms was a huge success, raising over \$20,000 that day in addition to the other promotional events leading up to the Fest. The committee succeeded in meeting several of their goals, such as spreading the word about the new Senior Center being built behind the Town Hall on Springfield Street, supporting the wonderful services and programs the new Senior Center will be able to provide, along with raising funds to furnish the new Center.

Without the community's support, none of this would have been possible! A huge thank you is extended to Fern Valley Farms, the volunteers, crafters, vendors, and the throngs of people that attended. In addition, a special thank you goes out to the 25 Sponsors and 23 Community Partners for their tremendous support which helped make this fundraiser such a great success.

Summer Reading Program, more finishers

WILBRAHAM -- Congrats to the following youths who also completed the Wilbraham Public Library's Summer Reading Program: Emmie Zanetti, Tyler Sanchioni, Mary Dos Santos, Emmett Knight, Mila Tsim, Sage Stimpson, Tia Assat, Violet Rosati, Sebastian Rivas, Isabella Rivas, Myles Fourniel, Jacob Kearns, Isla Kearns, Ella Pelletier, Jeffrey Palletier, Brannan Picariello, Nolan Picarello, Avery Picarello, Iiasabella, Cassidy Johnstone, Pim Casey and Zelia Casey.

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Wilbraham Public Library celebrates Library Card Sign-Up Month

By Emilie Lang
Adult Services Librarian,
Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM – September is Library Card Sign-up Month. Throughout the month, libraries across the country unite in their efforts to ensure every child has their own library card. There are no age restrictions for applying, so library cards are available to all Wilbraham residents.

Use your card to borrow books, audiobooks, music, movies, and more. In addition to the thousands of print materials we have in-house, the Wilbraham Public Library also offers a variety of physical and digital resources for patrons of all ages to enjoy. From stargazing to treasure hunting and pickleball-playing, a library card helps you do more of what you enjoy—at no cost to you.

Our ever-expanding “Library of Things” has physical objects that aren’t traditionally found in a library catalog. We have video game consoles, air quality monitors, ukuleles, and a large collection of jigsaw puzzles. Some items even encourage

you to take your activity outdoors, including two metal detectors and a telescope. A sewing machine, turntable, and portable DVD player are our latest additions available to check out.

We also have passes to over fifteen local museums and other attractions. These passes have been increasingly popular and offer discounted or free admission. Several passes are now printable from home, making it easier than ever to reserve and use them.

For those who prefer to stay indoors, we also offer a range of streaming services, databases, and online learning resources through our website. Amateur artists can browse thousands of video tutorials, aspiring genealogists can piece together their family trees, and students preparing for their next standardized test can utilize our practice exams.

As a member library of CW MARS, your Wilbraham card also provides access to materials from over 150 libraries across Central and Western Massachusetts. Visit other member libraries to place holds, borrow materials, and access everything

they have to offer.

“A library card levels the playing field, allowing everyone access to a wide variety of resources. We have books for fun and education and discount passes to local attractions. Because we’re part of the CW MARS network, you can go beyond our library to get materials, whether having them sent here or visiting other local libraries,” said Assistant Director Mary Bell.

Whether you’re a savvy crafter, voracious bookworm, or itching for an outdoor adventure, the library has something for you. September’s Library Card Sign-up Month encourages children to utilize the resources that libraries have to offer, but the learning doesn’t stop after childhood. The library’s mission to encourage lifelong learning starts with you, so sign up for a card today.

To apply for a library card, visit the front desk with a valid photo ID with current address or mail with current address. Or, visit www.wilbrahamlibrary.org to apply online. If you have questions about applying for a library card, please call the library service desk at 413-596-6141.

Scantic River Artisans to hold “Fall into Art” Art Show

HAMPDEN—The Scantic River Artisans will be holding the “Fall into Art” Art Show on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 3 – 8 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 24 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

On Saturday, there will be a reception with wine, cheese and music and peer awards given out on Sunday.

The art show will take place in the Community Room at the Hampden Senior Center at 104 Allen Street in Hampden, MA.

Additionally, featured at the art show will be “THE NEW ENGLAND MOSAIC - 24 FOOT WALL OF ART”

The New England Mosaic is a 24-foot fine art wall made up of 264 individual 6”x 6” canvas tiles painted by over 200 area artists. The wall captures the beauty and diversity of

New England life. The tiles will be for sale and the proceeds will fund scholarships for area art students.

Visit: www.scanticriverartisans.com to fill out a “Call for Artists” form if you wish to participate in the art show. Or pick up forms at the Hampden Senior Center.

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'Minnechaug Originals' to celebrate 60th Reunion

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus
Class of 1961

WILBRAHAM – For the last 62 years a class has graduated from Minnechaug Regional High School. But this month the first three classes to graduate from the high school, who call themselves “The Minnechaug Originals”, will be celebrating a special occasion, a combined 60th class reunion the weekend of Sept. 22, 23, 24 at various venues about town.

The Classes have held reunions in the past but this one holds a special meaning, according to the two Reunion co-chairs, Roberta Marco Albano (Class of '63) and Judith McDonald Theocles (Class of '61) who still live in Wilbraham.

The banquet will be on Saturday, Sept. 23 in the ballroom of the Country Club of Wilbraham. “A special wall of remembrance, crafted by classmate Holly Murray, will be posted there honoring their deceased classmates numbering 30 from 1961, 32 from 1962 and 24 from 1963.

John Bulger was the first classmate from 1962 to die when he fought in Vietnam. He will be remembered along with fellow classmates who served in the military. The printed program includes the words, “We especially honor those graduates who have courageously given their lives defending our great country. It is their efforts that helped preserve our freedom and made it possible for us to enjoy our 60th Reunion.”

The schedule of Reunion Weekend activities includes a reception at Gregory's Pizza Pub on Friday



Minnechaug 60th Class Reunion Committee, meeting at the Country Club of Wilbraham, has been planning a reunion of the Classes of 1961, 1962 and 1963 for the past year. (Women from left) Roberta Albano, Judy Cmero, Colleen Minnie, Judi Theocles. (Men from left) Charlie Bennett, Ben Bump, Walter Presz, Dave Cesan. Not shown, Donald Barnett. (Submitted photo).

night at 6 p.m. A tour of the new Minnechaug building will be held on Saturday at 10 a.m. The banquet with a full buffet will be held on Saturday night starting with cocktails at 6 p.m., and a brunch will be held Sunday morning.

The name “Minnechaug Originals” comes from an acknowledgement that the first three classes set high standards and established traditions at the high school that are still upheld today. The “Originals” participated in naming the school, choosing the school mascot and logo, and started many of the clubs, sports teams and student organizations. The oldest members of the classes are now 80 years old or will turn 80 very soon.

“Today after years of maturing and life experiences, we realize that although the new building, which

first opened in 1959 helped, the key to a great education the first classes received was its outstanding faculty,” reads a dedication in the program.

Members of the Reunion Committee who have been holding planning meetings for the past year are Class of 1961: Judith Theocles, Walter Presz, Ben Bump, Judith Cmero, Charlie Bennett. Class of 1962: David Cesan, Colleen Minnie, Donald Barnett. Class of 1963: Roberta Albano.

Over 10 years ago the three classes presented a memorial boulder and plaque that now resides in the courtyard of the new Minnechaug building. Its wording still remains meaningful: “It was by chance that we were the first, but not by chance that we cultivated the spirit and traditions for generations to follow at Minnechaug. We are passing on that spirit of Minnechaug that is more than brick, mortar and life.”

Members of the classes, in reach of this newspaper, who have not yet registered to attend the reunion may attend by calling Judi Theocles at 413-563-5520 or email judiththeocles@gmail.com or Roberta Albano at 413-222-5811 or email ralbano@charter.net.



The Hampden Federated Community Church held “Hampden's Homecoming” on Sept. 10.

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Submitted photo by Beth Algie

Magician/comedian Michael Ward performed at the Hampden Federated Community Church last Saturday.

We can do the mission ourselves, but we opened this opportunity to the community so that we serve the community together,” Kim said.

Collecting donations for Catie's Closet was a focus of the event.

Hampden resident Pamela Rogers noted that Catie's Closet recently opened a location at Deer Park Drive in East Longmeadow. After working with Catie's Closet during several committee meetings, church organizers decided to hold the fundraiser.

“So far, (Catie's Closet is) dedicating (items) to the Springfield school system and the Holyoke school system,” Rogers said. “They do the collection for toiletries, new and gently used clothing, and they set up stores inside the schools so the kids can go and pick their own clothes out. Even though some of those schools (require) uniforms, there's a need for good clothes for the kids afterwards.”

Requested items included t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, sweatpants, pants, shorts, leggings, jeans, shampoo, soap, body wash, deodorant, new socks and underwear, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving products and feminine products.

“What I really like about this one is that it goes directly into the hands of children and that the parents don't have to go out of their way to go to a survival center or a location to find what the children need. The kids can go in and get it,” Rogers said.

Beth Algie, of Hampden, said it was great to see the community come together. She said she could feel the love and caring in the air at the event.

