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## Attendees 'Fall into Art' at gallery in Hampden



A group photo of the team behind The New England Mosaic, the community art display featured in the "Fall into Art" Art Show at Hampden Senior Center.

### The New England Mosaic is featured at art show

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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HAMPDEN -- The community stopped by the senior center on Sept. 23 from 3 - 8 p.m. and Sept. 24 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. for the "Fall into Art" Art Show.

The art show was held in the community room, featuring photography, acrylic, pastel and oil paintings, ce-

ramic pottery, jewelry and metal art. This show also featured The New England Mosaic, a 24-inch mosaic wall with six-by-six-inch canvas tiles designed by creative communities throughout Western Massachusetts, with attendees having the opportunity to purchase the tiles for \$25 and the proceeds supporting scholarships for local art students.

This year's theme was "New England's Seasons: Beauty, Bounty and Favorite Pastimes."

Danielle Desmarais, one of the many attendees, heard about the show from a targeted ad on Face-

book. "I usually like wine and cheese events, art events or anything art-related, so you get the targeted ads and it said, 'recommended for you' and I just saved a little picture and put it in my phone as an event and here I am," Desmarais said.

Desmarais enjoyed checking out the metal art, the mixed media and acrylic paintings and the tiles from The New England Mosaic, adding she used to be a printmaker and enjoys talking to other artists at events.

Please see **MOSAIC**, page 4



Photos submitted by Mary Bell Assistant Library Director Mary Bell stands beside a pile of scarves collected for the "Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer".

## Collecting pink scarves for Rays of Hope walk/run

Wilbraham Public Library leads annual collection effort

By Dalton Zbierski  
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WILBRAHAM -- It has been an annual tradition since 2014 for the Wilbraham Public Library to collect pink scarves for the "Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer", an event for breast cancer survivors and their families occurring each October.

"I think there's just a large, generous community here that's looking for ways to give back," Assistant Library Director Mary Bell said. "It's really touched a lot of people, (supporting) the breast cancer survivors walking for Rays of Hope. I think it can often be personal for folks too, knowing somebody who's gone through that, and it's just real generosity in the community."

This year, the walk is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Oct. 22.

Rays of Hope is a Springfield-based charity that represents Western Massachusetts through the Bay-state Health Breast Network.

Established in 1994, Rays of Hope cares for patients "from diagnosis to beyond" by supporting cancer research at the Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research in Springfield and providing funding for state-of-the-art equipment, breast health programs and outreach and education throughout Baystate

Please see **RAYS OF HOPE**, page 9



A panoramic shot of the 2023 New England Mosaic featured at the "Fall into Art" Art Show at Hampden Senior Center on Sept. 23. The art show was organized by the Scantic River Artisans.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

## Commemorative Tree Fund honors residents and community members

The project is overseen by the Wilbraham Women's Club

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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WILBRAHAM -- For 36 years, the Wilbraham Women's Club has overseen the Commemorative Tree Fund, where a resident or group can honor a special occasion with a tree planted in town.

The project, established in 1987, is still going strong. Cheryl Wesolowski serves as

the chairman of the Commemorative Tree Fund, working with Tree Warden David Graziano on selecting trees to plant. She shared that three maple trees were planted at Crane Park this spring, with plans for five or six flowering trees coming to the Minnechaug Regional High School grounds in October.

"I think it's very exciting to have a program like this because these trees are a living memorial to whatever event you're subscribing to. So perhaps it's a marriage or a birth or it's a memorial to someone who's passed away," Wesolowski said. "Whatever the occasion, it's just a living memorial that family and friends can

come by and see." Wesolowski added anyone in town can contribute, whether by donation or a tree.

"All contributions will be recognized in the book we have

Please see **TREE**, page 5

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
**A living memorial to NASA Astronaut Dr. Janice Voss, a 1972 graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School and daughter of Louise Voss, a former Selectman of Wilbraham, outside Minnechaug Regional High School. The tree was planted by the Wilbraham Women's Club in honor of Voss.**





# School Committee receives information on Middle School Soar Program

Also, information on Visitor Tech Entry Expansion through Raptor

By Kristin Rivers

Staff Writer

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WILBRAHAM – On Sept. 19, the School Committee learned about the Middle School Soar Program.

Wilbraham Middle School Principal John Derosia explained the project, also called The Well-Being Promotion Program, will use positive psychology to help identify kids who need additional support.

Derosia said counselors have worked with Sarah Pfeffer, her doctoral and graduate students, himself and Gina Roy, director of Student Services, to put the project together.

An electronic screening test, done via Google form, took place Sept. 27.

“They’ll collect all the data and then they’ll create a cut score and from that cut score, they’ll develop two randomized groups,” Derosia said.

The two groups, called Now and Next Year, will meet 45 minutes a week for 10 weeks with counseling groups.

“After the 10 weeks is up, they’ll meet monthly and get

additional support throughout the school year. Parents will also be given resources to help promote the same thinking in their homes,” Derosia said.

Clerk/Secretary Sean Kennedy loves the idea but had questions about possible stigmas.

“Is there anything like that? How are you protecting the kids from something like that?” Kennedy said.

Derosia said “there’s a number of groups that happen every day at the school and kids will have a rotating schedule.”

“Is there a chance that somebody might ask them where they’re going? Sure, but I think as a general rule, there’s support groups, there’s lunch bunches, there’s things happening all over the building every day. This is just one more of those,” Derosia said.

Sherrill Caruana focused on how Derosia said two other school districts use the program.

“Could you get some feedback from them about their experience?” Caruana asked.

Derosia said the other districts “are in the same process as us” in beginning the program.

“I’d love to see how that runs as well. It would be great for the counselors in all of the schools to get together,” Derosia said.

Another meeting highlight was Superintendent Dr. John Provost discussing Raptor Technology, a tool screening for sex



Minnechaug Regional High School.

Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

offenders, custody issues and banned visitors when someone tries to sign into a school to pick up a student or visit.

The item is part of this year’s steps for the strategic plan.

Provost introduced Raptor through a video and demo showing how the technology works, explaining a trial run took place at Mile Tree Elementary School and has expanded to all the elementary schools.

He addressed what can be done if someone tries to enter a school without identification.

“We can set them up in the

system. They would just have to meet with the administrator to create an ID,” Provost said.

Chair Michal Boudreau asked what would happen in the scenario of someone who has shown up numerous times but has no identification.

“Is it assumed that, you know, the person up front knows them? Can vouch for them? Will they be turned away?” Boudreau said.

Provost said there have been experiences with that scenario at Mile Tree over the last year.

“My understanding is most of them have been resolved by the person saying, ‘Oh I forgot my license in my car let me go back and get it,’ so we do try to make sure that everyone follows the routine every time,” Provost said. “If it was an emergency

situation, we were certain of the person’s identity, I’m sure that some discretion could be used, but we’re trying to make sure that people follow the process every time so that they get used to the sign-in procedure.”

Provost said another benefit to the process is providing accountability during an emergency.

“We can take the laptop out and we know how many visitors we’re looking for as we try to evacuate the building,” Provost said.

When School Committee member Richard Rediker asked what would happen if someone did come up as a sex offender or had a custody issue, Provost explained if it were a custody issue, “it would be the responsibility of the office staff to figure out who the child can be released to.”

“That is probably the most frequent complication that school staff run into around visitors to buildings. It’s usually when a visitor wants to take a child home. We need to make sure that the visitor is someone who the parents have identified as able to take the child home,” Provost said.

If a sex offender, there are protocols in place.

“We have protocols to make sure that we are providing enhanced surveillance of the individual. There may be a sex offender who also has a child in the school who may need to visit a teacher or may need to bring medication to the nurse, so that’s not going to be stopped, but it is something that’s going to be watched a lot more closely than it normally would be,” Provost said.

## Searching your family history with Ancestry Library Edition

WILBRAHAM -- Assistant Library Director Mary Bell will give a hands-on demonstration of Ancestry Library Edition at the Wilbraham Public Library on Thursday, Oct. 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

She will give a brief demonstration of how to use the online resource in the Brooks Room, followed by time in which participants use library computers or their own laptops to access the database and search for themselves. All participants will be given a starter kit with forms and tips for researching genealogy.

“Ancestry Library Edition includes records of the U.S. Census from 1790 to 1950, military records such as World War I draft cards, and other records worldwide. Some international records are available, with particularly good coverage in Canada and the United Kingdom,” said Bell.

Images of original records, including immigration records and town records of births, marriages, and deaths can be saved to a flash drive, printed, or sent to your email from the Ancestry Library Edition. It is accessible in-library only, but can be used through both library computers or personal devices connected to the library’s Wi-Fi.

This program is free and open to the public. Space is limited due to the number of computers available, and registration is going on now.

For more information, contact the Wilbraham Library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar online at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org).

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# Hampden Senior Center, Big Y partner on flu vaccine clinic

By Dalton Zbierski  
 Editor  
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HAMPDEN -- The senior center was abuzz on the afternoon of Sept. 22, as Big Y pharmacists arrived to immunize residents with flu shots.

Big Y Immunization Coordinator Elaine Zimnoski and traveling pharmacist Andrea Reid came to the senior center to offer doses of a flu vaccine.

"The Southern Hemisphere reported a moderate to severe flu season, and with COVID cases on the rise and RSV on the rise again, it's important to get your flu vaccine to protect you against flu, and we also recommend you get your COVID booster when that's available," Zimnoski said.

Everyone who received a shot was also given a travel bag and umbrella, both of which read "Hampden Senior Center."

They were also gifted a \$10 gift card to one of a variety of local stores and establishments as well as a notepad and pen. Food and refreshments were also available.

Council on Aging Executive Director Becky Moriarty said the senior center was able to purchase the prizes thanks to a grant it received from the National Council on Aging through the Administration for Community Living.

"We couldn't use the money to purchase vaccines because that's not allowed, but we are able to use it for transportation if someone needed a ride or printed materials to explain what the vaccines are all about and things like that," Moriarty said.

Volunteer Coordinator/Administrative Assistant Tina Doran also shared encouraging news.

"We are doing homebound visits," she said. "We'll do the flu and COVID vaccines for them. If people can't get out to get it, we will bring it to them... It definitely makes a difference because people stress out about that, so we'll bring it to you."

Doran said one woman was moved to tears when she learned the service was available, as her husband's oxygen machine was being difficult, and he couldn't make it to the senior center that day.

Reid is licensed in Massachusetts and Connecticut to go store to store or to other locations.

As she administered each shot, she said, "Five, four, three, two, one, you're done."

Reid said she enjoyed engaging with those she served last Friday.

"I love to chit chat with people for sure. We were just talking about that. Sometimes, it's busy, and you've got to keep it moving, but we're always friendly and talking to people," she said.



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

L to R: Big Y traveling pharmacist Andrea Reid and Immunization Coordinator Elaine Zimnoski administered flu shots at the Hampden Senior Center on Sept. 22.

Zimnoski noted that immunizations are more important than ever following the pandemic. Like Reid, she enjoyed speaking to the different people who received the vaccine.

"It's amazing. That's why I went into this field; to help people out, and now with the pandemic and everything, we've really been able to immerse ourselves in our community and make a difference so it's wonderful being here," Zimnoski said.

Moriarty thanked Public Health Nurse Ashley Boudreau for coordinating with Big Y. She thanked her staff for being focused as they signed people up, obtained their insurance information and directed people into the building.

Moriarty was also thrilled that the senior center could host the clinic. Referring to the prizes and the atmosphere, she said having fun is important at the senior center, regardless of the activity.

"We love a fun experience here at the Hampden Senior Center so we are very happy to be able to provide this service because for a lot of people even going to the pharmacy or trying to get to your doctor's office is a challenge, and so having the vaccine clinic available here at the senior center is really very convenient, and you know we make it fun because that's what we do," Moriarty said.

A COVID/Shingles/Pneumonia Clinic will occur at the senior center on Friday, Oct. 27 from 1-4 p.m. Appointments are required and all ages are welcome. Please call 413-566-5588 to preregister.

## Wilbraham Fire, Police to host open house on Oct. 7

WILBRAHAM -- The town of Wilbraham is excited to announce that both the Wilbraham Fire and Wilbraham Police Departments will be hosting open houses on Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at their Boston Road stations. During the event, public safety personnel will be offering station tours and showcasing various equipment that helps keep the community safe.



