

## MRHS Marching Band

*performs  
at the Big E*

By Natalie Proulx  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Wednesday Sep. 24, the Minnechaug Regional High School Marching Band performed in the Big E Parade.

Students from all grades gathered to attend this yearly field trip event customary to Minnechaug's Band. Students spent the beginning of their day adventuring at the Big E and, later on, prepared for their parade.

Please see **BAND**, page 16



Photo courtesy of Kyle Garron

Drum Majors Abigail Lee, Hayden Carlotto and Isabella Strand standing together before the parade.

## SB reviews, closes STM Warrant

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard reviewed and officially closed the Special Town Meeting Warrant on Sept. 22.

Special Town Meeting will take place on Monday, Oct. 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

The Times will break down the STM warrant articles in a future edition.

### Warrant Request

To start the conversation, Chair John Flynn presented a warrant article suggestion about changing the Annual Town Meeting start time.

After Don Davenport said he was open to the idea, Erik Vanderleeden shared

his thoughts.

"Is there any opportunity to cut some of the times as opposed to starting earlier? Is there any way?" Vanderleeden said.

Flynn replied the consent agenda has helped with this in the past, later asking Vanderleeden if 6:30 p.m. was tough on families.

Vanderleeden said this.

"I think for families, I think any time is tough, that have small children," Vanderleeden said. "As the meeting time drag goes on, I think it's tough for the younger kids, parents with younger children because they got to get home."

"That's why I think starting earlier is better," Flynn said.

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## Selectboard receives updates on new town hall

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard received updates on the new town hall—which is the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School—during their Sept. 22 meeting.

Town Administrator Brian Domina explained the bigger projects that are being looked into include the asbestos abatement of the five class-

rooms.

"Library's hoping to add two additional rooms to that. That is current, that went out to bid. It was awarded to Abide from East Longmeadow," Domina said. "Apex told me that they quote, unquote, 'made a mistake in their bid' and that they would like to rescind it and I happily accepted because they're from a very far distance away. I just feel more comfortable with more local companies. So,

that's scheduled for Oct. 13, they've allowed for about a week. I'm not sure it'll take that long, those tiles are coming up by themselves, so I don't think it'll take too long to get them up. After that, we need to install new flooring in those locations."

Domina added another goal is to zone the building into three zones "in terms of our electronic access" including the library, Parks & Rec and town hall.

"There's two locations where we need access control," Domina said. "We were thinking it was going to be hallway doors similar to the ones that are in there now. Another option is to do—at least temporarily—some wall construction and just block those areas off, conversations with the building inspector. Those are two options that are being explored right now."

Other items, Domina said, include replacing ceiling tiles

due to many that were painted, which "ruins the fire rating on the tiles and that's not allowed."

"That's something that's going to be done in-house. We've already placed the order, I don't think they've been delivered yet," Domina said.

Domina also noted for many of the spaces that will be occupied, there are miscellaneous light bulbs "that need

Please see **UPDATE**, page 4

## School Committee to meet with town boards Oct. 9

Also, MRHS bleachers and early literacy grant award

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The School Committee will meet with the town boards in a multi-board meeting on Oct. 9.

The meeting date comes after the School Committee agreed on Aug. 21 to a meeting request from the Wilbraham Select Board to discuss the budget process for FY27 and the capital planning process for district properties and town-owned properties. From there, a letter was sent to the Hampden Selectboard and a draft agenda was organized by Superintendent Dr. John Provost and Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations and Human Resources Dr. Douglas Slaughter for review.

Chair Michal Boudreau said the Advisory Committee, the Hampden Selectboard, the Select Board and a representative from the Finance Committee will be in attendance.

There was also an update on the Minnechaug Regional High School bleachers, which was discussed on Sept. 10 and continued to the Sept. 25 meeting. To recap, this concerned the current conditions of the bleachers and their potential safety hazards.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost shared that "we are in the process of developing a presentation for the next meeting along the lines that was discussed at the last meeting."

Please see **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**, page 5



Tamaryn brought her three treasured Labubus to the library.



Ryleigh displays her creation.



Jacob with his custom Labubu.

## Labubu Mania



Mila and Emma chatted while making their Labubus.

By Patricia Sullivan  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - "Labubus are the thing right now," says Liberty, a fourth-grader at Wilbraham's Soule Road School. "The whole school is obsessed."

Aware of the mania for these fuzzy seven-inch dolls, the Wilbraham Public Library organized a craft session in which third and fourth-graders colored their own paper Labubus and had them laminated for use as locker tags or keychain ornaments.

The free activity was held in the afternoon on Sept. 23, an early-release day for the town's schools.

Labubu, inspired by Nordic fairy tales and made and distributed by the Chinese company PopMart, have skyrocketed in popularity. Much

Please see **LABUBU**, page 5

## WPL hosts Pre-K and K Dance Party

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The library hosted a Pre-K and K Dance Party in the Brooks Room on Sept. 20 to great fanfare for families and the littlest readers and learners in the community.

