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SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

## SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE

### Firefighters honor the lives lost

By Patricia Sullivan  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Firefighters held a ceremony beginning at 9:55 a.m. on Sept. 11 to honor and remember the 343 firefighters who lost their lives in the terrorist attack in New York City 24 years ago.

Before the ceremony, Wilbraham Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Kristek pointed out that many firefighters who were on the scene have since died due to the toxic conditions at Ground Zero.

"It was the greatest loss of firefighters in our history," Kristek said.



Wilbraham firefighters observe a minute of complete silence on 9/11.

Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

"It's very important to continue to honor the people who died on that day," said Fire Chief Michael Andrews.

At 9:55 a.m., the Wilbraham firefighters rolled a truck out of its bay at the station to begin the remembrance ceremony.

At 10 a.m., Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Noto rang the station's antique 1928 Max-

ium Bell, which was used on Wilbraham's first motorized truck. Please see **SEPT. 11**, page 5

### Board approves Hill Climb for 2026

Contingencies are in place, however

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Select Board approved the Wilbraham Hill Climb for May 2026 contingent upon the receipt and completion of all application documents, inspections and fees in a 2-1 decision on Sept. 8. The decision comes after several meetings featuring community feedback, co-organizers Jeff DeMarey and Ed Cenedella addressing concerns and questions asked and thoughts shared by members of the board.

The most recent discussion on this topic took place on Aug. 11, which comprised a nearly 90-minute discussion where the board agreed on a goal to review information—including legal feedback—for a decision on the event by that Sept. 8 meeting.

Ahead of the vote, Police Chief Ed Lennon shared information on the no racing on a public way law.

Please see **HILL CLIMB**, page 4

### Hampden marks 9/11 anniversary in memorial ceremony

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The town of Hampden was among many communities throughout Western Massachusetts to mark the 24th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks in a memorial ceremony on Sept. 11. The ceremony took place

at 9:45 a.m. at the fire station. The attendees included local elected officials and members of the fire and police departments observing a moment of silence in memory of the victims who died at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville, PA, where Flight 93 went down as passengers fought back against the hijackers that day. Following the moment of

silence, members of the fire department then rang the bell and a poem was read to mark the anniversary. Hampden joins many other communities that held ceremonies throughout that day including Wilbraham, Ludlow, Belchertown, Chicopee, Palmer, Springfield, West Springfield, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow and Granby.



Photo courtesy of John Flynn

A member of the Hampden Fire Department reads a poem to commemorate the 24th anniversary of 9/11. The ceremony took place at the fire station.

### HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

### A man for all Glendale seasons

B. F. Greene left his mark on the mountain community

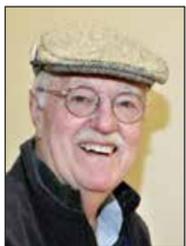
By Charles F. Bennett  
Times Editor Emeritus

Since all-rounded Wilbraham historian Henry Edson came from the Glendale section of Wilbraham, it would be normal for him to write about Glendale citizens in his memoirs, and that is what he did.

I picked out his essay about the Glendale citizen, B. Franklin Greene, that Edson highlighted in his "Glendale Stories" available at the Wilbraham Library.

My mom became friendly with Edson in the course of writing news stories about the Wilbraham Bicentennial Celebration (200th anniversary) all during the year of 1963 as the Wilbraham correspondent

for the Springfield Morning Union daily newspaper. The town was incorporated in 1763.



Charlie Bennett

She and Edson were on the phone a lot during that celebration-year because he was a fount of information that she could tap into for background for her news articles.

But first, here is some biographical information about Henry: Please see **HISTORY**, page 9

### Select Board approves entering opioid settlement agreement

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard unanimously approved on Sept. 8 to enter a settlement agreement for opioid settlements.

Selectboard Member Erik Vanderleeden was absent this week.

Town Administrator Brian Domina explained what this entails.

Please see **AGREEMENT**, page 3



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The Selectboard approved entering an opioid settlement agreement and awarded a contract for bathroom renovations at the Hampden Senior Center during their Sept. 8 meeting.

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# Wilbraham library hosts Reading with Mason event

By Natalie Proulx  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Sep. 8, the library hosted an independent reading event for young readers ages five and up to read to Mason, a therapy dog from the company Bright Spot Therapy Dogs Inc.

Families called to reserve a 10-minute slot for their child to read to Mason, or just be in his presence to get comfortable reading aloud.

Bonnie Osgood, a former Springfield public school educator and principal, was the volunteer for Bright Spot and owner of Mason, a golden retriever mix. Mason was rescued from Mason, Tennessee in the spring of 2019, where he originally got his name.

He's currently eight years old but still holds onto his puppy side within him.

"He just really bonds with...the sweet innocence of children," Osgood said.

Mason's strength in being a certified therapy dog is his soul connection to the little ones. This presence is what allows for such a comforting companionship especially in a situation like reading out loud that can be challenging for a child.

Before beginning this event at the library, Osgood and Mason would visit schools all around Springfield, going to special ed classrooms and attending special occasions for students.

Jamie Hageman, the children's librarian at the library, explained a little bit about how



Turley photo by Natalie Proulx  
Anna Moriarty and Mila Assaf sitting with their new four-legged friend.

this event came together. "Bonnie walked into the library with Mason to quickly check out a book and I just happened to be down in the lobby area," Hageman said, "We were in need of a new Bright Spot therapy dog, our previous one had retired, so I approached Bonnie and it really is magical...Bonnie is a retired school teacher and was eager to help out."

Hageman also clarified that going forward, this event will occur one Monday a month and be coordinated by families booking time slots for their little ones to come and read with

Bonnie and Mason. Osgood described a story of one of the girls she met with, explaining the importance and impact of an event like this. It brought the girl's grandmother to tears witnessing her granddaughter read out loud, seeming so comfortable after struggling for so long to read aloud to others.

"You never know the impact that a dog is going to make and he just made that little girl so comfortable, so safe to read out loud and smile while doing it," Osgood said.

Similarly, Hageman defined the value in offering this

program. "It's an important opportunity for kids who are potentially shy or have difficulties practicing their reading skills, not only in a small group setting but one to one with a therapy dog. They are empathetic listeners so it builds social and emotional skills, it builds reading skills, so that's something special that we can offer," Hageman said.

Osgood explained the core mission of Bright Spot Therapy Dogs.

"They recognize how therapeutic a dog can be for struggling children, struggling adults, just anyone who needs some positivity in their life and I think Bright Spot does a really good job with that," Osgood said.

One parent noticed a significant increase in her daughter's reading confidence, noting how calm she was afterwards and how much fun she was having with Mason. The effects that a dog can have on the human soul, to soften and warm our hearts is so powerful.

"There's something very therapeutic about petting a dog...sometimes you just need a hug and a dog hug is the best thing ever, it's unconditional love," Osgood said.

She went on to mention how this was just day one and there's always room to improve, learning what works and what doesn't work for the little ones going forward, but it's an exciting and valuable experience.

## AGREEMENT from page 1

"So, this is similar to the previous opioid settlements. There's settlements between the states, opioid manufacturers. So, these are not the primary manufacturers, but the secondary manufacturers. I'm not sure how they define those, but the state is entering into this proposed settlement agreement and all of the subdivisions of the state are eligible to participate," Domina said. "Which means that whatever municipalities want to sign up, they can. We currently receive opioid payments from settlements that I just talked about. It's not a significant amount of money, it's probably a couple hundred dollars that we get. I think it's—I want to guess—it's probably quarterly that we get it. I'm not sure that the town has used a lot of those funds to date."

Selectboard Member Don Davenport then asked a question.

"Wasn't there some proposal from Wilbraham or somebody that we would also acquire funds?" Davenport said.

Chair John Flynn added some clarity.

"It was that. There was also that group at the high school, I think it's called Above the Influence that we would donate some of the money to help them," Flynn said.

"Something like that," Davenport said.

"I don't think it went any further but that was one of the suggestions," Flynn said.

Domina also recalled the Hampden-Wilbraham Partners For Youth Coalition.

"There was talk about asking for access to those funds, but then I think that request fell away," Domina said.

Flynn added this point.

"I mean, obviously, these are—I'm going to say secondary—but the big money came from, what's the name of the family that had the big sauce?" Flynn said. "Sackler, right."

"For Dual Pharma," Davenport said.

Flynn then noted this would not need to go before the town meeting.

"This does not need to go to Town Meeting," Flynn said. "This is just adding them to the list, basically, right?"

Domina replied yes.

"I just wanted to make sure it was okay that you want to participate," Domina said.

Davenport affirmed yes.

"Yeah, we're going to join the settlement," Davenport said.

It was then voted and approved.

Another highlight was a contract awarded for the senior center bathroom renovation project.

Flynn shared it went out to bid and was part of the "omnibus motion article we had last year for septic bathroom and roof" for \$140,000.

There were three bids, with the lowest from Marois Construction that did the police station and addition to the Highway Department.

"Both good projects, done under budget and on time. However, the original estimate that came up was going to be like \$15,000 for the bathroom work, and you see the low bid is \$47,000," Flynn said.

"Becky (Moriarty) did secure a \$15,000 grant as well, so we have \$30,000 towards it. There is a request into the Friends to fund the difference as well as

there may also be some savings from the septic part of a couple thousand dollars that could be applied to it."

Flynn added there's no guarantees, but noted the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens presented this to see if they could help out, so "they would need a formal vote to do it."

On the omnibus article item, Flynn said due to it being this way, "there were no specific amounts in the motion."

"They have not gone out to do the roof part yet and as part of our next conversation, that roof part may not be done right away because there might be a more pressing need that would push off the roof until that was taken care of," Flynn said. "So, there is enough funding in the warrant article to get this done."

For the projects to move forward, Flynn said the contract should be awarded to "at least" Marois Construction "and get that moving on."

This was also unanimously approved and the bid awarded to Marois Construction.

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# WPL introduces Lego Club

By Angelina Acevedo  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Lego bricks, small and colorful plastic blocks that can be put together in endless ways, have been a staple of children's play for years and hold a great place in many kids' hearts.

On Wednesday, Sept. 10, the library allowed for kids to harness their own creativity with Lego's, their only limit being their imagination.

Lego Club officially started for the first time at the library in September, but the program is scheduled to continue monthly from here on out. There are scheduled times for Lego Club up until all the way in May, but they will not meet during February or March.

Children's Librarian Jamie Hageman was present at the event and helped to make sure those attending could create anything their heart desired.

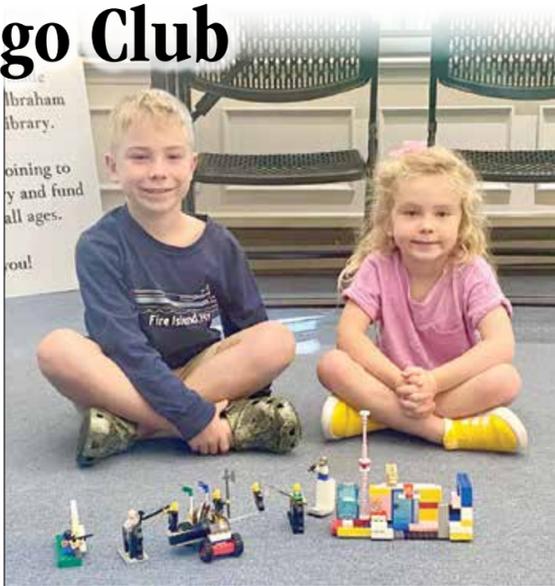
"Lego Clubs are actually pretty popular across the country, but this is our library's first session with it. These clubs are really great opportunities for

kids to experience open play and connect with other children in the community that they might not have talked to otherwise," Hageman said.

