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School Committee discusses MRHS bleacher concerns

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WILBRAHAM – School Committee members discussed possible solutions to concerns raised over the bleachers at Minnechaug Regional High School.

At its Sept. 10 meeting, several people made public comments about the current conditions of the bleachers, as well as the potential safety hazards due to their aging.

“THE INSPECTION COMPANY THAT CAME OUT HAD STATED THAT THEY HAVE MANY LARGE FALL OPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE DECKING. SOME OF THE DROPDOWNS IS ALMOST 20 FEET.”

- David Rogers
Facilities/Maintenance
Manager

The high school administration would like to see improvements made to the bleachers since many of the home games draw large crowds, especially since the artificial turf field was installed a few years ago.

Michael Tirabassi raised concerns about heights and distance with gaps under the seats after Michael Messier, director of Facilities and Maintenance, noted “the code is four inches right now and we probably have an excess of 18 inches.”

“When we triage trauma patients being brought to the hospital and try to ascertain how they’re initially treated, one of the things about for a fall is the distance. So, a fall over 15 feet is considered severe enough that you kind of automatically end up in the trauma room, which means that there’s a whole team expecting you to be critically ill with potentially life-threatening injuries,” Tirabassi said. “The areas of the bleachers with these 18-inch spaces, are they higher than 15 feet?”

Facilities and Maintenance Manager David Rogers said they are.

“The inspection company that came out had stated that they have many large fall openings throughout the decking. Some of the drop-downs is almost 20 feet,” Rogers said.

MRHS Principal Stephen Hale added for any proposed changes, “those aluminum are encapsulated in the steps so there’s no gaps where you’re sitting” and aluminum behind you.

Despite the gaps that exist, the bleachers are structurally sound.

When School Committee Member Sherrill Caruana expressed concern about a

Please see **BLEACHERS**, page 13



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers
Melissa Harter, the new director of the Wilbraham Public Library, is excited to be serving the town and carrying on the work of retired Director Karen Ball.

A chat with new WPL Director Melissa Harter

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WILBRAHAM - Since the retirement of Karen Ball as director of the library on Aug. 29, her successor, Melissa Harter, has gotten right to work in her first few weeks on the job.

Harter shared she’s enjoyed getting to know everyone in town and it’s been “so much fun.”

“Just huge amounts of support from everyone in the community. The boards, the Friends, the staff. Everybody has been so kind and helpful and helping me make the transition back to public libraries,” Harter said.

Harter explained that throughout her career, she’s

worked in many kinds of libraries from law libraries and academic libraries to even a virtual librarian. Before coming to Wilbraham, she previously worked at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst as head of Access Services.

“I discovered through the journey that this is where I’m most passionate about the work. It’s really exciting to me to help people literally live their lives better, find what they need, just down to the granular level, really,” Harter said. “You can see—and we have stories all the time—about people who come in and improve their quality of lives by using resources at the public library.”

One story, Harter shared, happened just recently when

a young man came in while she worked the front desk and told her how he used the library for a long time to study for tests.

“He said, ‘I promised myself that if I pass the CPA Exam that I would come back and make a donation.’ That’s what he was doing. He made a donation, a very generous donation,” Harter said. “Just to be so young and so thoughtful and kind and paying forward and understanding that this place can help future generations just like himself. It’s a beautiful thing!”

Harter has enjoyed seeing many people take advantage of the library’s resources and

Please see **DIRECTOR**, page 5

Help for Caregivers

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Senior Center now offers two monthly support groups for those caring for loved ones with dementia.

The caregiver support groups are open to any caregiver from any town assisting anyone with any type of dementia.

The support groups offer practical advice on managing daily challenges as well as understanding and encouragement from others who are undergoing similar experiences, says Barbara Harrington, social services coordinator at the senior center.

Both groups meet at the senior center. One meets the second Wednesday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. and another meets the third

Wednesday of the month from 11 am to Noon.

The sessions are led by professionals with vast knowledge of and experience in dementia care. Gerontologist Katie Krupka, a certified dementia practitioner, leads the morning group. Heather Jagodowski, a certified dementia practitioner with more than 15 years of experience, facilitates the evening session.

“There is such a need for these types of support groups because caregivers feel so alone on this journey,” Jagodowski said. “I worry about them because dealing with dementia 24 hours a day seven days a week takes a toll on people. It’s such an emotional disease. This is a safe place to get tips and ideas on caring

Please see **CAREGIVERS**, page 13



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers
From the left, Barbara Harrington, social services coordinator at the Wilbraham Senior Center, Paula Dubord, director of Elder Affairs at the Wilbraham Senior Center, Hayley Wood, economic security and outreach manager for the Massachusetts Councils on Aging, Katie Krupka, senior care advisor at Assisted Living Locators, and Tracey Perry, assistant vice president and retail banking officer at Country Bank, with the official certification declaring the town of Wilbraham a Dementia Friendly Community on July 7.



Turley photo by Angelina Acevedo
The Evening Book Discussion Club at the Wilbraham Public Library.

Residents enjoy Evening Book Club Discussion

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library has no shortage of books, but also no shortage of ways to share your love of reading with others.

On Wednesday evening, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m., the Evening Book Discussion Club met after reading “The Day the World Came to Town” by Jim DeFede.

The book was about a small Newfoundland town

called Gander, where after the tragedy of the September 11th attacks in New York, 38 international flights landed in the town with over 6,000 passengers. The Canadian town only had around 10,000 people, and was able to care for and welcome the stranded passengers with open arms, providing shelter, food and other basic necessities during this unprecedented time of hardship.

Please see **DISCUSSION**, page 5

Memory Café subject of new book

By Kristin Rivers
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HAMPDEN - The senior center’s Memory Café is featured in a book published by Melva Michaelian called “Thanks for the Memories.”

The book, published last month, is available for purchase on Amazon.

On Sept. 19, Michaelian held a talk at the senior center on the book, which is about her experiences at the Memory Café as she cared for her husband, Jerry, who battled Alzheimer’s Disease, and the stories of fellow attendees ranging from families to couples.

After the talk, Michaelian signed copies of her books for attendees. Light refreshments were provided by JGS Lifecare, who also sponsored the event.

The senior center’s Memory Café meets every Friday at 10:15 a.m.

In opening remarks, Executive Director Rebecca Moriarty explained the Memory Café first began

in September 2016 with the help of Outreach Coordinator Wendy Cowles and Christina Vernon.



A photo of “Thanks for the Memories” by Melva Michaelian, a book about the Memory Café at the Hampden Senior Center.

“We knew that we wanted to create a space for people with dementia to come in with their caregivers and to spend time together, to not worry about day-to-day problems and where the

disease is left at the door and people are welcomed to enjoy quality time together, music, crafts, horses and so many other things,” Moriarty said. “What we never could have imagined would be the impact that the Memory Café would have on the people who attend.”

After noting the friendships made, Moriarty noted Michaelian writing the book, sharing this message to her.

“Melva, thank you for creating this book and for telling your story and for introducing the world to the Memory Café and to the people that have been impacted. You all will want to read this book over and over again. It is a heart-warming and, at times, a heartbreaking story that everyone should read,” Moriarty said.

Cowles thanked Vernon for her support and for helping to organize the Memory Café.

“When we finally received funding to do it, I knew Christina was going

Please see **MEMORY**, page 4

COMMUNITY

Library hosts 'Houseplants 101' lecture

By Natalie Proulx
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Monday Sept. 15, the library partnered with Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens to host a "Houseplants 101" lecture for the public to come and learn more about caring for their plants.

"We have 37 different programs on basic food growing and sustainability," Kate Donovan, the speaker from Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens said. "I do a lot on sustainability and the native plants, trying to help the monarchs and the hummingbirds...and I love what I do".

Donovan has been spreading the love of gardening throughout New England since 2016.

Before the presentation, each audience member was gifted a root pouch by Donovan while she explained the importance of knowing the porosity of the pot you use for the breathability of a plant's roots.

The majority of the lecture focused on four main sections: the perks of growing houseplants, common reasons why plants don't grow, different types of indoor pests and their treatments and finally, plant varieties that are easier to grow.

Some benefits to growing houseplants that Donovan described were a boost in mood, productivity, concentration and creativity. She touched on how it reduces stress, fatigue, sore throats and colds, as well as cleaning indoor air by absorbing toxins, increasing humidity and producing oxygen.

Donovan pointed out that greenery can add life to a sterile environment.

Donovan also explained some reasons why plants won't grow. The most common ones mentioned were overwatering, soil compaction, underwatering, root bounding and over fertilizing.