The event was catered to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten-aged children with adult supervision and included a disco ball, a "photo booth" for families to take photos together and dancing the morning away to familiar songs such as "Baby Shark" and learning new ones.

Also, a Disney song trivia challenge.

Lisa Berezin, the library's assistant children's librarian, oversaw the event and explained it was an opportunity for children "to experience the library in a

different, fun and exciting way!"

"Dance is one of the best ways for children to learn to control their bodies, refine balance, coordination and strength. I wanted younger children to have a safe environment to dance, move and express themselves," Berezin said.

Berezin said the event was also the first of its kind to be held at the library, expressing joy at the children getting into the music and songs. She was thrilled with the turnout and shared what sparked the idea to have a dance party.

"I really wanted younger children to have an opportunity for something exciting to participate in and look forward to coming to that was just for them. Watching all the fun that the participants had dancing, singing,

Please see **DANCE**, page 9



A crowd shot of attendees at the Pre-K and K Dance Party on Sept. 20.

Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

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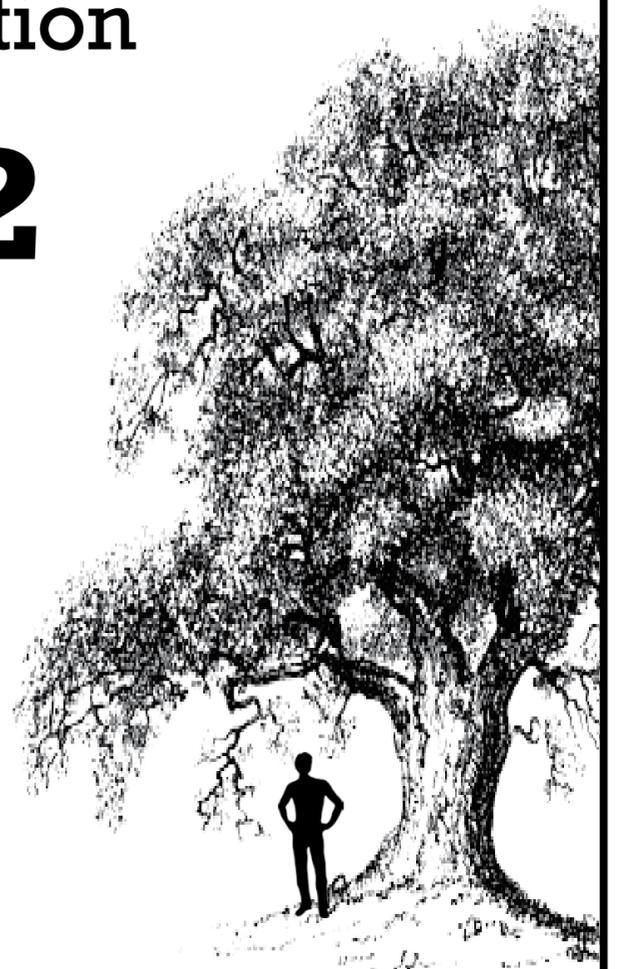
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The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club was included with a regional group of clubs in supporting a clean water project. They donated \$176,486. (Rotary photo)

## Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club joins international water project

MANCHESTER, Conn. – The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club joined with 25 other Rotary Clubs in northern Connecticut and Western Massachusetts (Rotary District 7890) to fund a project that will bring fresh drinking water, sanitation facilities and hygiene training to a needy Mayan community in Guatemala.

Rotary Club Secretary Brad Sperry said the project is a good example of ways the club helps people of other countries. “Not only do we work on community service

projects right here in Wilbraham and Hampden, but our international water project helps folks from third world countries improve their living conditions,” said Sperry.

Including matching funds from The Rotary Foundation and those contributed to ALDEA, the Cooperating Partner NGO, a total of \$176,486 was raised. Adding this amount to the funds raised during the previous 16 years brings the total to \$1,856,900.

District 7890 Water Committee Chair and Manchester, Conn. Rotarian Rick Lawrence

again spearheaded the drive to raise the necessary funds. Lawrence said those funds will pay for the materials needed to complete a gravity-fed water system with gray water filters, vented pit latrines, improved vented stoves for the 115 families (725 people) who live in the rural community of Xecoxol, Guatemala.

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,” said Lawrence.

By working together, pooling their resources, and obtaining Global Grants with matching funds from The Rotary Foundation, the Rotarians have been successful in adding size and strength to their chosen projects, he said.

Lawrence and his wife Elin will travel to Guatemala soon to visit the village funded through the Global Grant. For more information about the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club call Brad Sperry at 413-537-4171.

## Wilbraham Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

WILBRAHAM - Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs are due Thurs., October 16.

The Wilbraham Cultural Council has set Oct. 16 as the deadline for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants supporting community cultural activities.

According to LCC chair, Jane Clark, these grants can

support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Wilbraham, including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, performances in schools, workshops, and lectures.

The Wilbraham Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Pro-

gram is the nation’s largest grassroots cultural funding network, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to Mass Cultural Council, a state agency that allocates funds to each community.