Hageman explained how Legos help children learn.

"Another great thing that the kids are able to experience here is STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) concepts, but in an unstructured way. Almost every day of these kids' lives are structured in school, and they have to do, for example, math every morning, then reading, then writing, and so on throughout the day," Hageman said. "Unstructured play is such a great way for kids to really learn concepts on their own terms, all while not being inside the classroom. The program also focuses on cooperation, communication, empathy, and social and emotional interactions."

The program is available for children ages five and up through fifth grade, limiting participants to younger children. However, parents are welcomed to help their kids create whatever comes to their imagination.



Michale and Isla Rafferty with their first creations of Lego Club.

"During this session, we chose not to have a 'theme' necessarily, and really lean into the unstructured play idea," Hageman said. "We do have cards with building prompts near the back, but the goal of today's meet is to just be connected with the material and others."

Hageman shared what fu-

ture attendees can expect at Lego Club.

"In the future, we could potentially have themes that the kids can work off of, if they wish. An overarching theme for a club meet would likely be related to the seasons or holidays coming up. Maybe in October we'll have a spooky Halloween theme for the kids,"



One of the four large Lego piles on the floor of the WPL for kids to use.

Hageman said.

This program is completely drop-in, meaning that registration is not required and families can come in at any time during the 4 to 6 p.m. session. Parents are required to stay with their kids during the event, but families are allowed to come and go whenever is most convenient for them.

After the event, Hageman takes pictures of the creations made at the club and displays them in the children's section

of the library to be admired.

"The library really has an abundance of Legos, so it's so nice to see them getting used and played with," Hageman said.

The next meeting for Lego Club is scheduled for Oct. 8 at the same time, 4 to 6 p.m. It's safe to say that based on the success of the library's first-ever meet that this club will remain a prominent and exciting part of young kids' lives.

## HILL CLIMB from page 1

"It was brought up that there was a law that there was no racing on a public way. That law is the speed contest law in Massachusetts. Basically, it's drag racing. So, one of the things we specifically did do for the Hill Climb is I produce a motion for the board to approve, which basically says for the duration of the Hill Climb that that road is closed. It's no longer a public way," Lennon said. "The speed contest law is for public ways. By doing that and making it not a public way for that period of time through that motion, that covers that. That's not in play. So, that doesn't apply."

When Chair Michael Squindo asked if this was run through a lawyer and Lennon replied no, he explained how he was trying to find information to figure out and understand the laws.

"One of the things that I've read—and it wasn't abetted by a lawyer—was it's still a public way even though you've changed its temporary purpose," Squindo said. "If

that's not true, that's great."

Lennon said, to his understanding, "once you declare it closed, that—for the purposes of a public way—it doesn't apply."

"In other words, it is going to be used for the purposes of the Hill Climb for that day, and it wouldn't be a drag race. There aren't two cars side by side or anything like that," Lennon said. "I don't think, by any way, meets the definition of the speed contest law. That is criminalizing people that are drag racing and this isn't that case."

Vice Chair Marc Ducey later said he thinks "it's a work in progress."

"I think we're going to need to kind of get a sense—at least from my perspective—get a sense as this moves forward with most of the restrictions, but some of the concerns we had and maybe we can get some updates as that happens," Ducey said. "But, it was clear to me that the large (amount of) people that we heard from—from the town—support the event, want the event to continue and I think we need to make that

happen, assuming the safety requirements are met that we think are appropriate."

Clerk Sue Bunnell agreed with Ducey.

"I certainly appreciate the work that was done—we have records of in our folder—with regard to, for example, the handicap access and the like," Bunnell said. "I thought that was really well-handled."

Squindo explained why he would be voting no.

"I will just say that, at this point, I will be voting no on the basis simply that I don't have an understanding from any legal review about stuff that we talked about with the chief tonight regarding is it a public way once it's closed by the police. Is it maintained as a public way under the implications of Mass General Law?" Squindo said. "I will share, probably, for the public's benefit, that there is a question that I sent via Nick (Breault) to our legal team regarding an act from 1908 and whether or not that act remains on the books, which actually expressly outlines the permissions to run things like the Hill Climb and involves a



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

The starting line at this year's Wilbraham Hill Climb. The Select Board made their decision on next year's event during their Sept. 8 meeting.

public hearing process, so I don't know that that law's still on the books, but I have questions about that. So, for those reasons, I'll be saying no."

Squindo's other reason went back to Ducey's earlier points on contingencies.

"I think the way I'm understanding this motion, it doesn't have a contingency in it. It goes back to the same conversation we had at the last

time we tried to contingent an approval. This says approve it. The only thing that's unknown at this point is a date. I don't know whether or not the addressing of the concerns that you said—to be determined—I don't know whether or not those get addressed by a permit or this simply says that technically the event can happen with a date to be determined," Squindo said.

Bunnell expressed an interest in expanding on the motion.

"I would certainly be interested in expanding the motion to include the standard language regarding approval of applications," Bunnell said.

"So, contingent upon—for lack of a better talking point here—it's the receipt and completion of application documents, inspections and fees," Squindo said.

After Ducey agreed to amend the motion to include this, he added this.

"I think Ed and Jeff were pretty good with working with us and I expect that to continue, so I'm not too alarmed by that. I think that's there's some things we need to work on, but it's clear to me the community wants to do that. We just need to make sure it's safe," Ducey said.

Squindo again emphasized his biggest concern was the legal side.

"I hear all of that. My biggest concern at this point remains the fact that whether or not this is legally permissible. So, without that, I don't know that I'll be approving anything," Squindo said.



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# Chicopee art teacher joins Wilbraham Cultural Council

Beth McDonald is the newest member of the board.

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – There is a new member of the Wilbraham Cultural Council.

Beth McDonald, a long-standing art teacher at Chicopee High School, was appointed to the group by the Select Board on the evening of Sept. 8.

McDonald is relatively new to Wilbraham and wants to branch out.

"I moved to Wilbraham in 2021. I have two kiddos in the

school district now," McDonald said. "I'm an art teacher... So, connection to art is kind of an important piece for me."

McDonald said she has taught at Chicopee High School for 18 years. She explained how she learned about the vacancy on the Cultural Council.

"My daughter does piano lessons with [Cultural Council Chair] Jane Clark. She spoke to me about how they were having some openings for the Cultural Council and that perhaps I would be someone interested in participating in something with that," McDonald said.

McDonald weighed her options and decided that joining would be a good idea. She

is optimistic the experience will allow her to meet more people locally while enabling her to pursue her passion for art.

"I thought that would be a great way for me to get involved with the town a bit more, being newish," McDonald said. "And I felt it was a good way to kind of step into it and be connected to things that I'm very passionate about when it comes to art, music, theater and all those kinds of things."

According to her LinkedIn page, McDonald began teaching at Chicopee High School in August 2007.

Since June 2013, she has also been a painting instructor and artist at the Brush It Off

Paint & Sip Bar in Sturbridge.

Academically, McDonald earned her bachelor's degree in art from Westfield State University, where she graduated in 2005. She later earned her master's degree in art education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2011.

The Cultural Council now consists of 9 members. McDonald's term will end in 2028.

Members are appointed for staggered terms of three years, and no member can be appointed for more than two consecutive terms.

To join, members must have demonstrated scholarship or creativity in, or distinguished service, to the arts,

humanities or interpretive sciences, the council's website says.

The mission of the group is to help local arts and humanities groups and individuals fund their programs for the well-being and enjoyment of the town.

Last year, the Cultural Council awarded grants for programs at the library for children, teens and adults. The council also granted money to assist local theatre productions, facilitate winter concerts and help make possible summer festivals for all ages.

It also aided programs at Minnechaug Regional High School and the senior center.

# Clothing and Household Textile Drive Oct. 4

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL), a non-profit committed to raising funds for the Wilbraham Public Library, is holding a clothing and textile drive on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

During back-to-school season, remember the WFOL as you sort through your kids closets and drawers. And don't stop there... clean out that linen closet and the old dresser in the guest room. Bag up all the extra clothing and textiles that are just clogging up your home. Clothing, shoes, purses, sheets & blankets, curtains - give them a new lease on life!

Millions of pounds of clothing and household textiles used to end up in U.S. landfills each year. Current Massachusetts laws ban disposal of textiles, easing the burden on landfills but leaving some to wonder just what to do with it all. The WFOL Clothing & Household Textile Drive gives you the opportunity to take responsible action through donations and upcycling.

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

Join us with your clothing drive donations on October 4, learn more about the Friends, and receive a coupon for a free book at our Annual Book Sale which is scheduled to take place in May 2026.

For more information on the Wilbraham Friends of the Library visit them on the web at <http://wilbrahamlibrary.org/friends.asp>, on Facebook or via email at [wfol.info@gmail.com](mailto:wfol.info@gmail.com).



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan  
Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Kristek reads the Firefighters' Prayer.



Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Noto rings the station's bell during the 9/11 ceremony.



Firefighter/Paramedic Derrick Merrill raises and lowers the flag at the Wilbraham Fire Department.

## SEPT. 11 from page 1

pumper. Noto rang the bell in four sets of five chimes. Known as "striking the four fives," this is the traditional way to commemorate fallen firefighters.

Firefighter/Paramedic Derrick Merrill then raised and lowered the station's American flag to half mast.

All firefighters present then observed a minute of silence.

Next, Andrews read a prayer that began: "Oh God, we remember before you this day our brothers and sisters lost on September 11, 2001.

We thank you for their example of courage and sacrifice."

Kristek read the Firefighters' Prayer that begins: "When I am called to duty, wherever flames may rage, give me the strength to save a life, whatever be its age."

Noto then struck the four fives once more to conclude the ceremony and firefighters returned to work.

Andrews was a firefighter on duty in Lincoln, Rhode Island on Sept. 11, 2001. He recalls watching the news at the fire station in a heightened state of alert.

Other Wilbraham firefighters were quite young at the

time, but remember the day vividly. Deputy Chief Mathew Walch watched the news as a 9th grader at the new high school in Monson, Mass.

Kristek, then in eighth grade at Hopkins Academy in Hadley, Mass., said that the tragedy of Sept. 11 increased his commitment to the idea of public service.

"Seeing that was huge,"

Kristek said.

Wilbraham has a long-standing reminder of Sept. 11 in Rick's Place at Post Office Park.

Wilbraham native Rick Thorpe, a 1984 graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School, worked as a vice president at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods Inc. in Tower 2 of the World Trade Center and lost

his life on Sept. 11.

Rick's Place opened in 2007 as a nonprofit that provides free grief support to children and their families after a loved one has died.

The Rick's Place Golf Classic will be held at the Wilbraham Country Club on Sept. 20 to celebrate his memory and support the center.



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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

I'd like to retire early, but don't want my Social Security reduced

Dear Rusty:

I will be 65 this year and my husband is 72 (he retired in 2019 at age 66).

I would like to retire and enjoy some time with him before he gets too much older. I do not want to have my benefits cut by retiring earlier, but I don't see a way to be able to do that. My benefit will be \$,1343 on my Full Retirement Age.