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The Holyoke Community College Jazz Ensemble performs during the "Fall into Art" Art Show at Hampden Senior Center. The students from the ensemble served as the event's entertainment.



An attendee chats with Laura Salerno, potter, about art during the "Fall into Art" Art Show at Hampden Senior Center. The Scantic River Artisans hold four art shows throughout the year.



Chris Sterritt shows off her oil painting, "My Buddies" that was showcased at the "Fall into Art" Art Show at Hampden Senior Center. Sterritt's art piece was one of many on display during the show, some available for purchase.



Charlann Griswold of Tangled Vine Jewelry shows off this season's jewelry offerings during the "Fall into Art" Art Show at Hampden Senior Center.



Susan Superson with her acrylic painting "Meditation in Black & Blue" she had on display at the "Fall into Art" Art Show at Hampden Senior Center.

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"I'm happy to see so many other artists here and people just browsing for art and just talking and hanging out," Desmarais said.

Susan Superson has been with the artisans for six years, showcasing her acrylic painting "Meditation in Black and Blue."

Superson was thrilled to see so many people, encouraging support to local artists and art given what was happening in the country.

"It's even more important than ever that we really showcase art and artists and take the time to talk with them and support them by being all together," Superson said.

Ceil Rossi of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans, the organization behind The New England Mosaic, credited Judy Lever-Duffy and Karen Conkey, explaining the project, brought to the area from Lever-Duffy, originated in the Florida Keys, where their project was known as "The Keys Connection."

She stressed how there are many opportunities for



A close-up shot of mosaic tiles designed by those who participated in the 2023 New England Mosaic. Tiles with orange stickers were marled "sold" as they could be purchased for \$25 during the "Fall into Art" Art Show.

artists to make a living through their art, encouraging students to pursue scholarships.

"We are having a hard time getting kids to sign for the art scholarship, all over, and the reason is because they don't think there isn't any money going into school for art, but art isn't just art. It's graphic art," Rossi said. "There's art therapy teaching, of course, there's school teaching. They could go on to museums, be curators. A number of things that the art can lead to and lead from."

Nan Hurlburt, president of The Scantic River Artisans, said it's the organization's second year featuring the mosaic, the youngest participant at six-years-old and the oldest being 90.

Hurlburt was ecstatic about the turnout, as the artisans are always reaching out to the community to help them "experience every type of art."

"We have every type of artist here, so outreaching into the community is really our mission statement, it's who we are, so anything that we can do to improve that and get the word out and have people come who might not have ever been to an art show or people who are frequent fliers we like them to come down too," Hurlburt said.

Hurlburt wants the community to know how appreciative she is of the community support for the organization and artists, noting she loves seeing how happy everyone is when they come to the art shows.

"Breathtaking is all I can say," Hurlburt said.

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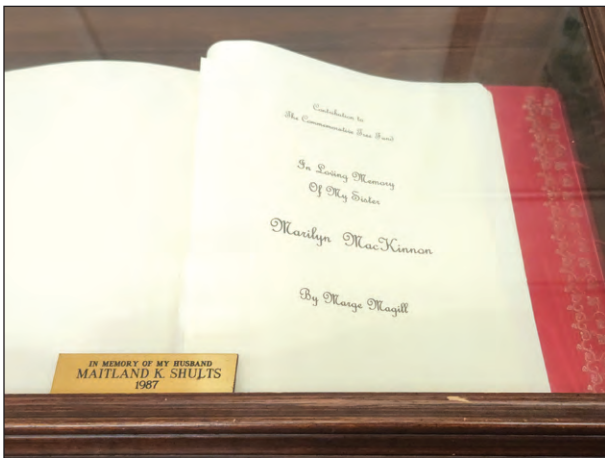




Sandy Swain, member of the Wilbraham Women's Club, holds up a copy of the 2006-2007 edition of the Wilbraham Phone Directory, one of the past projects put together by the Wilbraham Women's Club.



(L to R) Dottie Schwendenmann, former chair of the Commemorative Tree Fund and longtime member of the Wilbraham Women's Club, Sandy Swain, Maureen Mikuszewski, president of the Wilbraham Women's Club, and Cheryl Wesolowski, chair of the Commemorative Tree Fund for the Wilbraham Women's Club, smile for a group photo after their interview sharing the story of the Commemorative Tree Fund and the history of the Wilbraham Women's Club.



A close-up of the Commemorative Tree Fund book on display at Wilbraham Public Library. The book contains names of those who contributed to the tree fund and the names of those who a tree was dedicated to.



A close-up of the plaque reading "The Commemorative Tree Program, Sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club" at Wilbraham Public Library. The book, which contains the names of those who contributed to the fund and names of those who a tree was dedicated to is on display at the library. Voss was the daughter of Louise Voss, a former Selectman of Wilbraham.



A plaque in honor of NASA Astronaut Dr. Janice Voss, a 1972 graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School, who was honored with a tree by the Commemorative Tree Fund, overseen by the Wilbraham Women's Club. Voss's tree is the only one to have ever received a plaque in her honor.

**TREE** from page 1

on display at the library," Wesolowski said.

Dottie Schwendenmann, who's been part of the Women's Club for over 50 years and the former chairman of the Tree Fund, said the upcoming tree plantings at Minnechaug are due to a grant from the Wilbraham Community Association.

"We'd like to have them recognized and, also, we're thrilled that they chose us for a \$1,000 grant," Schwendenmann said.

Wilbraham Women's Club President Maureen Mikuszewski said the program has impacted the community.

"So many people know about it," Mikuszewski said. "People talk about it and remember it and then to have it displayed at the library where people can go back and see where their tree is planted and who donated it. Wilbraham is a beautiful town. We're just trying to make it more beautiful."

Schwendenmann reflected on the trees planted over the years, including one for a former paper boy who later served in Afghanistan and returned to check on his tree and another for a couple celebrating their yearly anniversary at their tree.

Additionally, the tree planted in front of Minnechaug with a plaque honoring Dr. Janice Voss.

"The tree was planted for Janice Voss, the astronaut and daughter of (former Selectman) Louise Voss, so it's a living memorial that we're all very proud of and very visible because it's right where the teachers park," Schwendenmann said. "So, they go in that door, and they are reminded that they all were responsible for a wonderful

young lady that went into the astronaut program, and she graduated from Minnechaug."

Beyond the Tree Fund, the Women's Club has supported the community in many ways, from past projects including phone directories and doing the census, to current projects including scholarships and supporting a student for the MassSTAR Youth Leadership Conference.

Mikuszewski stressed this when asked what she wants the community to know about the Women's Club and the Tree Fund.

"I think it's extremely important for the residents of Wilbraham to know how much the Women's Club really does and that we're here," Mikuszewski said. "We're here for the town and anything they need, and we want to help."

On the Tree Fund, Wesolowski looks forward to planting more trees, highlighting the trees planted throughout town, including three pear trees along the town hall grounds, cherry trees, flowering crabapple trees, birch trees and various types of red maple and plum trees.

"So a variety of trees planted throughout the town, and hopefully that'll go on for years to come," Wesolowski said.

To learn more, write to the Wilbraham Women's Club at P.O. Box 424, Wilbraham, MA 01095, or call Mikuszewski at 413-596-8269.

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## VIEWPOINTS

# A tiniest of Becket mysteries resolved

By Adrienne Metcalf  
Guest Column

You may remember the last nearly three foot snowstorm of 2023.

It came all of a sudden, dumped a ton of wet snow and by very dent of sheer volume took weeks to fade away. Between the three foot mark and bare ground it melted first in pockets around darker stones and trees that warmed in the increasing sun.

It was just such a morning of warm sun and the almost audible sound of snowmelt that I ventured to our greenhouse to check on the plants that overwintered. I felt good, enjoying the pattern of snow dappled with dark patches and the sun's inevitable win.

I was lost in the reverie when I noticed, just as I was about to open the greenhouse door, a large chunk of metal lying on the ground. What the hell? Squarish, 12" or so, machined, curved, part of something mechanical, it sat on a patch of bare ground, propped against a small standing stone at the corner of the garden.

It was completely surrounded by fields of snow covering the gardens. I was stunned, looked around, as if someone had snuck in and placed it there and were still lurking at the edge of the forest, enjoying my dilemma.

No tracks. I looked around again, but this time my head tipped up and I searched the sky, as if the offender was circling above. Ha, finally my mind kicked in. It had to, by all of Nature's immutable laws, had to have dropped from the heavens.

We humans rarely look up, known fact. The sky is boundless, unknowable, and when something drops out of it, in all manner of possibilities arise. The sky is falling.

I picked it up. It was heavy. It had a broken protuberance and a bit of a metal spring on it. This was definitely not a piece of our farm equipment. I looked up the hill toward Quarry Road, easily 100 feet away, no tracks and too far to have come from the road.

Back to the sky. Airplane? Satellite? I looked up one more time as if the countenance of some mischievous god was going to show itself. "Joe!" I called out to my husband in my best farmhouse yell.

He traipsed over and we both handled it, turning it over and over, glancing from the road to the sky to the woods. Joe, who is reliably logical, said not a satellite; no burns on it signifying re-entry. Ok, good, we're narrowing the unknowable down by one click.

Farming has taught me to be logical and pragmatic in the way of seasons, growing,



Submitted photo

equipment, how to care for things and life and that there is always an answer. Things dropping from the sky was beyond my pay grade.

We brought it in the house, I went back to tending plants in the greenhouse uneasy with being reminded there is so much beyond my control. Upon return to the house, Joe piped up, someone might need to know about this. Oh yes, there is a world outside our farm.

So, I called Bradley International airport: we are under one of their flight paths. Bradley sent me to the Connecticut State Police covering Bradley. They sent me to the FAA, Aviation Safety Inspector, Bradley Flight Standards District Office where I talked with Tom. Tom was friendly, professional and above all, curious.

I sent him a picture. We made an appointment for Tom and a co-worker to make an early spring jaunt to come see the piece. Cool, maybe we'd be part of solving some problem that would save lives as the missing airplane part was essential...to something, somewhere.

The day arrived; the sunny spring morn was wakening with life as the snow was diminished to small patches in shaded corners. A small white car arrived, official license plates and all. Now we were cautiously curious, having spent the last several years with misgivings and confusion about government and people alike.

Two middle aged men stepped out, clipboards in hand. Warm handshakes and we revealed the piece. They studied it, one to another. "Too heavy" was Tom's first comment. They seemed puzzled and asked to see the landing spot.

We crossed the yard to the spot with chickens clucking in support. They took photos and notes and we all looked at the woods, the road and the sky as we explained Bradley flight paths. Joe and Tom chatted about C130's and their flight paths over our house using the nearby quarry as a test for bombing runs. We stood

a good long while, mutually befuddled as the piece brought us all to a standstill of unknowing.

Clearly, they puzzled over the weight, explaining that airplane aluminum is much lighter. Perhaps it came out of a cargo plane, as we learned several fly with their hatches open. Comforting!... but plausible.

The shared mystery opened the human connection and soon we were talking about Tom's dream to have a farm and chickens and that their job often requires being first on scene of crashes. How silly our mystery metal object seemed in light of the weight they bore regularly. Answers absent, Tom took the piece after giving us an official receipt of custody. He was determined to solve the mystery.

Several weeks passed when I got a call from Tom. He reluctantly admitted they had no idea what it was, where it came from and how it landed in our yard. We chatted that it could have been there for months, arriving before one of the snowstorms and being buried. I could tell he was disappointed, in himself. He took pride in solving mysteries. He had taken it to Bradley, to various military branches and even to the cargo companies who fly with open hatches.

Nothing. "Did I want it back?" he asked, insisting it was a conversation piece. "Sure", more out of respect for the work he had put in. Did I want it shipped or he could bring it up to us. At least an hour away, I remembered the peace he mentioned feeling here and the things he must see that might never leave his mind's eye. "Yes", bring it up to us. In the last moment, not sure of what prompted it, I said he might want to check with the highway garage in Becket if he were coming up any way.

The next day, Tom called. Mystery solved, the piece came off one of the town trucks. How anticlimactic.