This year, the Wilbraham Cultural Council will distrib-

ute about \$10,800 in grants.

For local guidelines and complete information on the Wilbraham Cultural Council, contact Jane Clark at 413-883-6236 and janeclark022553@gmail.com. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.massculturalcouncil.org.

## Wilbraham Lions Club hosting Food Drive this Saturday

WILBRAHAM - Because we know that hunger NEVER takes a vacation and the thought of any child going to bed hungry is repugnant and unacceptable, the Lions Club of Wilbraham in conjunc-

tion with BIG Y is collecting non-perishable foods such as grain and multi-grain cereals, canned fruits and vegetables, 100% fruit juices, canned proteins, peanut butter and soups.

The food drive will be Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wilbraham Big Y.

Donations of foods or cash will benefit the food bank at the Community Survival Cen-

ter which serves the towns of Wilbraham, Hampden and Ludlow as well as others in the area.

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# PMP joined Member Track Network

Organization gives members access to tracks across North America

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**PALMER** – Since last December, a group representing various racetracks across North America has been working together to create an incredible opportunity for their members.

The Member Track Network is a not-for-profit organization that connects private club racetracks through a standardized reciprocal member agreement, allowing club members to experience close to a dozen different tracks in the U.S. and Canada.

“So, our members can go to their track, and their members can go to our track,” said Al Sandy, Club Director at Palmer Motorsports Park.

Sandy said Palmer Motorsports Park was developed as a private club for members, and each year, members travel to Indianapolis, Indiana for a conference and tradeshow. Here, various track owners get together and network, as well as share ideas.

Sandy said every year he introduces himself and proposes a reciprocal member agreement with the other track representatives. At last year’s conference, the owner of The Podium Club in Phoenix, Arizona approached Sandy about forming a not-for-profit network across the U.S. and Canada.

“Being not for profit, at present, my members can go to nine different tracks across the county and Canada and drive for free,” Sandy said.

Sandy said the Member Track Network will help to bring tourism to the communities surrounding Palmer Motorsports Park, and boost the local economy as network members will utilize restaurants, lodging and more while visiting the Whiskey Hill track.

“We’re going to be pulling people in with this,” Sandy said.

Sandy is joined on the Member Track Network board by Jayson Citron of The Podium Club in Phoenix, Arizona and Shawn Hayes of Atlanta Motorsports Park in Georgia.

Currently, the Member Track Network includes access to the following tracks: Palmer Motorsports Park in Palmer; Rocky Mountain Motorsports in Alberta, Canada; NCM Motorsports Park in Bowling Green, Kentucky; Motorsport Ranch in Cresson, Texas; MSR Houston in Texas; Lime Rock Drivers Club in Connecticut; Atlanta Motorsports Park in Georgia; The Podium Club in Phoenix, Arizona; the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, Illinois; and Calabogie Motorsports Park in Ontario, Canada.

For more information,

visit [www.membertracknetwork.com](http://www.membertracknetwork.com).

“It’s been a lot of fun, but it’s been a lot of work,” Sandy said of the organization’s creation. “I feel satisfied that I helped to form something that I hope will stick around.”

## About Palmer Motorsports Park

Palmer Motorsports Park has been rated “One of the top 10 road courses in North America” by Road & Track Magazine. Its unique setting and challenging road course draws club members and visitors from New England and beyond for racing, research, recreational, and business-related activities.

Palmer Motorsports Park hosts a variety of events, including Porsche on the Mountain on Sunday, Oct. 5 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Porsche on the Mountain features everything Porsche from show cars to track cars, to race cars and project cars. Show car entry is \$35 (pre-registration required) and \$10 general admission.

Proceeds from this event benefit Homes For Our Troops. For more information and to register, visit [www.porscheonthemountain.com](http://www.porscheonthemountain.com).

The annual Trunk or Treat Car Show to benefit food pantries in Palmer and Ware will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26 and the popular Mustangs on the Mountain event is also set to take place in October to benefit the Central New England Equine Rescue.

For more information about Palmer Motorsports Park, visit [palmermsp.com](http://palmermsp.com) or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The Selectboard received updates on the new town hall during their Sept. 22 meeting. As readers recall, the new town hall will be at the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

## UPDATE from page 4

to be changed.”

“We have worked with our regional energy manager to bring in a company. I wasn’t able to be there, but they walked through with a lighting company with our facilities manager to look at the best options for the building, the rooms there. But, that could be depending on the cost of that. That doesn’t necessarily need to be something that’s done immediately as long as we have working lightbulbs,” Domina said.

Painting classrooms and hallways are also on the list and a quote from Valley Communications was received for the electronic door locks, with a statewide contract that will require a solicitation of three bids from vendors listed on the contract.

“I sent two other additional solicitations out today. That’s around \$40,000,” Domina said. “It would be eight doors. We would save costs if instead of doing doors in those two locations, if we were to do a wall or a temporary wall, as it would obviously wouldn’t have to incur that cost of the doors or the electronic door locks there. We’re guessing it’s going to be probably around \$15,000

a door in terms of those four double-wide doors.”