If I took half his retirement when he retired, it would be less than mine. If I take early retirement and he passes away before me, would I get his full benefit as his survivor or will it be cut? We are trying to figure it out. His current benefit (before Medicare Part B) is \$2,978. It's very confusing.

Signed: Confused and Wondering

Dear Confused:

Whenever any Social Security benefit is claimed earlier than Full Retirement Age, the monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you were to retire at age 65, your Social Security benefit would be reduced by about 13% - in other words, if your FRA (age 67) amount is \$1,343, at 65 you would get about \$1,164. And at age 66 you would get about \$1,253 per month.

Whether you would be entitled to a "spousal boost" from your husband depends on how your FRA amount compares to 50% of his FRA entitlement. If your FRA amount is less than 50% of his FRA amount, then you would get a "spousal boost," but the amount of that boost would also be reduced if you claim before your FRA. Note: from the numbers you provided, you may be entitled to a spousal boost and, if so, it would be applied by Social Security when you claim.

Also, FYI, if you take SS before your FRA and are still working, Social Security has an annual earnings test which limits

how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. If you earn more than \$23,400 in 2025, you will likely not get all of your monthly SS payments (SS will take away some monthly benefits if you exceed the earnings limit). Of course, if you retire from working, this will not be a problem, because earnings before you claim SS won't count toward the limit.

When you claim your SS retirement benefit now will not affect your survivor benefit from your husband later. If your husband passes first, your benefit as a surviving spouse would be based on the amount your husband was receiving at his death. But if you were to claim your widow's benefit prior to your FRA, your survivor benefit would also be reduced (the amount of reduction depends on how much before your FRA you claim your survivor benefit). If you claim your widow's benefit at or after your FRA, you will get 100% of the amount your husband was receiving at his death instead of your own smaller amount. It will only be reduced if you claim before your full retirement age.

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

your health By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN Guest Column

is finding that the risks of even moderate alcohol intake outweigh its benefits. Alcohol consumption

The alcohol conundrum

Excessive alcohol consumption has long been recognized as an illness that contributes to societal problems like drunk driving and domestic violence, along with a host of physical ailments that are potentially fatal.

Right up until the 21st century, though, there was consensus that moderate alcohol intake did little harm, and might even have had some health benefits. Red wine, in particular, was found to contain antioxidants like resveratrol that may lower blood pressure and polyphenols, which may improve blood flow to the heart.

That was then, and this is now. Increasingly, research

is a risk factor for several types of cancer, including breast, colorectal and oral cavity cancers. According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), moderate drinkers have a 1.23-fold higher risk of alcohol-related cancers.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says that there is no safe level of alcohol consumption, and that even relatively low levels can increase the risk of breast cancer.

And a large British study released just this month found "light" drinking (about an ounce of spirits a day for men and half an ounce for women) was associated with an increase in cancer deaths among older participants. The risk was greater for those who had existing health problems or

Please see ALCOHOL, page 10

Letters to the Editor

Wilbraham broadband plan puts taxpayers at risk

To the Editor,

In the Sept. 4 issue of The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Dalton Zbierski reported on Spectrum's presentation to the Select Board. At that meeting, a representative of the Town's Broadband Committee claimed Wilbraham could build and operate its own broadband system for \$60 per month per subscriber. This statement is false.

Building a town-owned, all-underground broadband network would require years of construction, evolving

technology, and millions of dollars in taxpayer funding. At the same time, Wilbraham faces pressing needs for schools, roads, parks, and municipal services, all while state and federal support is shrinking.

On Aug. 25, despite these dire fiscal realities, the Select Board added development of a town-owned broadband system to its top five priorities without public debate, questions to the current provider, or consistent meeting minutes available for review. That is not transparent or responsible government.

sponsible government.

As one resident put it, such a project could cost the equivalent of "two Senior Centers." Taxpayers deserve better oversight, and the Taxpayers Protection Alliance urges the Finance Committee to provide it.

The facts are clear: this project would be disruptive, duplicative, and financially reckless. Wilbraham should say no.

David Williams, president of the Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

Levi's first mountain

By Julie Midura Correspondent

I knew going into this hike that it would require a strategy. You see, our energetic 3-year-old grandson, Levi, can play outside for hours, but walking uphill for long distances isn't his strong point. Peaked Mountain in Monson is not a long or strenuous hike, but when you're not even 3 feet tall, even 475 feet of elevation gain can feel like Mt. Everest.

He started strong, making it to the frog-filled pond with ample energy, but about a third of the way to the top, he said, "Memere, pick me up."

Since carrying my 28-pound grandson to the summit was not what I had in mind, I decided to utilize every ploy in my arsenal to ensure that he would hike the trail under his own power. I implemented Ploy #1... DISTRACTION.

"Let's look for the red blazes on the trees," I said. Levi inched his way forward in search of the large red painted circles marking the trail. "I see one!" he exclaimed each time he saw a blaze. This only distracted him for a distance of three blazes, so I needed a new distraction.

I asked him if he wanted to be a big boy and use one of my trekking poles like the 'real hikers' do. His eyes lit up. I shortened one of my poles and showed him how to use it. He wrapped his tiny hand around the handle, and for the next 5 minutes, he was so busy staring at the tip of the trekking pole with each step forward that he kept tripping on it.



Submitted photos



is, the trail became steeper, and he suddenly proclaimed, "I can't do it!"

It was time for Ploy #2- DISCOVERIES.

"Look, Levi! There's are more mushrooms up ahead. Let's go see them!" "What kind of animal do you think made the hole in that stump?" "Check out this stack of rocks! It's called a cairn." "Oh look! A sign! Do you want me to read it to you?"

With each step, Levi's interest was piqued, his imagination increased, and his self-confidence soared. ALL the way to the very top of the mountain, at 1,227 feet!

Levi seemed less than impressed with the views, but very excited to celebrate his victory with mini muffins and apple juice. Once he had popped the last muffin in his mouth, he was off like a rocket, exploring the summit. We allowed him the freedom to test his abilities. Levi climbed, jumped and scrambled over numerous boulders. He tripped, then righted himself. He learned what his three-year-old self was capable of.

When he asked Tom and I if we could play hide and

Please see HIKE, page 8

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM EDITOR Kristin Rivers krivers@turley.com ADVERTISING SALES Jocelyn Walker jwalker@turley.com SPORTS EDITOR Greg Scibelli sports@turley.com

Editorial Policy Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language.

Election letters to the editor welcome The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden Times, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to krivers@turley.com.



DAVE GRANLUND www.davegranlund.com

A COMMUNITY GALLERY

*Life in*

Readers are encouraged to send in medium to high resolution photos for this page by e-mail to [krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com) or mail to TIMES, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

## Wilbraham History Trivia Winners...



Submitted photo and caption Charlie Bennett  
 The Wilbraham Athenium Society Held a Wilbraham History Trivia Contest at the Sept. 7 Old Meeting House Museum emceed by Atheneum V. P. Karen Geaghan (center). 1st was (from left) Maura Donovan, 2nd Tom Laware Jr. and 3rd, a team of Ciccì and Susele Santucci. They each won a tee-shirt.

## 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 [krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com)

The Hampden Police Department has seen a significant increase in electric bike (E-Bike) usage over the last several months, specifically, "E Dirt Bike" style vehicles. More concerning is that officers are encountering individuals as young as 13 years old on public ways within our town, often operating in a reckless manner without the knowledge, experience or wherewithal for motor vehicle safety.

These E Dirt Bikes are subject to M.G.L. Chapter 90B Recreational Vehicle enforcement as well as M.G.L. Chapter 90 enforcement on public ways.

**Class 1- E Bike**

- Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the E-Bike reaches 20 mph, with an electric motor of 750 watts or less.
- NOT considered "motorized bicycle", therefore no license required.

**Class 2- E Bike**

- Bicycle equipped with pedals along with a throttle-actuated motor that ceases to provide assistance when the E-Bike reaches 20 mph, with an electric motor of 750 watts or less.
- NOT considered "motorized bicycle", therefore no license required.

M.G.L. 90B(1) ANY VEHICLE THAT IS NOT EQUIPPED OR ASSISTED WITH PEDALS, HAS AN ELECTRIC MOTOR OF 750 WATTS OR GREATER, AND CAN EXCEED OVER 20 MPH IS CONSIDERED A MOPED OR MOTORCYCLE, WHICH REQUIRES A DRIVER'S LICENSE (18+), REGISTRATION AND HELMET APPROVED BY DOT.

WE ENCOURAGE BOTH PAGING AND BOOKS TO ENHANCE TRAFFIC SAFETY ON OUR ROADS AND REGULARS OF THE DIFFERENT CLASSES OF E-BIKES, ROAD SAFETY WHILE OPERATING AND POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATING MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER 90B.

E-BIKES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION, TITLE OR SALES TAX.

Summary of Off-Highway Vehicle Safety Laws 1/18/2017

## WPD receives Starbucks treat



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department  
 Thank you Stephanie and crew at the Wilbraham Starbucks for dropping off treats on Sept. 5. Highly recommend the Chocolate cake pops... way better than donuts!

## Museum doll found some new admirers...

Submitted photo and caption Charlie Bennett



The Wilbraham Athenium Society Held Their "Treasures from the Attic" exhibit at their Sept. 7 Open House at the Old Meeting House Museum. This turn-off-the century doll, hidden away up in the attic, was dusted off and found some new admirers.



submitted photo and caption Sue Agnew

## Honored members of Saint Cecilia Women's Club

At the September meeting of the Saint Cecilia Women's Club the following members were honored for special anniversaries of service to the club: (left to right) Harriet Pabich, & Ann Mango, 50 years each, Marie Greco, 45 years, Ginny McGovern & Karen Madden, 35 years each, Joan Maggi, 25 years, and Jackie Madden, 60 years!

## Hampden Police Dept. shares e-bike law information

Photos and caption courtesy of Hampden Police Department  
 The Hampden Police Department shared safety information on electric bike—or e-bikes—on their Facebook, providing these slides to educate residents on the laws and how to stay safe.

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 <b>Saturday Sept. 20</b> ATOA RIPLEY	 <b>Saturday Sept. 27</b> JOE PERREIRA	 <b>Saturday Oct. 4</b> PETER NEWLAND	 <b>Saturday Oct. 11</b> CHARLIE BONGIOVI
			 <b>Friday Oct. 17</b> FRED MARION
			 <b>Saturday Oct. 18</b> LUTHER

# Above The Influence Club Walk takes place Sept. 27

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Minnechaug Regional High School's Above the Influence Club will hold their Eighth Annual ATI Club Walk on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The annual walk—which is also a fundraising event—will support Partnership to End Addiction.

It takes place at the Minnechaug Outdoor Cross Country Trail. The trail is located near the far corner of the teacher parking lot.

The event sponsors are Park Cleaners, Inc., Guardian Uniform & Supply, Gio's Pizzeria, Mandarin Wilbraham, Rice Fruit Farm, Fiore Real Estate, Five Star Games - Wilbraham, Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth, Spartan Auto Care Center, LUSO Federal Credit Union, Village Store & Cafe, Pawspaw Full Service Pet Spa, InnerGlow Skin Studio, Biermann Services, StricklyCustoms, Country Bank, The Plaza Shoppe, Steve's Sports, Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden, Comb & Company Salon & Day Spa, Mental Health Association Inc., Empower Health Group, Wild Roots Farm and Was Brothers Construction.