Another reason a plant won't grow is if it's infested with a parasite. Her lecture touched on types of indoor pests you may find on your houseplants.

For example, some of these include: Spider Mites, Thrips, Fungus Gnats, Mealybug, and Scale. Donovan went



Kate Donovan discusses that not all succulents are uncolorful.

Turley photos by Natalie Proulx



Kate Donovan explains the benefit of using self-watering containers.

into detail about the most practical ways to save your plants from these feeders.

For the people with horrible 'green thumbs,' Donovan recommended a couple different types of succulents and non-succulent plants that are easier to take care of and don't need to be watered too often. Some of these include: Hen and Chicks, The Snake Plant, New England's only native cactus, The Prickly Pear Cactus, flowering succulents like The Christmas Cactus, The Flaming Katy Kalachoe, Air plants, the Coleus plant, Chinese Money plants, and finally the Spider plant.

Donovan noted how important it is to make sure each one of these plants are to be kept in indirect sunlight instead of direct sunlight for its protection.

Some of the key takeaways from her presentation, Dono-

van noted, was to know and prioritize the type of soil you use and the amount of water the particular plant needs.

"And overall," Donovan said. "You have to understand that sometimes the easiest way to kill a plant is to over love it: overwatering, overfertilizing or overpruning. You have to let it do its thing and you have to give it what it needs, not what you think it needs, it's a life form."

One of the attendees also pointed out that one of the most important things she learned was about the lack of nitrogen in soil and how important it is to a plant's survival for the roots of her plants to be able to breathe.

Donovan also explained the impacts that she believes growing and gardening would have on a society as a whole if the majority of people partook in it.

"As a society you know gardening and growing is all about sharing. Instead of growing all on your own," Donovan said. "Trade with your neighbor...It is a very community-driven activity, and also, I think people would live longer, people would be healthier."

Donovan also believes that, "they should teach food growing and plants in general in school. It's science and it's art."

"And it's most helpful as well as the prices get higher and you can...grow your own food instead of buying the toxic varieties that they have in the store," Donovan said.

Some of the attendees mentioned their personal benefits of taking care of their houseplants.

"It cleans the air inside the house, it makes me feel good when I know that something is growing," they said. "It makes you feel like you've accomplished something, you're taking care of something."

Donovan reinforced this idea.

"It's just good to be taking care of something and not only that...just to be at one with nature as opposed to fighting against it," Donovan said.

For more information and to learn more about upcoming events with the Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens, you can visit Blackstonevalleyveggiegardens.com.

WFOL to hold Pollinator Plant Sale this Saturday

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 planting their favorite food sources in your garden. Proceeds from the sale will benefit both the Wilbraham Public Library and Wistarhurst 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.

Knights sponsor benefit dinner to support Survival Center Oct. 18

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Knights of Columbus Council 10195 will sponsor a major fundraising benefit dinner to support the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard.

The Survival Center helps feed and cloth over 400 individuals each month in Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow, Indian Orchard and 16 Acres. According to Executive Director, Cristal Turcotte, this year is particularly impacted by the anticipated federal cuts in SNAP and the less successful Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive by the National Association Letter Carriers. "Our shelves are very bare" according to Turcotte, "and

with the holidays fast approaching we are asking for assistance to help us support those in need."

The benefit dinner will be held Saturday Oct. 18 at 5 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main Street, Wilbraham and will feature a delicious homemade chicken parm Italian dinner complete with pasta, salad, bread, coffee and cannolis. The event will include numerous raffles and musical entertainment with sing-a-longs. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by contacting George Reich at ticketskoc10195@gmail.com or may be picked up at after Mass in the St. Cecilia rotunda starting on Sept. 27.

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Main Street Mart property under new ownership

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Main Street Mart property, which has been part of the town of Wilbraham for nearly a century, is under new ownership.

The new owners are Double Marks LLC.

Mark Pafumi and his business partner, Mark Melikian, met with the Times on Sept. 12 to explain what they're up to.

"This building itself has been a staple in the center of Wilbraham for many, many years. It's changed hands a few times, but hopefully it's going to be in these hands for a long time," Pafumi said. "What we're going to do, we're not 100% sure yet. We're obviously leasing it out. We're either going to break it up into smaller units or if somebody wants the whole thing."

Pafumi shared the goal of Double Marks LLC obtaining this property was this.

"We want to bring more business into the center of town. With the building that we did across the street, bring in more traffic, more desire to come down here and just make it usable for the townspeople and more businesses that will complement them, we're hoping, will come here and get that," Pafumi said.

Melikian noted the importance of local ownership, as Pafumi was born and raised in Wilbraham and is part of and gives back to the community through his ventures.

"I grew up in Longmeadow, but grew up around here and remember as a kid driving up here with my buddies from Wilbraham on their bikes to the convenience store when we were allowed to do that. We thought it was the coolest thing," Melikian said. "So, again, just being part of the community we grew up in and giving back to the community. We hope to continue to better the town, progress and modernize and move forward."

Pafumi said the owner of Main Street Mart approached him as she was ready to retire.

"She's been doing it for a



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers
Mark Melikian and Mark Pafumi, the people behind Double Marks LLC, outside the Main Street Mart property.

long time. They also have had or have other stores in the surrounding towns and she was just done, she was just ready to relax and retire and enjoy life and travel a little more," Pafumi said. "We made a deal pretty quickly and moved pretty quickly to get it done."

On the property's history, Pafumi explained how many residents knew it as the Louis & Clark building for many years.

"Since I can remember, it's always been some type of convenience, country store. I'd love to see something like that come back in here—maybe on a smaller scale—and then something else to complement it on the other square feet and square footage," Pafumi said.

"And the salon's going to be staying there as well," Melikian added.

"Balthazar Salon will be remaining. They're not leaving as of now," Pafumi said.

For Pafumi, the most important part is preserving the town and also bringing in new local businesses.

"Me growing up here and living down here, it's a big deal for me what we're doing. What we did with the building across the street building that and now capturing this one, it's important and it's an accomplishment that I'm very proud (of)," Pafumi said.

Also, preserving a piece of history.

"How many old gas stations do we have left around anywhere like Purr-Fect Auto? All the commercial units in my building across the street are all local people that own everything and then the Village Store is a local staple," Pafumi said.

"When I keep saying modern, it's not taking away from the historic part of the town, of course, right? But again, maintaining of local businesses, keeping mom and pops

still the concept. People in the community renting from us or being part of the town as opposed to putting a McDonald's here or something like that," Melikian said. "That's not the goal."

Pafumi said, right now, the next steps are cleaning up and cleaning out the property, with Melikian adding signs are up for people to see the property is available for leasing, with square feet ranging from 800 to 3,000 square feet, including a basement.

The message was this.

"Wanting to continue to make it feel like home like it has for the residents for years," Melikian said. "Again, give it a new purpose and keep the historical aspect of the town, and again, giving back to the community in a sense."

For anyone interested, they can call Pafumi at 413-218-0232.

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 Cen-

ter. 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 ac-

cepted. 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.



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MEMORY from page 1

to be the person who could help us make this happen," Cowles said. "I reached out and hoped that she was still available and was thrilled when she saw and then the rest is history as they say."

Vernon, a clinical social worker, was always passionate about elders and had focused her studies on dementia and Alzheimer's related illnesses, wanting to come up with something that families could do with their loved ones.

The day she received her master's was the day the senior center received the grant funding to do a Memory Café, crediting Cowles and the senior center for their collaboration and what they've accomplished together.

"I have come to the café every Friday. It's been a wonderful experience for me watching everybody participate and grow together as a family. I've often been asked what makes our program so special, why do people come into our doors, why does it work? I think it works because of each individual who walks through with an open heart, with the willingness to participate and care about one another. It really always was like a family to me," Vernon said.

Vernon said this about the book.

"As I said to everybody a couple

weeks ago, you never really know what something like this does for people until you read about their experiences," Vernon said.

Michaelian said the group coming together at the Memory Café left an impact on her, with her and her husband having gone for several years.

She credited Cowles, Moriarty and Vernon for what they've done with the Memory Café.

"This was the program where we came together and that made the big difference," Michaelian said. "Had it not been for them, I think we wouldn't have had that special connection to other people who are in the same thing."

The book's origins stemmed from Michaelian's desire to give back to the community and her interest in people's stories.

"I think people should know that it's here and one of the things at the end I do say. If you don't have one in your community, go out and say, 'Who can make one?' Start," Michaelian said.

On the other participants, Michaelian emphasized how, "Nobody can tell a person's story better than" themselves.