Chair John Flynn asked where the main control would be for the doors.

“Right now, we have the camera stuff, the server is in the cloud,” Flynn said.

“That’s going to be cloud-based,” Domina said. “Whoever has admin control can access it on-premises or off-premises. So, if there’s some change in the schedule with, let’s just say, community group meets, decides not to use it, then someone can just go on it, lock the doors, which will be helpful.”

Another quote from Valley Communications, he added, is for security cameras, which is also being worked on.

Domina then noted the town has a \$90,000 earmark from the state budget “that’s currently on hold,” which was going to cover the cameras and electronic door locks.

“I checked in today. They’re expecting a decision in mid-October as to whether that money will be released,” Domina said.

On Flynn’s question on what would happen if the town went ahead with those items before the earmark was released, it was received in writing the state would cover

it. For IT upgrades, Domina said those would start the next day with equipment already purchased last fiscal year. Internet, meanwhile, an installation request was sent in.

“Office cleanouts, office setup, those would be a little later on in the process, but most of the rooms are pretty clean. Sink and cabinet removals, bulletin board removals. We have a meeting tomorrow to talk about the wells that are there now in relation to the septic system and what MassDEP would like to see based on the change of use of the building,” Domina said. “But, we think we’ll be able to resolve that pretty easily.”

For signage, an exterior sign, Domina said, is needed and he’d like to do temporary interior signage followed by more permanent signage “once we’re more comfortable with the space and how it works.”

Fire extinguisher inspections are also still needed, along with dumpsters for trash and recycling.

“So, with all that said, my hope is that the move date would be mid-November,” Domina said.

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Reunion

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
from page 1

"It will be more succinct and I think help to present the need in a very clear way to the community," Provost said.

Vice Chair Sean Kennedy said he attended the first home game at the high school and sat with Principal Stephen Hale at the top of the bleachers.

"Everything seemed fine and then in the second half, I actually stepped down, let the kids have fun just sitting with Nicholas—he's in the band—and one of the boards broke during the game," Kennedy said. "So, hopefully it's not a foreshadow of things to come, but we should really make sure we're getting this on the front burner."

When Boudreau asked if this presentation would also be shared at the upcoming multiboard meeting, Provost replied yes.

Lastly, Lisa Curtin, director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning, shared the school district has received a FY26 Early Literacy Consortium Grant for \$190,000 from DESE.

"Hampden-Wilbraham is one of seven regional consortia across the state to receive this funding. So, a little bit more information on why we received so much is we've been participating in the con-

sortium grants. We have a very large group of both higher ed and district partners. So, we're able to get up into a higher tier for funding, so that's exciting," Curtin said. "Our consortium partners are Agawam Public Schools, Dudley Charlton Regional School District, Gateway Regional School District, West Springfield Public Schools, American International College, Springfield College, Western New England University and Worcester State University."

Curtin said the grant will support "our ongoing efforts to strengthen early literacy education" along with fostering "collaboration across districts and higher education institutions, helping to build a strong, interconnected network that serves to improve outcomes for all students."

"Through this grant, both Pre-K and K through 12 educators and educator preparation faculty will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of evidence-based literacy practices," Curtin said. "They'll be able to learn from one another and better prepare current and future educators to meet the literacy needs of all learners."

Curtin added the grant funding will be used by consortium districts "to provide targeted literacy tutoring for students."

"So, Hampden-Wilbra-

ham will be offering the Boost Reading Club again this year as an opportunity for students to access the adaptive learn literacy platform Boost that provides targeted literacy learning to remediate and strengthen skills," Curtin said. "We are very excited not only to expand opportunities for the targeted literacy instruction, but also to strengthen our partnerships with higher education teacher preparation programs. Partnerships that support the development of a strong pipeline of well-prepared, highly-qualified educators who are ready to make an immediate impact in the classroom. So, lots of work went into writing the grant and lots of good work to come from it."

When Kennedy asked how the money was going to be spent, Curtin explained how it's shared amongst the consortium.

"So, in the budget, we have some money budgeted for professional development, we have money budgeted for materials and the bulk of the money will be spent on tutoring," Curtin said. "So, each district provided us with a proposal of how they were going to provide the literacy tutoring and they were given a set of amount of money to do that, so they basically provide the tutoring and then we as the grant applicator, we are able to give them the money,

they invoice us and we pay them," Curtin said. "So, it's not the whole 190 for us."

Sherrill Caruana wondered about the schedule.

"Is it just a summer program or is this going to be throughout the year, during the breaks?" Caruana said.

Curtin said last year, the grant was received late in the year, so the Boost Reading Club was applied in April, May and the beginning of June.

"But this year, we have the funds now, so we are in the process of posting for people to actually do the tutoring and be the Boost Reading Club leaders," Curtin said. "And the goal is to start the week of Oct. 20, so we're hoping to have two rounds of approximately eight weeks. So, we'll use our universal screening data to help us gather and invite students that will be appropriate for the Boost Club, work on it for eight weeks, then get some more middle-of-the-year data and invite some more people."