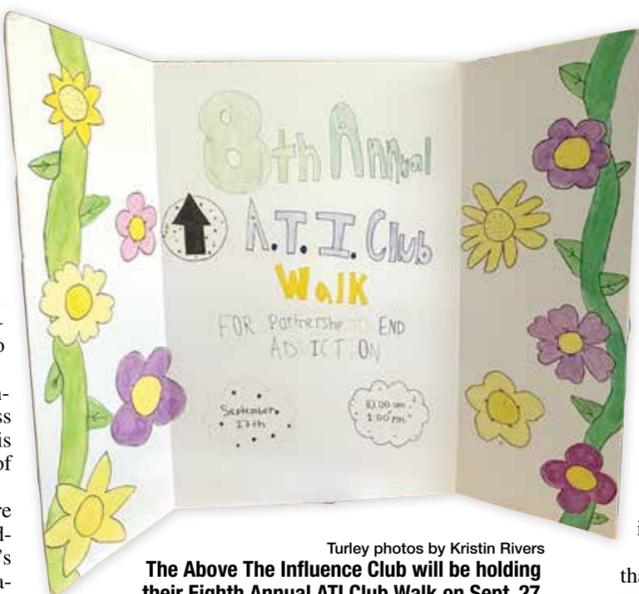
Sophomores Brooke Johnson and Demetrius Holmes joined the ATI Club as freshmen and will participate in the event for the first time this year. They both heard about the club itself through Freshman Orientation and decided to attend the first meeting.

"We've both known about it because it's a pillar event in the community," Johnson said. "The club as a whole, we work really hard with community outreach. One of our biggest values is really reducing drug risk and drug prevention."

"It is a great event for all ages and the people going have grown exponentially from 75 to 100 per year and it's still growing," Holmes said.

Also, Johnson and Holmes are coalition officers and work with the Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth.

"We work with them a lot and both of them just have



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
**The Above The Influence Club will be holding their Eighth Annual ATI Club Walk on Sept. 27.**

such a great initiative. Demetrius and I combined, we've probably done close to 65 events," Johnson said.

The club, the students explained, also does other events including canned food drives, selling items at lunch, a clothing drive for MiraVista and going to the Veterans Home and Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

Also, flowers for suicide awareness.

"We work with this other organization and we give out flowers at lunch. They're free and they just have nice messages written on them," Johnson said.

Aiden Whitaker, a senior, is also a coalition officer and got involved through his girlfriend, Sadie Blair.

"It's really fun. I'm excited for everyone," Whitaker said. "Everyone's going to be happy and there's going to be a lot of pictures that are going to be posted to spread the influence, bunch of hashtags and all that. It'll be really fun."

Whitaker explained the event is important to help people learn about the club and stay on a good path as they find out who they are.

"I know people that have joined and changed how they act and I think it's a really good thing," Whitaker said.

He also enjoys helping people.

"Since I was really little, I always wanted to help people and make a change," Whitaker said. "It definitely is a very

nice mental thing to know that you're helping people and you're just getting the message out there. Even if people don't listen, they see it and it means a lot mentally, just as personal goals to know that you're helping."

Nicholas Gencarelli, also a sophomore, joined after an invite from a friend.

"I enjoyed it, so I kept staying with it. I enjoy working with youth to help other youth stay above the influence and I just enjoy meeting new people who have the same interests as me," Gencarelli said.

Gencarelli appreciates the event's growth year after year and hopes it continues, along with the club's growth.

"We're very happy to see this many people participate in the club and an event like this, and we're excited to see where it gets in the future and what impact we can make," Gencarelli said.

He encouraged more students to get involved.

"Having youth work towards this allows more multiple perspectives. It allows many people to come together and it is very important for younger generations to do it because we have a bigger say in what's happening in our future," Gencarelli said.

Club Advisor Jay Dalessio shared the event has raised between \$17,000 to \$18,000 in the past, with \$3,000 already raised this year thanks to sponsors lending their support. It's also the first time the event is held in September.

"All of these businesses that are here, there's like a connection to the school as well. So, it's nice to see all these places give back that had a past connection to Minnechaug," Dalessio said.

Dalessio is also thrilled so many students are part of the club.

"This school has dealt with many things, you know what I'm saying? Many deaths, whether it's mental health. So many kids have passed away. In my 23 years here, I've probably been to, like, 20 funerals, and I would say 16 of them have been like substance-abuse-related," Dalessio said. "So, I like to do this kind of stuff to show support and, also, to support those that we've lost so that they see that we're doing something moving forward."

Dalessio encourages the community to attend the event and lend their support.

"The ATI Club has worked really hard to put this walk together. All the students have met with me over the summer," Dalessio said.



Demetrius Holmes and Brooke Johnson, members of the club, reflected on when they first joined.



Aiden Whitaker, another member, shared he enjoys the opportunity to help others.

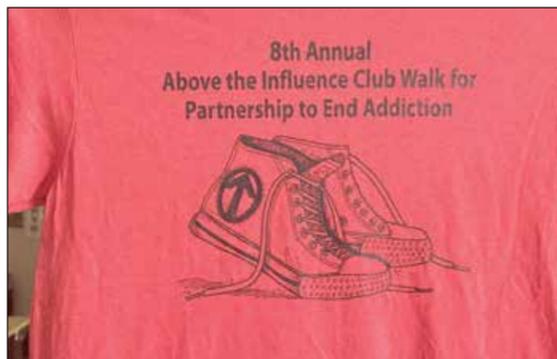


Nicholas Gencarelli, another member, encouraged more students to get involved in the club.

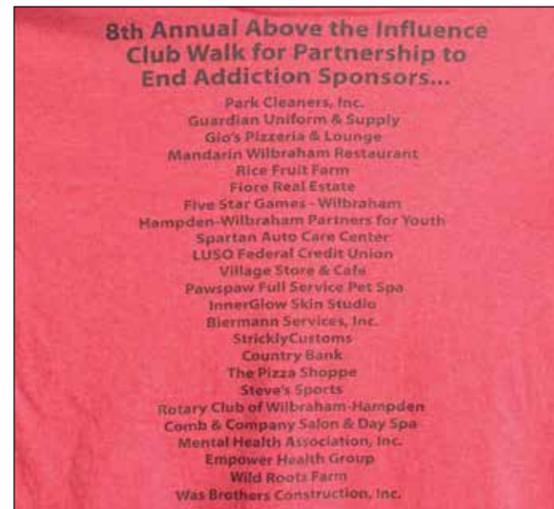
"I have some kids that are going to be showing up an hour and a half before the walk, some are staying an hour and a half after the walk to clean up. They've been doing a lot of work and so it'd be nice for a bunch of people to show up

not only to support Partnership to End Addiction, but also support all the hard work the kids have put into it."

Students can learn more about the club on Instagram at @ATIClubUpdates.



The logo on the t-shirt for this year's walk.



A full list of this year's sponsors.

## Luncheon Card & Game Party happening Sept. 25

WILBRAHAM - Fall into Fun at the Luncheon Card & Game Party sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club on Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center,

42 Main St., Wilbraham. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with a delicious luncheon served at Noon. Bring friends and come to play any game of your choice (domi-

noes, mahjong, bridge, canasta, scrabble, etc.).

Donation is \$10 and there will be a raffle for cash prizes. Proceeds help to fund our scholarships and donations

to charitable organizations in the area.

For reservations, please call Sue Agnew, 596-9480. Hope you will join us for a fun afternoon.

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### HIKE from page 6

seek, we happily obliged. Tom and I spent close to an hour taking turns hiding so that Levi could find us. However, I drew the line when he said, "I'm going to hide by myself, and you and grandpa can come find me." Sorry little man, unless you're wired with a tracker, that's not happening!

When it was finally time to head down, Levi once again asked me to carry him. So I resorted to Ploy #3... BRIBERY. "Levi, if you can make it all the way down to the trailhead on your own two legs, we can stop for an ice cream on the way home."

Needless to say, the vanilla ice cream with rainbow sprinkles sure hit the spot!

Spending time in nature is crucial to a child's physical health, as well as for their emotional and intellectual development. The best way for children to grow up to be healthy, well-rounded individuals with a strong sense of independence and compassion is to get them

off of the screens and into nature. The benefits of outdoor play cannot be understated.

A child needs unstructured time to explore their natural environment. They need to be encouraged to play in a stream, walk through the woods, dig in the dirt, go fishing, or even climb a mountain. Many important life skills that children will need as they grow into teens and adults can be learned through outdoor activities—skills such as multi-tasking, troubleshooting, planning and prioritizing. Outdoor play also helps to build self-confidence, independence and self-esteem. It decreases stress, and increases attention, focus and motivation. I encourage every parent and grandparent to do everything you can to get the children in your life outdoors. Teaching children to appreciate our natural world and all of its wonders is one of the most amazing gifts that you can give them!

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# Select Board continues noise limit discussion

Police Chief Ed Lennon joined the chat on Monday

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – For the second consecutive meeting, the Wilbraham Select Board discussed noise limits and where exactly the town stands on the enforcement of them.

During Monday's meeting, Police Chief Ed Lennon joined the conversation. Select Board Chair Michael Squindo introduced Lennon, who began delving into the obstacles the town faces when monitoring and enforcing noise limits.

"It's challenging, as you obviously know," Lennon said. "The licensing regulations we have for the town, if you read them, they basically spell out what a violation is. Unfortunately, that can be hard to define because it says, 'plainly audible.' But what's 'plainly audible?' How far away is it? Things like that become challenging."

Lennon said the police department sometimes receives complaints about licensed premises being too loud. During those situations, officers will arrive on scene to make an evaluation.

"If we have to, we do have a noise decibel meter. We will break that out and go to various places to see what the decibel reading is," Lennon said. "Our bylaw does not have any decibel readings or thresholds. It's just 'unreasonable.' Also, the licensing regulation does not have any decibels, so it's more about what is 'reasonable.'"

Lennon said that 60 decibels during the day is considered reasonable, and 45 decibels is considered reasonable at night. Anything over those limits would be considered unreasonable.

"That can be difficult," Lennon said.

Over the years, the department has received complaints about a party or wedding coming from someone who lives six blocks away.

"So, we'll go two blocks away, and you can't hear the noise. Completely can't hear

it. So, we'll go to the person six blocks away to just tell them that we can't hear it two blocks away. When we get six blocks away, it's plainly audible. Like you can hear it. So, sound travels in various ways," Lennon said.

He added that sound can bounce off Wilbraham's hills in unusual ways as well, sending them in "crazy directions."

Lennon said that his team does what it can, but it is extremely challenging.

During the prior meeting, Select Board Clerk Sue Bunnell brought up a noise complaint regarding Fern Valley Farms and that she heard from a resident who proposed that the town adopt a law that is in place in a community on Cape Cod.

Bunnell acknowledged that the noise limits are currently difficult to enforce.

"Obviously, being the enforcement authority is challenging," Bunnell said. "We haven't received a lot of complaints, but I think it's a conversation we should be having."

Bunnell added that she ap-

preciated the resident coming forward to introduce a new idea and hopes it could be useful down the line.

"I would basically tuck that away until we feel like we're at a level where we feel it needs to be under consideration," Bunnell said.