"That's why I chose to interview them and use their actual words—for the most part—to tell their story and that includes the ones—the people that came in—the exercise person and the yoga person and the

music person, as well as Christina and Wendy," Michaelian said. "But these other people that just came, some of them you see them every week, but what brought you here? This story fascinated me because I know what brought me here, so I wanted to use their words to tell what brought them to this point... because it brought you here, but you're staying so what is that? If I shared those feelings with others, maybe there will be more Memory Cafés, more people who are aware of the situation, what they can do. That there's a nonjudgmental community out there waiting for you to join them."

Michaelian expressed gratitude for the community support, sharing that talking with everyone for the book—including the couples—was what stayed with her most.

"It means the world to me that people are reading it and taking something away from it. Most of all, they're celebrating the people who were brave enough to step forward and tell their stories," Michaelian said. "Couldn't have done it without them. They're the heart of the book."

Her message was this.

"The biggest thing is you're not alone. I hope that that's the takeaway. If you don't want to be alone in this, they're there," Michaelian said.



Hampden Senior Center Executive Director Rebecca Moriarty provides opening remarks.



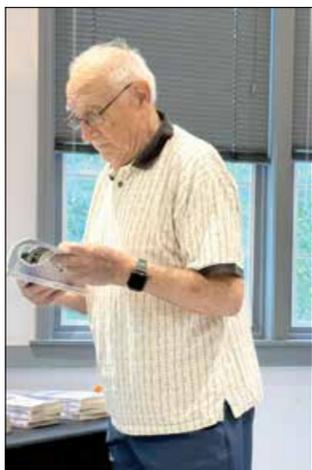
Christina Vernon reflects on her work bringing the Memory Café to life in Hampden.



Melva Michaelian shares statistics on Alzheimer's Disease and dementia during her book launch on Sept. 19.



The Memory Café at the Hampden Senior Center came together through the efforts of Outreach Coordinator Wendy Cowles, who worked with Christina Vernon and Hampden Senior Center Executive Director Rebecca Moriarty, to bring it all together.



An attendee checks out "Thanks for the Memories."



Melva Michaelian signs copies of her books for attendees.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

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This is the season! Nope not the holiday season, though those are approaching quickly, it's the season that since 1999, Tracy Sicbaldi has been volunteering with the Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer. As you'll read more about Tracy, this isn't the only charity she offers her talents to, instead she's a seasoned volunteer helping many causes she believes in.

Though we all know that breast cancer happens every day of every month of every year, and you probably know someone affected with it, October is the month that brings its awareness to the forefront. Tracy began championing for this charity by forming a team and walking while supporting her friend Judy, who was dealing with breast cancer.

Having over 40 years of experience in the banking field, a natural fit for Tracy was to help with the financial portion of this event. She became a prominent part of the financial team and actually served as the Co-Chair of Finance with her good friend and fellow banker, Lisa Bull-

ock, who is a breast cancer survivor herself. Though they relinquished their roles as Co-Chairs after many years, they both continue to be dedicated finance volunteers. Tracy continues with Rays of Hope to honor her friend Lisa and in memory of Judy, who unfortunately she lost in 2000.

Tracy loves the feeling of giving back and has been a well-rounded volunteer for years, helping many with her financial expertise. She currently volunteers with West MA Elder Care who recently changed their name to Access Care Partners, where her responsibility is being part of the 'Money Management Program'. Within this role she goes to elderly client's homes who don't always have people around to

help them. Her tasks may include assisting them in creating a budget, helping them with balancing their checking account, she's even helped them write checks to pay their monthly bills. She also will make phone calls on their behalf, whether to question a charge on a bill, to checking with their insurance company about benefits they are entitled to and may not be aware they have. She finds this very rewarding and loves when she can resolve an issue that is weighing heavily on the mind of that person. This service is free and therefore a Random Act of Kindness by helping the seniors in our communities.

Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

Random Acts of Kindness doesn't necessarily mean a monetary gift is needed, instead sharing your time and expertise is a very precious and appreciated contribution.

Another place you may find Tracy is taking the minutes at the Board meetings where she volunteers for the East of the River Chamber of Commerce. She's been a member for years but in 2021 became the Board Clerk of this organization. The purpose of this Chamber is to promote business networking in the towns it encompasses which are Ludlow, Wilbraham, Hampden, East Longmeadow and Longmeadow.

As if all this wasn't enough, Tracy doesn't stop there! She held the position of Board Clerk at Dakin Humane Society then this year

was elected as its Board President. For the past 4-5 years, she's also volunteered in their thrift store on Saturdays. Tracy said she can't work in the area with the animals because there wouldn't be any animals left in the shelter to adopt: she'd have taken them all home with her.

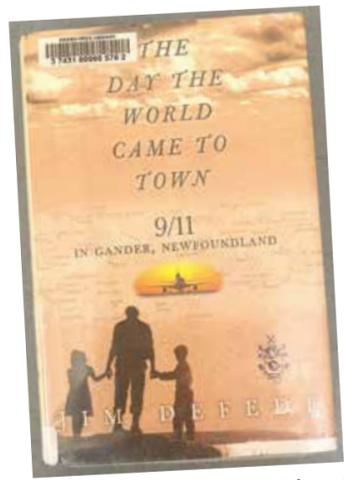
Tracy's mom and dad have been members of the Grace Union Church in Wilbraham for years and have always taken care of the donations and financial matters for the church. Tracy didn't attend that church on a regular basis with her parents, but after her mom passed, her dad asked if she could lend him a hand. So now she's not only a member of that church, she's the Assistant Financial Secretary as well. Just another way she is giving back.

She loves helping with other fundraisers too. For the past three years she has helped BB Landscaping in Monson at their various community events as they support numerous local charities. Rays of Hope shares a partnership with Baystate Health Breast Network and the Baystate Health Founda-

tion. This year the Walk and Run will be on Sunday, October 19, 2025. It will begin and end at Temple Beth El on Dickinson Street in Springfield with two routes designed to capture the beauty of Forest Park and the neighboring communities. For more information about this incredible event that started with only 500 attendees thirty-two years ago and has now grown to over 20,000 participants, go to <https://www.baystatehealth.org/events/rays-of-hope>. See how you can support this very worthy cause by creating a team, individually walking, volunteering, making a donation or becoming a sponsor. Make a positive difference like Tracy is doing!

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story, 'Just Cause' you witnessed, you did or maybe received something nice being done for you. See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness! ~ Barb

As you can see, doing



Turley photo by Angelina Acevedo
The book the club read: "The Day the World Came to Town."

DISCUSSION from page 1

The discussion that took place between the club members was guided and facilitated by Mary Bell, the assistant director at the library. She helps guide the discussion with questions, such as asking what everyone's initial thoughts and opinions are.

Even so, the discussions tend to flow organically after asking a question, and can truly lead anywhere.

"I ask questions

just to get the conversation started, but our members really go in depth naturally. It gives me a deeper appreciation for the book since I always notice things the others say that I hadn't thought about before," Bell said.

During this meet, members shared their thoughts and opinions about the book, author, and things that related to the story. A common thing said throughout the meet was how everyone was "absolutely amazed how the community came together," while some even argued that this was "the best book about 9/11 because it's uncharacteristic about what you've learned about the attacks".

The book followed the six days after the attacks, and focused on different people's situations and how the act of terrorism affected them, and their day-to-day lives. The club went into detail about how it was interesting noticing other perspectives, including an orthodox rabbi, a family returning home with their adopted daughter from Kazakhstan, and a mother of a New York firefighter who was currently missing.

The group also talked about their own experiences during and after the attacks and added their own personal stories into the discussion.

One person shared how they felt.

"After the attacks, we came together as a whole country, there was no us vs. them inside the country," they said.

Another added this. "I remember thinking, 'when will the next terrorist attack going to be' and just being scared," they said.

The group's vulnerability helped make the discussion more personal and deepen the reading experience. These kinds of conversations are truly appreciated by those attending, as club member Michale shared, "This club is where I come to get social interaction and intellectual stimulation in other ways than just my daily life."

Member Pattie also shared how, "I come anyway and listen to the conversation, even if I wasn't a fan of the book."

The Wilbraham Public Library Evening Book Discussion typically takes place on the third Wednesday of every month, except during the summertime. In total, they read about 9 books, the next one being "The Beekeeper of Aleppo" by Christy Lefteri.

Copies are currently available at the front desk of the library, and newcomers are always welcomed to this gathering of book lovers and enthusiasts.

DIRECTOR from page 1

programming, including a children's reading program earlier in the day.