It was a spring loaded part and must have let loose and sailed over 100' or maybe 50' and slide across the snow to rest against my standing stone. The Highway Department wanted it back. He would bring it back to the town garage, take pictures of the truck that it came off and the case would be officially closed. He was pleased.

I was amused and shook my head that the dreams of sleuthing and heroic plane disaster averted melted with the last of the snow. Life goes on in Becket, just one tiny mystery solved and a few friends and neighbors moved from the shared delight of unknowing to irony. Yet another episode in Becket's history at this end of town.

## A series of misfortunate events

By Julie Midura  
Staff Writer

When Tom and I began planning a five-day backpacking trip in the Sandwich Wilderness of New Hampshire, we envisioned lovely days of easy hiking followed by peaceful evenings sitting beside a campfire before crawling into our tent for a restful night's sleep.

But this time, things didn't turn out quite as we planned.

### Misfortunate event #1:

The three and a half hour drive to New Hampshire became a five and a half hour drive due to an accident, which forced us to start our five and a half mile hike at 4:30 p.m. Now if you think that we'd be well rested after sitting in a car for over five hours while battling heavy traffic, you'd be wrong.

We were thoroughly exhausted; and we hadn't even started hiking yet.

### Misfortunate event #2:

When we reached the swollen Whiteface River, it was too high to cross over on rocks, so we changed into our Crocs and forded instead. With two more crossings ahead of us in the next 1.3 miles, we decided that instead of taking the time to dry our feet and pull on our socks and shoes after each crossing, we'd just hike in our Crocs until the final crossing.

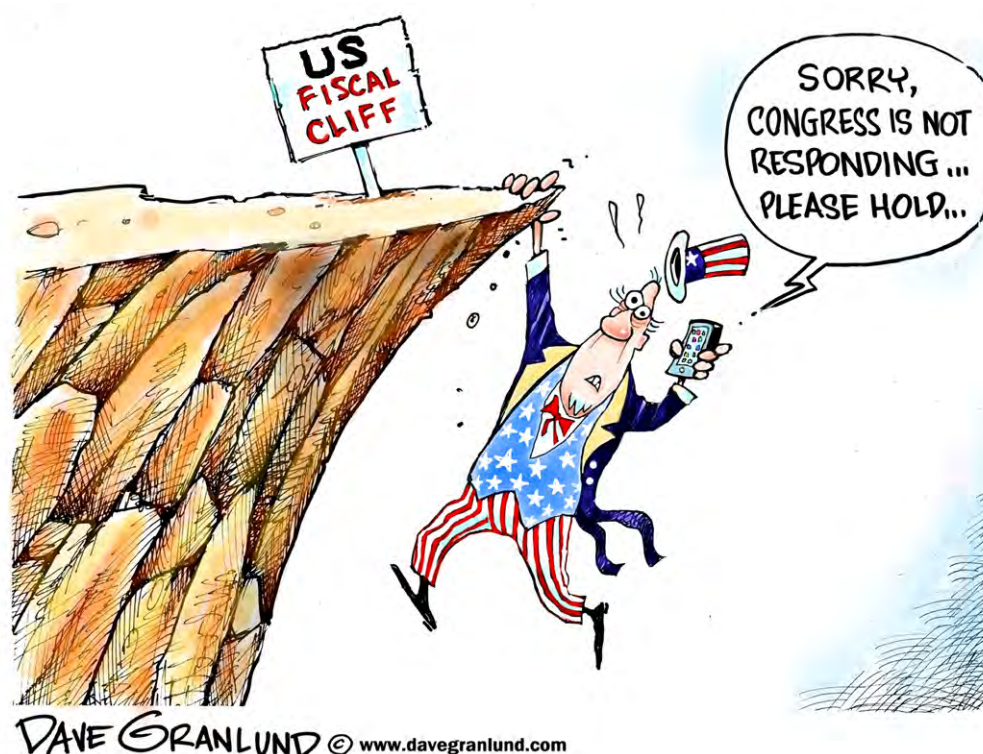
Which lead to...

### Misfortunate event #3:

In spite of the fact that we were wearing Crocs, we raced along the trail in a vain attempt to arrive at the tentsite ahead of the darkness. Which caused Tom's Croc-wearing feet to sink into calf

deep mud, whereby he crashed to the ground like the proverbial tree falling in the forest. (And yes, there was indeed a sound when he fell!)

Please see **HIKING**, page 9



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### Correction Policy

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

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





Historical interpreter Richard Howell, shown here in period costume at the Bunker Hill Monument in Charleston, Mass., will speak Sunday, Oct. 8 in the Wilbraham & Monson Academy Chapel next to the Old Meeting House Museum at 2 p.m. (Times file photo)

## Atheneum Society brewing up an informative meeting

History interpreter Rich Howell to discuss the Boston Tea Party

By Charles F. Bennett  
Times Editor Emeritus

Historical interpreter Howell will be the guest speaker at the 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 8 Open House in the Wilbraham & Monson Academy Chapel next to the Old Meeting House Museum in the center of Wilbraham at 450 Main St. When Howell speaks, he also looks the part, dressing in period costume sometimes as a Revolutionary War soldier from Wilbraham.

The Boston Tea Party and pre-Revolutionary War times will come to life with Howell, a lifelong resident of Wilbraham and U.S. history expert who will appear in period uniform as a Revolutionary War soldier and talk about early Wilbraham history.

The Boston Tea Party was an American political and mercantile protest on Dec. 16, 1763 by the Sons of Liberty in Boston in colonial Massachusetts. The target was the Tea Act of May 10, 1773, which allowed the British East India Company to sell tea from China in American colonies without paying taxes apart from those imposed by the Townshend Acts. The Sons of Liberty strongly opposed the taxes in the Townshend Act as a violation of their rights. In response, the Sons of Liberty, some disguised as Native Americans, destroyed an entire shipment of tea sent by the East India Company. The demonstrators boarded the ships and threw the chests of tea into the Boston Harbor. The British government considered the protest an act of treason and responded harshly.[2] The episode escalated into the American Revolution, becoming an iconic event of American history. Soldiers from Wilbraham years later responded to the attack of British regulars at the Concord and Lexington Alarm with other Massachusetts Minutemen.

### Researcher

Howell's talk is free and open to the public as part of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society's Sunday Open House series. Refreshments will be served and the museum's Gift Shop will be open.

The Trustees of the Atheneum Society, which oversee the museum on behalf of the town, are proud that local historian Howell is highlighting the open house in his own hometown. He is a life member of the Atheneum Society, a graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School and Western New England University. Howell has spoken in town previously in various programs including in the Brooks Room of the Wilbraham Library.

As a re-enactor for 20 years he backs up his expertise with 37 years of historic research. He has conducted speaking engagements in a number of historic sites around the country. He is a member of the New Plimouth Gard, Lexington Minutemen, a member of the Friends of the Alamo, Friends of Mount Vernon, Friends of Gettysburg Battlefield in Pennsylvania and Franklin Battlefield in Tennessee.

He is a member and supporter of the Woodman Institute Museum in Dover, New Hampshire, the Old Colony Club in Plymouth, Mass., The Magna Carta Trust, John Hampden Society, Oliver Cromwell Society, Friends of the Presidio La Bahia and the Anglo Zulu War Society in the United Kingdom.

Howell has been president of Historic Lecturers, Research and Re-enactments for 25 years. When he is not interpreting history he has been a financial advisor for over 33 years.

At each Meeting House Open House the Gift Shop showcases a guest merchant.

For more information about the Old Meeting House Open House, email president@wilbrahamatheneum.org.

Source: Wikipedia. Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society.

## Future of Hampden Town Hall is up in the air...

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- Referred to by some as the Town House, Town Hall is one of Hampden's most iconic buildings; however, its future is uncertain.

"I wouldn't say it's in critical (condition), but it's certainly not in great shape. What are we doing about it? What can we do about it?" Chair John Flynn asked during the Sept. 25 Board of Selectmen meeting.

The Selectboard spent a segment of Monday night's meeting weighing the town's best course of action. Flynn noted that a report from Tighe & Bond earlier this year said it would cost between \$4-7 million to make basic renovations to the building.

Town Administrator Bob Markel said that basic improvements would cost \$4 million immediately and another \$3 million over the course of the next decade. Accessibility improvements would be included, but it would be unlikely that the building would be completely modernized.

Moving to a new location or rebuilding is a possibility, but Flynn estimated, "if you're building from scratch, you're talking about being in the \$15 million range."

Flynn expressed that he still believes in the potential of Thornton Burgess Middle School on Wilbraham Road, a Hampden-owned property that could be vacated by the school district in the coming months.

"I don't know what's going to



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski  
The future of Hampden's Town Hall is uncertain.

happen with TWB; that's the thing," Selectman Donald Davenport said.

Flynn said an analysis was completed on TWB about five years ago but noted that he would like to see a firm hired to complete a new examination of the building's "bones."

"For the cost of a \$25,000 report from Tighe & Bond or someone else (we can learn its condition). We own the building. We should know what shape it's in. We need to get that information," Flynn said.

Regardless of the town's ultimate decision regarding Town Hall, Davenport said it will be a three to five-year renovation or transition process at minimum.

"I think the town has to make a basic decision, and maybe this is a referendum question," he said. "Do you want to maintain Town Hall, a historic building, as your town hall or do you want to build a new one or should (TWB) close, do we move to that location?"

Tad Brown, a resident, reflected on the Tighe & Bond report, noting that, "the \$4-7 million is just a fix of things that are wrong and doesn't really get it to be a functional building for moving forward."

Brown reminded the board that Tighe & Bond recommended moving the library out of Town Hall as part of its \$4-7 million plan. Flynn estimated that building a new library could cost \$10 million.

Brown also reminded the board that once Town Hall begins to be re-configured, the town will be responsible for bringing it up to code. He said that even with a \$4-7 million renovation, the town would likely need a new building in a decade regardless.

"Explained in those terms, it makes those choices maybe a little bit easier; just say maybe we build new some place," Brown said. "If you sit down and sell it as, 'This building isn't really going to be useful in five years or 10 years; to spend the \$7 million to try to get whatever fixed maybe doesn't make a lot of sense if you can build new for \$15 million. Combine the Town Hall and library somewhere else, but I don't know what that number is."

Flynn said that even if Town Hall is "fixed," it will still be too small. Either way, he believes the board should pay more attention to the issue before Town Hall becomes hazardous.

"I think we've kicked this down the road too much and haven't addressed if there's flaws in the building that are potentially dangerous. We're obligated to do something about it," he said.

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE AIRFIELD IMPROVEMENTS WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS

**Description:** Interested parties are hereby notified that a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared for the Proposed Action described below.

**Authority:** This notice is being issued to all interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR Part 989).

**Proposed Action:** The United States (U.S.) Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) proposes to construct airfield improvements at Westover Air Reserve Base (ARB) to better accommodate training capabilities and airfield operations in support of the 439th Airlift Wing's existing C-5M aircraft. The improvements include two primary activities: 1) construction of a paved training apron, and 2) extension of the existing Taxiway Golf (G). The paved training apron and associated stormwater feature would be constructed within the Dog Patch Training Area. Construction of the paved training apron would create approximately 1.2 acres of impervious surface, and a 0.3-acre stormwater feature (bioretention basin) would be constructed to the north of the paved training apron to collect runoff. The Taxiway G extension would involve constructing a new concrete taxiway surface between the existing Taxiway G and Pad 5 within the Westover ARB airfield. This extension would create approximately 16.1 acres of impervious surface. Stormwater management options are anticipated to include installation of new drain lines and surface grading in areas adjacent to the runway extension, while existing underground utilities at the site would be relocated or abandoned in place. The ARFC is considering two alternatives: the Preferred Alternative, which would implement the Proposed Action; and the No Action Alternative, which would not implement the Proposed Action but provides a comparative baseline for potential impacts as required under CEQ regulations.

The Draft EA evaluates the potential impacts on the environment from implementing the Proposed Action. The evaluation concludes there would be no significant impact, either individually or cumulatively, as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would include compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including consultation and permitting and routine best management practices.

**Public Review:** The Draft EA and Draft FONSI will be available between September 28, 2023, and October 28, 2023, for a 30-day public comment period. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI were published digitally on the Westover ARB 439th Airlift Wing website at <https://www.westover.afrc.af.mil/About-Us/Resources/Environmental-and-Noise/>. Printed copies of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI are also available at Chicopee Fairview Branch Library, 402 Britton Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020 for public review.