Select Board Vice Chair Marc Ducey also offered his opinion.

"It seems to be the thing around the noise issue is, if you try to make it more restrictive, you just create different problems," Ducey said. "So, I almost like the point of reasonable or unreasonable, then you... deal with them in a one-off situation and hope you can kind of work through them in that way."

Ducey questioned that if someone raises their noise one decibel past the limit, are they really breaking the law?

"It's not going to make the person complaining feel better because the difference between 50 and 51 is going to make no difference to them," Ducey said. "So, the idea of reasonable or unreasonable makes sense."

# Minnechaug Land Trust Volunteer Maintenance Day

HAMPDEN - We're back with a volunteer opportunity for you this Fall! Come join us on Saturday Sept. 27 from 9:30 a.m. to Noon to help maintain our popular Goat Rock Trails. You may have heard that Goat Rock was originally called "Goat Rocks," and received its name in the late 1700's after one of William King's goats became caught in the rocks and died. Many hikers in Hampden and the surrounding towns know Goat Rock and its trails well.

Due to the popularity of Goat Rock and its trail system, we will need volunteers to help with various tasks, including trash pick-up, re-painting kiosks at the trail entrances, re-marking trail blazes, fixing water diversions on trails coming up from Memorial Park, clearing weeds and brush from vistas, and maintaining trail edges and boundaries as needed.

Please meet us at the trailhead in the Memorial Park parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

Memorial Park is located at 495 Main Street, Hampden.

Volunteers are welcome to meet up with us on the trails anytime between 9:30 a.m. to Noon. A digital copy of the trail map can be found via the following link: Goat Rock Trail Map or looking up Goat Rock Trail on the Alltrails App.

Sturdy shoes, clothes that can get dirty, gloves, water, bug spray, and a backpack are recommended, other tools will be provided. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to bring battery-operated hedge trimmers if possible.

Questions can be sent to either Charlie Thompson at [charles344@gmail.com](mailto:charles344@gmail.com) or Jenn Bagge at [jenn.bagge@gmail.com](mailto:jenn.bagge@gmail.com).

Volunteer trail days are our favorite events of the Minnechaug Land Trust and a great way to get outside and give back within the community. Without you, our lovely trail systems, serene woodlands, and iconic views would not exist. Thank you for your support.

## HISTORY from page 1

In the "History of Wilbraham" book, edited by Charles Merrick, Edson, 1878 – 1963, is listed as a "farmer, surveyor, cartographer and chronicler of local facts and fancies." He was tree warden, forest warden, cemetery commissioner and assessor, so you can see why it was certain that Edson "knew where the bodies were buried."

When he was forest warden, he found the first known case of chestnut blight in Massachusetts. He drew up two authoritative maps of the town. The Merrick book called him, "An ardent Methodist, he was a mainstay of the Glendale Church. And, naturally, his memoirs contain stories about the stalwart Glendale B. F. Greene Family."

### B. F. Greene

Although B. F. Greene (1844-1928) and his wife Isinella Bennett Greene (1853-1920) were always affiliated with Glendale Methodist Church, across from Glendale Cemetery, they are both buried down in the valley at Woodland Dell Cemetery, off of Main Street.

Henry Edson wrote that the Greene's, as young people, sang in the choir under the direction of James Bennett, Isinella's father, as did their children. For a while B. F. left the church. But he returned when his good friend A. Jackson Blanchard, the most prominent church member of his day, died.

Edson said Greene returned to take his place in the community, as if by some prearrangement between them.

Blanchard taught Bible Classes in the Sunday School for 20 years and Greene continued his work as long as he could travel up and down the hilly sections of Wilbraham. Greene was president of the church Board of Trustees and was in charge of investment and finances.

Greene was remembered for his work in the commu-

nity, "from the work parties like repairing of horse sheds and barns destroyed by heavy snows" and more.

At the turn of the century a memorial society in town, at the suggestion of a few remaining Civil War veterans, made Greene president and they worked painstakingly to erect a memorial boulder.

Greene took charge of the project and after a particularly busy day's work on their mission, a baseball game broke out, and though Greene was in his 60's then, legend has it that he "Pulled off his heavy work boots, and in his stocking feet, played better than his young companions."

### 1913

In 1913, the town's 150th Anniversary planning committee decided to hold three separate celebrations. An historical address and parade down Main Street, a dedication of the new library in North Wilbraham, and a dedication of the Soldier's Boulder next to Glendale Cemetery. Greene was chairman of the unveiling of the boulder at the town's 150th Anniversary which carried the engraved names of Wilbraham soldiers from various wars.

On the third day of the 150th anniversary, June 19, 1913, the headlines screamed "Veterans Unveil Massive Boulder" – "Wilbraham Pays Tribute to War Heroes in Closing Day's Exercises".

In those days Glendale, which prior to the Civil War was part of the Underground Railroad, was ablaze with grassy glens and dales. With patriotic bunting on nearby homes the important boulder project that had been overseen by B. F. Greene, was dedicated.

The newspapers of the day described the event: "A goodly amount" of Civil War veterans were joined by school children from the Glendale School No. 7 for the dedication at 11 a.m.

The children sang and recited patriotic selections. It was remembered that 36



B. F. Greene supervised the placement of the war memorial boulder at Glendale Cemetery to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Town. The boulder was unveiled in 1913 by two Civil War veterans. (Times file photo)

men from Wilbraham turned out to respond to the Concord and Lexington Alarm against the British at the beginning of the American Revolution. And, the crowd was reminded that 223 Wilbraham soldiers fought in the Civil War.

Edson noted that Civil War veterans William Rice and F. Elmer Lemon dramatically pulled the cords that lifted the flags that had been draped over the boulder, officially unveiling it.

After the ceremonies the women of Glendale served a bountiful dinner in Glendale Church and poems were read.

Greene always wanted to buy the church a new bell, never got around to it, but left a bequest of \$300 to buy one.

The money for the bell was kept in the church's account, gaining interest until it was learned that a fine bell was torn down from a church in Warren, Mass. by the destructive Great Hurricane of 1938 (they didn't name hurricanes back then). The church used the money from Greene to buy the Warren bell and installed it in the church in 1940 with Greene's family members at the dedication.

Personally, Mr. Greene provided for the education of their children. He was an avid reader, looked forward to spending times with his books and was especially interested in French literature.

Mrs. Greene's father was a musician and she inherited his taste in religious music, so the children were brought up in a cultured home, said Edson. Their son Oliver built up a flourishing milk business raising their own cows and buying up milk from neighboring Glendale farms, of which there were many.

A son Sherman was exempted from the draft for

World War I and tragically died of the Flu in 1918 at the age of 27. Mrs. Greene died in 1920 at the age of 67.

Oliver, the first Wilbraham farmer to own a tractor, successfully managed the milk business while his father, who had a good mind for numbers, did well in investments and carried the Gold Cane as the oldest person in town. He died in 1928 at age 84.

Revolutionary Moment We continue to honor our country's birthday, 250 years of freedom, each month.

One of the great causes of the Revolutionary War, wrote historian Rufus Stebbins, was, "taxation without representation". In response, in the Fall of 1774, the Wilbraham Town Constable was instructed to make no further payments of tax collections to the Province Treasurer. The town's militia officers began enlisting for a select, volunteer unit of 50 who pledged to



Henry Edson (Times file photo)

equip themselves to be ready to march on call.

Village Store steps update: At the end of last month's column we ran a photo of some steps at the side of the Village Store and asked readers if they knew the story behind them. Patti Colkos wrote

Hi Charlie, I saw your article in this week's times with

### 63 Years Ago

**Harvest Supper Planned**

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From a September 1962 edition. "Committee members of the Wilbraham Chapter of Eastern Star have planned their third annual harvest supper (smorgasbord) to be held Sept. 14 (1962) at the Masonic Hall on Woodland Dell Road. Members are Mrs. John Armstrong, Mrs. Ralph Ormsbee, Homer Herrick and Mrs. Robert Welch."

the picture and question about the mystery steps at the Village store. I contacted Betsy Johnson who use to own the store. She thought that maybe they led to a back door for the upstairs apartment. Hope you find an answer.

Interesting article regarding the Colonial Valuations. I loved reading about the historical homes. So glad a marker is being put near Federal Lane. I always thought one should be put where the old Bennett Turkey Farm was.

Patti Colkos

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; Chauncey Peck who wrote "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913. "Glendale Stories" by Henry Edson.



Male members of Glendale's Greene Family. (From left) Patriarch B. Franklin Greene, Herbert Greene, Clifford Greene and William Greene. (Digital Commonwealth photo)



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# Wilbraham police chief talks officer shortage

One officer candidate canceled moments before Monday's meeting.

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham Police Chief Ed Lennon explained to the Select Board on Sept. 8 that the department is struggling to find new officers.

A candidate recommended by Lennon was meant to appear during the meeting to be approved by the board but cancelled moments before the 6 p.m. start time.

"To start off, just within the last 90 seconds, I just found out that the candidate that was going to be before you tonight has withdrawn his application and will not be here tonight. That was unexpected. That was a little bit of a shocker. I just found out just this moment," Lennon said.

Lennon speculated that the man found another position in a different police department.

"He was applying for other departments. So, I'm assuming that's what happened. I'll try to find out," Lennon said. "I was hoping this person [would join]. This person I think would have been a good fit. I'm assuming they were hired by another department, which is unfortunate."

There was another candidate that Lennon had hoped would appear Monday evening, but that individual found a new job outside of law enforcement and decided to change careers.

Recently, Lennon met

with several local police chiefs. They discussed how recruiting and retention are becoming challenging throughout the field.

"Every department around us is holding openings and is currently unable to fill them," Lennon said. "Everybody is trying to open up new ways; anything that we can do to recruit candidates and retain them we're trying to do."

While Lennon categorized the news of the officer candidate's cancellation as "disappointing," he was not necessarily surprised.

He said departments across the state are aggressively recruiting new members and many offer incentives to join. Lennon noted that contract negotiations will soon resume, as Wilbraham looks to be able to give similar incentives to candidates.

Lennon emphasized that there were other applicants in this candidate pool, but he did not bring them forward because he did not think they were a good fit for the town's department. He said that his team won't "just jump at any candidate."

Lennon added that he wants to bring in people that will be able to connect with the town.

"We've found out that's the biggest avenue for long-term success," he said, noting those individuals have tended to stay longer.

Select Board Vice Chair Marc Ducey asked if the town should hire a firm to help facilitate the search process. He said it might be something worth investing serious money into.

Lennon explained that the departments that have had

success with hiring firms are mostly in the eastern part of the state. He said no one in this area has done that because the departments mostly aren't big enough.

According to Lennon, getting the message out that new officers are needed hasn't been a problem either. He said that the candidates needed are applying to the department and expressing availability, but the department needs to choose the right people.

After speaking with the local police chiefs last Friday, Lennon said that they were all exasperated at the table.

"We have several departments that border us that have openings with no candidates, no viable candidates. The pool, when they apply to us, they apply to the other departments," Lennon said. "So, when we sit and meet, we all have the same pool of candidates. We all have the same names. And we know who's out there, and we know who is good and who is bad. We all talked."

Still, Lennon said that active recruiting is his department's highest priority right now. He believes the right people will be discovered.