"All the way until we close, I see just a steady stream of people, all ages," Harter said. "It's lovely. It's an honor to work in a place like that. It's an honor to be of service, it really is."

Before coming to Western Massachusetts, Harter originally worked at a library in Alaska, moving to this area two years earlier to be closer to family. The first home she bid on was right here in Wilbraham, and that house had a unique feature.

"The stairs in the home it was one of those that you walk to the lower level and then you walk up to the kitchen. The stairs were books. I thought it was a sign," Harter said. "Just kind of serendipitous that we ended up in this area."

On what inspired her to pursue libraries, she had majored in International Relations originally in college. However, working in a library during that time, working at a library in elementary school and helping her father research while he wrote "However, working in a library during that time, working at a library in elementary school and helping her father research while he wrote changed that."

"I was very familiar with libraries and the process," Harter said. "I liked it. I think I just enjoyed the rhythm of it all and the fact that, really, the reason for a library at all is to store humanity's knowledge, right? But, the librarian's job is to find it because it's a lot."

Helping people was the other part.

"I really enjoyed being at the desk. It's always different. There's always a different thing to challenge your

brain and 'How can I help this person to achieve this goal?'" Harter said. "And all of those things put together have made me very content in my career."

She credits all her experiences thus far and the people she's met for preparing her for where she is today.

"It's all coming together for me and I just love it, I really do," Harter said.

When asked what's stayed with her so far, Harter noted the people.

"Everybody to a person has been incredibly warm and welcoming and kind. That is first and foremost, that includes all the staff. The town is beautiful. This is just a beautiful part of the country," Harter said. "The library itself is just perfect. For a librarian at heart, this is a library."

Also, the programs.

"For a library this size, I think that speaks about the talents of the staff," Harter said. "It's really dedicated to the community. Karen did an awesome job. I mean, she was here for such a long time. She's definitely going to be missed—and I told her I can't fill her shoes—but I have different shoes."

On her goals, Harter would like to bring more teens to the library, explore possible ideas for growth to bring even more people in and connect with the Board of Trustees for their thoughts on the future.

"I can think of some things, I'll let the trustees tell me what they're thinking and the community," Harter said. "We're at service here, it's the community's library."

Harter thanked the community for the welcome and looks forward to seeing them stop by the library.

"I'd like to thank them for having me here. I intend to serve to the best of my ability and I really look forward

to making relationships with everyone, getting to know folks, getting to know what they want from this library because it is their library, like I said. It's not mine, it's theirs," Harter said. "So, my

job—I've told the staff—my job is to clear the way for them and I would look at that for the public too. Clear the way for their ideas of what they need from the library and let's see if we can make

it happen. It takes a village, it always does. I'm just really happy to be here, I really am, and I'm looking forward to the future here."





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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Should I claim Social Security early because it is going bankrupt?

Dear Rusty:

My best friend is going to be 62 and wants to begin taking her Social Security immediately.

Her reasoning not to wait is the thought that it is going to run out in 10 years, so she wants as much of her money before that happens. I have paid into Social Security my entire working life (44 years and counting). What are your thoughts on taking it as soon as you are eligible?

Signed: Uncertain what to do

Dear Uncertain:

Deciding when to claim Social Security is a sometimes-confusing task, but no one should ever claim SS early because they believe Social Security will go bankrupt in the near future. Social Security cannot and will not go bankrupt. What your friend may be referring to is the fact that Social Security will be facing some financial issues in 2033 unless Congress acts soon to reform the program. And they will act, but likely not until they must.

The fact is, Social Security still has about \$2.7 trillion in reserved funds which are now being used to pay full benefits. If that Reserves balance were to be fully depleted, then Social Security would need to go to a "cash basis" (essentially, paying out in benefits only what is received in SS taxes), which would result in about a 21% cut in everyone's benefit. In other words, even if Congress neglected to reform the program, beneficiaries would still get about 79% of their monthly benefit starting in about 2033/2034. Hardly anyone believes that Congress will fail to eventually reform Social Security and, in fact, they already know how to do that reform (they just currently lack the bipartisanship to accomplish it). But neglecting reform would amount to political suicide for all members of Congress, which is extremely unlikely to happen.

Here at the AMAC Foundation, we are confident that Congress will

soon address Social Security's future financial dilemma, and we have been working on potential solutions. We have, for several years, been providing these suggestions to various members of Congress, and those members are now considering our proposals. Thus, we do not suggest making a Social Security claiming decision based on fear of the program going bankrupt.

That fear is unfounded. Instead, we suggest that everyone decide when to claim based upon their individual personal situation, considering their need for the SS money, their life expectancy, and their marital status. And remember, claiming early (before one's SS full retirement age (FRA)) also means Social Security's Annual Earnings Test will apply (the AET limits how much can be earned from working before FRA is attained).

So, our thought on the wisdom of taking Social Security as soon as you are eligible is that it is often not a wise decision and certainly not if that decision is made based on fear of Social Security "not being there" soon. Instead, we suggest making your Social Security claiming decision based upon your unique personal circumstances, including, especially, your life expectancy, financial need and marital status.

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.

Letters to the Editor

Wilbraham Friends of Recreation accomplishments

To the Editor,

The Wilbraham Friends of Recreation has been busy over the last 18 months and would like to share our accomplishments with the town. In 2024, we spent over \$94,000 towards the building of the Pickleball Courts behind Memorial School to supplement the \$300,000 the town spent through the Community Preservation Act. These courts have become one of the Rec Departments most used facilities since opening last fall.

On top of our successful Trail Race and Fishing Derby we organize every April and May, we decided to partner with our friends at 'Pafumi's on Main' to host a Celebrity Bartending Event the night

before Thanksgiving. This ended up being our largest fundraiser of the year and will become an annual staple.

We also opened up new fundraising opportunities through MassMutual's Employee Benevity Portal for volunteers and had a successful banner drive for Spec Pond, Memorial fields and the Pickleball Courts. This additional fundraising helped us purchase new picnic tables for the Pinney Pavillion (\$21,000), maintenance of the Spec Pond Basketball Courts (\$16,000), and help the wrestling program with \$9,000 towards their \$65,000 (privately funded) state of the art renovations at Memorial.

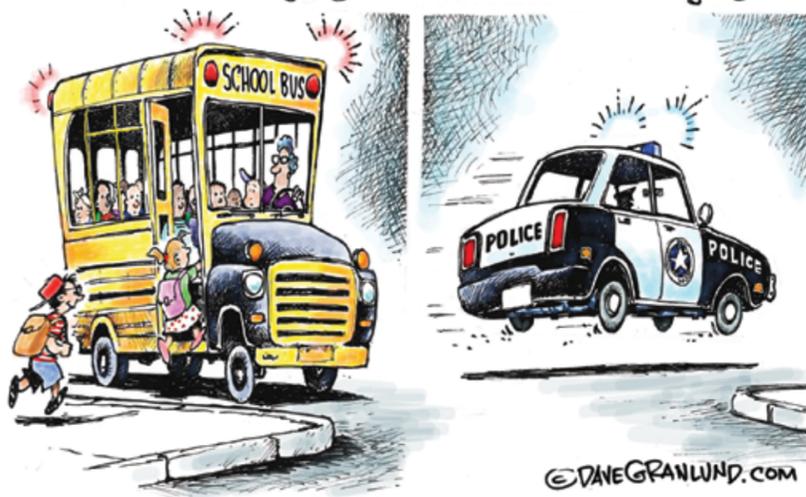
For 2026, we wait to see what town leadership decides

to do with Memorial School. We are hopeful the town decides to keep it and are ready to orchestrate a large-scale Capital Campaign to improve key features of the building, starting with the gymnasium. The goal of this campaign is to lessen the financial burden of any renovations from the town, similar to what we accomplished with our \$1 million campaign to renovate Spec Pond 15 years ago.

We would like to wrap this up with a thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, and the town for the continued support of our mission. We couldn't do it without you.

The Wilbraham Friends of Recreation

If you aren't stopping for these flashing lights... Then you'll be stopping for these flashing lights!



A picture is worth a thousand memories

This column was prompted by a picture. You see, a coworker got out her phone and showed me a vase on her table that was filled with the most interesting velvet red flowers.

"What are these?" she asked. "Coxcomb or Celosia," I replied, and I went on to explain how the flower looks like a rooster's comb, hence the plant's name.

Seeing the image brought me right back to the late 1980s and early 1990s where I had a business growing dried flowers and crafting them into wreaths and arrangements that I later sold at area craft shows. It was a fun experience that I shared with my parents.