Algie was also thrilled that donations were collected for Catie's Closet.

“It fills our hearts to be able to give these donations and be able to give them to these places where these kids can have the school supplies that they need and the health supplies they need. It just fills our heart to bring community together with them,” she said.

Rogers was happy to see residents of all ages attend the celebration, and Algie was excited that some of the participants weren't members of the church, as all were and are welcome.

Kim reflected on what it means to come together.

“One person may go faster, but it is hard to change people's hearts. Going together, maybe slower, is much more powerful and meaningful,” he said. “It makes us go even further together in a powerful way. I believe that's the Christian way. We can do alone, but God wants us to be together.”

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(L to R) Bridgewater State University students Olivia Ranck, of Wilbraham, and Julia Lee researched in Montana in July.

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She noted that the Timber Hill basalt is about 100 km away from the Heise volcanic field, which is located within the Snake River Plane of Yellowstone hot spot track in Idaho.

“So, we spent some time going to several different locations, where we collected samples of the basalt, and on a map it’s like a trail and eventually leads to Yellowstone,” Ranck said. “That’s why we were like, ‘Okay, maybe it came from there.’”

Ranck was inspired by a former undergraduate student who worked with Krol in 2020. The former student had studied the same Timber Hill basalt and proposed that it flowed from the Ruby Valley, located further east in Montana.

The chemistry disproved her theory, and the project was thrown to the side, where Ranck discovered it.

“I picked it up, and I proposed that the Timber Hill basalt originated from flow from the Yellowstone hot spot track,” she said.

As research continues back home, Ranck is extremely thankful that Krol invited her to go on the trip. She noted that the experienced professor helped keep her comfortable and focused amid challenges that included a lot of hiking and long days under the sun.

Compared to Wilbraham, the weather is much different in Montana, Ranck said. She described Massachusetts’ climate as “very hot, humid, muggy and damp.”

In Montana, “it was so much dryer, and the air was so much cleaner because there was so much open space. The smell of the sage brush, I wish I could have brought it home with me. It was also very sunny,” she said.

Ranck also enjoyed meeting new people. The group spent time going out to restaurants and “poking around,” where they were able to interact with locals.

Regarding her dream of becoming a geologist, Ranck isn’t hesitant in her pursuit even though some people have



Wilbraham native Olivia Ranck studied volcanic basalt in Montana in July.

labeled her as “a girl who studies rocks” and asked, “what’s the point of that?”

Ranck is quick to answer, providing real life scenarios.

“Geology is a mix of physics, math, chemistry, biology, all of it combined into one, and it’s an earth science so it’s incredibly important,” she said.

Ranck said one must hire a geologist to survey the land they want to build on because if construction is completed above rocks

that fall through, the house could sink into the ground. She offered the following encouragement to others to do what makes them happy. “I think if you’re not chasing your dream, what are you doing,” she said. “I never feel like you should be ashamed or nervous about what you want to do with your life. It’s your life and you only get one.”

‘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.

Non-registered Wilbraham voters must register for town meeting by Oct. 13

WILBRAHAM -- According to Wilbraham Town Clerk, Carole J. Tardif, residents who are not registered voters, who wish to vote in the upcoming Special Town Meeting on Oct. 23, 2023, must register to vote by 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023.

Registration hours are daily 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023.

Voter registration will be held in the Town Clerk’s Office, 240 Springfield St. or online at registertovotema.com. Please contact the Town Clerk’s Office if you have any questions at 596-2800, ext. 200.

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

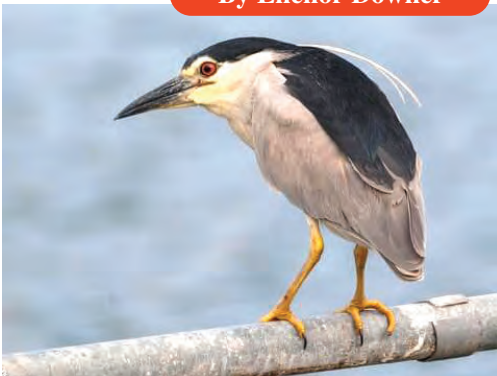
Regarding Cost of Living Adjustment and the lack thereof for several past years, COLA is determined by the government's standard inflation measure, the Consumer Price Index (CPI). There were several years (2010, 2011, and 2016) in which the CPI showed no inflation so, therefore, no COLA increase was 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 information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Black-crowned night heron

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sighting of a black-crowned night heron in Pittsfield.

The black-crowned night heron is about 25 inches long and is gray and white. It is a stocky heron with pale yellow legs, which turn reddish in the breeding season.

The immature is brown with white streaks below and large, buff white spots on its back and wings. It keeps its immature plumage for two years. The immature black-crowned night heron is distinguished from the yellow crowned night heron by its greenish-yellow lower bill. The yellow-crowned has a dark bill.

Although the night heron will feed by day, as its name implies this species feeds mostly at night or at dusk. They roost in trees.

It feeds on fish, amphibians, insects and small mammals. It also will eat the young of other bird species such as terns, herons and ibises. They inhabit freshwater streams, lakes, rice field, dry grassland and salt marshes.

These herons nest either in colonies or singly. The female lays three to five pale blue green eggs in a nest of twigs, reeds and finer material placed against a tussock or in the reeds, shrub or trees up to 160 feet.

When greeting other black-crowned night herons, they stretch their necks horizontally with breeding plumes on the head raised and they touch bills. They make a low, hoarse "quok" sound often heard at dusk. During nesting, they make a "rok rok."

Red-winged blackbirds

I received an email this week from someone who lives in the West Springfield Agawam area. She said, "Red-winged blackbirds are one of my favorite birds, but I always wondered why they leave the area so early?" She also said, "I go to areas where I know they nest, but never see them after mid-July or so."

Red-winged blackbirds are one of the first to arrive in early spring with the males coming first, then the females. They migrate anytime from late August to early October and gather in flocks for the trip south.

Audubon Society sightings

Other Audubon Society sightings reported for August in Berkshire include an alder flycatcher in Washington and a yellow-bellied flycatcher at the Jug End State Reservation in Egremont. In Hampshire County, four sandhill cranes were at East Meadows in Northampton and four more sandhill cranes at the Arcadia Sanctuary.

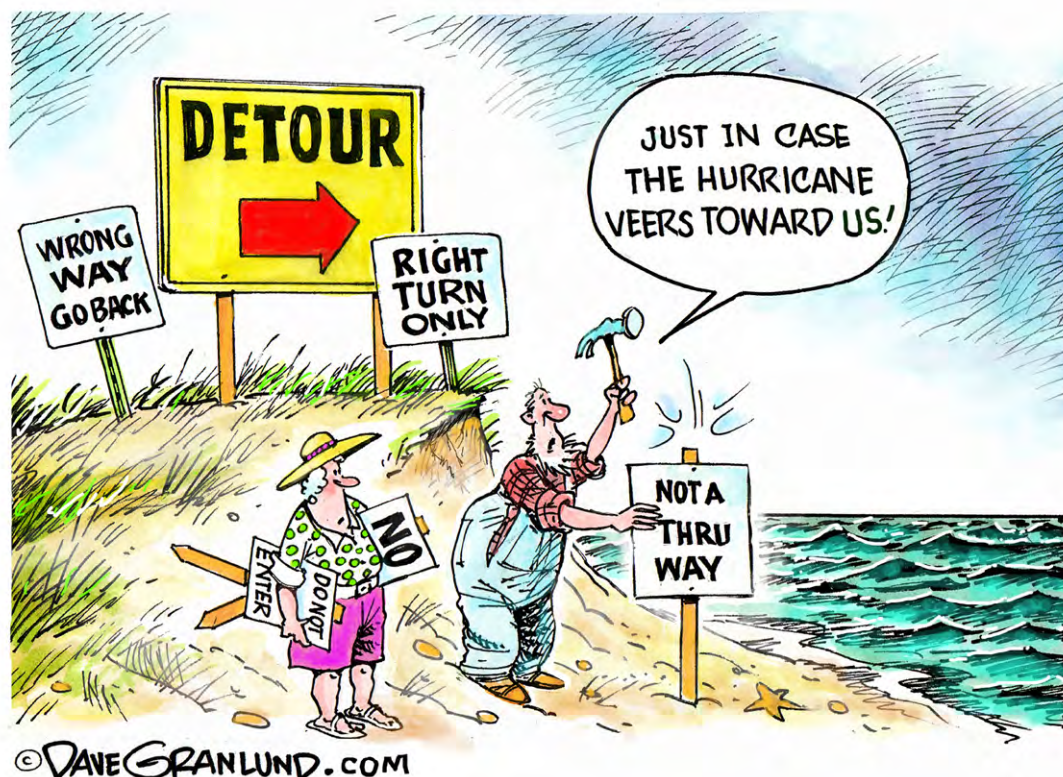
Migrants tallied at Quabbin Park in Ware included four common nighthawks, two yellow-bellied flycatchers and four Cape May warblers. In Worcester County 14 Common Mergansers were seen near fishing area #3 at Quabbin Reservoir in Petersham and four Bonaparte's Gulls were tallied along the Dana shoreline in Petersham.