**Comments:** The public may obtain information and submit comments on the Draft EA and Draft FONSI during the review period via U.S. mail to John Moriarty, P.E., Environmental Flight Chief, 439th Airlift Wing, 250 Patriot Avenue, Box 35, Westover ARB, MA 01022, or via email to [john.moriarty.1@us.af.mil](mailto:john.moriarty.1@us.af.mil). Comments must be received by October 28, 2023.



# Hampden Selectmen preview warrant articles ahead of STM

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- The town of Hampden will hold its Special Town Meeting on Monday, Oct. 30 at Thornton Burgess Middle School on Wilbraham Road.

On Sept. 18 and 25, the Selectmen discussed the warrant articles that will appear. The articles must be closed and submitted on Oct. 2.

Selectman Craig Rivest explained why certain fiscal items are on the warrant that would normally be voted on during the Annual Town Meeting in the spring.

"As a general statement for town meeting, everything's getting faster paced in the world we live in, running a town is no different," Rivest said. "We're trying really hard as a board not to keep kicking things down the road so having two town meetings where we can potentially take care of town business... I think it's beneficial to us."

Town Administrator Bob Markel agreed, noting that the goal shouldn't be to do all fiscal items at one meeting.

"As the budget grows and the complexity of the budget grows, although I don't see this town growing that much, as we spend more and more, it becomes very difficult to plan an entire fiscal year at one meeting," Markel said.

## Article 1: Funding for the Senior Center Building Committee

The article asks if the town will appropriate money to fund a request for qualifications for an addition to the Hampden Senior Center; the requested sum was not broadcast on Monday.

"At this point we did get three responses to the request for an RFQ. Two had monetary amounts. The third did not. They'd prefer to get the award and then tell you how much they want for it, which is a great way to do business. I'm sure I'd like to buy that car and then you tell me how much I'm paying for it," Selectboard Chair John Flynn sarcastically said on Sept. 18.

Flynn projected that the number would "certainly" be under six figures.

## Article 2: Funding the Fiber Optic Program

Article 2 requests money to permit construction of a townwide Fiber Optic program, bringing high speed internet to residents. An estimate was not broadcast on Monday, but Rivest weighed in on Sept. 18.

"The complete project is \$8.5 million, but at a 50% take rate, which is what we're shooting for, we would be making revenue at the end of the year if we can achieve that," he said.

## Article 3: Additional funding for the Town Administrator contract

Residents will be asked to appropriate \$30,000 to increase the town administrator's contract when Bob Markel retires at the end of the year. Markel made the point that for a change to occur, there will be a need to be a more competitive salary.

"I can give you the survey that was actually done by (Town Administrator Nick Breault) in Wilbraham of salaries in the region for equivalent positions, sometimes larger towns, but so you can see basically what is considered competitive now," Markel said on Sept. 18.

## Article 4: Increase funding for the Emergency Notification System

Article 4 requests \$2,000 to increase funding for the town's Emergency Notification System. Flynn said the "annual cost went up due to inflation" on Sept. 18.

## Article 5: Community Preservation Projects

Article 5 requests that residents vote to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation annual revenues, in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for community projects, with each item to be considered a different appropriation.

Flynn said that Community Preservation Committee Chair Doug Boyd said that several items relate to housing. Additionally, Historical Commission Chair Connie Witt would like to complete work around Academy Hall on Main Street.

## Article 6: Additional Funding for the Animal Control account

Article 6 requests \$800 to cover expenses occurred as the town houses a dog named Luna. An unannounced sum, expected to be about \$5,000, will be requested to address the impact of local beavers damming up water by purchasing beaver deceivers.

"My concern is we met about this three or four weeks ago and the beavers are still 'beaving'... I'm concerned for the people's whose properties they're on," Davenport said.

Flynn said some of the beavers have been captured, and Markel said beaver deceivers need to be purchased, as a new generation will come back next year. Rivest questioned how the town will release the water flow safely.

## Article 7: Minnechaug Land Trust

Article 7 will ask residents if they will vote to acquire by purchase the parcel of vacant land at 0 Walnut St, containing approximately 14 acres. The purchase would be from Olga Mazzarino of 276 Wolf Swamp Road.

The Town Counsel reported that the article needs more work before it can be submitted.

"We've had this article in many forms many times," Flynn said on Monday. "This language shouldn't be too much of a surprise. We buy it, we turn it over... Article still needs work."

## Article 8: Funding for a Highway Department tractor

Article 8 requests a \$108,000 appropriation for the Highway Department to purchase a new tractor. Flynn said the current tractor is not working properly and explained why Highway Superintendent Mark Langone is requesting a new one at the Special Town Meeting.

"(Langone) confirmed if it's ordered in November if this goes through, he would anticipate getting

the tractor and the pertinences in the April to May timeframe. If it went to the Annual Town Meeting, and technically you wouldn't be able to buy it until July, you wouldn't get it in effect until the following year," Flynn said.

Langone is looking into the trade-in value for the current tractor.

## Article 9: Additional funding for a brush truck for the fire department

Article 9 was the most discussed item on Sept. 18 and 25, as the fire department requests an additional \$34,000 on top of \$10,962 that was approved in May to purchase a brush truck. The department received a \$219,047 grant from FEMA.

Davenport said his issue is that the fire department got the grant in September 2022 and requested \$10,962. During that period, he said there was never a discussion of needing more money; the request only came recently, long after the \$10,962 was appropriated at the Annual Town Meeting.

"It stretches the credibility of the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Committee and the fire department when they go to the town and say this is the number and five months later, you're back saying, 'Just kidding, we need another (\$34,000).' I think that's a real problem," Davenport said on Sept. 18.

On Sept. 25, Davenport said the price went up because the fire department decided to put extra accessories on the vehicle. Davenport said he expects the item to pass, and that he's not opposed to it, but he directed a stern warning at Fire Chief Ed Poulin.

"I'm just telling you, when (Poulin) stands up, there's going to be issues. They're going to want to know why the \$10,000 is now \$44,000," Davenport said Sept. 25. "I want the chief to be aware that he should have his best uniform on to answer the questions at town meeting... I'm telling you be prepared."

## Article 10: Funding for nine new defibrillators/AEDs

Article 10 requests \$23,400 to purchase nine new defibrillators for \$2,600 each.

"We have 12 all in total. Nine are shared by the police and fire departments, and they're the ones they'd like to replace," Markel said.

## Article 11: Police Department Rifles

Article 11 requests that the town appropriate \$7,794 to purchase six new rifles for the police department.

Davenport questioned the request on Sept. 18.

"We haven't shot one for 50 years so I think they can go another six months," he said.

On Sept. 25, Markel elaborated that the town has six police cruisers, and each needs a rifle. The current rifles are about seven to eight years of age and are in poor condition; Markel said one fell apart during a recent training exercise.

"That's the only time they use these, right, at the shooting range?" Flynn responded.

Markel said the current rifles have never been fired in the line of duty. Rivest defended the request.

"The urgency is you need it and it's not there," he said. "They were servicing one of them and were told they're in very poor condition and that they wouldn't trust their life to them."

Flynn responded, "We should have known about it long before this if they got to that stage. It's not a huge amount, but it's the process."

## Article 12: Additional funding for the Hampden Master Plan

Article 12 requests that \$57,000 be appropriated to see if the town will transfer \$57,000 to supplement a \$75,000 state grant to update the 1982 Master Plan.

"The Planning Board would like to

take another bite at the apple. It's their call. They work hard and want to stand up and defend it," Flynn said.

"Good luck," Davenport responded.

## Article 13: Report from the Government

Passing Article 13 will simply allow the Government Study Committee to present an interim report, one Flynn said would take less than 30 minutes.

## Article 14: Authorization of a Pilot for Ground Mounted Solar

Article 14 will request that the town authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and enter a payment-in-lieu-of-tax, or a PILOT, agreement with the lessee/operator of the solar photovoltaic energy generating facility to be developed at the rear of Somers Road upon such terms and conditions as the board shall deem to be in the best interest of the town.

## Article 15: Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District Capital Request

There will be four HWRSD capital request items featured on the warrant, which Flynn did not agree with.

"I think you stand a good chance with a menu like this that everyone gets 40% and none of them go through, except the boiler. People will understand we have to heat the building," Flynn said on Sept. 25.

Article 15 refers to the boiler at Minnechaug Regional High School, requesting \$24,917 for capital improvements to the boiler exchange of the school's HVAC system.

## Article 16: HWRSD Capital Request

Article 16 requests that Hampden appropriates \$5,980 for capital improvements to the split units of the HVAC system at Minnechaug.

## Article 17: HWRSD Capital Request

Article 17 requests that Hampden appropriates funding for the purchase of classroom projectors and monitors at Minnechaug.

On Sept. 18, the entire Board of Selectmen questioned why it's not an annual item in the school district's IT budget.

## Article 18: HWRSD Capital Request

Article 18 requests funding to update the camera system at Minnechaug. Like Article 17, the board questioned why the item isn't annually discussed as part of the school district's IT budget.

## Article 19: Reducing the Tax Rate

Article 19 asks if residents will vote to transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to reduce the tax rate for fiscal year 2024. The town has not yet processed its new growth but will be able to discuss it in October.

"The one bad thing about new growth is this year is the first year of a few years we had another solar field come up in the tax rate. It's standard building and standard additions, if you will," Flynn said.

## Article 20: Transfer to the General Stabilization Account

Article 20 asks to see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from unappropriated available funds into the General Stabilization Account.

"The assessors are not at a point to give us any guidance right now. They're still assessing... hopefully by the beginning of October we'll have a sense of where we are with that," Flynn said on Sept. 25.



## FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Northeast Center for Youth and Families is an Intensive Foster Care Agency working with children who have been abused or neglected. NCFY is looking for people to open their homes to children who need a safe and nurturing home environment.

### NCFY Provides:

- \$1500 sign on bonus
- Specialized Training
- 24 hour on-call support
- Weekly Case Manager Support
- Weekly Tax Free Stipend up to \$1300
- Supportive Team Environment

Please call **Tony** at (413) 575-8545 or **Tanya** at (413) 588-8831 with questions or to apply.





Photos submitted by Mary Bell

Last year, the Wilbraham Public Library collected about 85 scarves for the "Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer".

**RAYS OF HOPE** from page 1

Health, according to BaystateHealth.org.

Each year, Rays of Hope encourages participants to "embrace the power of pink" to support people living in Western Massachusetts who are faced with breast cancer, and the library responded to the message.

Last year, Bell said more than 85 scarves were collected, and in past years, as many as 130 have been donated. She credited a group from Grace Union Church in Wilbraham for being regular contributors.

"We get a tremendous outpouring from the community every year," Bell said. "To be honest, if I forget, patrons remind me at this point. There've been a couple of years where it's gotten to be close to September and a couple people are saying, 'Oh, are you collecting the scarves again?'"

Bell said the collection drive is a way of giving back and making a small gesture to support individuals battling breast cancer, as well as family and friends affected by it. She said it is also a way to remember those who lost their battle with breast cancer.

Except for a one-year absence caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the library has collected scarves to support the walk and run every year for nearly a decade. Bell described the range of scarves that are collected.

"There's really a lot of freedom in the directions they give because really the only limit is that it needs to be predominantly pink, so that leaves a lot of variety. It can be crouched, knit, all sorts of different patterns so it's really, always amazing to see the variety of things people turn in and the creativity that shows too," Bell said.

Bell said there is an opportunity for knitters and crocheters of all skill levels. Good or bad, she said no one will be judged on their submission.

"Honestly, I think sometimes we've had some store-bought ones too that people have just gifted so we're not forcing you to make your own by any means. There's a lot of different ways to support as well," Bell said.

On Oct. 22, the event will begin at Temple Beth El at 979 Dickinson St. in Springfield. Those who cannot attend can participate virtually by walking or running anywhere on any day they choose.

To date, Rays of Hope has raised over \$16.6 million; all funds have remained local in Western Massachusetts.

The library at 25 Crane Park Drive in Wilbraham is open Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is closed on Sundays.