Read on to revisit some of my favorite flowers for drying.

Celosias make excellent dried flowers. They are available in three distinct types, crested or "Coxcomb," plumed and wheat. Crested types such as "Fireglow," "Prestige Scarlet," or "Big Chief" make quite a statement with their velvety-feeling, brainy-looking heads in rich shades of red, pink, and gold.

Plumed types come in similar colors, but are feathered in appearance. The "Sparkler" series are multi-branching when given ample growing space; just a few plants will provide you with many long lasting stems. Newer to the catalogs, but really an heirloom, wheat celosia is the most delicate of the three. "Flamingo Feather" has rose tips with a silvery base. Pick often for an abundance of side shoots.

Globe Amaranth is another flower that is popular once dried. Clover-like heads on sturdy stems make great bouquet fillers. Nearly all varieties bloom well in the heat of the summer, producing even more flowers after they are

harvested. Cut when head reach the size of your thumbnail for best performance.

Lemon Bee Balm or Lemon Bergamot is the most underused of all the flowers mentioned here, but it shouldn't be! Whorls of mauve-pink bracts are best cut when three inches long.

Stems are weak, so mix in with other flowers to keep heads upright or attach stems to a wooden pick for added strength.

Most of us are familiar with the Strawflower, a stiff petaled flower that feels dry even in the garden! To dry, simply insert a 23-gauge wire up through a tiny bit of the stem and into the flower's calyx, just barely into the head itself. This will give the strawflower a strong "stem" for use in floral arranging.

After the flowers have been wired, be sure to let them dry fully, upright and in the dark to preserve their rich hues. You can also simply pluck the heads and dry them on a cookie sheet in the dark for hot-gluing later on.

Love in a Mist or Nigella is an old-fashioned beauty that has light blue, white or rosy pink short-lived flowers followed by really neat brown striped seed pods. When fully dry these look like pepper shakers, dropping their seeds to an fro. The pods are desirable for dried wreaths and arrangements.

Keep picking as soon as the heads are fully developed to keep the plant producing. Prince's Feather is a member of the Amaranth family and grows lush plumes worth

of a prominent place in your arrangements. Smaller side shoots are great for more delicate work.

Colors are typically shades of burgundy. Plants can grow anywhere from eighteen inches to several feet tall so site accordingly.

Winged Ammobium is a two foot tall, floppy annual that has an abundance of tiny white flowers. It is best picked when the center of the flowers just starts to show its yellow color.

If you wait too long, the centers will turn brown and unattractive. Gather small bunches of ten to twelve stems and secure them with rubber bands. Here too attach a wooden florist pick to tiny bunches for ease in floral arranging- besides giving the stem some strength, it will give it additional length.

An attic or barn loft are the best options in which to hang your harvest to dry. Flowers dried in the dark will retain their vivid colors very well and the heat will dry them out quickly.

Make small bunches of fresh cut flowers, securing them with a rubber band, not string. The rubber band will shrink along with the stems as they are drying. Hang them upside down and you will be rewarded with straight stems and upright heads.

Have fun experimenting with floral arranging or wreath making with these everlasting flowers.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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Correction Policy
The TIMES will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper and can be substantiated. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on the editorial pages. To request a correction, send information in an e-mail or mailed communication to the editor at the above address listed above.
The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc. One year out of town subscriptions are available at \$45, out of state \$50 by calling 800-824-8458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

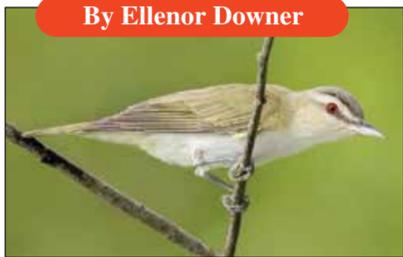
Campaign news
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness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

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



The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sighting of a red-eyed vireo on Sept. 15 at their Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary, located on Massasoit Road in Worcester.

The red-eyed vireo has an olive green back and wings, white underparts, gray crown and a white eyebrow and a black line through its eyes. It has a yellow wash on the flanks. Adults have red eyes hence this six inch tall songbird's



Red-eyed vireo

name. Immature birds have brown eyes.

It builds a cup shaped nest of grasses, bark and spider webs suspended in the fork of a tree. It sings almost continuously from dawn to dusk with a series of short note phrases,

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 8

Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Wilbraham Fire Department responds to three-vehicle accident



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Police Department

HPD seeks help identifying driver

Officers are investigating an incident that occurred on Sept. 11 at approximately 1:40 p.m. on Main Street. The vehicle struck a fence and tree before leaving the area. Anyone who may have seen something is encouraged to contact our department at 413-566-8011 extension 6212.



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department

On Sept. 12 at approximately 6:55 a.m., a person walked in to the station reporting a serious motor vehicle accident at Main Street and Boston Road. Firefighters arrived to find three vehicles involved, including a box truck. The driver of one vehicle was briefly trapped but was quickly extricated by firefighters. There were three people transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

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

A touch of Patriotism



Submitted photo Evelyn Goss

Evelyn Goss shared with the Times this photo of a Patriotic pattern outside the main entrance of the Wilbraham Post Office on Sept. 12.

Federated Church of Hampden celebrates during Celebration Sunday

On Sept. 7, members and the community gathered at Federated Church of Hampden for a Celebration Sunday event to meet the new pastor, Eunji Lee, sign up for Sunday School and gather together in worship and to socialize.



Submitted photos Eunji Lee

The members and Pastor Eunji Lee gather together during the Sunday worship service.



Here come the hot dogs!



An action shot inside the sanctuary during the Sunday worship service at Federated Church of Hampden.



Attendees enjoyed music during the Celebration Sunday. Due to the weather, it was moved indoors to Libby Hall.

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Upcoming Art Show at Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN - "Fall Into Art" is the title of the upcoming art show by the Scantic River Artisans (SRA). This is a special show to benefit the Scantic River Artisans Scholarship Fund and Programming.

It will be held in the Community Room of the Hampden Senior Center on Oct. 11 and 12. Hours on Saturday are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a reception with music and refreshments from Noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, with awards presented at 2 p.m. The Senior Center is located at 104 Allen St.

Scantic River Artisans have held numerous shows in the area presenting a diverse range of artistic mediums. The October show will include Oil, Watercolor, Acrylic, Pastel, Mixed Media, Photography, and other unique works including Pottery, Jewelry and Sculpture to name a few. Something for everyone to appreciate. All works are original and will be available for purchase.

This special show includes "Reflective Musings" - A Community Art Project, this program is funded in part by a grant from the Hampden Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Works are being donated not only by the artists, but also by anyone in the community who wishes to participate. Each piece of art is a reflection of the artist's thoughts, memories and emotions. They will be presented on a 5" by 7" by 1 1/2" deep canvas and be done as a painting, collage, drawing, photo or something else.

In addition to artists from the SRA there will be works by art students from Minnechaug Regional High School. You are guaranteed to see many different styles celebrating the diversity of our community. All works are on sale for \$20, with the money going to the Scholarship Fund and Programming.

This Scholarship Fund was started by SRA three years ago. Awards are given annually through the Minnechaug Regional High School Art Teacher who determines the recipients.

Awards have ranged from \$300 to \$500.



View of the June 2025 show.

One SRA artist with paintings in the show, is Sue Bluestein, a resident of Hampden since 2022. Like many people, she had a box of crayons when she was a kid.

"Crayoning made me happy," she says.

She did some doodling and sketching from then on, but nothing serious until she retired from the corporate world of accounting about five years ago. Sue wanted something new to do. A box of watercolors she had since sixth grade was found, and off she went, exploring this medium. Six or so months later she spotted a box of pastels in a thrift shop for one dollar. Pastels quickly became her passion and YouTube her teacher where her favorite Pastel Artists include Marla Baggetta, Karen Margulis, and Liz Haywood Sullivan.

She says, "I love the immediacy of this medium, the expressiveness from the pure color in the pastel pigments." Most of her work is based on photographs she takes. She also does a lot of sketching when outdoors, finding inspiration in shapes, reflections, sky clouds and all that the natural landscape provides. If you visit the show you may have an opportunity to talk with her and view her work.

Scantic River Artisans



Sue Bluestein with her submission for Reflective Musings.

mission is to connect the community through diverse, dynamic, and creative experiences. SRA is dedicated to providing opportunities for local artists of all ages and skill levels to explore, develop, and market their creations. The group has over 65 members from Wilbraham,

Hampden and surrounding towns. If you are interested in becoming a member or have any questions visit <https://www.scanticriverartisans.com/>. Or talk to a member at the show.