Two black vultures were seen soaring over Mt. Wachusett in Princeton and in Paxton there was a Cerulean warbler. Mount Wachusett is a popular spot for birders to view hawk migrations during September and October. Two Cape May warblers were seen at the Moose Hill Wildlife Area.

Wild turkeys

It seems wild turkeys are everywhere. I have seen groups of three or four Tom turkeys and much larger groups of hens and their poults. Several times I stopped while a large flock of hens and youngsters crossed the road.

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.



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The Wilbraham-Hampden Times is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



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Correction Policy

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

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

Events & announcements schedule

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

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.

'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.

Wilbraham Public 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 on our website or 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.

Rick's Place Golf Classic

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.

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.

'Fall into Fun' Card & Game Party & Luncheon to occur Sept. 28

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.

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

'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.

Armenian Food Festival Sept. 30

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.

More events on page 8

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OBITUARIES

Patricia Lee Gordon 1948-2023

WILBRAHAM — It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Patricia Lee Gordon on Sept. 2, 2023. Patricia, born on Oct. 9, 1948, in Granby, MA, was a shining beacon of love, laughter and service throughout her life.

Patricia was predeceased by her parents, Marita and Leo Gagnon. She attended Granby High School and then earned her undergraduate degree at Elms College and a master's degree from Worcester State, showcasing her dedication to her craft as an educator. For 37 years, Patricia shared her passion for learning as an earth science teacher at Minnechaug Regional High School. Her impact reached far beyond the classroom, leaving a lasting legacy of knowledge and inspiration in her students. Her commitment to education extended to the school committee in Wilbraham, where she worked tirelessly to improve the lives of local students.

Patricia was also a dedicated member of St. Cecilia's Parish, contributing her beautiful voice to the choir, sharing wisdom as a lector, and actively participating in the Women's Club. Love blossomed when she met George Gordon, who would become her devoted husband of 44 years. Together, they shared a love story that stood the test of time, filled with joyous moments and unwavering support for one another.

As a mother, Patricia poured her boundless love and support into her children. Her daughter, Ashlee Salvador (Gordon), and son-in-law, Joe Salvador, of Wilbraham, MA, and Patricia's grandchildren, Weston and Avery Salvador, brought immense joy to her life and referred to her as "MiMi". She was also the proud mother of her son, Grant Gordon, of Guilford, CT.

Patricia's life was characterized by her dedication to others. She played a vital role in the Wilbraham Peach Festival, managing the parade and soda booths for many years. Her heart for service extended to the American Red Cross, where she selflessly volunteered as a disaster assessment volunteer, offering aid and comfort to those in dire need. In her leisure time, Patricia embraced her love for travel, often visiting national parks, where she found solace and wonder in the natural world as well as baking various desserts.

She also leaves behind her sister, Linda Gagnon of Chicopee, MA. As we bid farewell to Patricia, her kindness, laughter, and unwavering dedication to family and community will forever be etched in our hearts. Her memory will continue to inspire us to cherish each moment, give selflessly, and live with a heart full of love. Patricia's legacy is a reminder to live life to the fullest, just as she did, and to carry her spirit of warmth, service, and love forward in our own lives. Patricia's Funeral Mass was held at St. Cecilia Church. Burial followed in Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Wilbraham Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements. The family kindly requests donations in Patricia's memory to Halfway Home Cat Rescue, 400 Universal Dr. N, North Haven, CT 06473, as she was a passionate advocate for their mission and her many fur-children.

Alicia Scott

EAST LONGMEADOW — Alicia Scott, RN, Veterinary Practice Manager, Best Honey, Mom and Meme ever, of East Longmeadow, MA passed away peacefully after a brief illness in Seattle, Washington on Aug. 29, 2023.

Originally from Canada, Alicia came to the United States by way of Michigan in 1989. She worked as a nurse in Michigan and locally in the emergency room of Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, MA from 1992 to 1995 and was Director of Nursing at Renaissance Manor Nursing Home in Holyoke, MA from 1995 until the early 2000s.

In 2000, Alicia married Dr. Penny Peck of the Hampden Veterinary Clinic in Hampden, MA and shortly thereafter retired from nursing and became the bookkeeper and financial manager at the Hampden Veterinary Clinic.

Alicia and Penny, along with co-parents Karen Jackson of Holyoke and the late Judy Tasker of East Longmeadow, raised two children, Sarah and Dylan. Alicia loved her family and was a wonderful partner and

friend to Penny and a very loving and close mother to Sarah and Dylan. Alicia was especially proud of her grandchildren, Brayden and Nicholas, and enjoyed playing with them and watching their antics. Alicia and Penny celebrated 23 years together and really enjoyed their time with their dogs, first Rusty and then Otis, the three baby cats they raised from a bottle and their many Arabian horses over the years.

Alicia loved the ocean, the beach and the sun and she and Penny spent many happy weekends in Provincetown, MA. Alicia loved sharing her native Canada with her family and trips included Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Vancouver. Alicia enjoyed travel and she and Penny visited New England, the American Southwest, California, England and Italy. Alicia loved music, especially classical music and opera and on occasion, she and Penny attended the Met, Broadway, Tanglewood and several Melissa Etheridge concerts. Alicia loved the family's Arabian horses and attended many horse shows with her daughter, Sarah, and her partner, Penny where she coached, encouraged and cheered, often loudly, from the sidelines.

Alicia was predeceased in life by her father Carl Scott, her brother Pat Scott of Nova Scotia, Canada and her children's co-parent, Judy Tasker of East Longmeadow.

Alicia is survived by her wife, Penny Peck, DVM of East Longmeadow; her daughter, Sarah Warriner and her husband Ryan and their children Brayden and Nicholas of Andover, CT; her son Dylan Scott and his wife Juliette Jones of Catskill, NY and her children's co-parent Karen Jackson and Karen's wife Amy Harper of Holyoke, MA.

Also bereaved are Alicia's mother, Shirley Stephens and her husband Larry, Alicia's sister Shirleen Atkinson and her husband Kirk, her brother Dave Scott all of Nova Scotia, Canada, and Alicia's brother Carl and his wife, Melody who reside in Mexico. Alicia leaves behind two sisters-in-law, Tammy Scott-Gaston and Sherry Nickerson-Scott, and many beloved nieces, nephews and other relatives, all in Canada. She will be very missed by the siblings and cousins of her partner, Penny, who embraced her as one of their own and loved her very much.

In addition, Alicia touched many lives with her warmth and kindness, and many will miss her, including the entire staff of the Hampden Veterinary Clinic, her many friends from Double A / Deadder Arabians of Somers, CT and the Arabian horse community, and her best friends Lynn Mixner and Penny Ackley of Taunton, MA, Sue Maybe of Ontario, Canada, Henny Breen of Ocala, FL, Kayla Solomon of Northampton, MA and Addie Hume and the entire O'Connor family of Agawam, MA.

Family and friends are invited to gather on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023, from 4 – 7 p.m. at Forastiere Smith Funeral & Cremation, 220 North Main St., East Longmeadow, MA. A service will be held on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023, at 12 Noon at the First Congregational Church, 7 Somers Road, East Longmeadow, MA.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the financial aid fund at St. Anne Hospital Foundation, 16259 Sylvester Rd. SW Suite 101 Burien, WA 98166 or make an online donation at www.supportstanne.org and follow the donate now button. Be sure to note that it is in memory of Alicia. For more information or to leave an online condolence, please visit www.forastiere.com.

Death Notices

Gordon, Patricia Lee

Born Oct. 9, 1948

Died Sept. 2, 2023

Scott, Alicia

Died Aug. 29, 2023

Wilbraham Junior Women's Club to host Designer Bag Bingo

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is hosting a Designer Bag Bingo! This fabulous event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 5, at the Gremio Lusitano Club, 385 Windsor St., Ludlow, MA.

It's an evening of fun Bingo and a chance to win all the designer bags you want in your closet! Doors open at 6 p.m., and games start at 7 p.m.

Admission tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Purchase a table of 10 for \$300, a discounted rate of \$30 per ticket when purchased in advance! Tickets include 10 bingo games, a dauber and a special lucky charm!

A cash bar will be available, and attendees can bring their own snacks or order off of the club's menu. Extra bingo cards will be available for purchase as well as raffle tickets for our spectacular bag-themed raffle! All proceeds benefit charitable projects in the community!

Grab your friends and get your tickets at WilbrahamJuniorWomens.org.

Pink Scarves for Rays of Hope at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM — Knitters and crocheters, get out your needles and patterns and make pink scarves for Rays of Hope!

"Rays of Hope is an annual walk in October for breast cancer survivors and their families, headed by Baystate Hospital. The pink scarf project provides scarves for the breast cancer survivors who are walking," said Assistant Director Mary Bell. "We had over 85 scarves donated last year, and we'd love to have even more this year."

Any pattern can be used, but the scarves must be primarily pink. A box will be in the library to accept donations through Oct. 14.