Tutoring sessions, she added, are about 45 minutes and will be offered twice a week for eight weeks. Also, they will be offered before school with no more than 10 students per group.

No transportation will be offered due to the new tiered system for the buses and students can still have breakfast after tutoring.

**Wilbraham Friends of the Library Clothing and Household Textile Drive**

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

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

Millions of pounds of clothing and household textiles used to end up in U.S. landfills each year. Current Massachusetts laws ban disposal of textiles, easing the burden on landfills but leaving some to wonder just what to do with it all. The

WFOL Clothing & Household Textile Drive gives you the opportunity to take responsible action through donations and upcycling.

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

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

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

**LABUBU** from page 1

like the trolls or Beanie Babies of the past, kids line up to collect them. They are sold mainly at PopMart shops or online and start at about \$30 each.

The 10 young girls and one boy at the library all agreed that Labubus are cute, with their pastel colors and fang-toothed grins, but a little creepy. One child described them as monsters in bunny costumes.

The kids made a Halloween Labubu, a rainbow Labubu, a Labubu dressed as a turtle and more.

As they colored and cut, they chatted about their schools, their teachers, their friends and trends.

Glow-in-the-dark Smiski figurines, made in Japan, are popular, the kids said, while mini resin animals the size of a grape were big in school a couple of years ago. Some kids enjoy hydro-dipping, a process of decorating an item by dunking it in water with special paint floating on top.



Kids designed their own Labubus at the Wilbraham Public Library.

Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

Today's most talked-about kids movie on Netflix is "KPop Demon Hunters."

Children's Librarian Jaime Hageman stays abreast of trends through list-serves and Facebook contact with fellow

librarians across the country.

"Librarians are great at sharing ideas," Hageman said.

She was pleased with the turnout and thrilled to hear the buzz of conversation as the children worked on their

Labubus.

"Some of them came in knowing each other, but some didn't," Hageman said. "Today was a huge success."

Registration opens on Monday, Oct. 13, for the li-



Color, cut, laminate and cut: Labubus in progress.

brary's next early release day library activities online at [wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://wilbrahamlibrary.org) or call 596-6141.

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**VIEWPOINTS**

**SOCIAL SECURITY Matters**  
By Russell Gloor

**Should my spouse be getting half of my Social Security amount?**

**Dear Rusty:**  
I was referred to you to ask a question about Social Security benefits. I receive about \$1,700 a month from Social Security while my husband receives only approximately \$750 monthly. Is he entitled to file for half of my Social Security as a monthly benefit without touching my amount?

**Signed: Curious Wife**

**Dear Curious Wife:**

For information, spousal benefits are one of the most misunderstood areas of Social Security. A spouse does not always get half of their partner's Social Security benefit how much the spouse gets is determined by their age when the spouse benefit is claimed and it is always based upon both partner's Full Retirement Age benefit, regardless of when they actually claimed Social Security.

The partner with the lower SS benefit can only get half of the other spouse's FRA amount if that partner takes the spouse benefit at or after their personal SS FRA. And each spouse's FRA may be different depending on the year they were born. FRA today is somewhere between age 66 and 67, depending on the person's year of birth.

Here are two basic rules for a lower earning marital partner to get spouse benefits:

The lower earning spouse's FRA entitlement must be less than 50% of the higher earning spouse's FRA entitlement. FRA amounts are used, even if SS benefits were claimed earlier than or later than, full retirement age, and FRA amounts are frequently different than the monthly amounts actually being received.

If one spouse's FRA amount is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA amount, the difference between those two amounts can be added to the lower earning spouse's SS retirement amount, to become their spousal benefit. That may, or may not, equal half of the higher earning spouse's FRA amount.

So, if you claimed your Social Security exactly at your own full retirement age and your husband also claimed his Social Security exactly at his own full retirement age, then based on the numbers you provided your husband is likely entitled to about \$850 per month, instead of his current \$750. And that would not affect your own SS benefit in any way.

Your FRA entitlement would need to be more than twice your husband's FRA entitlement for him to receive a spousal boost from you. But if either of you claimed Social Security before (or after) your respective full retirement ages, your husband would not get 50% of your benefit.

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



George Carter



Candice Somar



Bree D'Amours



Chris Schultz



Nick Restivo

**Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity welcomes five new board members**

**By Brandice J. O'Brien**  
Marketing and Communications Manager, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is poised to make even grander strides in combating the affordable housing crisis in Hampden County. This past summer, the Board of Directors welcomed five new members to bring fresh perspectives and energy to its mission.

George Carter, Candice Somar, Bree D'Amours, Chris Schultz, and Nick Restivo are the newest faces to the GSHFH team. Candice, George, and Nick are longtime supporters. They have attended countless fundraising events. George and Nick have also volunteered on the build site, while Candice helped plan Fall Feastival and Building Dreams. Bree came to the home dedication on Dwight Street in Springfield this past June; and board Vice President Tiffany Tranghese recommended Chris.