Photo submitted by the Collins family

Georgann and Mark Collins of Wilbraham stay abreast of their hometown news from the beautiful Gullfoss Falls in southwestern Ireland.

**HIKING** from page 6

**Misfortunate event #4:**

We slowed our pace after misfortunate event #3, arriving at Flat Mountain Pond tent site at dusk which is the time we'd normally already have the tent set up, camp clothes on and dinner eaten. With no time to waste before darkness set in, we located a level patch of dirt to set up our tent.

I dropped my backpack, unclipped the straps, flipped the top open...and didn't see the single most important item that is usually right on top.

Panic set in while I yanked one item after another out of my pack and tossed it in a heap on the ground in a desperate attempt to find the missing item. When my hand finally reached the bottom of my now empty pack, I knew that we were about to endure the greatest misfortunate event in the life of a backpacker.

"Tom? Did you by any chance pack the tent?"

I already knew the answer before I even asked. After all, Tom always

packs the fly and ground cloth while I always pack the tent body itself.

Well...almost always. But the process of asking allowed me to hold on to a split second of hope before hearing Tom's response, "No. Didn't you?"

Tom and I looked at each other, both of us realizing that there would be no tent to protect us from the hoards of mosquitoes that had plagued us for the past 5+ miles in spite of the gallons of bug spray we had liberally applied back at the car. With a pond nearby, we knew that this could be an incredibly rough night.

Since hiking five miles back to our car in the dark in our exhausted state wasn't an option, we had no choice but to make the best of this latest misfortunate event.

I apologized to Tom as we went about staking out just the fly. He was gracious in his response, "No need to apologize, kiddo. We all forget stuff sometimes."

In spite of his understanding, I felt terrible.

When we finished blow-

ing up our air mattresses, zipping our double-wide sleeping bag together and laying out all of our gear, everything looked like it usually does - with the exception of the eight inch gap between the bottom of the fly and the ground. In an effort to find something to be grateful for in the midst of what had been a very trying day, I said brightly, "Well at least there isn't any rain in the forecast tonight."

Ten minutes later, the skies opened up.

Yes folks, God does indeed have a sense of humor.

All was not bad, however. With the exception of slightly wet sleeping bags and over a dozen spider bites, we made it through the night unscathed...and so the adventures continue!

See you in the wild places, my friends!

To read more about our hiking adventures (and misadventures) follow us on Instagram @morethanthe-mountain.

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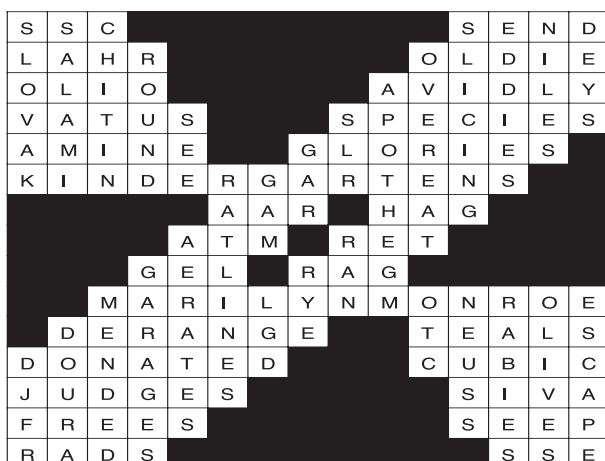
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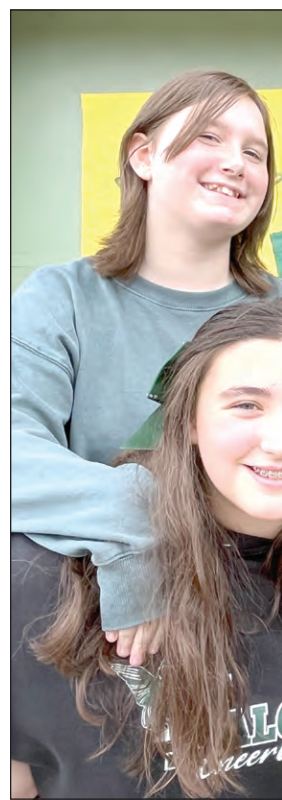
# A COMMUNITY GALLERY



*Life in* **WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN**

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

# WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN



## Wilbraham Middle School held its After School Social on Sept. 15.

Photos courtesy of Courtney Derosia.



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# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Community Bulletin Board

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# Thunderbirds' Boomer visits Hampden for special bingo event



**Bruce Parker and Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds pose for the camera during the Thunderbirds Bingo event at Hampden Senior Center.**

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers



**Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds greets seniors as he arrives at the Hampden Senior Center for the special Thunderbirds Bingo event.**



**Anne Kavanaugh holds up her bingo prize, a #WeAre413 Springfield Hockey Club, t-shirt, while taking a photo with Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds.**



**(L to R) Sherron Nye and Carla Pierce applaud as Diane Marino, activities coordinator at Hampden Senior Center, introduces Boomer to attendees.**



**Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds and Tori Hauge take a VIP photo together during the Thunderbirds Bingo event at Hampden Senior Center.**



**(L to R) Sherron Nye, Linda Hebert, Pat Keough, Phil Hanrahan, the bingo emcee, Boomer and more get deeply invested in their bingo game during the Thunderbirds Bingo event**



**Pat Keough smiles in excitement after winning a bingo game and meeting Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds.**



**Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds helps Phil Hanrahan, the bingo caller for bingo games at the senior center, pick a number for the next game as seniors look at their cards during the Thunderbirds Bingo event at Hampden Senior Center.**



**Phil Hanrahan, the bingo caller for the event, holds up a bingo card as Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds joins her for a quick photo.**



**Carolyn Santaniello holds her bingo prize during a VIP photo op with Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds.**

**By Kristin Rivers**  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds visited the senior center on Sept. 15 for a special bingo event.

During the event, seniors played varying bingo games to win Thunderbirds-themed prizes, including tickets for the Grandparent's Day Matinee Game, koozies, t-shirts, a rally towel, rubber hockey pucks and more.

Additionally, seniors got to take a photo with Boomer.

The event promoted the Thunderbirds' upcoming Grandparent's Day Matinee Game on Oct. 15 at 3:05 p.m.

Diane Marino, activities coordinator for the senior center, said the bingo was "unbelievably fun" and "everybody had such a great time," explaining the event came together when Lauren Blanchard, executive assistant for the Springfield Thunderbirds, reached out to her.

"She asked if Boomer could come and they could host a bingo game at the senior center to promote Grandparent's Day, which will be on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 3:05 p.m., so this is the kickoff to a yearly event, and I said 'Absolutely, that would be wonderful.' We had a great crowd today," Marino said.

Marino praised Boomer for interacting with everyone throughout the event, including playing bingo himself.

"He went and sat from table to table, played the game, took pictures with every player," Marino said. "He just made it a lot of fun. Very personable, and we had a lot more bingo players than we normally do because of him being here, and it was a great success, I think."

Marino also praised Phil Hanrahan, who serves as the bingo caller for all the bingo events at the senior center.

"She wanted to help. She's a volunteer here, and we're very grateful to have her on our team," Marino said.

Marino explained the senior center typically holds bingo every Thursday afternoon from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. with snacks in-between for attendees and their family and friends, who are also welcome to attend.

She stressed how everyone is welcome to the senior center.

"It's not just Hampden. It's East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, Longmeadow, Springfield. Any area is welcome to our senior center, and we will make the room," Marino said. "We're happy to add them on."

Marino hopes the upcoming Grandparent's Day game is a success for the Springfield Thunderbirds, appreciating their support to the senior center.

"We hope that people can get out more and attend the games that are

in our areas and support the teams that are working so hard for us," Marino said. "We want to support that."

Marino also stressed the importance of local organizations and sports teams supporting one another through events like the special bingo with Boomer, fostering community connections.

"Everybody helps each other, and we're excited to have people here to help out with their cause and they help us out by doing so, so it's a win-win situation for us here at the senior center, and we just get very excited about the turnout and the happy people that come and go," Marino said.

Marino wants the community to know the senior center is always looking for new members and to stop by anytime.

"Just come in and see what we're doing. Go online to the Hampden Senior Center and take a look at our newsletter that lists all the different events that we have," Marino said.

Marino also encourages people to share their ideas with her for events and programs to have at the senior center.

"I am so happy to work with them and make that happen. That's my job, and I want to do things to extend our events that we already do," Marino said.

To learn more about the Grandparent's Day Matinee Game, call the Springfield Thunderbirds at 413-417-2289 or visit online at [springfieldthunderbirds.com](http://springfieldthunderbirds.com).

Visit the **Umbrella Mural**

The "Umbrellas" mural is located on the side wall of the Main Street Mart on Main St. in Wilbraham

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## AGING WELL IN WILBRAHAM

We have had a couple of articles on aging in the last few months, addressing why we age and the physical changes that go along with it. But what happens to us emotionally and psychologically? Does our approach to relationships and life stresses affect how we age? If we live to an old age, we inevitably lose friends and family. How does this affect our own aging process? I found some interesting ideas in my research; this is an evolving part of science, since this is the first time in history that there are great numbers of people living into old, old age (over 80-years-old). We have already covered what you can do for your physical self, but what about your emotional and psychological self?

Loneliness and daily forgetfulness are two major concerns as we age, and science is beginning to link them together. Many studies continue to show that social interaction and support are vital to both the mental and physical well-being of older adults. Remember, we are not just concerned with how LONG we live but how WELL we live as we get older.

Daily forgetfulness is something we all fear. Will I forget where I live if I go to the store? Or my friend's name? Or where my doctor's office is? Or to pay a utility bill? Studies show that social interaction, even on a casual level such as eating a meal in a community center, attending an event, even a walk with friends improves our memory. Of course, proper diet and exercise help, but even for those who are disabled, the social aspect helps improve memory. Perhaps because seeing people on a regular basis makes us use our memory cells to remember names, times, dates, etc. When every day is the same, there is nothing to work our brain cells. Another boost to our memory is to never stop learning. The idiom of not teaching an old dog new tricks is false! Communities who encourage older adults to take a class, learn a new hobby or teach others something they excel in, have older adults with lower levels of cognitive decline.

Loneliness is a major risk factor for healthy aging. Some scientists believe it to be as great a risk as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Studies show that social isolation caused a 50% increased risk of dementia, 29% for heart disease and 32% for stroke! We think about it as a risk for mental health, but it can affect our physical health as well. If we think about it, it makes sense. Why make a healthy meal for one when I can eat cereal for dinner? If you have no one to speak with, is it important to remember events or the date? Who cares if I have an extra cocktail if I am not driving anywhere? Unhealthy habits can build up. Emotional pain from loneliness causes increase in stress hormones the same as physical pain, damaging our bodies. There are factors we cannot change that increase our loneliness as we age- limited mobility, we outlive friends and family, our longtime friends face health issues, etc. But there are things we can do to change our level of loneliness and isolation.

One important idea is to make staying connected to other people part of our routine on a regular basis. Meet friends for coffee once or twice a week. Schedule a weekly walk when the weather permits. Make a new friend. When you are retired and every day is the same, time can pass without us realizing we haven't spoken to another soul in days. Studies show that the more social interaction we have as older adults, the better our quality of life.

This is where senior centers and other community centers come in. Exploring new activities, eating a meal with others, making new friends, and even engaging in casual conversation improve your cognitive health. Knowing that others are looking forward to your arrival at a class or lecture, sitting with the same folks at lunch, sharing your expertise with those older or younger than you all improve mood and health. Join the library book club or the garden club. Explore volunteer opportunities at local schools or churches.

Most importantly, reach out to friends and family. Don't be too proud to say I would love to see you more, or get/make a weekly phone call, or can we get together for lunch once a month? Chances are good that your friends feel the same way you do. Our families might need reminding that we older adults are here, especially when they get busy with jobs and kids' activities. Everyone likes to be needed and feel important so make that call. It is good for your health and theirs!

As always, feel free to email at seniorinfo2021@gmail.com or call at 596-2800 Ext 315.

**Diane Weston, RN BSN**  
Senior Center Building Committee

## Hampden Senior Center announces programming

HAMPDEN – The following programs will occur at the senior center on Allen Street.

### Create your own Greeting Card with Ellie!

**Monday, Oct. 2, 1-3 p.m.**

The cost is \$3 per person; all materials are provided. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat.