The 2023 Rays of Hope walk will be Sunday, Oct. 22. More information can be found at baystatehealth.org/raysofhope.

For more information on donating scarves, please call the Wilbraham Public Library at 413-596-6141.

Events & announcements schedule

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 Bandoueres 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.

Hartsprings Bin to be located at senior center through the fall

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.

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Alexander and Tyler take a brief break from their watercolor crayon painting to smile for the camera during the Teen Watercolor Crayons Painting Workshop event at Wilbraham Public Library.



A watercolor crayon painting of a colorful snail made by Nicole was one of many creations participants made during the Teen Watercolor Crayons Painting Workshop event at Wilbraham Public Library.

WATERCOLOR from page 1

ness explained Teen Services/Young Adult Librarian Rachel Hapgood saw a post online of her organization holding a class, reaching out to her from there on their tie-dye and terrarium workshops.

Mowers was ecstatic about the turnout and the opportunity to branch out as the organization is in Worcester.

“There’s a lot of places like this that really need creative options for the kids, and we don’t mind bringing it on the road,” Mowers said.

Mowers said the organization opened two months before the pandemic and went through many pivots, becoming a retail store selling handmade items, offering classes and workshops and including a refillery.

She loves holding events like this to promote creativity and wellness.

“It’s just really fun seeing everyone enjoying what they’re doing and knowing that the kids have something to do after school or in their free time that’s creative and enriching and really good for them to do,” Mowers said. “It’s also really relaxing, so like a stress reliever, which is what we’re all about. We’re about combining wellness, mental wellness, health wellness, food wellness with art, and they go hand in hand.”

Ashley Griguoli was excited to attend with her friends, explaining her mom heard about it online and encouraged her to check it out.

“We’re having so much fun. I think this is a great thing to do,” Griguoli said.

Griguoli said the event was also a learning experience, as she never painted with watercolors before.

“I feel like it was a great introduction since watercolor is really hard at first, I think, because everyone can draw with crayons, and you just water over it and it’s all set,” Griguoli said.

She also appreciates the library’s teen

programs and teen center.

“The teen section is amazing. It’s like a whole entire second floor, so it’s just incredible and it’s a spot where a lot of teens hang out,” Griguoli said. “They have a great selection of books; they’re always updating their collection, and it’s just a great place in general.”

Griguoli said creativity is important, especially for young people.

“Creativity is just important in life,” Griguoli said. “You always have to be creative even when you don’t know you’re being creative, you’re just doing it automatically. It’s just human to be creative.”

Hapgood expressed her appreciation to the Friends for all the programs the library can offer the teens.

“It makes me happy that we can offer programs that the teens are interested in, and they’ll take the time to come to the library,” Hapgood said. “These programs are all funded by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library, so it means a lot that we have that funding to be able to offer really great programs that the teens always want.”

Hapgood wants the community to know the library has many different programs for all ages and are free to attend.

“Come check it out or stay in tune with our website because you’ll see as we’re planning programs that’s where it’s going to be first,” Hapgood said.

To learn more about The Burncoat Center for Arts and Wellness, visit bcaw-worcester.com.



Kim Mowers of The Burncoat Center for Arts and Wellness shows participants how to add salt to their watercolor crayon painting creations during the Teen Watercolor Crayons Painting Workshop event at Wilbraham Public Library.



Teens create their own or color in and paint pictures during the Teen Watercolor Crayon Painting Workshop event at Wilbraham Public Library.

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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Wilbraham resident Paul Labbe was the big winner in the Bushels of Fun \$500 Mass Lotto Raffle, sponsored by Friends of Wilbraham Seniors. Paul purchased the winning ticket at the Fern Valley gala event and won \$320. Not a bad return for purchasing \$50 in tickets. The BFF was a huge success that generated \$20,000 in proceeds to benefit the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors whose mission is to support Wilbraham Seniors. Pictured, Labbe and his wife Wendy hold a festive basket of goodies and scratch tickets. Enjoying the moment (L to R) BFF volunteer Dee Mitchell, co-chair Maria Cacula, Wendy and Paul Labbe, and co-chair Chuck Pelouze. Photo and caption submitted by Matt Villamaino

Life in
WILBRAHAM

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

WILBRAHAM




Remembering Rick

Rick's Place is named after Rick Thorpe—beloved husband, father, brother and son who lost his life in the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Rick was a vibrant community supporter who devoted many of his best talents to giving to others in need. In his honor, the Rick Thorpe Memorial Fund was established in 2001 and Rick's Place was launched in 2007. Because of Rick, children in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut are getting the opportunity to grieve in a supportive and nurturing place specially designed to help restore balance and life purpose. Photos and caption courtesy of Rick's Place



On Sept. 10, the Hampden Fire Department, Wilbraham Fire Department, Hampden Police Department, and Wilbraham Police Department participated in the second annual softball tournament. The game was called early due to the inclement weather. The final score was a row 10-8. Thank you to all members who played and volunteers that donated to the tournament. Photo submitted by [Name]

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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



Hampden Police Department and the Wilbraham Police Department held their...
...weather, however, Fire pulled off the win for the second year in...
...and their time to make the event possible! Photo and caption courtesy of

Community Bulletin Board

.....

**Send us in
your announcements!
Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.**

**We will pick one each week to run here free of charge,
please keep it to less than 50 words.
Please send to dzbierski@turley.com**



Patrick Bagge finished the Hampden library's 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Congrats!
Photo submitted by Youth Services Librarian Kate Rumlplik



Following in his sister's footsteps, Sebastian Riberdy read 1,000 books before Kindergarten. His family came to the Wilbraham Public Library, where Sebastian received a free book and certificate. Congrats! Photo submitted by Children's Librarian Heidi Kane.

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After being closed for more than 4 months, we are pleased to announce that we have reopened!
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SENIORS



The old adage "a picture is worth a thousand words" is at play here. Words cannot adequately describe the tremendous progress that has been taking place on the new Wilbraham Senior Center behind our Wilbraham Town Hall. With the present pace of construction and the weather cooperating, we are on schedule to open in Spring of 2024!!



And here is ground level, showing the progress being made in preparing the driveway for paving.

Get excited! It's 'gonna be GREAT

More photos of the ongoing project are and will be available on the Town Website and the present Senior Center Facebook page. We ask that you enjoy the construction of our new Senior Center from a safe distance. Please do not enter the construction site during or after work hours and be respectful of the workers, as we are asking that they be respectful as guests of our community.

If you have questions or comments about the new Senior Center, please call the Senior Center information line at: 596-2800 extension 315 and leave a message, or email SeniorInfo2021@gmail.com. Someone will get back to you.

Linda Cooper

Wilbraham Senior Center Building Committee

Hampden Senior Trips

HAMPDEN – The following Hampden Senior Trips will occur in the coming weeks and months.

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

Atlantic City Tues – Thurs, Oct. 10 – 12: Caesars Resort Hotel, two shows, \$50 food & slot bonuses; \$295/pp double, \$285/pp triple, \$395/pp single; \$50 deposit due at sign-up. Full Payment Deadline Oct. 1. Cancellation Insurance Available.

The Aqua Turf Club – *ELVIS IS IN THE BUILDING!* on Wed, Nov 8.; coffee/donuts, free drink, family-style lunch, great show and door prizes, \$119/pp. Full Payment Deadline Oct. 20.

All Prices incl Driver's Tip. Call Bobbi @ 413-566-8271 or email bobbij2@charter.net



As you walk in the front door, this impressive stairwell will greet you, as well as the staff in the nearby reception area.



From the outside, note the energy efficient windows. The siding will soon appear.



And the view from the rear. This will become the patio complete with outdoor furniture, umbrellas and paved with Memorial bricks honoring our generous donors!



Submitted photos

State Rep., Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., (D- Springfield) presented a special citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives to Knolly Demills, an associate at Life Care Center of Wilbraham, on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023.



The citation recognized Knolly Demills, who recently received Life Care Centers of America's Northeast Division Whatever It Takes Champions Award given annually to associates who go above and beyond in their interactions with residents. Pictured, left to right: Dennis Lopata, Senior Executive Director, Knolly Demills, Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) and State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.



Joining the presentation, pictured, left to right, are Dennis Lopata, Senior Executive Director; Jen Abramowicz, Staffing Coordinator; Joe Sparks, Director of Nursing; Knolly Demills, CNA; State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.; Jacqueline Jumba, Assistant Director of Nursing; Dunia Soufan, Recruiter; and Opal Jackson, Housekeeper. Kneeling in front is Winsome Roberts, CNA.

Rep. Puppolo presents citation to Knolly Demills

WILBRAHAM -- State Rep., Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., (D- Springfield) presented a special citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives to Knolly Demills, an associate at Life Care Center of Wilbraham, on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023. The citation recognized Demills, who recently received Life Care Centers of America's Northeast Division Whatever It Takes Champions Award given annually to associates who go above and beyond in their interactions with residents.

"Professionals like Knolly are critical to ensuring that our seniors are well cared for and enjoy an outstanding quality of life," Puppolo said. "Knolly has shown that he more that fulfills that promise in his kindness, compassion and care for Life Care residents and staff."