Wilbraham Friends of the Library 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.

Eighth Annual ATI Club Walk

WILBRAHAM - The Eighth Annual ATI Club Walk will be taking place on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The first 120 attendees will get a free t-shirt!

The event will support Partnership to End Addiction and takes place on the Cross Country Trail located in the far corner of the teacher parking lot. Donations ac-

cepted but not required as 100% of all donations will be going to Partnership to End Addiction.

Lunch will also be provided.

Minnechaug students can join our Eight Annual ATI Club Walk Google Classroom to RSVP with their school email ONLY...

Code: 4dfbt3qt

Tech help at the Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM - Need help setting up an email account, updating your phone, or figuring out a new device?

Students from the Wilbraham & Monson Academy (WMA) Community Service Team will be at the library to assist with technology-related questions. Assistance is available on a

first come, first served basis on Fridays from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Please bring any relevant devices and/or log-in and password information. Contact the library at 413-596-6141 or visit www.wilbrahamlibrary.org for more information about upcoming dates.

BACKYARD from page 6

"Here I am, where are you?"

It is frequently parasitized by the brown-headed cowbird, which lays its eggs in other bird's nests.

It feeds on insects, mainly caterpillars and migrates to the Amazon basin for the winter. Vireos are found in the forest canopy, particularly in woodlands and forests.

Other birds at Broad Meadow

Other birds at Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary included a Nashville warbler on Sept. 16, a great blue heron, a sharp shinned hawk and a broad winged hawk, all on Sept. 15.

Helping birds

Bird friendly windows can prevent collisions, which annually kill millions of birds. Birds can't see glass. Instead, they see whatever happens to be reflected in its mirror-like surface. Often, this is open sky or trees, which, for a bird, are appealing and perfectly safe things to fly towards. It's estimated that between one hundred million and one billion birds die every year in collisions with manmade structures, one of the biggest killers of migratory birds.

Bird-safe glass is specially designed to make glass a visible obstacle to birds. Bird safe glass is visible to birds while transparent enough for humans to look out. People may visit the Audubon Society at <https://www.audubon.org/news/what-does-bird-safe-glass-even-mean> for ways to keep birds safe from window strikes.

Here are some of the tips they offer. Try placing your bird feeder about 1.5 feet from the window; it will slow

them down. Apply a thin film to the outside of the windows. The glass will become visible to birds, but remain transparent to people. As an added bonus for being so eco-savvy, the film will cut down on incoming infrared radiation, so it will also lower summer cooling costs. Keep curtains or shades drawn during the day to reduce reflection. Place window decals, sun catchers, tape strips, ribbons or anything else in a dense pattern in the "2x4" format, a single decal will not work. Install a screen or net a few inches outside of your windows, to lessen the impact.

Brimfield bird watcher

A Brimfield resident continued watching for migrating common nighthawks in August, but did not have any luck. He has seen them in the past. He had three ruby-throated hummingbirds feeding on jewelweed, cardinal flower and nicotiana last month. He saw a pair of American Goldfinch drinking from the drip he has in his yard. He also saw a female pileated woodpecker on the top of a mountain ash where it ate berries for while.

Bird calls

A reader sent an email about a free bird call app called Merlin.. She thought other readers might be interested. She said, "Just enter your location and press record. I never knew hummingbirds chirp. Now I do."

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

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Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 2005 20 Year Reunion

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 2005 20 Year Reunion will take place on Saturday, Oct. 18 in Ludlow, MA at 6 p.m. For details and to purchase tickets (\$30): <https://20yearslatermrh-sclassof05.rsvpify.com/mrhs2005reunion@gmail.com>.

Membership Tea

WILBRAHAM - Please come and join the Wilbraham Women's Club Annual Membership Tea. We are located at St. Cecilia's Parish Hall, on Main Street in Wilbraham. Oct. 9 at 11:30 a.m. Lunch served at Noon. Our presentation, which will begin at approximately 1:15 p.m., will feature local Wilbraham author, Marty Damon, who will speak about her captivating book, "Well Murdered." The book settings with familiar places around our town. All welcome. Please call Bobbi-Lee Nelson for a reservation if you are not a member 413-427-9351.

Cookbook Club at the library

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Public Library Cookbook Club is meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m. This month's selection is "Zaytinya" by Jose Andres. Please let the library know what you're bringing when registering so we do not duplicate recipes. Cooking is encouraged but not required for attendance. Copies of the book are available now at the Service Desk. The Cookbook Club meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m. This program is free and open to the public, and registration is required. For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

Build a Scarecrow Fundraiser

WILBRAHAM – The Build a Scarecrow Fundraiser takes place on Saturday, Sept. 27 and Sunday Sept. 28. From 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Rice Fruit Farm. 1 for \$15; 2 for \$25. Sponsored by Minnechaug Student Council.



Hampden Historical Society Talk set for tonight, Sept. 25

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Historical Society on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Academy Hall presents "Letters Home From a Civil War Soldier" by Nancy Ayers. All welcome. Refreshments will be served. Any questions please call Linda Krawiec at 566-8447.



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Falcons pick up two wins, draw

WILBRAHAM – Last week was an important one for the Minnechaug Regional High School boys soccer team. After two losses and a tie to start the season, the Falcons were in much need of a win. They got two as they defeated both East Longmeadow and Amherst by 2-0 scores. They also battled Pope Francis to a scoreless draw. With the three games, Minnechaug is now 2-2-3 on the regular season. The Falcons are at West Springfield on Friday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m.



In heavy traffic, goalie Chase Henderson dives on a ball.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Cameron Salvador heads the ball forward.



Gavin Coughlin gets a touch on the ball ahead of a pair of defenders.



Leniel Vera attempts to clear the ball away.



Jack Parastsidis fights to keep possession.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Anna Taylor looks to stop the ball.

Falcons suffer shutout loss to Agawam

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—The Agawam varsity field hockey team entered the 2024 Division 2 state tournament with a 9-7-1 record. Third-year Agawam head coach Nina Bruno is hoping that her players can win at least 10 games during the 2025 regular season.

The Brownies improved to 3-2-1 following an exciting 1-0 road win over Suburban League rival Minnechaug Regional, last Friday afternoon.

“It took a total team effort to win today’s game and I’m very proud of my players,” Bruno said. “My expectations is for us to do a little bit better than we did the previous season. We also lost our last game and I’m hoping that this win gives us some momentum going forward.”

Minnechaug first-year head coach Casey Moriarty entered this week’s action still searching for her first varsity win, as the Lady Falcons fell to 0-6-1.

“It’s frustrating not being able to celebrate a win yet, but the players have been improving in every game that we’ve played,” said Moriarty, who graduated from Minnechaug in 2016. “We’re looking forward to playing Agawam again.”

Moriarty, who had been an assistant varsity coach



Ava Eggsware guides the ball past midfield.

for the past four years, replaced Maggie Kennedy as the Lady Falcons head coach.

The two rivals split the season series a year ago. The final score in both of those games was 1-0.

“Minnechaug has been one of our biggest rivals since I was in high school. They always play very hard whenever we face them,” said Bruno, who graduated from Agawam High School in 2018. “One of the things that we also want to do in every game that we play is score the first goal.”

The Lady Falcons had the opportunity to take the

Please see **FIELD HOCKEY**, page 11

Minnechaug girls settle for draw with Douglas

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—One of the biggest issues so far this season for the Minnechaug Regional girls’ varsity soccer team has been putting the ball into the back of the net.

The Lady Falcons, who were outscored, 14-6, in their first six regular season matches, held a 1-0 halftime lead in last Saturday’s home match versus the Douglas Lady Ti-

gers, who captured the 2024 Division 5 state title.

The visitors from the Blackstone Valley scored the equalizer on a corner kick goal in the middle of the second half and the non-league match ended in a 1-1 draw.

“The result is probably not what either team wanted, but it was a very good high school soccer game,” said Minnechaug head coach head coach Nundi Goncalves. “Traditionally, Douglas has

been a very good soccer team. You always want to face the best competition.”

Minnechaug had a 1-4-2 overall record following their second home tie of the regular season. They also played a 2-2 tie against Coombs Division rival Belchertown in the home opener on September 8.

The Lady Falcons’ lone victory this season was a 2-0 shutout in a non-league match at Agawam four days later.

Both Douglas (5-2-1) and

Minnechaug faced each other for the first time on the soccer pitch without a couple of normal starters.

Senior forward Kelly Cronin, who scored a team-high ten goals a year ago, has been sidelined since the start of the regular season with an injury.