Meet your new Veteran Service Officer, Jason Burgener, VSO

**Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 9:30 a.m.**

Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

Jason is available on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hampden Townhouse auditorium.

Please call Jason directly at 413-640-0540 to schedule an appointment.

### Save the Date:

**Thursday, Nov. 9 at 9 a.m.,  
Veteran's Breakfast**

### Farmer's Market with D & R Farm

**Tuesday, Oct. 12,  
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, homemade canned items, breads, cookies and more!

Join the Tri-Town Team **Walk to End Alzheimer's** with the Hampden Senior Center at Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA.

**Sunday, Oct. 15 at 9:00 am**

Register online at [act.alz.org](http://act.alz.org), click on Find a Walk Near You, click on Find a Team, and select the Tri-Town Team and follow the instructions to register. Call 566-5588, we can help you register.

**ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE WORKSHOP** Sponsored by Polish National Credit Union

**Thursday, Oct. 19, noon to 2 p.m.**

Financial Elder Abuse affects between 3 to 5 million seniors each year. During this workshop, you will learn how to spot potential threats and what to do to avoid financial fraud.

You will hear from local law enforcement, community leaders, and town and government officials.

FREE Boxed Lunch will be served, provided by The Polish National Credit Union.

Please call 566-6688 to reserve your seat. Space is limited.

### Grab and Go Dinner

**Thursday, Oct. 26 - pick up is 2-2:30 p.m.**

Enjoy a delicious dinner of Pork Stroganoff, Green Beans, and Dessert. The cost is \$5 per person. Please call 566-5588 starting Oct. 1 to order your dinner.

### HELP! Now What?

**Thursday, Oct. 26, 6-8 p.m.**

**Join us for our annual Medicare Open Enrollment and Retirement Planning Seminar**

Attorney David Carlson will share information about retirement planning and important documents you should have.

Paul Vegiard, Investment Specialist from Monson Savings Bank will talk about the services they offer and answer any questions you may have about retirement planning.

Health insurance companies have been invited to attend and share plan updates.

Springfield Technical Community College Dental Hygiene Program will be here with information about their services.

Becky Moriarty, SHINE Counselor, will provide information about Medicare. What to do if you're turning 65, or getting ready to retire, and what you can do during the Medicare Open Enrollment Period. **\*\*Medicare Open Enrollment begins on October 15th and**

**lasts until December 7th.\*\***

Light refreshments will be served. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat.

**Covid/Shingles/Pneumonia Clinic All ages are welcome!**

**Friday, Oct. 27, 1-4 p.m.**

Appointments are required. Please call 566-5588 to pre-register.

Vaccines provided by Big Y. Sponsored in part by the National Council on Aging.

### 50's Diner Theme

**Halloween Luncheon**

**Tuesday, Oct. 31 at noon**

Get your Blue Plate Special! "Flo & Alice" will be preparing an open-face turkey sandwich with gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, and apple pie for dessert! The cost is \$5 per person.

Entertainment provided by Irv Lewis. Sponsored by Monson Savings Bank.

We will be taking reservations for this event starting Oct. 1, on a first come first serve basis. Please call 566-5588. Space is limited.

**FREE Technology Help Sessions Are Back!**

The Wilbraham & Monson Academy Service Team will be here

**Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.**

Students will meet with you, one-on-one, and assist you with all your technology questions.

Bring your phone, laptop computer, iPad, or tablet, and your questions! Please call 566-5588 to sign up.

**HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Liquid Dish Soap!**

Thank you to those who donated toilet paper last month. Every month we will target a different item to fill our shelves to provide non-food items to SNAP recipients.

## Wilbraham Senior Center programming

WILBRAHAM – The following programs will occur in the coming weeks at the Wilbraham Senior Center, located in Post Office Park.

### Pumpkin Contest

*Submit your pumpkin by Oct. 23.*

Let's get creative and decorate pumpkins any which way you want! You can carve, paint, shave or bedazzle. It's up to you! The last day to vote for pumpkins is on Halloween! The winner will receive a gift prize provided by Serenity Care PACE. Please register at 596-8379.

### Elder Financial Abuse Workshop by Polish National

*Thursday, Oct. 5 from noon to 2 p.m.*

Financial Elder Abuse affect between 3 to 5 million seniors each year. During this workshop, you'll learn how to spot potential threats and what to do to avoid financial fraud. Lunch will be provided compliments of PNCU. Sign up at 596-8379.

### TOUR:

**Armbrook Village Westfield**

*Friday, Oct. 13. Bus leave at 11 a.m.*

Independent & assisted living-compass memory support. Armbrook Village offers a woodland setting, with many outdoor amenities, including an outdoor dining terrace, raised garden beds, a gazebo and more. The exceptional building, with its wide array of dedicated community spaces, has been designed to support a vibrant community of individuals doing the things they love.

### Serenity Care PACE

*Oct. 16 at 10:30 a.m.*

*Sign up at 596-8379.*

Join us for an informational presentation by serenity care Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly is a Medicare and Medicaid program that helps people meet their health care needs in the community instead of going to a nursing home or other care facility. If you join PACE, a team of health care professionals will work with you to help coordinate your care.

### Money Management

*Oct. 23 at 10:30 a.m.*

*Call 596-8379 to sign up.*

Money Management is an in-home service which helps low income, frail older people who have difficulty with budgeting, paying routine bills, and keeping track of financial matters. The program's overall objective is to help seniors stay independent and to make sure their bills are paid.

Individuals whose eyesight makes it difficult to read clearly, with a physical disability who are unable to write checks for the bills they receive. Persons who cannot maintain everyday banking activities because of frailty or disability or who are simply overwhelmed by the bill paying process.

### October Special Lunch

*Oct. 24 at noon.*

*Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Free!*

Happy Halloween! Members from all communities can sign up for our

October Special Lunch by calling 596-8379. Country Bank is providing the meal. Musical entertainment by Laura Hicks. 596-8379 to sign up. Costumes are encouraged.

### Songbirds Choir

*Starting Wednesdays at 3 p.m.*

Rehearsals will begin Wednesdays 3 p.m. Join this group of passionate youth singers and let's make some music. This choir has been established since 2018, and now it needs is you. Please contact Kimberly Perteet at [songbirdschilrenschoir@gmail.com](mailto:songbirdschilrenschoir@gmail.com) with any questions. Come give it a try and see if this fun choir is right for you. Sign up at 596-8379,

### Grief Support Counseling – FREE three times a month

*Second, third and fourth Tuesday at 11 a.m.*

Drop-ins welcome. Free!

Owner and Founder, Liane Smola will be joining us monthly to discuss topics such as the nature of grief, managing difficult emotions, self-care, remembering the person who has passed, coping with the stress of change, handling special occasions, reaching out for support and finally sharing some ideas on how to support others in your life, who also may be faced with grief. This course will also allow you a space to share the story of your lost loved one and will offer soft guidance and support for your continued grief journey.



# Events & announcements schedule

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

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

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

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

## Pawzaar Craft Fair

*Event to benefit the Foundation for TJO Animals*

SPRINGFIELD — The annual Pawzaar Craft Fair is a signature event for the Foundation for TJO Animals. It is a local craft fair that attracts some of the Pioneer Valley's finest crafters, along with hundreds of animal loving patrons, all to benefit homeless animals in the community.

The event will be held in the parking lot of the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

There will be 30 vendors, great raffles, Jeannies Weenies and Fat City Kid food trucks, music provided by Visual Sound Productions, pet merchandise for sale, bake sale and more. Special guests Jonathan Hall and Toto the Tornado Kitten will be stopping by for the afternoon.

Proceeds go directly to the medical care and treatment for Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center animals in need.

More information is available on [www.tjofoundation.org](http://www.tjofoundation.org), by emailing [info@tjofoundation.org](mailto:info@tjofoundation.org) or by calling 413.306.5161.

## 50th Reunion for Minnechaug Class of 1973

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

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

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

study for a career in STEM.

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

## Armenian Food Festival Sept. 30

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

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

## Wilbraham Friends of the Library to hold Pollinator Plant Sale Oct. 7

WILBRAHAM — The Wilbraham Friends of the Library is holding a pollinator plant sale on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to noon 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. Early October 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 Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke.

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 [friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org](mailto:friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org).

## Harvest Fundraiser Dinner on Oct. 7

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

p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person and available online at [www.thewilbrahamwelcomeproject.com](http://www.thewilbrahamwelcomeproject.com).

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

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

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

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

Voter registration will be held in the Town Clerk's Office, 240 Springfield St. or online at [registertovotema.com](http://registertovotema.com). Please contact the Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions at 596-2800, ext. 200.

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

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

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

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

For more information, or to get tickets, email [TicketsKoC10195@gmail.com](mailto:TicketsKoC10195@gmail.com).

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

WILBRAHAM — The Wilbraham Friends of the Library will present their Annual Art Exhibit, taking place at the Brooks Room of the Wilbraham Public Library from Oct. 2 to Oct. 29 with a reception for artists, Friends and the public, Saturday, Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Artists will be able to sell additional unframed pieces at the reception. The library is located at 25 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham. The show is open for various art media, and Chairman Mary Bandouveres is now welcoming artist's applications. Respond early at [wplartshow@gmail.com](mailto:wplartshow@gmail.com) to insure your spot. Entry deadline is September 22.

The event is free and open to the public. This show is always popular and many of the artists will have pieces for sale. The show is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library which was established in 1973. The Friends of the Library fund programs for children, teens, and adults, as well as the library's popular Museum Pass program, fur-

nishings, and other library equipment. For more information, contact the Friends at [friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org](mailto:friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org).

## Get ready to shake, rattle & roll!

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

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

A photo op area will be set up to capture your "cool" look! Prizes will be awarded for the best outfits and dance moves. 50's attire is not required & if dancing is not your thing, just visiting with friends and singing along to the oldies is fun enough! Snacks and a cash bar will be available, and the night will end with a fabulous raffle.

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

## Wilbraham Public Library announces teen programming

WILBRAHAM — Teens Who Code will have their first meeting of the school year on Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 3:30-5 p.m. in the Brooks Room of the library. Facilitated by Mrs. Christine Goonan, this club is looking for new members. Grades 6-12 can explore project-based coding in a fun and friendly environment. Meetings are typically once a month in the Brooks Room, and all attendees need a laptop to join in. Online registration is required at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org) or call 413-596-6141. After registering, teens will receive more info by email. This is a free program hosted by the Wilbraham Public Library.

## Hampden Senior Trips

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

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

All Prices incl Driver's Tip. Call Bobbi @ 413-566-8271 or email [bobbij2@charter.net](mailto:bobbij2@charter.net).



# SPORTS

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Josh Disa charges through the middle of the field.



Jackson Derosia charges up the field.



Alex Barthelette heads down the left sideline.

## Falcons football now 2-0

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School football team defeated Wachusett 30-13 last Thursday evening. The Falcons improved to 2-0 on the season. Their first game of the year against West Springfield had to be cancelled due to multiple days of severe weather during Week 1 of the season. It is not clear if the game will be made up.

C.J. Socha goes up to try and make a reception.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



Dajzuan Johnson returns the ball.



Anna O'Toole socks a spike over the net.



Ava Murray gets the low hit.



Saje Stewart gets a tip over the net.

## Chaug outlasts Agawam

WILBRAHAM – After losing to Agawam earlier this year, Minnechaug avenged the loss with a five-set win 3-2 last Friday.. The Falcons would win the first and third sets while losing the second and fourth. They won the fifth and deciding set 15-7. The Falcons improved to 2-6 for the year and have won two of their last three matches.





Gianna Sakowski sends a kick deep.



Zorlah Wray takes the free kick for the Falcons.



Nora Kennedy settles the ball on defense.



Lylah Jeannotte passes the ball forward.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Sam Long goes straight up with a set.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



Seina Dansereau serves the ball away.

## Falcons suffer pair of setbacks

WEST SPRINGFIELD – After opening the season with a perfect 3-0 record against some tough teams, Minnechaug girls soccer was defeated twice, losing one-goal games against West Springfield and Longmeadow. Last

Tuesday night at West Springfield, the Falcons were shut out 1-0 and then fell 2-1 against the Lancers. Both games were on the road. The Falcons hope to change their fortunes against West Springfield on Friday, Sept. 29.