Nominations are submitted by residents and their families, fellow associates and guests, those that Demills and other Life Care staff serve with kindness and compassion.

Saint Cecilia Knights of Columbus to hold Italian Night Dinner Oct. 14

WILBRAHAM -- The Knights of Columbus of the Saint Cecilia Council will be holding an Italian Night Dinner as a fundraiser for the Community Survival Center on Oct. 14 at 5 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham, MA.

The dinner will include a traditional Italian meal with musical entertainment and raffle prizes.

Tickets are \$20 and are available before and after masses Sept. 23 through Oct. 8.

For more information, or to get tickets, email TicketsKoC10195@gmail.com.



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 look-

ing 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** - Bewary 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.

Taking care of your yard during a heat wave

As temperatures rise, so should the care of your yard's lawn and landscape. However, it's important to ensure your yard is healthy before a heat wave hits.

"The healthier your grass, trees, and shrubs, the more resistant it will be to summer's extreme temperatures. Lawns, in particular, that have healthy grass leaves and deeper roots are able to store more moisture," says Kris Kiser, President & CEO of the TurfMutt Foundation, which encourages people to care for and use their outdoor spaces.

Here are a few recommendations on protecting your yard during a heat wave from The TurfMutt Foundation.

- **Put the right plant in the right place.** Always select appropriate plants and grass for your climate zone. This ensures the space is not only attractive, but also will be more likely to thrive in your microclimate, be easier to maintain, and will support pollinators and wildlife. Consider water, sunlight or shade requirements for your yard.

- **Water at the right times.** The best time to water the lawn and plants is in the early morning or late evening when its cooler.

- **Don't over water.** It's okay to make your grass work hard for its water. With little water, grass will send its roots deeper, seeking water. The grass then does a better job of sequestering carbon and releasing oxygen.

Also, most turfgrasses-and there are hundreds of species-will go brown during summer months where water is more scarce. It will "green up" again when conditions change.

- **Know what type of soil you have.** The frequency and amount of water you apply to lawns and gardens vary based on its soil, clay type, organic matter and the type of plants and grass. Some soil holds water better than others; water molecules cling to fine particles of clay soil than to the coarser particles of a sandy soil.

- **Cut grass long.** When mowing, don't cut more than one-third of the grass height. By keeping it longer, turfgrass can develop stronger roots and a greater tolerance to heat and drought stress.

- **Keep foot traffic minimal.** For already stressed grass, foot traffic can cause damage. Keep people off the lawn while the heat persists.

For more information visit www.turfmutt.com.



'Fall into Art' Art Show to be presented by the Scantic River Artisans

WILBRAHAM — The Scantic River Artisans will present the "Fall into Art" Art Show on Sept. 23 and 24.

Featured at the art show will be "THE NEW ENGLAND MOSAIC", a 24-foot wall of art. The New England Mosaic is a 24-foot fine art wall made up of 264 individual 6"x 6" canvas tiles painted by over 200 area artists. The wall captures the beauty and diversity of New England life. The tiles will be for sale and the proceeds will

fund scholarships for area art students. Saturday, Sept. 23 (3-8 p.m.) - Reception with wine, cheese and music Sunday, Sept. 24 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.) - (peer awards at 2 p.m.) Community Room at the Hampden Sr. Center/104 Allen St., Hampden, MA Visit: www.scanticriverartisans.com to fill out a "Call for Artists" form if you wish to participate in the art show. Or pick up forms at the Hampden Sr. Center.

Harvest Fundraiser Dinner on Oct. 7

WILBRAHAM — Join the Wilbraham Welcome Project for a night of dinner and dancing at the Wilbraham Country Club on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 6-10 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person and available online at www.thewilbraham-welcomeproject.com.

Includes appetizers and dinner by 3 Guys at the Grille, desserts from Pan'e Dolcetti and live music provided by Project 267. The Wilbraham Welcome Project is a registered 501(c)3 dedicated to celebrating our town, cultivating community and championing local business.

Cub Scouts Pack 177 meets Wednesdays

WILBRAHAM — For children in grades K-5, Cub Scouts Pack 177 meets Wednesdays at the Wilbraham United Church. There will be a fun recruitment drive with activities on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Wilbraham United Church. No need to sign up - just stop by and check it out! For kids in Middle School and High School, Boy Scouts Troop 359 meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at St. Cecilia's Parish. For more information, visit www.wmascouting.org or www.BeaScout.org.

Get ready to shake, rattle & roll!

WILBRAHAM — Let's dance to the 50's! The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors are excited to be bringing their "Fabulous 50's Dance" to the surrounding communities on Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Ludlow Polish American Citizens Club on 355 East Street from 7-11 p.m.

This evening dance party will feature music from the 50's with RADBU DJ Productions, who will have you singing along and rockin' the night away! In case you need to limber up and practice your moves, there will be dance lessons starting at 7:30.

A photo op area will be set up to capture your "cool" look! Prizes will be awarded for the best outfits and dance moves. 50's attire is not required & if

dancing is not your thing, just visiting with friends and singing along to the oldies is fun enough! Snacks and a cash bar will be available, and the night will end with a fabulous raffle.

This event is sponsored by Vantage Care of Wilbraham and proceeds will benefit the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors. Wonderful raffle prizes are sure to please everyone including a swag basket from The Springfield Thunderbirds! The price is \$15 per person to attend. All attendees must be 18 years or older. Tickets may be purchased by calling Ann Marie Gaudette at 413-599-4803 or by stopping by the Wilbraham Senior Center at 45B Post Office Park, off Boston Rd, in Wilbraham.

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Selfless commitment to public service

State Police Academy's 88th Recruit Training Troop graduates

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD – Earlier this month, the State Police Academy graduated its 88th Recruit Training Troop, which featured 165 men and women from cities and towns across the commonwealth.

The State Police Pipes & Drums Band ushered dignitaries into the Mass Mutual Center on Aug. 3, where Sgt. Mike Goonan, Director of Training at the State Police Academy acted as master of ceremonies.

The 88th RTT began training at the State Police Academy in New Braintree earlier this year, passing through an intensive 16-hour day program, five days a week.

Following a moment of silence for police and military personnel who have given their lives defending the nation and a prayer by State Police Chaplain Rev. Dr. Johnny Wilson, the 88th RTT demonstrated Troop drill under the command of Senior Drill Instructor Trooper Alicia Amaral.

“Since 1921, your uniformed State Troopers have been subject to demands of strict discipline that only paramilitary training can provide,” Goonan said. “Troop drill helps develop the core qualities of pride, professionalism, respect, attention to detail and esprit de corps. Troop drill inspires the common spirit necessary to become a Massachusetts State Trooper.”

Captain Jon Provost, Commandant of the State Police Academy, thanked all for attending the ceremony in Springfield, which he described as a “resilient city of firsts.”

“Today, they add another first to that list, as they for the first time, host the Massachusetts State Police in our graduation ceremony,” Provost said. “Our friends in Springfield selflessly rolled out the red carpet in support of our 88th Recruit Training Troop and your Massachusetts State Police.”

Provost said the 88th RTT is full of strong men and women who, “selflessly and humbly persevered to reach this proud moment.”

He addressed the family and friends of the Recruits in the audience, thanking them for their sacrifices as their loved ones dedicated themselves to the training program.

“At orientation, a true lifetime ago, we promised you we’d eventually give them back,” he said. “Today, we make good on that promise.”

Provost spoke about the training the Recruits received since they started at the State Police Academy on Feb. 27 in a class that started with 249 eager members. The only “easy day” at the State Police Academy, he said, was a day that had already gone by.

He addressed the Recruits, “88th RTT, together we embarked on an incredibly challenging and humbling journey. Together, we have persevered. It has been one of the great honors of my career to share in this accomplishment with all of you. We are the 88th RTT.”

Provost welcomed the new Troopers to the State Police family, saying it opened up a “world of opportunity” to do justice, to show kindness, to walk humbly, to selflessly serve their communities and to persevere.

“Persevere 88th...be safe, and congratulations,” Provost said.

The newly graduated Troopers received a shield-shaped badge, which was pinned on their uniforms.

“It represents allegiance to justice, service, sacrifice, and an honor to all those who wear it,” Goonan said. The badge is considered the most recognizable symbol of policing around the world, he said.

“The badge is not a gift; it’s not awarded lightly...it must be earned,” he said, which the 88th RTT has done.

Following the pinning, the 88th RTT received its final inspection by Governor Maura Healey before being officially sworn in. Healey administrated the Oath of Office to the 88th RTT, having them swear allegiance to the commonwealth and its constitution.

“It is an honor and a privilege to be with you here today, for what is a most joyful and meaningful occasion,” she said. This was Healey’s first graduation ceremony in her role as Governor.

“Public safety remains the most important function of government,” she said. “We can’t do anything without a safe and secure commonwealth.”

Public safety takes investment and collaboration, she said, as well as community engagement, focus, commitment and dedication at “every level.”

“Ultimately, it rests on the ability, the character, the courage and the professionalism of our law enforcement officers...the men and women on the front lines. In other words, it depends on all of you,” Healey said. “Your training...has prepared you so well.”