"We all have different experiences, come from different upbringings, and have different professional skill sets that I believe can bring a different perspective to finding solutions and problem solv-

ing," said George, a resident of Springfield, who works at Chicopee Electric Light as a systems administrator.

George's peers come from backgrounds in banking, finance, education, and human resources. While most are originally from Western Massachusetts, Candice immigrated to the United States from Guyana as a teenager. Chris moved to Westfield from Florida at 9 years old.

Despite their differences, their desire to propel Greater Springfield Habitat's mission forward is steadfast.

"Housing is such a fundamental need and I've seen firsthand how GSHFH transforms lives by providing stability and hope for families," said Bree, who lives in West Springfield and serves as the director of Admissions and Communication at Pioneer Valley Montessori School in Springfield. "After attending a home blessing and witnessing the impact on a new homeowner, I felt inspired to be a part of that change in a more active way." Nick agreed.

"I want to give homebuyers hope to obtain a decent home and to improve our communities by building more affordable housing," said Nick, a resident of Enfield, Connecticut, who works for HSA Bank as an employee benefits administrator, but

has previous experience in the mortgage industry. "I know the importance of helping people find housing."

Candice and Chris both volunteer for other organizations as well, but are committed to Habitat.

"When I changed careers, I found more time at home with my family and more free time. I wanted to find something to do with my free time that was both productive and meaningful," said Chris, who lives in Easthampton and is a financial representative at Northwestern Mutual. He also coaches a varsity boys soccer team at a local high school. "I have always loved the work that Habitat has done for the community and was glad to find a spot here in Greater Springfield." Candice agreed.

"Joining the board of directors allows me the opportunity to learn more about the mission and the ways GSHFH can provide affordable housing for the community," said Candice who is a banker at Florence Bank and lives in Springfield. She volunteers with five other nonprofit organizations, including The Gray House, Junior Achievement, and Revitalize CDC.

To learn more about Greater Springfield Habitat and its mission, visit [habitatsspringfield.org](http://habitatsspringfield.org).

**Live in the moment but plan for winter!!**

Hasn't the first week of autumn been beautiful weather-wise? Warm and sunny days will have us completely spoiled!

Summer annuals continue to bloom even as we harvest our pumpkins and corn stalks. But alas, while we are enjoying, we must simultaneously prepare for what inevitably will come.

My big task for today was deconstructing a combination planter so that I could (hopefully) overwinter the summer plants indoors. These included a Hypoestes (Polka dot plant), two Fuchsias, and an Ivy Geranium.

Over the years I've had good luck overwintering regular geraniums, Gerber daisies and fuchsias, but I have never tried ivy geraniums or the finicky polka dot plant. According to my research, ivy geraniums are handled in a similar manner as regular or zonal geraniums.

I typically overwinter them as a houseplant, in a bright sunny window. Some-

times they delight me with flowers through Christmas!

When I was trying to separate the plants from my big

planter, though, the amount of roots I was able to get from the ivy geranium was honestly pathetic. The plant looked big enough on top to fit in a ten inch pot, but the root ball, maybe enough roots to fit in a four inch pot.

What am I to do? First thing would be to prune the top growth. So few roots would have a difficult time supporting all of that foliage. I will take off one third to one half of the top growth. And from this foliage, I will take some cuttings.

Regardless of my predicament, cuttings are a good op-

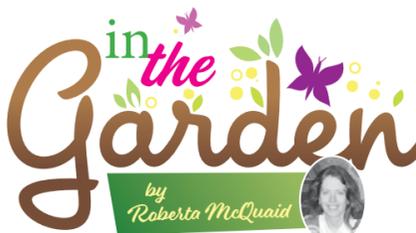
tion if you are short on space in front of sunny windows - you can root them in a three or four inch pot placed in indirect light until they begin to grow!

You can also store geranium stock plant out of your living space. Here is how: Cut the plants back to a couple of inches above the crown and set them in the cellar, unheated

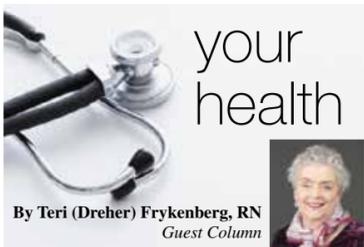
rooms, enclosed porches or other spaces that don't freeze and aren't too damp. Check them every few weeks and water sparingly if necessary, never letting the soil dry out completely.

When spring comes, gradually begin to introduce sunlight and the plant will commence growth. Once the threat of frost has passed the plants can go outside for the summer months. If last year's potting soil is "exhausted" of nutrients, carefully repot the

Please see **GARDEN**, page 10



**A day in the life: Never a dull moment**



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

People often ask me what a patient advocate does. Truly, when my phone rings I never know what the day might bring. But if I have done my job, by the time my head hits the pillow, I will have made someone's life better or their hospital stay safer.

Let me walk you through a day in the life of a patient advocate.