## Railers signings round out roster

The Wilbraham-Hampden  
**TIMES**  
Halloween  
CONTEST

Send us your Halloween House Decoration photos from this year! We are looking for decor in 4 categories:

**Scariest**

People run screaming!

**Most Creative**

Best use of recycled materials!

**Kid Friendly**

Kids just want to hang out with you!

**Flashy**

Lights, lights and more lights!

We will choose a winner in each category who will receive a gift card from one of our sponsors.



All photos will run in our paper with the winners being announced.

Please send all entries to [dzbiarski@turley.com](mailto:dzbiarski@turley.com) labeled halloween contest. All entries must be submitted by October 20th. Include Name, Address & Phone



WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders), and General Manager and Head Coach Jordan Lavallee-Smotherman announced today that the club has signed defenseman Jake Schultz to an ECHL contract for the 2023-24 season.

Schultz, 27, signs in Worcester after winning the Federal Prospects Hockey League Defenseman of the Year award with the Binghamton Black Bears during the 2022-23 season. As captain in Binghamton, Schultz recorded 33 points (12G, 21A) in 41 games played to go with 136 penalty minutes. He notched career highs in goals, assists, and points last season. The 6'3", 209lb defenseman suited up in five road game for the Worcester Railers in 2022-23, recording two goals in a weekend series against the Newfoundland Growlers.

"Jake brings a toughness and size to our back end that we were missing last season," Lavallee-Smotherman said. "We noticed quickly in his brief time with us the positive impact he had on our locker room, and can't wait to have him embrace a leadership role for us this season."

The Rochester, NY native has made previous stops in the ECHL with the Indy Fuel, Wheeling Nailers, and Greenville Swamp Rabbits. In 48 career ECHL games, Schultz has recorded seven points (5G, 2A) and 127 penalty minutes. This will be the seventh season of his professional career.

"I'll do whatever it takes to earn the trust and respect of my teammates," Schultz said. "After last season, I'm hoping to put up some good numbers, too. I'm looking to bring that confidence that I had with me in Binghamton."

The Railers have announced twenty-three players officially signed for the 2023-24 season as Schultz joins Jack Quinlivan, Chris Ordoobadi, Connor Welsh, Myles Abbate, Todd Goehring, Ryan Verrier, Andrei Bakanov, John Copeland, Zach White, Quinn Ryan, Christian Evers, Brendan Robbins, Mike Higgins, Blake Christensen, Blade Jenkins, Max Johnson, Nick Fea, Artyom Kulakov, Anthony Callin, Keeghan Howdeshell, Adam Goodsir, and Anthony Repaci as the twenty-three signees. This concludes the Worcester Railers signings ahead of the 2023-24 season. The team's professional tryouts & full training camp roster are expected to be announced next week.

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



# Framingham edges WSU football

WESTFIELD – Framingham State’s Jared Martino blocked a game-winning field goal attempt in the closing seconds as the Rams held on for a 9-8 win over Westfield State in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football game at Bowditch Field in Framingham on Saturday afternoon.

Both teams had to grind it out in rainy and windy conditions all day long, with the Rams taking a 3-0 lead late into the third quarter before Westfield seized the lead on a 22-yard Gabriel Fernandez touchdown pass to Michael Foley. On the ensuing point after try, the Owls came up with a two-point conversion when the kick attempt resulted in a broken play, and holder Owen Thompson was able to pitch the ball ahead to Blake Simpson in the endzone for the two point conversion. Thompson released the ball just as he was being brought down by the rush to give Westfield an 8-3 lead with less than a minute left in the third quarter.

Westfield had a chance to extend the lead in the fourth quarter, but a fumble gave Framingham possession at their own 5-yard line midway through the fourth quarter. The Rams mounted a seven-play, 95-yard scoring drive that was fueled by a bold 54-yard halfback option pass to Manny Lara out of the Framingham endzone, and capped by a 3-yard TD run from Devaun Ford to bring the score to give Framingham a 9-8 lead. The two-point conversion failed when Westfield

State’s Cam Danahy dropped Kevin Leal in the backfield on the try.

The Owls got the ball back for a final scoring try with 3:57 left to play after a short punt gave Westfield 1st and 10 at their own 42. Westfield worked the ball into scoring possession with a methodical drive, getting a key fourth down conversion on a pass to Will Brewster and a pair of third down conversions to keep the drive alive.

Westfield set up for a 32-yard field goal try with seven seconds left, that could have won the game, but Martino flew in from the right side of the formation to block the attempt.

On a day where offense was hard to come by, Fernandez finished 12-29 passing for 162 yards, a touchdown and an interception. Brewster caught three balls for 62 yards, and Foley added five catches for 54 yards.

Ford led Framingham with 158 rushing yards on 27 carries, and the 54-yard pass that keyed the winning drive.

Tyler Cooley led Westfield with six tackles and a fumble recovery. Danahy picked off a pass for the Owls.

Westfield is now 0-4 overall and 0-2 in the MASCAC. Framingham is 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the conference.

The Owls will be home next Saturday, Sept. 30 to host Mass Maritime as part of Family and Champions weekend, with a noon kickoff at Alumni Field.

# Hampden Senior Center has knitting class every Monday morning



Pictured from left to right: Carol Davis, Barbara Eves, Collette Ingram, Barbara Dunwoody. Photo submitted by the Hampden Senior Center.

HAMPDEN -- Barbara Dunwoody teaches knitting at the Hampden Senior Center on Mondays from 9-11 a.m. The class was started because there were some women who used to knit at one time and had forgotten how to cast on, so they needed help getting started. It’s a great group, currently of ladies but all are welcome whether you have experience, or you’ve never picked up a knitting needle.

Often, we get donations of yarn at the senior center, so we pass it on to the knitting/crocheting group.

Because of the generous donations received, these ladies decided to put their talents to good use and started making lap robes and hats.

Over the course of one year, this group made 85 lap robes which they delivered to Vantage at Hampden, a nursing and rehab facility. They also made 348 hats which will be distributed amongst 7 local elementary schools K-4.

We are very proud of our members at the Hampden Senior Center and their contributions to giving back to our community.

# Monadnock season concludes with championship races

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Five track champions were crowned last Saturday – Nate Wenzel and Michael Yeaton both first timers – as Monadnock Speedway closed out its 2023 racing season on Championship Day at the high-banked quarter-mile.

Late Model ace Tim Wenzel won his crown for the second season in row, Louie Maher is now a two-time king of the Mini Stocks, and then there’s Chris Davis. Davis ran a conservative race Saturday to wrap up his fourth Pure Stock title, those along with a Mini Stock championship to boot.

Cole Littlewood and Geoff Rollins led the swarming 19-car NHSTRA Modified field to the green Saturday, with the 100-lapper not only deciding the 2023 track championship, but also contested as the third of four NHSTRA Quest For The Cup races.

Defending track champ Tyler Leary entered Saturday two points ahead of Nate Wenzel, while Wenzel sat atop the Quest leaderboard. Others, including Rollins, were in the Quest hunt too, a battle that will be decided at Lee.

Leary took the lead from Rollins on lap three but, seven circuits later, it was open-wheel rookie Scott Zilinski at the point, his mirror soon filled by Trevor Bleau’s ride and, just behind that, JT Cloutier’s.

Bleau took charge on lap 19 but his stay up front was brief, as Cloutier had the lead three laps later. In front, he’d open a huge lead until a lap 43 caution – one of a dozen on the afternoon – brought the pack back to his bumper, and Zilinski to his side.

Getting the jump, Zilinski began his second run at the head of the class on lap 44, again with some major thunder at his back bumper. Wenzel, his nostrils filled with the warm aroma of a pending championship, took over on lap 74, and he never looked back.

When Leary and Zilinski made contact in turn three five laps later, the title chase was over. Cloutier, who’d survived an unnecessary bouncing off the frontchute wall back on lap 59, got back up for second on the 80th go-round, then following Wenzel under the checkers to conclude his own successful season.

With Wenzel earning his first NHSTRA track Modified crown, and solidifying his point lead in the Quest chase, he joined his younger brother, Tim, in celebrating their 2023 sibling Monadnock championships With Cloutier strong in second, Kimmy Rivet, who earlier this summer survived a horrific crash, ended her summer on the podium with a third-place finish.

Rollins, who struggled through a largely forgettable Saturday afternoon, made masterful use of ne fewer than four trips to the pits to stay on the lead lap and finish fourth, keeping his Quest hopes alive for the series’ finale next month.

Tim Wenzel, as his brother Modified hot shoe Nate would do later in Saturday’s event, closed out his championship summer with an exclamation point, romping to his track-high sixth victory of the summer in the Late Model main.

Taking the lead from Andrew Brousseau on lap 19, Wenzel never looked back. Brousseau, though, didn’t fare as well. Picked off by a lapper with three to go, he finished fifth on the day. Hillary Renaud concluded her successful summer in second, and Claremont’s Dylan Zullo used a last-lap pass to earn the third-place hardware.

Cameron Sontag rocketed to his third win in a row in the Mini Stock feature, taking the lead from Louie Maher with two laps to go. Maher, though, offered little resistance, riding his runner-up finish to the 2023 championship. Pat Houle, in his strongest run of the summer, came home third.

Colton Martin, trading rides for the day with Andrea St. Amour, blew the field away to win Saturday’s Pure Stock feature. Chris Chambers, in St. Amour’s team car, was second, and Zach Zilinski earned the first of his two Championship Day trophies in third.

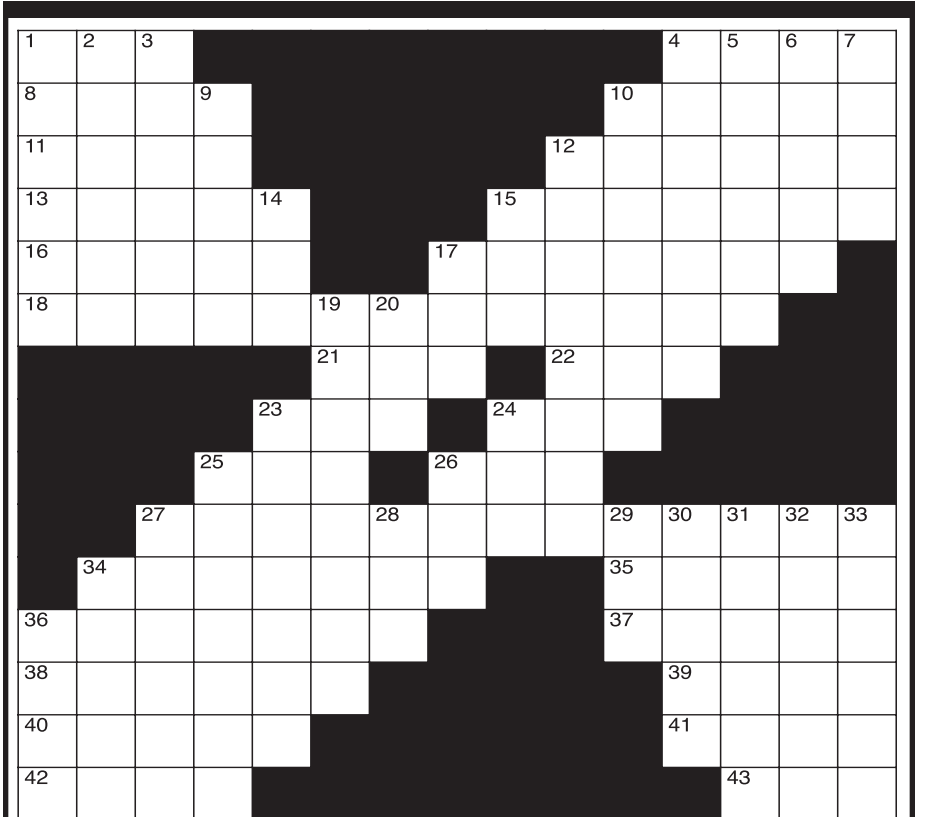
Chris Davis, who’d seen a title slip away from him in last year’s season finale, stayed clear of trouble Saturday, cruising home in fifth to add another championship trophy to his large collection.