Senior Zorah Wray, who’s a starting defender, sat out the Douglas game with an injury.

One of the Lady Tigers two losses came to Pope

Francis, 3-2, at home in the season opener. They’re hoping to qualify for the Division 4 state tournament this year.

One of the Lady Tigers assistant coaches is Desi Vega, who has ties to Western Massachusetts. He was a physical education teacher at Hampshire Regional for ten years before becoming the assistant principal at Belchertown High School. He has also been the assistant principal at Douglas High School for the past eleven years.

The Lady Falcons are still hoping to qualify for the Division 2 state tournament.

The first shot on goal in last Saturday’s contest was taken by Minnechaug junior Ainsley Holden. Her shot attempt during the ninth minute of the opening half was saved on a bounce by Douglas sophomore goalie Jasmine Trudeau (7 saves).

Trudeau started her second consecutive game in place of senior Emily Ramsdell, who’s out of action with a back injury.

About five minutes later, junior Carson Humphries fired another shot attempt for



Ava Kearney winds up to clear the ball away.



Goalie Abigail Lee punts the ball away.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Elizabeth Woytowicz snatches the ball near the sideline.

the home team, but the ball skipped wide of the net.

During the 28th minute, the Lady Falcons had a free

Please see **GIRLS**, page 11

Extra roster spots open in fall baseball league

SOUTH HADLEY – The Quabbin Valley Baseball League fall session is underway with just two games played. Due to injuries and other obligations, a small number of roster spots have opened up on teams and the league would like to add a few more players for the remainder of the fall campaign.

Games are Sundays at 10 a.m. for the remainder through Nov. 2. Anyone in-

terested in registering can go to www.quabbinvalley-baseball.org and click on the registration link. There are six games remaining in the season and the fee to play in the remaining games will be prorated for any player who joins. Players looking to join should be age 28 or older.

For more information or to ask any questions, contact Greg Scibelli at GScibelli22@yahoo.com.

HCC announces Summer 2025 Dean's List

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the students who earned Dean's List honors for Summer 2025. Each term, HCC recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Summer 2025 term.

W i l b r a h a m : Jean Boutin, Robert Edmund Dooley, Miranda Lee Krauza.

This week in recreation

Alysaun Knox

WILBRAHAM - Wrestling season is almost here!

The Falcon Youth Wrestling team, founded 14 years ago, has become the foundation of the sport in Wilbraham and the surrounding areas. The team invites kids in grades K-8 to join the action in their newly renovated wrestling room. Registration runs from Oct. 1 to Dec. 5, with tiered options available—including warmup gear and tournament entries.

Curious or new to the sport? Try it out at free introductory clinics held Tuesdays and Thursdays, Nov. 4-18, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Memorial School.

Organizers say the free clinics are a great way for families to learn about wres-



ting and for children to experience the sport before committing to the season.

More information, including registration links for the clinics and regular season, can be found on the Wilbraham Recreation website, wilbrahamma.myrec.com

FIELD HOCKEY

from page 10

lead on a penalty corner with seven minutes remaining in the opening period.

The ball was inserted by sophomore Tess Morrow to senior Giselle Harris, whose shot attempt was saved by Agawam senior goalie Megan Outhuse, which was her only save of the opening half.

Outhuse, who only had to make one save during the second half against Minnechaug, also recorded a shutout in a 3-0 win at West Springfield on September 10

With 4:30 left in the first period, the Brownies scored on their first penalty corner opportunity.

Junior Alyssa DaSilva sent the ball to senior Alexina Lentas at the top of the circle. She then fired a hard shot that bounced into the cage past Minnechaug sophomore goalie Gianna Nowicki (7 saves).

"Alexina took a shot, and it worked out in our favor," Bruno said. "The corner was executed really well."

With a minute remaining on the scoreboard clock, it appeared like the visiting team had taken a 2-0 lead following another corner goal. However, the goal was disallowed by the referee because the ball never left the circle after it was inserted by DaSilva.

The Brownies did put a lot of pressure on the Lady Falcons defense, as they managed to keep possession of the ball for the first eight minutes of the second period, but the score remained 1-0.

"Only having a one goal lead kept us on our toes," Bruno said. "I was a little bit nervous, but we do have a very strong defense."

Lentas is also one of the Brownies defenders, along with senior Kait Maloney, senior Sam Matland, and junior Emma Bozak.

The Lady Falcons had a penalty corner late in the first half.

Matland broke up the play by stealing a pass.

The Brownies failed to score a goal on their two penalty corner chances during the third period.

The Lady Falcons also had a penalty corner in the final seconds of the third period.

Sophomore Peyton Lee inserted the ball to Morrow on the left side of the circle. Her shot attempt sailed wide ending the period.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Avery Lucas tries to make a backhand play.



Nolah McConnell catches up to the ball and keeps play going up the field.



Reese Magee locks up with an Agawam player in front of the goal.

With 9:35 remaining in regulation, DaSilva had a wide open shot attempt in front of the cage, but Nowicki made a kick save.

"Gianna made a big save at the start of the fourth period," Moriarty said. "She played very well in today's game."

Nowicki was supported by her defense which is led by senior Trinity Burgmyer, senior Colleen Basch, senior

Nolah McConnell, and junior Reese Magee, who's a first-year varsity player.

The trio of McConnell, Burgmyer, and Basch are the Lady Falcons captains.

Neither team had anymore scoring chances during the rest of the game.

The two rivals are scheduled to meet again on Oct. 14 at Agawam High School.



Keira Horne shuffles a quick pass away.



Isabella Usher dribbles across midfield.

GIRLS from page 10

kick. Senior Zoe Pinnock booted the ball towards the net from the left sideline, but Trudeau was able to corral it in the air.

The home team did take the lead on a corner kick goal eleven minutes later.

Senior Ava Kearney sent the ball into the box from the left corner. The ball bounced around the box before Holden put a shot into the right

corner of the net. Holden's first career varsity goal was assisted by Kearney.

"We've only scored seven goals this season, so it felt very good to take a 1-0 lead in the first half," Goncalves said. "It was nice to see the ball go into the goal."

The Lady Falcons leading goal scorer is freshman Brooklyn Manning with two goals. She scored her first varsity goal against Agawam. Her second goal came

in a 2-1 loss to West Springfield on September 17.

Humpries also had a shot on goal, which was saved by Trudeau before the buzzer sounded ending the first half.

Minnechaug freshman goalie Isabel Horne only had to make two saves during the first 40 minutes of the Douglas match.

Horne was replaced in goal by junior Abby Lee (4 saves) at the start of the second half.

The game tying goal was scored by senior Nicole Hribar, which was unassisted, in the 57th minute following a corner kick.

The Lady Falcons had a couple of chances to retake the lead.

A shot attempt from senior Elizabeth Woytowicz deflected off the crossbar.

Another shot by Sophia O'Connor with five minutes left in regulation was saved by the Lady Tigers keeper.



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Cailin O'Brien holds possession of the ball looking to pass.

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Part time snowplow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2025-2026 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL license. If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at (508) 867-2451 or email **hwyscreary@newbraintree.org.**

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Family Marshmallow and Toothpick Challenge Oct. 18

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library is pleased to announce our first annual "Family Marshmallow and Toothpick Challenge".

Do you have a budding engineer? Please join in the fun, Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 to 10:45 a.m. for this event. Teams will compete to make the tallest free-standing tower, with a marshmallow on top, for 10 seconds!

Teams must consist of at least one adult and one child under 12 years of age. Teams may have up to four players.

All materials will be provided. We'd love to have your Team come join in the fun!

Registration is required for this event. Please either register online at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org, or by calling the front desk at 413-596-6141.

Wilbraham Garden Club

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Garden Club will hold its annual "Welcome Back" meeting in the St. Cecilia Parish Center at Noon on Oct. 2.

Rebecca Sadlowski, the owner of Rooted Flowers in Agawam will share "Flower Farm Life & Lasagna Layering in Pots" and will demonstrate how this method of bulb placement will yield a concentrated burst of spring. All levels of gardeners are welcome to attend and there is no guest fee for this meeting.

Please contact Anna Howell at (413)537-5788 with any questions.

BLEACHERS from page 1

lawsuit if someone got hurt, Tirabassi noted it could cost the school district "hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Tirabassi said there is currently little support from town officials to replace the bleachers, and indicated there could be other priorities before the bleachers.

"We know a fire truck needs to be replaced, the town usually put extra money into their Stabilization Fund for two to three years in a row knowing that the money's there and there's a commitment that, 'Okay, in 2027, we're going to do the bleachers,'" Tirabassi said.