"This is a great place to work. It's a sought-after place to work, so long-term I think we're going to be fine. We just have to get through a little bit of a problem right now," Lennon said. "We're going to find the right candidates. We're not going to bring anybody in that isn't going to be a good fit. We're going to get through this like the other agencies will too. Pendulums swing, so we'll get through this, and in a year or two, things will hopefully be different."

# Wilbraham Middle School - School Bus Traffic

Dear HWRSD School Community:

It has been such a joy to welcome staff and students back for the new school year. We enter the new school year with a renewed commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive environment where all students can learn and grow.

One of the most significant changes the new year brings is the new school schedule and transportation model. I am happy to report that there were no delays or alerts due to driver shortages. However, as this was the first day of school, our process was not as efficient as it will normally be, and we learned some lessons that we can use to improve the process.

While most Green Meadows buses ran on time, we experienced some traffic delays in Wilbraham in both the morning and the afternoon. To address the observed traffic snarls, we will be adjusting our procedures.

In the immediate term, our School Resource Officer will direct traffic on Stony Hill Road, allowing buses to exit the parking lot without being blocked in by traffic. It would help the situation tremendously if motorists would yield to buses attempting to leave the middle school or enter Stony Hill Elementary School.

We will also expand the bus unloading zone at WMS so that 6 buses can empty simultaneously. To expedite the process at MRHS, student drivers are asked to enter the parking lot via the road that runs by the athletic complex. This will help to separate the student drivers from buses and families waiting to drop off. Families dropping off should access the student drop-off area by the road that runs around the back of the school. Families should use the entire curb, allowing several cars to unload or pick up passengers simultaneously. As a reminder, the lane closest to the school is for bus traffic

only. Private vehicles are to use the second lane during drop off and pickup. At dismissal, buses will be given priority for loading students and exiting the property.

I hope that these adjustments along with the greater familiarity everyone has with the system will allow for a smoother flow of traffic tomorrow. Ultimately, if the new system proves to be more reliable than the previous one, I hope that more families will consider using our student transportation services which would further relieve traffic congestion at the schools, allowing the system to work more efficiently. I will continue to closely monitor the situation and make further adjustments to improve the reliability and efficiency of student transportation services in our district.

Sincerely,  
John A. Provost, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

# Wilbraham Friends of the Library to hold Pollinator Plant Sale Sept. 27

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL) is holding a pollinator plant sale on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to Noon (rain or shine) at the Wilbraham Public Library, 25 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham. Cash or checks only.

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

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

Help keep these important pollinators fed by plant-

ing their favorite food sources in your garden. Proceeds from the sale will benefit both the Wilbraham Public Library and Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

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

For more information, contact the Friends at wfol.info@gmail.com.

# Friends to sponsor Jewelry Buying Show Oct. 9

WILBRAHAM - Cleaning out your drawers and closets and have some old jewelry you don't want any more?

The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors are sponsoring a one-day only jewelry buying event on Thursday Oct. 9 at the Wilbraham Senior Center. Hosted by Family Jewels of Northampton, a family business for 55 years, they'll evaluate items you wish to

sell and make you an offer. Whether it's antique and vintage jewelry, (including broken pieces), silver, gold and copper coins, sterling silver flatware, cups, bowls, trays, watches, and rings to name a few, just bring it in.

There's no fee or obligation on your part and if you accept their offer, payment will be made to you on the spot! You must pre-register

for an appointment at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

No walk-ins will be accepted. Limited number of appointments available on Oct. 9. First come - first served.

Call 413- 596-8379 to register. All appointments will be held upstairs in the privacy of the Wellness Room.

Any questions, call Matt Villamaino 413-896-2206.

## ALCOHOL from page 6

who lived in low-income areas.

Just as cigarettes were once thought to be healthy and are now known to be dangerous, alcohol is on a trajectory to becoming another health pariah. Dr. Victoria Amesbury, an internist

who has been practicing for 36 years, would be OK with that.

"One of the amazing things I run into all the time is well-educated women who drink," she says. "There are studies that indicate even two drinks a week is toxic, and that it is now thought there is a definite connection between alcohol and breast cancer."

"But when I tell a patient to stop drinking, they say all their friends drink and they don't want to be an outcast."

There's the rub. Alcohol is so ingrained in our society that it's hard to imagine life without it. Around the time America was founded, alcohol was actually thought to warm the body and aid digestion. It was used to treat colds and fevers and even given as a sedative during childbirth. During the mid-19th century, alcohol was the main painkiller used in surgery.

Look back at movies from the '30s and '40s (I'm thinking particularly of "The Thin Man" series) in which cocktails took center stage, consumed by glamorous people. How could we not fall in love with booze?

Should we all quit drinking cold turkey, particularly women? That's not likely to happen. Just as everyone hasn't been persuaded to give up cigarettes, not everyone will be persuaded to stop drinking alcohol, no matter what the research says.

I think the question becomes, "How do you mitigate your risk factors if you choose to continue drinking?"

For her patients who continue to drink, Dr. Amesbury recommends abstaining for three or four consecutive days each week, and then consume only light amounts the other days, no more than five ounces of wine. If you

want more to drink, mix the wine with club soda or another mixer.

Another tactic is to take a month-long "vacation" from drinking a couple of times a year, say a "dry January" and a "dry July." In those 31 days, research has found, moderate-heavy drinkers can see improvements in insulin resistance, blood pressure, body weight and cancer-related growth factors. It also allows liver cells to recover from alcohol's toxicity.

Only drinking alcohol during meals, drinking slowly, alternating alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages (particularly water!) are other measures you can take to mitigate some of the risks associated with alcohol.

There is also the growing trend of "mocktails," which can mimic favorite alcoholic drinks in flavor without the buzz. Think about mocktail mimosas, Moscow mules or sangria.

There was a time when a nonsmoker was considered weird, and now smokers are relegated to designated areas, or banned entirely. Maybe a time will come when not drinking is considered the cool thing to do. Until then, do what you can to lower your risk factors.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

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# SPORTS

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## Falcons football returns to action

WILBRAHAM – After suffering a loss on the road in very early season action, Minnechaug Regional High School had its first home football game of the season last Friday night.

The Falcons scored a narrow victory over Doherty High School, a school near Worcester, 26-24. The Falcons are now 1-1 on the season after falling Barnstable on Sept. 5 49-20.

Few teams were in action during the first week of September, though the Falcons

took the independent match-up and will actually have a bye week this coming week on Friday, Sept. 19.

The Falcons have one more independent game and it is also against an opponent out of the region. Minnechaug will face Wachusett Regional on Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at home.

Their conference schedule consists of West Springfield, East Longmeadow, Westfield, Central, and Longmeadow this year.



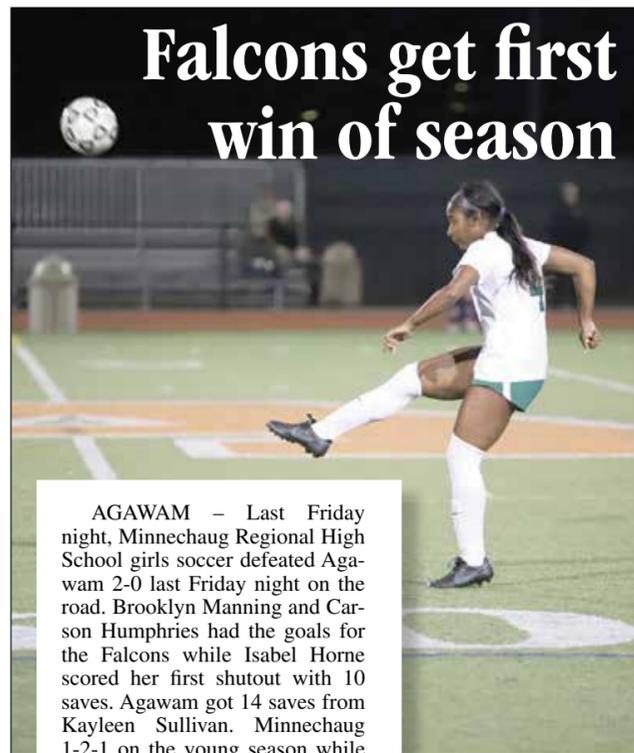
Makenna Sacco is pressured as she tries to play the ball near the sideline.



Cailin O'Brien sends a pass away.



Sophia O'Connor looks to get around an Agawam midfielder.



## Falcons get first win of season

AGAWAM – Last Friday night, Minnechaug Regional High School girls soccer defeated Agawam 2-0 last Friday night on the road. Brooklyn Manning and Carson Humphries had the goals for the Falcons while Isabel Horne scored her first shutout with 10 saves. Agawam got 14 saves from Kayleen Sullivan. Minnechaug 1-2-1 on the young season while Agawam fell to 1-3 this year.

Zoriah Wray clears the ball on defense.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Ainsley Holden collects a pass.



Carson Humphries competes with an Agawam player for a loose ball.

## Westfield State football falls to Bridgewater

WESTFIELD – Eric Lovell's 80-yard interception return for a touchdown highlighted Westfield State's efforts as the Owls dropped a hard-fought 29-16 decision to Bridgewater State University in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football opener for both teams.



Westfield is now 0-2 overall and 0-1 in the MAS-CAC, while Bridgewater is 1-1 and 1-0 in the league.

The Owls fell behind 9-0 at the half.

Lovell picked off a pass on the right side of the field and outspinted everyone to the endzone midway through the third quarter, and Dino Stellato converted

the extra point for the Owls to trim the Bears' lead to 9-7.

Bridgewater answered with a 29-yard field goal from Joey Naso, and then capitalized on an Owls turnover, as Lucas Lambert returned an interception 23 yards to the Owls 21, and a penalty on the tackle set the Bears up 1st and 10 at the Westfield 11. Bridgewater QB Shamus Whiting found Jack McCarthy for an 11-yard TD pass on the next play to extend the lead to 19-7.

Westfield got two points back on a safety, after a

Please see **WSU**, page 12

## Falcons, Brownies battle to scoreless draw

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—The Agawam and Minnechaug Regional boys' varsity soccer teams entered last Thursday night's Churchill Division match-up, which was held at Minnechaug's Falcon Field, looking to celebrate a victory for the first time this season.

It was a hard-fought battle for the entire 80 minutes, but the contest ended in a 0-0 tie, as neither team could put the ball into the back of the net.

"Both teams needed a win coming into tonight's game, but neither team could score a

goal" said Tom Smith, who's beginning his 19th season as the Agawam boys' varsity soccer coach. "I thought both teams worked very hard, and it was a physical battle."

The Brownies, who played a 2-2 home tie against Monument Mountain at the beginning of last week, entered this week's action with a 0-2-2 overall record and a 0-1-1 league mark. They began the

regular season with back-to-back losses to West Springfield (3-1) and to league rival Amherst (3-2).

"Our record isn't what we want it to be right now, but my team is getting better," Smith said. "We're going to be a challenging opponent for teams to play down the road." The Falcons, who also had a 0-2-2 overall record and a 0-1-2 league mark, are one of the three

new teams competing in the Churchill Division this fall.

Four of the Minnechaug starters sat out the game against Agawam due to injuries.

"We're a little bit banged up right now," said John O'Keefe, who's beginning his 16th season as the Minnechaug boys' varsity soccer coach. "We had some guys step up in tonight's game. Putting the ball in the net was a very difficult thing for both teams to do."