Zach Zilinski wired the Six Shooter feature to win his second in a row. Steve Miller Jr. stayed glued to the 16-year-old pilot’s bumper to finish second, while Michael Yeaton’s third-place run netted him the 2023 championship.

Markus O’Neil led all the way to score his second Young Gun victory of the year Saturday. He had four-time winner Owen Zilinski draped all over him for most of the way but never faltered en route to victory. Addison Brooks came home third.

Oval-tracker Cole Littlewood, aboard the family Honda, won Saturday’s Spectator Race finale, stealing the win out of the last turn from Xander Stillwell.

Last Saturday’s 2023 Championship Day event concluded Monadnock Speedway’s 2023 racing season. The high-banked speedplant will take on a new and improved look in the coming weeks, as it receives an entirely new racing surface, its first since the initial paving was completed a half-century ago.



- |                                           |                                        |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>CLUES ACROSS</b>                       | 23. Cash machine                       | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>             | fish                            |
| 1. Outsourcing (abbr.)                    | 24. A way to soak                      | 1. Native of Slovakia         | 19. Nautical ropes              |
| 4. Post                                   | 25. Hair product                       | 2. Deli meat                  | 20. Leg (slang)                 |
| 8. German city on edge of Black Forest    | 26. Deride                             | 3. Fibrous substance in fungi | 23. Pokes holes in              |
| 10. “___, but goodie”                     | 27. “The Blonde Bombshell”             | 4. Cutting                    | 24. Moved quickly on foot       |
| 11. Spiced stew                           | 34. Cause to become insane             | 5. Vedder and Van Halen       | 25. Fix-it shops                |
| 12. Passionately                          | 35. Bluish greens                      | 6. Horror comic novelist      | 26. Type of bread               |
| 13. Monetary units                        | 36. Supported with money               | 7. Rulers of Tunis            | 27. Repaired                    |
| 15. Group of living organisms             | 37. Type of equation                   | 9. Shaped like a circle       | 28. Synthetic diamond (abbr.)   |
| 16. Organic compound derived from ammonia | 38. Court officials                    | 10. Make a pig of oneself     | 29. Type of drug (abbr.)        |
| 17. High honors                           | 39. Indian god                         | 12. Aphorism                  | 30. German city along the Rhine |
| 18. 5-year-olds’ classes                  | 40. Rids                               | 14. Witness                   | 31. Animal disease              |
| 21. Swiss river                           | 41. Leak slowly through                | 15. Single Lens Reflex        | 32. Martini necessities         |
| 22. Old woman                             | 42. Units of ionizing radiation        | 17. Freshwater North American | 33. Get away from               |
|                                           | 43. Midway between south and southeast |                               | 34. Village in Mali             |
|                                           |                                        |                               | 36. Djibouti franc              |



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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.  
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# FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES:

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON  
HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

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

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

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**  
Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**  
Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):  
 Quabbin  
 Suburban  
 Hilltowns

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**





## 24-hour theater festival returns Sept. 30

HOLYOKE - The annual Phillips Festival, an evening of short plays written, directed and staged in 24 hours by Holyoke Community College alumni, students, staff, and friends, returns to HCC on Saturday, Sept. 30, for its sixth year.

The festival, which debuted in 2016, raises money for the Leslie Phillips Theater Fund for Arts and Education, honoring the legacy of Leslie Phillips, founder of the HCC theater program.

To produce the Leslie Phillips Festival, HCC alumni, students and staff register in advance to participate as writers, directors, actors, or members of the stage crew. The writers meet with the actors on Friday, Sept. 29, the night before the show to receive play elements such as props, prompts, and characterizations. They have until 6 a.m. the next morning to write their plays. Two hours later, actors and directors meet for a full day of rehearsals leading up to a 7:30 p.m. performance that evening, Saturday, Sept. 30.

"This is an evening of creativity and collaboration for the HCC theater community and the community at large," said Poehler. "It's also a chance to invest in the future generation of HCC's theater program and students - all in the name of Leslie Phillips."

Funds raised from the festival enable the HCC Theater Department to hold master classes, make capital improvements, and hire guest artists - "Anything to enrich, enable, and expand the educational experience of HCC students," Poehler said.

The festival was first organized in 2016 by HCC alumni working with HCC theater professor Pat Sandoval '84 as a tribute to Phillips, who died in 1988 after inspiring legions of HCC students.

To participate in the festival, please register at [hcc.edu/phillips-2023](http://hcc.edu/phillips-2023).

General admission tickets are \$15 in advance (\$20 at the door) and \$10 for students and seniors (\$15 at the door). All proceeds benefit the Leslie Phillips Theater Fund for Arts and Education. Festival tickets can be purchased at [hcc.edu/phillips-tickets23](http://hcc.edu/phillips-tickets23).

# Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club supports international water project

The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club is supporting an international project to bring fresh drinking water, sanitation facilities and hygiene training to three needy communities in Guatemala.

According to club President Donald Flannery, joined 25 Rotary Clubs in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut in Rotary District 7890 and contributed \$1,050 to add to a total of \$154,174. Adding this amount to the funds raised during the previous fourteen years brings a sixteen-year total to \$1,523,063 for these type of water projects.

These funds will pay for the materials needed to complete gravity fed water system with gray water filters, vented pit latrines and improved vented stoves for the 210 families (1,281 people) who live in the rural community of Tonajuyu, Guatemala, said Flannery.

Flannery described the international nature of the project: "All labor is provided by the men and women in each village. These projects continue the goal of Rotary International to have every Rotary Club support an international water and sanitation project every year. By working together, pooling their resources, and obtaining Global Grants with matching funds from The Rotary Foundation, the Rotarians have been suc-



(Photo courtesy Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club)

**Club officers from the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club, Pres. Donald Flannery (left) and Vice Pres. Chris O'Connor (right) joined District Gov. Christine Burns in the presentation Sept. 12 of a check supporting a water project in Tonajuyu, Guatemala.**

cessful in adding size and strength to their chosen projects."

Rotary District 7890 Water Committee Chair and Manchester Rotarian Rick Lawrence again spearheaded the drive to raise the necessary funds by making presentations about the project to the Rotary clubs throughout, Western Massachusetts, Northern Connecticut and Central Rhode Island as well as several clubs in Southeastern Florida.

The Rotary project will help ad-

dress some of the basic causes of poor health in this area and will help the villagers address basic sanitation - water systems, gray-water filters and latrines - in order to help prevent the constant illnesses that afflict the population, particularly children.

For more information or to join the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club call club secretary Brad Sperry at 413-537-4171.

## Funding available for cultural events

WILBRAHAM — The Wilbraham Cultural Council has set an Oct. 17 deadline for organizations, schools, businesses and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

According to Council Chairperson, Jane Clark, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Wilbraham, including ex-

hibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, or performances in schools, workshops and lectures.

This year, the Wilbraham Cultural Council will distribute about \$10,400 in grants. Previously funded projects included artists and performances at the Wilbraham Public Library, Fountain Park Concerts and Wilbraham United Players theatre

productions.

Application forms and more information about how to apply for grants are available online at [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org).

For local guidelines and complete information on the Wilbraham Cultural Council, contact Jane Clark at 413-883-6236.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Wilbraham invites sealed bids for the demolition and replacement of the low-slope roof sections of the Public Library.

Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with M.G.L. c. 149, §§44A-44J and all other applicable laws.

Specifications and bid instructions will be available beginning Thursday, September 28, 2023 and can be acquired by visiting the Town of Wilbraham website at [Wilbraham-ma.gov](http://Wilbraham-ma.gov) or by emailing [sboyd@wilbraham-ma.gov](mailto:sboyd@wilbraham-ma.gov).

Sealed bids will be accepted at Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield St., Wilbraham, MA 01095 until **October 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM** at which time all bids will be opened and read aloud. 09/28/2023

### SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of October 6, 2023 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

2006 Chrysler Pacifica  
VIN: 2A4GF68406R682118  
COLOR: Gray  
LKO: Carlos Cortes Ramos  
53 Leyferd Terr 2nd FLR  
Springfield MA 01108

R & S Assoc. Inc.  
Wilbraham MA 01095  
413-596-4374  
09/21, 09/28, 10/05/2023

## Community Holiday Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

**FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley**

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

*Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.*

# Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

**Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 15th.**

**Deadline for submissions is October 16th**

**CLIP OUT AND MAIL TO:**  
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
or email\* them to: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

\*Be sure to indicate "Holiday" in the subject line of your email.





# LET'S GO OUT!

Your Local Favorite Restaurants

**Via Appia** 2133 Boston Road, Wilbraham  
**413.271.1208**  
 Open Mon.-Thurs. 11am-9pm  
 Fri. & Sat. 11am-10pm • Sun. 12-8pm

 <b>LUTHER</b> Friday, Sept. 29th & Friday, Oct. 27th	 <b>TIM PELLETIER</b> Friday, Oct. 6th
 <b>PETER NEWLAND</b> (of FAT) Saturday, Oct. 21st	 <b>CHARLIE BONGIOVI</b> Friday, Oct. 20th & Saturday, Oct. 28th

**Great Food!** **Live Music!**

**JOE PEREIRA**  
Saturday,  
Oct. 14th

**KENO • RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED**

**gio's PIZZERIA & LOUNGE**

**DINE WITH US!**  
 DINE IN OR TAKE OUT  
 Gourmet Pizzas • Grinders  
 Pasta • Calzones • Seafood  
 Salads • Wings & More

**IN OUR LOUNGE**  
 Beer - Wine - Spirits - Cocktails  
 Extended Hours for Lounge  
 Keno & Lottery Available

Fall means back to sports & school activities!  
 Make life easier,  
**ORDER FROM GIOS!**

**Call Today! 413-566-8015**  
 9 Allen St., • Hampden Mini Mall  
 www.giospizzeria.com  
 Wed.-Sun. • Closed Mon. & Tues.




**ROUTE 20**  
  
**Bar & Grille**  
 EST. 2016

**SUNDAY BRUNCH**  
**Sundays 11:30-2:30**  
 (Plus Our Regular Menu Until 8pm)  
 Featuring Our Build Your Own  
 Bloody Mary & Mimosa Bar!



Ask About Our  
**NEW** customer  
 loyalty program!

**LIVE MUSIC!**  
**Every Thursday,  
 Friday & Saturday!**  
 Thursday, September 28:  
 Jack & His Guitar  
 Friday, September 29:  
 Floyd Patterson  
 Saturday, September 30:  
 David Soltz

**\$17 STEAK N' BREW  
 EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT!**  
 Dine in Only • While supplies last

**\$15 PRIME RIB  
 EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT**  
 Dine In Only • While Supplies Last

**\$25 THREE COURSE MEALS  
 EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT!**  
 Dine in Only • While supplies last

**HAPPY HOUR  
 THURSDAYS 4-7:30PM!**  
 Specially Priced Apps & Live Music  
 Fall Cocktails & Martinis!

**SERVING LUNCH  
 THURSDAY - Sunday  
 at 11:30**

2341 Boston Rd., (Rt. 20), Wilbraham, MA  
**413.279.2020**  
**route20barandgrille.com**  
 SERVING: TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY 4-9PM  
 SERVING THURS.-SAT. 11:30AM-9:30PM • SUNDAY 11:30AM-8PM  
 WITH EXTENDED BAR HOURS EVERY NIGHT **KENO**

**LaCucina**  
  
**di Hampden House**  
 1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA  
**413-566-8324**

ENJOY  
**FALL DINING  
 ON OUR PATIO**  
 Weather Permitting



**LIVE MUSIC!**  
 Every Friday & Saturday!

**BOOK YOUR NEXT FUNCTION WITH US!**  
 Holiday Parties, Showers, Christenings,  
 Rehearsal Dinners, Weddings, etc.  
**OUR PRIVATE GREENHOUSE BANQUET FACILITY  
 CAN ACCOMODATE UP TO 100 PEOPLE**  
 For More Information  
 Contact Lori Atkinson at 413-566-8324  
 or by email at lacucinagreenhouse@gmail.com

See our website for our Banquet & Catering Menu  
**www.lacucinahampden.com**  
 Mon.-Thurs. 3-9pm, Fri. & Sat. 11:30am-10pm & Sun. 11:30am-9pm  
**LOUNGE OPEN & PIZZA 7 DAYS  
 BAR OPEN LATE!**