"But, I haven't even garnered support for that, unofficially, with anyone I've talked to."

On repairs, Rogers explained during the summer, boards are reviewed—and replaced, if needed—along with the bolts and any concerns presented by Hale, students and staff throughout the year, also get addressed.

"I know there was some questions on the previous large amount of money. I did find out for the Stabilization Fund, I think it was for \$50,000 that the School Committee approved in 2022. So, we ended up using, it was only \$16,000 in change for that. That was mostly for the walkway as you first walk up the stairs. That main walkway—the widest one—had the bigger boards and

that was completed and replaced down to the metal," Rogers said. "Some supports, but that was fully replaced." Rogers later added when

asked about the total hours put in and the man-hours by Vice Chair Sean Kennedy, he estimated, "over the summer at least, we're about 100 hours into replacing boards" and it varies by year depending on the numbers.

He didn't have information at that time about how much was spent in the last 10 years, but in 2024 and 2025, the estimated amount on boards and hardware was \$4,719.

Messier added, also, over "10, 15 years ago" that Charlie Arment Trucking was brought in to assist on "a complete refurbishment" of the bleachers, which included stripping down the frame, priming and painting and replacing all the boards.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations and Human Resources Dr. Douglas Slaughter shared how plans "from about 2014" were found with a CPA application for two designs looked at.

"One that had more seating and no cutouts and one with cutouts in the middle of the bleachers to sort of walk through, and the two price ranges there—so for the larger one that didn't have the cutouts and more seating for cost that was about \$745,000 and the one for the fewer seats and the cutouts it wasn't a huge difference in the seats but a much different structure, it was just under \$600,000, \$590,000 roughly. So, that was 10 years ago," Slaughter said.

On more recent estimates from a little over a year ago, Slaughter said, the number was \$1.4 million.

CAREGIVERS from page 1

for people with dementia and to get support from the community.

Unfortunately, there's no one-size-fits-all magic approach that works every time for every person. I try to remind people that you cannot reason with someone with dementia. They are living in a different world, sometimes in a different time, and you have to go with the flow and go on that journey with them."

The support groups can also offer a forum to exchange information on physicians and pharmacists and for caregivers to share their triumphs and even vent their frustrations.

"Sometimes you just want to scream," Jagodowski said. "The group is a safe place to get things off your chest."

Jagodowski recognizes that it may be hard for some caregivers to share their concerns with strangers.

"Some people need to observe and feel out the group at first and that's totally fine," Jagodowski said.

The senior center also offers a Memory Care Café where those with dementia and their loved ones gather from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first Monday of the month. The group is facilitated by Heather Hmieleski, a certified dementia practitioner who is the director of mind and memory at

Benchmark Senior Living in Wilbraham.

The Memory Care Café offers companionship, information, games, and entertainment as well as lunch.

"When we held our first group a year ago you could feel the nervousness in the air," says Harrington. "Once everyone started talking a little bit, you could feel the stress disappear. It's a no-judgement zone. We've had a lot of laughs, a lot of tears. People have built wonderful friendships."

Harrington is proud that programs like these have helped Wilbraham achieve designation as a Dementia Friendly Community.

"The devotion of the caregivers touches my heart," Harrington said.

If you have questions about the Memory Care Café or Caregiver Support Group or would like to attend, please contact Barbara Harrington at the Wilbraham Senior Center at 413-596-8379 or bharrington@wilbraham-ma.gov.

Jagodowski recommends that caregivers with questions about dementia utilize the Alzheimer Association's 24-hour hotline (1-800-272-3900) for unbiased information and advice.

Visit us on the web www.turley.com

Messier said in the past, locker room shower areas, team rooms under the bleachers, a new ticket booth and new concession stand were also proposed.

"Complete redo of that whole section through there and we started getting CPA involved with it. I don't really remember the price of the project, but it was way over \$1 million back then for sure," Messier said.

Hale clarified, "There is no interest in us proposing any bleachers that has locker rooms or showers or a steam room or a sauna or a trainers room."

"The only thing that we're proposing is to try and get replacement bleachers," Hale said.

Hale said the school averages 757 paid tickets for home football games since 2022, and numerous more people get into the game for free. He also said the pep band has grown to more than 100 members.

The discussion on the bleachers will continue at the Sept. 25 meeting.

John S. Jackson, Jr. 82

John S. Jackson, Jr. passed away on September 10th 2025 at the age of 82,

UConn Huskies Women's Basketball were among his favorites.



with his family by his side. John was born in Springfield, MA to the late John S. and Esther (Christianson) Jackson, Sr. on March 25, 1943.

He was a life-long Springfield resident, living in the same home for over 55 years with his wife Susan, where they raised their two daughters.

John was the founder of Jackson's Auto Sales and Service in Palmer, MA. He owned and operated the business for 28 years. He recently retired but all who knew John can still picture him behind the counter smoking his cigars. He always had a friendly smile for everyone who came for vehicle service, but also for those who came to visit his beloved Beagle mix "Storm."

John loved his sports. The Red Sox, Patriots, and

In addition to his parents, John was predeceased by his wife Susan of 54 years in 2015, as well as his sister Shirley Gauthier. John is survived by his two daughters, Sherry Jackson of Ludlow, MA, Diane (Alan) Murray of Sutton, MA, granddaughter Tiffany (Stephen) Murray-Morella of Holliston, MA and grandson Christopher Murray of Sutton, MA, and his best friend, sidekick, and constant companion "Storm" his beloved Beagle mix who passed on March 21, 2025.

Services are private and entrusted to Wilbraham Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, consider a memorial donation in John's name to Shriners Children's Hospital, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104 or online at www.shrinerschildrens.org.

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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. HD24P0492EA
Estate of:
Cynthia E O'Sullivan
Date of Death: 11/11/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Lisa Malsbury of Monson, 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 10/23/2025.

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 18, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/25/2025

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of October 10, 2025 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
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R & S Assoc. Inc
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Wilbraham, MA 01095
413-596-4374
09/25, 10/02, 10/09/2025

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. HD25P1901EA
Estate of:
Patricia Vigneault
Also known as:
Patricia A Vigneault

Date of Death: 08/08/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

The Petitioner requests that: Michael R Vigneault of Rye, NH 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 10/14/2025. 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.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

OBITUARY

DEATH NOTICE
John S. Jackson, Jr. Died Sept. 10, 2025 Wilbraham Funeral Home

Wilbraham-Hampden Times OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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 15, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
09/25/2025

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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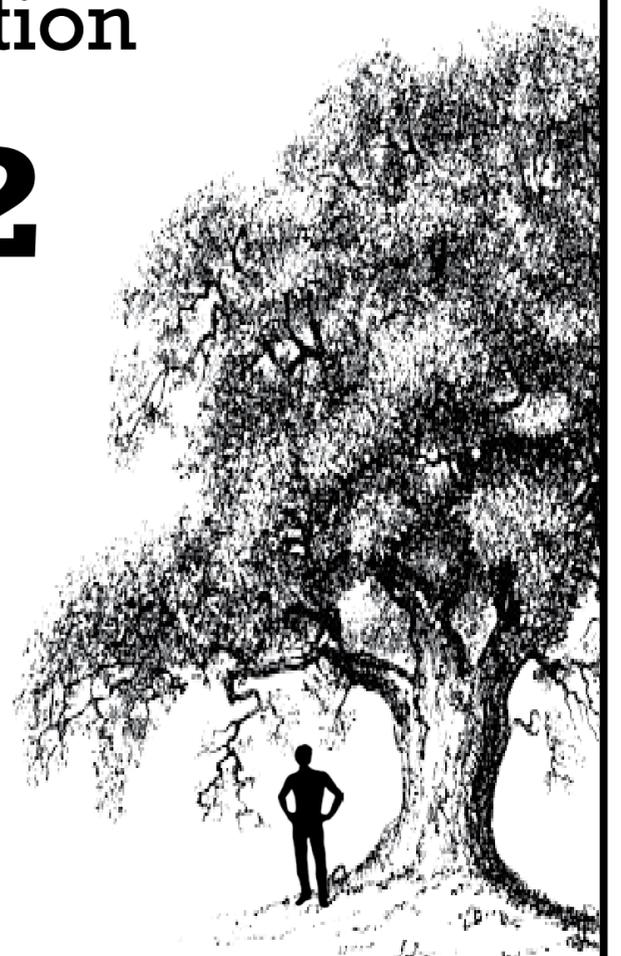
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