One of the Falcons injured players is senior tri-captain Jediah Stewart.

Minnechaug, who tied Pittsfield, 1-1, in their previous game, started the regular season with a pair of 2-1 road losses against Longmeadow and Monument Mountain.

"There are a lot of very good teams in our new

Please see **SOCCER**, page 12



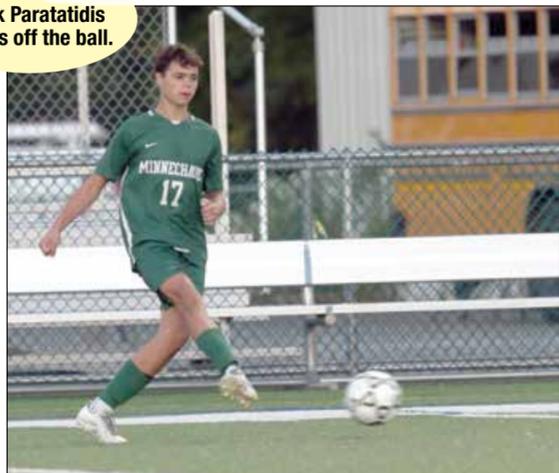
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Gavin Coughlin heads up the field.



Benjamin Lopez fights for the ball.



Jack Paratatis heads off the ball.



Tyler Supczak sends a quick pass away.



Chase Henderson tries to make a play.

**SPORTS**

# Stafford hosts responder race

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Stafford Speedway hosted USNE First Responder Friday on Sept. 12 with the TC 13 Shootout joining Stafford's five weekly divisions in feature action. The SK Modified® division ran their regularly scheduled 40-lap feature as well as the 3rd Annual TC 13 Shootout, a 13 lap race contested between the top-13 finishers from the 40-lap feature. Michael Christopher, Jr. was the big winner of the night taking home the TC 13 Shootout trophy and the \$1,313 to win TC 13 Shootout. Also as part of the TC 13 Shootout festivities, the Ted Christopher Safety Initiative, orchestrated by Quinn Christopher, donated a Bell helmet with the winner determined by the winner of the TC 13 Shootout drawing from a list of the five drivers who finished in 13th place in their respective feature events. Christopher drew the Street Stock division which made Bill Cote the winner of the Bell helmet for his 13th place finish in the Street Stock feature.

In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature event, Michael Gervais, Jr. took the early lead with Anthony Flannery and Todd Owen going wheel to wheel for second. Owen took second on lap-2 with Andrew Molleur going around Flannery to move into third on lap-3. Flannery was able to get back in

line in fourth, just in front of Cory DiMatteo and Alexander Pearl, who were side by side fighting for fifth place.

Molleur made a move to the inside of Owen on lap-6 to take second with Michael Christopher, Jr. getting around Pearl for sixth. Molleur took the lead from Gervais on lap-8 with DiMatteo moving into third on lap-9. With 10 laps complete the order was now Molleur, Gervais, DiMatteo, Owen, and Christopher, Flannery was sixth followed by Pearl, Marcello Ruffano, Tyler Chapman, and Jon Puleo.

DiMatteo streaked by Molleur to take over the lead on lap-13. Gervais was third behind DiMatteo and Molleur with Christopher fourth and Owen fifth. Christopher took third from Gervais on lap-16 and then took second from Molleur on lap-17. Wesley Prucker spun on the backstretch to bring the caution flag out with 18 laps complete.

Molleur spun from third place on the restart to bring the caution flag right back out. The next restart saw Gervais shoot out of line going down the backstretch and into turn 3 and his car came back up on the track and collected several cars including Curt Brainard, David Arute, Timmy Solomito, and Wade Gagner to bring the caution right back out again before a lap could be completed. Christopher

was sent to the rear of the field for making contact with Gervais.

The third lap-19 restart saw DiMatteo take the lead with Flannery in second. Puleo and Owen were wheel to wheel for third with Mikey Flynn and Tyler Chapman wheel to wheel for fifth. Flynn and Chapman touched going into turn 3 with Chapman spinning into the wall to bring the caution flag back out with 20 laps complete.

DiMatteo took the lead on the restart with Puleo moving into second. Flynn took third after a side by side lap with Flannery with Ruffano in fifth behind Flynn and Flannery. Ruffano got around Flannery to take fourth place on lap-23 and then took third from Flynn on lap-24. Puleo was looking high and low for a way around DiMatteo but DiMatteo was able to maintain the lead.

With 5 laps to go it was still DiMatteo and Puleo fighting for the win with Ruffano and Flynn fighting for third and Flannery and Keith Rocco fighting for fifth. Rocco took fifth from Flannery on lap-37 while Flynn made a move to get back by Ruffano for third on lap-39. Puleo couldn't get close enough to DiMatteo as DiMatteo took down his second win of the 2025 season. Flynn finished third with Rocco and Ruffano rounding out the top-5.

## This week in recreation

Get active this fall with exciting programs for all ages

Alex Soares, Administrative Clerk

WILBRAHAM - As the leaves begin to change and the school year gets underway, the Recreation Department is excited to offer a full slate of engaging programs for youth, teens, and adults alike. From youth sports clinics to creative arts and acting classes, there's something for everyone this fall. Parents are encouraged to register early, as spots in many of these popular programs fill quickly.

One of the most exciting opportunities currently open is the Youth Basketball Clinic with TF Performance for grades 3-4. Registration ends September 22, this six-session clinic is designed to build athleticism and confidence on the court. Participants will focus on sprint speed, agility, leg strength, jump height, dribbling, and ball control. Whether your child is a beginner or looking to sharpen



existing skills, this clinic is an excellent way to improve performance while having fun.

A New program being offered this fall is the Monthly Acting and Scene Study Class for ages 10-16. This engaging class offers a chance for young actors to explore their talents through scene work, monologues, and cold reads. Meanwhile, creative minds in grades K-5 can sign up for the ART Ventures Program, with registration beginning September 23, where kids will embark on a jungle safari-themed art adventure starting October 16. For those interested in athletics, upcoming registrations include Wrestling (Grades K-8), Dog Obedience, and the Ski Sundown WMS Program for grades 6-8, which starts October 14.

Looking forward to the winter, registration for Recreational Basketball (Grades K-8), opens Sep-

tember 30. This program emphasizes participation, teamwork, skill-building, and, most importantly, fun. Children of all skill levels are welcome, making it an inclusive and encouraging environment. The season is a great way for kids to stay active, make friends, and develop a lifelong love for the game. Don't wait—spaces in this program are expected to fill fast.

Adults aren't left out—ongoing registration is open for Pickleball Passes and Lessons. Whether you're new to the sport or refining your skills, four-week sessions for beginner and intermediate players begins October 7th. For those seeking open play pickleball, passes can be purchased at the office. We offer 10 and 25 punch passes. The Wilbraham Hiking Club, open to all ages, is looking for new members. For hike schedules and to join, simply download the TeamReach app and use code WHC01095. With so many programs available, now is the perfect time to get involved and stay active.

*NOTE: To register for all of our programs and for more information, please visit WilbrahamRec.com.*

WSU from page 11

52-yard Brian Carlin punt pinned the Bears back on their own one-yard line, and Justyn Gardener sacked Whiting in the end zone to cut the lead to 19-9 with 1:26 left in the third quarter.

On the ensuing drive, Westfield marched 75 yards on eight plays, capped by an 18-yard scoring strike from Westfield QB Miles Foerster to Will Brewster that trimmed the lead to 19-16 after the extra point with 12:57 left in the game.

Bridgewater responded with a sharp 6-play, 60-

yard drive of their own, with Whiting connecting with Josh Registre for 34-yard TD to boost the lead to 26-16. The Owls answered by driving the ball to the Bears 7-yard line, but a bad snap and hold foiled a field goal attempt.

A late 42-yard field goal from Naso late in the fourth quarter capped the scoring and effectively ended the Owls comeback chances.

Foerster finished 10-26 passing for 94 yards, a TD and an interception, and ran for 57 more yards. Manny Mengata led the Owls with 63 yards on 22 carries.

Brewster caught five passes for 56 yards.

For Bridgewater, Whiting finished 8-19 for 158 yards with two 2tds and 2 int's, and Joseph-Dube Garrett threw a TD pass as well. Isaiah Wright carried 20 times for 74 yards, and Registre caught three balls for 75 yards and a TD. Bridgewater held a 327-263 margin in total offense, and led 19-18 in first downs. Westfield held a slight 30:58 to 29:02 edge in time of possession.

Budde Ferreira led westfield with eight tackles, Lovell added seven.

## Kessy re-signs with Thunderbirds for 2025-2026 season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today they have re-signed forward Kale Kessy to a one-year AHL contract extension.

Kessy, 32, is entering his 13th professional season and has logged 359 regular season games of AHL experience,

posting 43 points (21g, 22a) and 961 penalty minutes. He has additionally skated in 13 Calder Cup playoff contests, including all three games of the Thunderbirds' postseason series against the Providence Bruins last April.

Originally a fourth-round pick by the Phoenix Coy-

otes in the 2011 NHL Draft, Kessy has also dressed in the AHL for the Oklahoma City Barons, Bakersfield Condors, Manitoba Moose, Cleveland Monsters, Colorado Eagles, Hershey Bears, Iowa Wild, and Syracuse Crunch.

SOCCER from page 11

league," O'Keefe said. "We're hoping to finish the regular season with a .500 record and qualify for the Division 2 state tournament.

Smith and O'Keefe have known each other for many years. They were teammates on a youth soccer team in Sixteen Acres, which is a neighborhood in Springfield.

"John and I grew up playing on the same soccer team together," Smith said. "We did play soccer at different high schools. It's a lot of fun competing against his team."

O'Keefe graduated from Cathedral High School and Smith graduated from Classical High School.

The two teams faced each other in the 1984 Western Mass. finals, which Cathedral won by the final score of 3-1.

"Tommy and I have known each other for a very long time," O'Keefe said. "When we were playing on the same youth soccer team, I never thought that we would be coaching against each other someday."

The previous meeting on the soccer pitch between the Agawam and Minnechaug boys' teams took place in the quarterfinals of Western Mass. Class A tournament last October. The Falcons squeaked out a 3-2 home victory.

During last Thursday's match, Agawam junior Joey Papadakis was credited with four saves, while Minnechaug senior Chase Henderson made five saves in posting their first shutouts of the season.

Henderson and senior Nick Cianflone, who had a couple of shots on goal in the second half, are the other two Falcons captains.

The best scoring chance



Tyler Jaslanek navigates through traffic.

by either team in the first half took place in the 34th minute. That's when Agawam senior Patrick Keating booted a line-drive free kick from about 15 yards out. The ball appeared like it was going to sneak into the upper left corner of the net, but it curved in the other direction at the last second.

"I really thought that shot was definitely going into the net," Smith said. "We had several other scoring chances during the first half."

Senior Aiden Lavelle also had a shot on goal for the visting team during the first

40 minutes of the match, but Henderson made the save.

Agawam senior co-captains Dawood Atanane and Thomas Poulin had a couple of scoring chances in the second half.

The senior duo of Ben Lopez and Nate Wesloski also had shots on goal for the home team after halftime, but the match remained scoreless.

The two teams will be looking to celebrate a victory when they meet again at Harmon A. Smith Field in Agawam at 7 p.m. on Oct. 6.