**Morning**

I receive a call from a senior health-care industry professional with a referral for a man who is struggling to care for his wife, who has Alzheimer's. Dementia is hard not only on the person who has it, but on their loved ones who are determined to care for them. It can be a lonely existence.

This man needs support because he wants to keep his

wife safe at home, meaning he will need to find 24-hour care. In addition, he is suffering from caregiver stress and has health challenges of his own. It seems also

that a new neurologist is needed to get a fresh set of eyes and a new evaluation of his wife's condition.

One of our nurses will follow up with this couple after I share their story and initial priorities of care.

Then, a community member calls regarding an elderly neighbor who has been in the hospital for several weeks and is having complications that come with prolonged hospitalization. People who are hospitalized for days or weeks at a time may suffer sleep deprivation and disorientation, which can complicate their recovery.

The neighbor is concerned that the man is not receiving the care he should,

Please see **ADVOCATE**, page 8



DAVE GRANLUND ©

**The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM**

**EDITOR**  
Kristin Rivers  
[krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Jocelyn Walker  
[jwalker@turley.com](mailto:jwalker@turley.com)

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

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**Correction Policy**

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

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc. One year out of town subscriptions are available at \$45, out of state \$50 by calling 800-824-8458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.

**Election letters to the editor welcome**

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

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

**Campaign news**

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

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

*Life in &*

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

# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

## Theatre Guild of Hampden Celebrates 20 Years!



On Sept. 14, The Theatre Guild of Hampden celebrated 20 years with an anniversary gala event at the Country Club of Wilbraham.

The event included remarks from Director Mark Giza, music by Kyle Langlois, raffles, surprise performances from local theater actors, including Ally Reardon and Anna Giza, tributes to late performers Tracey Hebert and Beau Reardon and so much more.

The Theatre Guild of Hampden will next be gearing up for their fall production of "Lost in Yonkers" which runs Nov. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16 at the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School. Tickets are available now.

Submitted photos Lynn Langlois

### COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

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

We will pick one each week to run here free of charge, please keep it to less than 50 words. Please send to [krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com)



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## Upcoming Art Show at Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN - "Fall Into Art" is the title of the upcoming art show by the Scantic River Artisans (SRA).

This is a special show to benefit the Scantic River Artisans Scholarship Fund and Programming. It will be held in the Community Room of the Hampden Senior Center on Oct. 11 and 12. Hours on Saturday are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a reception with music and refreshments from Noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, with awards presented at 2 p.m. The Senior Center is located at 104 Allen Street.

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

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

drawing, photo or something else. All works are on sale for \$20, with the money going to the Scholarship Fund and Programming.

This Scholarship Fund was started by SRA three years ago. Awards are given annually through the Minnechaug Regional High School Art Teacher who determines the recipients. Awards have ranged from \$300 to \$500.

One SRA artist with paintings in the show, is Sue Bluestein, a resident of Hampden since 2022. Like many people, she had a box of crayons when she was a kid. "Crayoning made me happy", she says. She did some doodling and sketching from then on, but nothing serious until she retired from the corporate world of Accounting about five years ago. Pastels quickly became her passion. She says, "I love the immediacy of this medium, the expressiveness from the pure color in the pastel pigments." Most of her work is based on photographs she takes. If you visit the show you may have an opportunity to talk with her and view her work.

Scantic River Artisans mission is to connect the community through diverse, dynamic, and creative experiences. SRA is dedicated to providing opportunities for local artists of all ages and skill levels to explore, develop, and market their creations. The group has over 65 members from Wilbraham, Hampden and surrounding towns. If you are interested in becoming a member or have any questions visit <https://www.scanticriverartisans.com/>. Or talk to a member at the show.

## MRHS Class of 2005 20 Year Reunion

WILBRAHAM - The Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 2005 20 Year Reunion will take place on Saturday, Oct. 18 in Ludlow, MA at 6 p.m.

For details and to purchase tickets (\$30): <https://20yearslatermrhsclassof05.rsvpify.com/> [mrhs2005reunion@gmail.com](mailto:mrhs2005reunion@gmail.com).

## Monson Savings Bank donates \$3,000 to Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens

MONSON - Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO, and Hampden Branch Manager, Retail & Security Officer and Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens Board Member Adriano dos Santos recently presented a \$3,000 donation to Ted Zebert, Treasurer of Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens, and Claudia Kapinos, President of Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens, on behalf of Monson Savings Bank.

Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens earned this donation from the local bank after placing in the top ten for the Monson Savings Bank 2025 Community Giving Initiative. Community members voted for their favorite charitable organizations and chose Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens to be a recipient of a donation in 2025.

"We are incredibly thankful to Monson Savings Bank for their generous contribution," said Ted Zebert, Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens Treasurer. "We also deeply appreciate the com-



Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO (right), and Hampden Branch Manager, Retail & Security Officer and Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens Board Member Adriano dos Santos (left) presented a \$3,000 donation to Ted Zebert, Treasurer of Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens, and Claudia Kapinos, President of Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens.

munity members who voted for us to receive this support."