State Rep. Carlos Gonzalez (D-Springfield), Chair of the Committee of Public Safety and Homeland Security, addressed the new Troopers.

“You have chosen a noble path, to serve the residents of Massachusetts,” he said. “Policing is a profession that demands courage, compassion, and unwavering dedication.”

Gonzalez urged Troopers to remember the importance of community.

“Policing is not merely a job; it is a calling to serve and protect the people who rely on you for safety and security,” he said.

State Police Superintendent Col. John E. Mawn Jr. said this was an important day for the department.

CAMPUS NOTES

HCC announces Dean's List for summer 2023

HOLYOKE - Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher.

Kathryn Chevalier, of Wilbraham, made the Dean's List this summer.

Marina Long named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON — Marina Long, of Wilbraham, was named to the 2023 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston. To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

Hunter Hembdt named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH — Hunter Hembdt, of Hampden, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2023 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Dariana Aponte-Edwards named to SNHU President's List

MANCHESTER, NH -- Dariana Aponte-Edwards, of Wilbraham, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2023 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

“We welcome to our ranks, and to our mission, a large group of highly skilled, deeply motivated and expertly trained new members. I stand here today...and look out over the future of the Massachusetts State Police,” Mawn said.

Mawn said it took many to make this day possible, including State Police Academy staff, drill staff, civilian work force, legislators and many more. He also thanked former Governor Charlie Baker, who attended the graduation ceremony.

“You are among the best trained recruit classes in the nation,” Mawn said. “Congratulations 88th Recruit Training Troop; you earned it.”

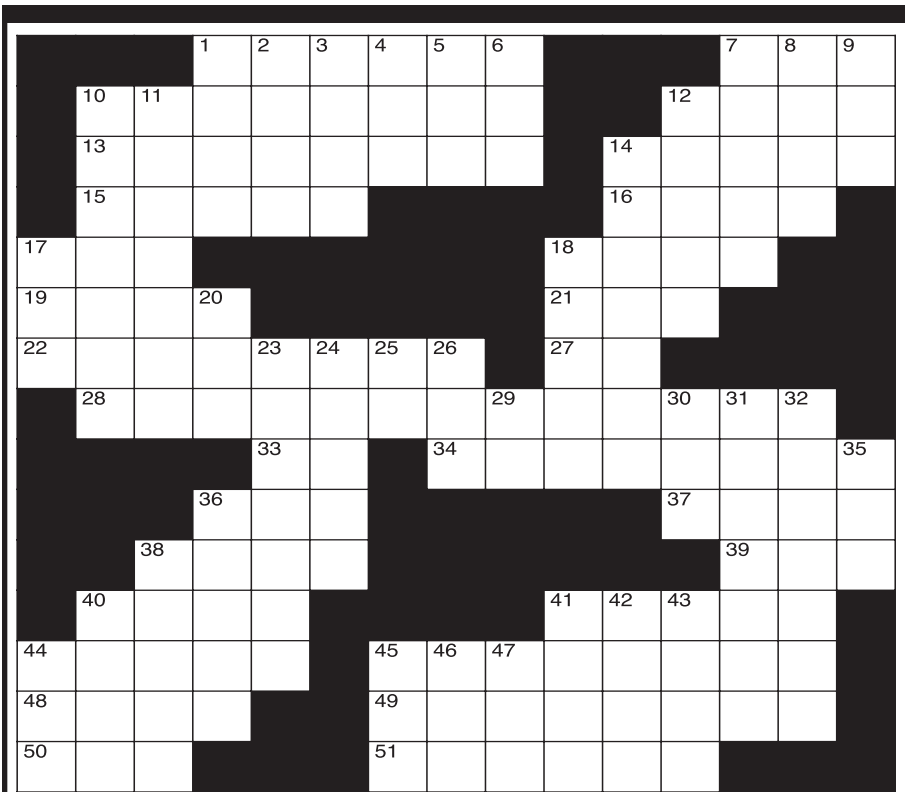
“Earned” Mawn said, is an important distinction the Troopers should remember.

“Your achievement was not given to you; you had to earn it...you’ll have to continue to earn your way forward,” he said.

Several members of the 88th RTT, hail from communities covered by *Turley Publications*' newspapers, including Charles P. Oberg of Barre, Jonah C. Vaclavicek of Granby, Stephen M. Houle of Ware, Matthew R. Pingitore of Rutland, John M. Sarnacki of Chicopee, Jacob F. Crevier of Ware, Nicholas R. Brooks of Oakham, Brandon M. Aviles of Rutland, Ryan E. Monteiro of Wilbraham, Matthew S. Pepin of Sturbridge, David Soto of Holyoke and Zuzu Y. Demetrius of Warren.

Representing the 88th RTT was Trooper Ryan L. Ruef of Lee, who said it was “truly an honor” to stand before everyone at the graduation ceremony.

“Our once dream has now become a reality,” Ruef said. “On behalf of the 88th to all friends and family who helped us get to this point in our journeys, a thank you is simply not enough.”



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of crayon
- 7. Fashion accessory
- 10. Most cerebral
- 12. Incline from vertical
- 13. Dependent on
- 14. Broken in
- 15. Strongly desires
- 16. Mounted soldier
- 17. Ad ___: when necessary
- 18. Cattle
- 19. Ottoman military commanders
- 21. ___ student, learns healing
- 22. Composed in poetic meter
- 27. Promotional material
- 28. Where people live
- 33. Sodium
- 34. Embarrassing

- 36. Medical man
- 37. Mother of Hermes
- 38. One who saves the day
- 39. Tooth caregiver
- 40. Not clothed
- 41. Slope covered with loose stones
- 44. Used to cook
- 45. Praises enthusiastically
- 48. Rooney is a famous one
- 49. Beekeeper
- 50. Pigpen
- 51. Potato chip brand

- offensive
- 5. Midway between east and southeast
- 6. Confined (abbr.)
- 7. Book of Esther antagonist
- 8. Port in Yemen
- 9. CNN's founder
- 10. Type of bulb
- 11. Prepare
- 12. Promoted
- 14. Dinner jackets
- 17. Partner to cheese
- 18. Nebraska city
- 20. Human gene
- 23. Pays no attention to
- 24. Lowland South American plain
- 25. Blood group
- 26. Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano

- 29. Atomic #37
- 30. Unit of electrical resistance
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Falcons take down Orioles in season opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—The previous four meetings between Coombs Division rivals Belchertown and Minnechaug ended in ties.

The Lady Falcons kicked off the 2023 high school soccer season with an impressive 4-0 home shutout victory over the Lady Orioles, last Wednesday night.

“We’ve tied Belchertown the last four times that we played them, so this is a very good result for us,” said longtime Minnechaug girls varsity soccer coach Nundi Goncalves. “Because of the MIAA power ratings, shutouts are huge. Scoring three or more goals in a match is another important thing.”

Minnechaug finished the 2022 regular season with a 14-2-2 record and posted more than ten shutouts.

The Lady Falcons, who are the defending Western Mass. Class A champions, lost to Silver Lake Regional in the Division 2 state semifinals.

Junior goalie Makenzi Pastreck made a total of 12 saves in the season opening victory against the Lady Orioles.

“We do have several new defenders this year,” Pastreck said. “They played very well in tonight’s game.”

The Lady Falcons starting defensive unit is led by freshman Ainsley Holden, sophomore Zoriah Way, junior Nora Kennedy, and senior Lylah Jeannotte, who’s a tri-captain. Freshman Carson Humphries and junior Taylor Labadorf also saw playing time in the back row.

Having to start the regular season on the road against a quality opponent wasn’t a very easy task for the Lady Orioles.

“We did do some things well in tonight’s game, but there are other things that we still need to work on,” said Belchertown head coach Kyle Thibeault. “We gave Minnechaug some opportunities and they capitalized on them.”

The Lady Orioles lost to South Hadley in the Western Mass. Class B championship match. They also lost to Stoneham in the Division 3 round of eight contest.

Minnechaug sophomore Kelly Cronin broke the ice in the season opening match but netting a goal less than ten minutes into the opening half.

Belchertown senior goalie Michaela Dubey tried to make the save on Cronin’s shot attempt from the top of the box, but the ball bounced over the line before she was able to grab it.

Senior Zoey Cardano was



Ainsley Holden starts a move up the field.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



Bianca Fachetti looks to shoot.



The Falcons huddle between plays.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Pair of defeats for Chaug to start fall



Ava Murray gets the bump to her left.



Anna O'Toole serves the ball for Minnechaug.



Sienna Dansereau bumps the ball over the net.



Samantha Long sets the ball up.

WILBRAHAM – Last week, Minnechaug girls volleyball suffered a pair of tough losses to start the regular season. Last Tuesday in their home opener, Algonquin came from Central Mass. and handed the Falcons a

3-1 defeat. The Falcons traveled to Amherst Regional the next night and were defeated 3-0. The Falcons look for their first win on Sept. 15 against Longmeadow at 5:30 p.m.