**FALL SEASON**  
OCT. 14TH

**STROKE AND TURN**  
SEP. 29TH-OCT. 10TH

**AGE GROUPS**

- Group 1: Ages 8 & under and new/non-high school swimmers.
- Group 2: Ages 9-8th grade with at least one FSC season.
- Group 3: High school swimmers & approved middle schoolers.

**REGISTER TODAY!**

## Fall Programs for kids at WPL

**WILBRAHAM** – Check out these upcoming fall programs for kids at the Wilbraham Public Library.

### PRESCHOOL FUN WITH MRS. B

This is a program for children ages three to six to come into independently, while care providers wait in the library.

It is a fun-filled 45 minutes with stories, songs, movement and a craft. The program will run the following Thursday mornings from 10 to 10:45 a.m.; Sept. 25 (No program Oct. 2), Oct. 9, Oct. 16 and Oct. 23.

Themes such as “Teddy Bear’s Picnic”, “Budding Artists”, Fall and Leaves, and the amazing stories by Ed Emberley will be included. Please register online at [www.wilbraham-library.org](http://www.wilbraham-library.org).

Registration includes all six dates.

### PRE-K and K DANCE PARTY

Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 to 10:45 a.m. join in the dancing fun as we dance to some familiar songs and learn some new ones! Complete with a disco ball and a “photo booth” for photo opportunities, wear your shiniest, movement-friendly clothes to dance! dance! dance!

This program is for Pre-K and K children with adult supervision (adults must remain in the program). Please register online beginning Sept. 1 at 9 a.m. at [www.wilbraham-library.org](http://www.wilbraham-library.org).

## Pastor Eunji Lee Bio

**HAMPDEN** - Eunji Lee grew up on Ganghwa Island, South Korea, in a Christian family that nurtured her love for God.

She studied theology at Methodist Theological University in Seoul, where she earned both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree, and served as a youth pastor at her home church, Naega Korean Methodist Church.

In 2010, to know God more deeply, she left her home—her comfort zone—and came to the United States to join the Salem, Oregon campus of Youth With A Mission (YWAM), an international mission organization that trains and sends missionaries. From 2011 to 2020, she led short-term mission teams of young adults to 16 different countries, including Nepal, Israel, Egypt, Cambodia, Malaysia, Honduras, Guatemala, Turkey, Bulgaria, India, China, Thailand, Greece, Lebanon, France, and Spain.

Each year, she led teams to one or two countries, spending one to two months in each location. Through these experiences, she learned to serve with humility, communicate beyond language barriers, and build community across differences.

After that season of ministry, she moved to Boston to continue discerning her call and deepening her theological understanding. She earned a Master of Divinity from Boston Uni-

versity School of Theology in May 2025 and served as a ministry intern at St. Stephen’s United Methodist Church.

In July 2025, she began serving as the pastor of Hampden Federated Community Church. This is her first appointment after graduation.

She is passionate about creating inclusive, Spirit-filled communities where people can encounter God through worship, shared life, and mutual care.

With around 20 years of worship team experience, she especially love leading from the piano as an accompanist and helping others connect with God through music. Her ministry is shaped by a desire to walk with people in both struggle and hope, bearing witness to the presence of God in the everyday.

Her parents and two younger sisters in Korea continue to be her strongest supporters. Many of her closest friends from YWAM Salem remain like a second family to her.

Outside of ministry, she enjoys walking, hiking, journaling, reading novels, and traveling. She also loves detective dramas, coffee, puzzles, and discovering local foods unique to each place she visits. Her time in Oregon—especially the summers spent camping and hiking—opened her heart to the beauty of creation and taught her to treasure the spiritual gift of stillness.

## Adult Crafternoon at the Wilbraham Public Library

**WILBRAHAM** – Wilbraham Public Library is offering a Crafternoon for Adults on Friday, Sept. 19, 2 to 3:30pm.

Calling all adults; please join us for a crafting opportunity. We will be making personalized napkin rings using small grapevine wreaths.

These items are simple, fun to create, and they make great gifts too!

No experience is needed, and all craft supplies will be provided. But registration is necessary as space is limited.

For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENT

### MRHS Class of 1975, 50th Class Reunion

**WILBRAHAM** - The Minnechaug Class of 1975 will be gathering to celebrate their 50th Reunion with a weekend of fun activities Friday, Oct. 3 through Sunday, Oct. 5.

Classmates will have several opportunities to get together to catch up on the past 50 years. We have planned for golfing, hiking, Home Football Game, tour of high school, lunch at Fern Valley and a parting Breakfast Buffet the morning of Oct. 5.

The main event, dinner and socializing, will be held at Wilbraham Country Club on Oct. 4 from 6 to 10 p.m. Additional information is available, can be sent to you if you send a request to Jim Chambers at [mrhsclassof1975@gmail.com](mailto:mrhsclassof1975@gmail.com).

We hope you’ll be able to join us to celebrate this milestone. If you can’t attend in person, you can still have a presence by sending a photo / information for our slide show to Donna Sclafani Parker at [donnaparker357@yahoo.com](mailto:donnaparker357@yahoo.com). Please let others in our class know about the reunion.

### Hampden Sr. Center Group Exercise Classes

**HAMPDEN** – Join us for PWR! Moves Group Exercise Classes, a Parkinson-specific class with a goal to keep you moving and doing more of what you want to do.

Led by Lisa Kern, OT, reiki master/holistic therapist.

Fitness goals include strength, balance, agility, aerobics and flexibility.

Exercises are designed to improve fitness goals and counteract your Parkinson’s symptoms.

Classes take place from 9 to 10 a.m. on Mondays at the Hampden Senior Center.

Pre-paid rate for eight classes is \$65. Drop-in rate is \$10 per class. Call to register or for more information at 413-566-5588.

Sponsored in part by the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens.

### Hampden Community Garden accepting plot reservations

**HAMPDEN** - Hampden Community Garden is now accepting plot reservations for 2025.

The 20’x20’ plots are tilled, staked, and ready for your flower and vegetable seeds and plants. For the \$20 fee, gardeners will enjoy having water and hoses on site, ample parking and easy access.

The garden is located beyond the parking lot at Green Meadows School on North Road. To secure your plot, contact Clark Kadis at [ckadis13@gmail.com](mailto:ckadis13@gmail.com).

Gardening is a family and friends activity with tasty and money saving rewards. Join us!

### Scantic River Artisans presents ‘Reflective Musings’

Join a creative journey of thought, memory and expression

**HAMPDEN** – Scantic River Artisans invites artists of all levels and ages to participate in a unique and inspiring community art experience: “Reflective Musings.”

This inclusive project encourages participants to tap into their memories, emotions and thoughts to create a personal work of art based on the theme of reflection.

Artists are encouraged to work in any medium—painting, collage, drawing, mixed media, photography or even something unexpected. A list of optional “musings” is available to spark inspiration, but participants are also welcome to follow their own creative path.

“This project is about more than making art,” Nan Hurlburt, special assistant to the board. “It’s about connection, expression, and celebrating the diverse, creative voices within our community.”

Completed works must be submitted by Sept. 18 to be included in the “Reflective Musings Showcase Exhibit and Sale” on Oct. 11 and 12. All submitted pieces will be on display and available for purchase.

Proceeds from the event will support the Scantic River Artisans Scholarship Fund and local arts programming, helping to foster the next generation of creative talent.

Spots are limited—don’t miss your chance to be a part of this powerful community collaboration.

Sponsored in part by the Mass Cultural Council and Dick Blick Art Supplies and local generous members of the community.

For more information, visit [scanticriver-artisans.com](http://scanticriver-artisans.com). Questions? Email us at [info@scanticriverartisans.com](mailto:info@scanticriverartisans.com)

Follow the journey on social media. Facebook: Scantic River Artisans Instagram: @scanticriverartisans.

### Rick’s Place Golf Classic

**WILBRAHAM** - The Annual Rick’s Place Golf Classic will be held Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Country Club of Wilbraham.

The entry fee is \$175/golfer and covers the following: 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch prior to tee-off, prizes for the winners, and dinner. There will be a women’s and men’s longest drive hole and closest to the pin hole.

The tournament fills up quickly so please sign up as soon as possible to reserve your place. Dinner only tickets are available for \$40 per ticket.

Schedule: 10:30 a.m. Registration; 11:45 a.m. Lunch begins; Practice range open; 12:15 p.m. Group picture; 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start; 6 p.m. Dinner

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 The Trial Court  
 Probate and Family Court  
 Hampden Probate and Family Court  
 50 State Street  
 Springfield, MA 01103  
 (413)748-7758  
 Docket No. HD25P1835EA  
 Estate of: Mary Elizabeth Kowalski  
 Date of Death: 02/09/2024  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
 To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Peter Kowalski of Wilbraham, 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: Peter Kowalski of Wilbraham, 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 10/07/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
 A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in

an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
 WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: September 09, 2025  
 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate  
 09/18/2025  
 Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 The Trial Court  
 Probate and Family Court  
 Hampden Probate and Family Court  
 50 State Street  
 Springfield, MA 01103  
 (413)748-7758  
 Docket No.

HD23P0593EA  
 Estate of: Robert L Sweeney  
 Date of Death: 06/20/2022  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**  
 A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Susan A McCoy of Springfield, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/14/2025.  
 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.  
 WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: September 08, 2025  
 Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate  
 09/18/2025

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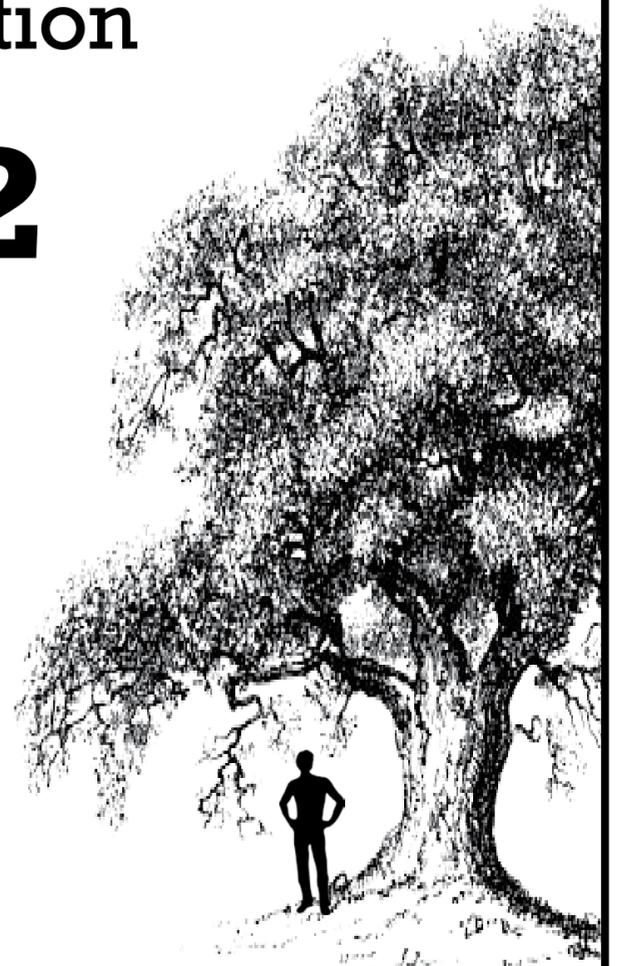
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