Falcons golf gets win over Brownies

WILBRAHAM – Last Thursday afternoon, the Minnechaug golf team hosted Agawam and picked up a narrow win, by just six strokes 148-154. Minnechaug got some great performances by its top four, with Owen Gold-

berg and Ali Awkal both carding a one-over at 36. Matt Beaudin and John Fitzgerald had 38’s to round out the scoring and the win for the Falcons. Minnechaug golf is 1-1 to start the fall.



Mackenzie Defonseca fights to steal the ball.



The Falcons celebrate after scoring their first goal of the season.

credited with the assists on Cronin's first goal of the regular season.

"I thought our forwards and midfielders worked together very well," Goncalves said. "We were able to create some offense."

About six minutes later, the Lady Falcons took a 2-0 lead when junior Mackenzie DaFonseca received a pass from Cardano before blasting a shot into the left corner of the net.

The Lady Orioles also fell behind 2-0 in last year's game played on Minnechaug's turf field and they battled back to tie the score. There wouldn't be any comebacks in the season opener.

"We did comeback from a 2-0 deficit in last year's game here," Thibeault said. "We were hoping to do it again tonight, but things just didn't go our way. All of our league games are going to be hard fought battles this year."

With a little more than six minutes remaining in the first half, Dubey suffered a left leg injury and had to be helped off the field.

"We're hoping it's not a serious injury," Thibeault



said. "I don't think it's a knee injury. We do have two quality goalies."

Dubey, who only made a couple of saves, was replaced in goal by junior Jillian DeBarge (3 saves).

Prior to the start of the match, Thibeault was planning to change goalies at the start of the second half.

During the 45th minute, Belchertown junior Mia Corish fired a shot on goal from the right side, which was saved by Pastreck.

Cronin's second goal, which was unassisted, gave the Lady Falcons a commanding 3-0 lead during the 49th minute.

Minnechaug's fourth and final goal was netted by senior Kylie Ray with about twenty minutes remaining in regulation. It was assisted by senior Claire Poindexter.

Mackenzie Pastreck kicks the ball away.

Community Caravan postponed by weather

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced last Friday that the third installment of the T-Birds Community Caravan presented by Dunkin' has been postponed due to potential inclement weather this weekend. A rescheduled date will be announced in the future.

The previous two events featured an appearance from Thunderbirds mascot Boomer and team staff, as well as a wide variety of activities and vendors, including a Dunkin' Taste Truck, street hockey activities, and various food options.

Fans can reserve their seats to be part of the Thunderbirds' hockey action for the 2023-24 season by calling (413) 739-GOAL (4625) or visiting www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Railers schedule released, first game Oct. 22

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) announced today the team's 2022-23 regular season schedule.

The Railers will begin their fifth ECHL season in Worcester on Saturday, Oct. 22 vs. the Adirondack Thunder at 7:05 p.m. at the DCU Center. Worcester is slated to play 36 regular season home games at the DCU Center.

A printable schedule is available at www.railershc.com.

30 of the 36 Railers home games will be played on the weekends with 20 of the 30 occurring either Saturday or Sunday. The Railers will welcome nine different opponents to the DCU Center during the seven-month regular season which runs Oct. 22 through April 16.

Worcester will host a season long five-game home stand (Dec. 9 to 18) and will embark on season long six-game road trip (Nov. 23 to Dec. 4). Worcester's 72-game regular season schedule comes to an end on April 16 with a 3 p.m. start vs. Adirondack in Glens Falls, NY at the Cool Insuring Arena.

The 2022-23 Worcester Railers HC promotional schedule will be released later this summer. Idaho will make their first trip to the DCU Center this season. Full breakdown of opponents this season:

Coby, Tommy Baldwin Racing earn Granite crown

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Doug Coby and Tommy Baldwin Racing returned to NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour competition on Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway and they were celebrating after 150 laps in New Hampshire.

Coby finished fifth in the Winchester Fair 150 in the Mayhew Tools 7NY, but the finish was enough for the team to capture the second annual Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup championship crown.

The Cup, which included three races at Monadnock Speedway, Lee USA Speedway and back at Monadnock on Saturday night, saw Coby grab three finishes inside the top-six, including a win at Monadnock in May. By winning the Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup, the team collected at least \$5,000 in bonus awards.

Coby returned to action Saturday for the first time since Thompson Speedway in August. Team owner Tommy Baldwin Jr. announced a cancer diagnosis and the team stepped back from full-time competition and missed the last two races. They couldn't pass up returning to chase the Granite State Short Track Cup crown.

"Just to be here with our family and Tommy battling cancer, I mean, he's a warrior," Coby said. "He told us from the beginning that he was going to fight through this and he's been courageous enough to share his battle and everything on social media, which is uncommon. To be here as the Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup champions, it just means a lot. We've got a great group of guys and Tommy really wanted to be here to do this. This one is for Tommy Baldwin."

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Mini-canvas painting creates socialization for teens



Eli Webster shows off his mini canvas paintings of a television screen having no signal and a starry night with a moon during the Mini-Canvas Painting event at Hampden Free Public Library.



Participants enjoy creating their own mini-canvas painting pieces during the Mini-Canvas Painting event at Hampden Free Public Library.



Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard smiles as she observes participants working on their mini-canvas painting during the Mini-Canvas Painting event at Hampden Free Public Library.



Jake Vanderleeden works on a rainbow for his mini-canvas painting during the Mini-Canvas Painting event at Hampden Free Public Library.



An anime character created by Olivia Martowska during the Mini-Canvas Painting event at Hampden Free Public Library.



Eli Webster and Kayla Vanderleeden work on a television screen with no signal and flowers, respectively, during the Mini-Canvas Painting event at Hampden Free Public Library.

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN — Teens stopped by the library on Sept. 9 to create mini-canvas paintings in the Sheila R. Flynn Teen Center.

During the event, participants used blank mini canvases and acrylic paint to design their art pieces, ranging from anime characters to flowers to rainbows and a starry night with a moon.

Additionally, the event created an opportunity for teens to bond and socialize with one another after starting the new school year.

Calvin Webster attended the event with his older brother, Eli, creating the Jolly Roger symbol from the anime “One Piece” and a black dot on a white canvas representing a polar bear caught

in a snowstorm.

Webster enjoyed hanging out with friends and getting creative, sharing that attending teen events at the library gets him off his phone and excited to meet others.

“I like seeing other people, hanging out with other people, just being in the community,” Webster said.

Webster shared he appreciates the variety of events the library’s teen programming offers and how creative they are too.

“It’s not always just one thing. They take inspiration from other places, and some are original, and some are taken for the ideas,” Webster said.

“But they’re all good,” Eli Webster added.

“They say where it came from so it gets credit,” Olivia Martowska said.

Webster wants the commu-

nity to know the library’s events are always fun and offer a lot to teens.

“It’s always fun when I go. Whether there are refreshments or none, it’s fun. That’s my motto,” Webster said.

Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard created her mini canvas paintings using a lot of pinks, explaining the library first held this event a couple of years ago.

“It was really popular, and we thought it would just be fun to do it again,” Girard said.

Girard said library programs are ramping up again for the teens, including the upcoming BookTok Teen Book Club on Sept. 16 at noon.

“We’re switching it up this year, so instead of having a specific book that everybody reads, participants have the ability to pick a book and we have a theme

each month that they can read with,” Girard said. “Or if they have a specific book or genre that they really like and they want to stick with that, that’s totally fine. As long as they’re reading, they’re welcome to attend our book club and talk about what they’ve been reading.”

Girard explained events like mini-canvas painting also help foster socialization for children and teens.

“It’s a nice community space that’s not school, that’s not home, where you can be. You talk to people you may not see at school if you’re in a different grade or go to a different school,” Girard said. “They can meet here, talk to each other, find similar interests and just be.”

Girard also loved seeing the enthusiasm of the teens during the mini-canvas painting.

“It’s just nice that they feel comfortable singing and talking with each other and having fun,” Girard said.

Girard hopes teens know the Sheila R. Flynn Teen Center is their space and the library itself is “a good place to visit and not just a place to read.”

“This is their space for them to read, to do activities, to be social. There’s not a lot of spaces that are specifically for teens in the community, so this is their space for whatever they want it to be,” Girard said.

The Webster brothers had this message for friends and classmates: stop by the library and check out their events.

“Come down for some fun,” Eli Webster said.

“Come down because it’s fun either way,” Calvin Webster added.

Spectacular bridges grace stamps

Presorted first-class mail stamps highlight engineering, architecture

PORTLAND, CT -- The U.S. Postal Service on Aug. 24 issued four new Presorted First-Class Mail stamps featuring striking photographs of bridges. The structures range from modern to historic, pedestrian to car-carrying, and all are important landmarks in their communities.

The Bridges stamps are intended for business mail users and are sold in self-adhesive coils of 3,000 and 10,000. Use of these stamps requires a special permit and a minimum quantity of 500 letters.

The stamp art features four bridges completed between 1938 and 2022: the multi-span steel through arch Arrigoni Bridge connecting the Connecticut municipalities of Middletown and Portland; the S-curved cable-stayed Bob Kerrey Pedestri-



an Bridge between Council Bluffs, IA, and Omaha, NE; the steel truss Skydance Bridge topped by a public sculpture in Oklahoma City; and the basket-handle twin arch Iowa-Illinois Memorial Bridge connecting Bettendorf, IA, and Moline, IL.

Bridges are among the oldest structures created by humans. In ancient times, simple slabs of stone spanned slow moving rivers. And in modern times, concrete and steel are used to cover vast distances. While the materials and designs have evolved from

utilitarian structures to engineering marvels, bridges remain integral parts of American life, with over 600,000 bridges in the United States. The construction of bridges is a way to reinvigorate communities economically as well as create landmarks of regional pride. Many modern bridges are designed for use by cyclists and pedestrians as well as motorists, capturing the imagination of human possibility.

Whether simply improving transit or vibrantly lighting the night with color-changing light displays, bridges remain vital connectors drawing together people, cities and the nation.

Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, used existing photographs to design these stamps.

Polanie Club to hold ‘Spotlight on Beautiful Fashions’ fashion show Oct. 1

LUDLOW -- The Polanie Club will hold a Fashion Show “Spotlight on Beautiful Fashions” to honor the memory of the late Loretta T. Goyette, Club President for 32 years, Fashions presented by Zanna of Amherst on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 at Ludlow Country Club, 1 Tony Lema Drive, Ludlow.

Doors open at 11 a.m. followed by lunch at noon with Entree choices of Chicken Francaise, Roast Pork Loin or Grilled Salmon.

Entertainment provided by Richie Mitnick and Peter Annone. Reserved Seating at \$48 available by sending check payable to POLANIE CLUB and mailing to:

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Baystate Medical Center names Robert S. Davis Wing

SPRINGFIELD -- The Robert S. Davis Wing at Baystate Medical Center, formerly known as the South Wing, was recently dedicated in a ceremony honoring the life of Robert "Bob" Davis, who passed away in 2021.

The Davis family, along with friends and community members, gathered for the ceremony – held in the D'Amour Family Healing Garden at Baystate Medical Center – in recognition of the philanthropic support from The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation toward new Operating and Interventional Procedural Rooms at the hospital. The Robert S. Davis Wing houses a portion of this new surgical space as well as the Pediatric Procedure Unit, Sadowsky Center for Children, Baystate Medical Center inpatient pharmacy, and two floors of patient rooms.

"The Davis family has helped us create a modern surgical department which will provide patients with a better experience, accommodate new methodologies, and attract top clinical talent," said Dr. Mark A. Keroack, president and CEO, Baystate Health, during the ceremony.

Keroack called the Davis family's decision to dedicate the space in memory of Robert—the second of four Davis children—"particularly poignant"

because of the time Robert spent at Baystate Medical Center during his final year receiving care and dialysis treatment.

"Through this gift, Bob's legacy will be helping many people live and enjoy their lives," said Keroack.

"He experienced first-hand the medical advances at Baystate, especially in the last year of his life," said Robert's niece, Laurel Davis Ferretti, "and we are so grateful for that care."

The dedication of the Robert S. Davis Wing is the latest investment in Baystate Health from the Davis family, whose philanthropy focuses on improving the quality of life for residents in Hampden County. Prior investments include the award-winning Davis Family Heart and Vascular Center and the Davis Neonatal Intensive Care Unit—the only NICU in western Massachusetts.

Additionally, Robert's brother, John Davis, chaired Baystate Health's Hospital of the Future campaign—the health system's largest fundraising effort to date.

"A dozen years ago, the Hospital of the Future was built at Baystate Medical Center to make way for a future of innovation, expanding needs, and the changes that are inevitable in healthcare. That vision has prepared us for this day. With



Submitted photo

The Davis family gathered recently to celebrate the dedication of the Robert S. Davis Wing, formerly the South Wing, at Baystate Medical Center. From back left: John Davis, Robyn Davis, Lauren Davis, Andrew Davis, Stephen Davis, Connor Davis, Laurel Ferretti, Ann Davis, Stephanie Demetry.

increased patient volume and technical advances, the future is now," said Scott Berg, vice president of Philanthropy at Baystate Health and executive director of the Baystate Health Foundation.

Guests at the event also enjoyed a surprise appearance from the Springfield Thunderbirds' Mascot, Boomer.

"I had the pleasure of know-

ing Bob. We shared a common passion in local hockey. Today, on behalf of the T-Bird organization, Boomer, and our thousands of fans, we remember our loyal fan Bob and thank the Davis family for continuing to invest in our community," said Thunderbirds owner, Baystate Health supporter, and Springfield-based businessman Paul Picknelly.

For the Davis family, the dedication was a fitting way to remember Robert and support local healthcare.

"Robert just liked mankind," said John Davis. "For him, this honor was the right thing."

For more information on the Baystate Health Foundation, visit www.baystatehealth.org/Giving.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE Town of Wilbraham

The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 7:00 PM** on the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Kathleen Jackson under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw. The request is to determine whether the work/area depicted on plans submitted is subject to the Wilbraham Wetland Bylaw and the Wetlands Protection Act. The request is also to confirm whether the boundaries of resource areas depicted on plans submitted are accurately delineated. The project includes the replacement of an existing septic system within 100' of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The property is located at 932 Stony Hill Road. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation

Commission.
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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. HD23P1824EA
Estate of:
Christine Elizabeth Poulin
Also known as:
Christine E Poulin
Date of Death: 04/15/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michelle R Gilley of Springfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Michelle R Gilley of Springfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without**

Surety on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

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 09/26/2023.**

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: August 29, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/14/2023

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2nd Annual Police vs. Fire Baseball Classic raises \$175,000 for Why Me & Sherry's House

Presented by Country Bank at Polar Park

WORCESTER — To launch Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September, the second annual Police vs. Fire Baseball Classic, presented by Country Bank at Polar Park on Sunday, Aug. 27, raised \$15,750 for Why Me & Sherry's House, a Worcester nonprofit that provides resources and support to children battling cancer and their families.

The Worcester Police Officers defeated the Worcester Firefighters 14-3 in nine innings.

As the home team, the Worcester Fire Department selected Why Me & Sherry's House to benefit from this year's event in honor of retired Fire Captain Mark Wyco, who lost his daughter Bridget to childhood cancer in 1996.

After the game, the Worcester Red Sox and Country Bank presented the check for \$15,750 to Rebecca Kuczarski, the Executive Director of Why Me & Sherry's House.

They also presented the 2023 Paul Scully Most Valuable Player Award to Officer Ty Sterner, a southpaw who allowed just two hits and one run in six innings pitched. The Worcester native, who has served in the Worcester Police Department for two years, was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the 23rd round of the 2014 Major League Baseball June Amateur Draft from the University of Rhode Island. However, a pair of Tommy John surgeries cut his professional baseball career short.

As the M.V.P., Officer Sterner won a Country Bank jersey, four V.I.P. tickets to a future WooSox game—at which he will be honored with the opportunity to throw

a Ceremonial First Pitch—and a gift card to The Mercantile Restaurant.

"There was an extraordinary feeling at this year's event," said Dr. Charles A. Steinberg, president of the Worcester Red Sox and the WooSox Foundation. "Our first responders are the heart and soul of Worcester, and we believe this friendly but competitive game will continue to grow into a civic treasure. We thank our friends and founding partners at Country Bank for collaborating with us yet again on what has become one of the most fun—and impactful—events of the year."

"Country Bank is honored to partner with the Worcester Red Sox Foundation in presenting the Police vs. Fire game," said Paul Scully, president and CEO of Country Bank. "We have been a longtime supporter of the Police and Fire Departments across the many markets we serve. The critical work these departments do each and every day truly makes a difference for our communities. It is also our privilege to support Why Me Sherry's House with this year's donation to assist them in the great work they do for Childhood Cancer."

At the inaugural game Sept. 26, 2022, \$15,680 was raised for the Manny 267 Foundation, which honors and celebrates the life of the late Worcester Police Officer Enmanuel "Manny" Familia, who made the ultimate sacrifice June 4, 2021, when he heroically dove into Green Hill Pond to attempt to save a drowning teenage boy.

In its first two years, the event raised \$31,430 for local causes that hit home for Worcester's first responders.

Country Bank is one of the WooSox' 21 founding partners. The WooSox Foundation and Country Bank also collaborate on the "Most Valuable Teachers" program, which recognizes extraordinary teachers



Courtesy photos



in the region, as well as the "WooStars" program, which rewards nonprofits driving social change across Central Massachusetts.

So far in 2023, the WooSox Foundation has donated \$88,760 toward the effort to conquer cancer.

Celebrate with us!

25 Years

Ruth's House Assisted Living

SAVE *the* DATE

Join us as we celebrate a quarter of a century caring for our elder community with a dedication, candle lighting, as well as remarks for the future. Light refreshments.

Sept. 19th
3:30-6:30
Program 4pm

RSVP
413-935-1791 or
mschelb@JGSLifecare.org

780 Converse Street, Longmeadow, MA