The mission of Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens, Inc., a non-profit organization with IRS 501c3 designation, is to promote, support and encourage the use of the Hampden Senior Center and its programs.

"Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens use donations to enhance our town's Senior Center without impacting the town's tax base," said Claudia Kapinos, Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens President. "We invite all seniors to enjoy the programs, events, and services offered,

and we welcome everyone to support the Senior Center, whether through donations or volunteering. There are many opportunities throughout the year, and our Senior Center staff coordinate all volunteer efforts."

Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO, emphasized the importance of the work that Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens does for the local area.

"Monson Savings Bank is proud to support the Friends of Hampden Seniors," said Moriarty. "They do amazing work helping local seniors stay active, connected, and cared for. The money they raise goes straight into programs and services that really make a difference. We're happy to be part of that effort and to give back to a group that gives so much to our community."

Learn more about the Monson Savings Bank annual Community Giving Initiative: <https://www.monsonsavingsbank/connect/our-community/community-giving-initiative.html>

### ADVOCATE from page 6

but I explain that we cannot legally help unless we are formally retained and have the individual's or family's permission to act as their representative.

In addition, the man has a wife at home with dementia and no family around to help out. We plan to have a call this afternoon to discuss having one of our nurse advocates going to assess the patient's situation and make sure his wife is well cared for in his absence.

### Afternoon

I prepare for a panel discussion presented by the National Association of Healthcare Advocacy Consultants.

Two sisters contact me about their father, who is experiencing complications following what was supposed to be a straightforward surgi-

cal procedure. When they tell me his story, I realize that the proper standard of care is not being met. Because of the trauma he is experiencing, the patient is also displaying disturbing psychological symptoms for which he is being (unnecessarily as it turns out) medicated.

The sisters tell me that they have tried to speak to the medical staff but don't feel they are being heard. Meanwhile, they are terrified of losing their dad.

Patient advocates are often able to dial back the drama and get the situation sorted because we understand patient rights as well as the hospital's perspective and can try to work out a win-win for all concerned. I schedule a visit to the hospital. Later, if this family receives a bill from the hospital, I will work to make sure they don't pay a penny.

### Evening

I get a call from a former client whose sister had a massive stroke four years ago, and now the insurance company is saying she no longer qualifies for placement in a skilled nursing facility. There has been fragmented communication among the physicians, therapists and family.

The family wants me to appeal the insurance company's decision and gather documentation that will allow the sister to be approved for further long-term care, therapy and high-tech care for her needs. While waiting for documents, I speak with the woman's daughter to formulate a plan.

Finally, I update presentations for our Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur training program and speak with two nurses who are eager to sign up and start their own advocacy businesses. From their

hospital experiences, they can see that families need a great deal of help these days navigating the health-care landscape.

My days aren't always this busy, but every day reminds me of the significant impact I can have on someone's life, health and well-being. It's worth it, to be sure.

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

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**DANCE** from page 1

guessing the Disney Songs and enjoying the morning really felt like the program was a resounding success," Berezin said.

Berezin added the event provided a variety of songs for all to enjoy, noting how the adults were also engaging with the music throughout the event.

Also, the children getting into the dance party spirit in fun outfits.

"I enjoyed checking in with the families as they arrived, and seeing the children in their dancing clothes, shiny, twirly, and, of course, light-up sneakers. While the disco ball spun, the children danced to tunes such as "Baby Shark", "Shake Your Sillies Out", "Can't Stop That Feeling" performed by the Trolls, and "Happy" performed by the Minions and ending with the classic dance song, "Cotton Eyed Joe," Berezin said. "Many pop dance tunes, however, presented for children in a fun and age-appropriate manner. As a break from dancing and to let the children have some "downtime" the participants played the Disney Songs Guessing Game. A few seconds of a Disney movie song was played and the participants had to guess what Disney movie the song was from. I think that the adults had as much fun with this as the children did."

The biggest thing for Berezin, she emphasized, is how these events bring not just community together, but the families—and generations—as well.

"It was wonderful to watch the care-providers, whether it was parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles,



**A mother and son duo take a selfie at the photo booth.**

**Families get ready to party down at the Wilbraham Public Library.**

**A family claps along to the music.**

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

event, the Wilbraham Public Library has some really fun and exciting family and children's events upcoming, including a Family Marshmallow and Toothpick Tower Challenge on Saturday, Oct. 18 (with registration required), and a wonderful "Jack-O-Lantern Story Walk" event on Wednesday, Oct. 29. Please visit [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org) to view details for these and many exciting upcoming family and children's programs and events."



**Lisa Berezin, assistance children's librarian at the Wilbraham Public Library, preps attendees for the next Disney song to guess.**

etc, dance themselves, and encourage their little ones. I felt as though the whole room was lit up with dance and movement excitement," Berezin said.

Berezin encouraged families to stop by any time for future events, sharing what

the children's department has coming up heading into the fall.

"I was really pleased with the turnout and how the event went, and I appreciated all the families who came to participate," Berezin said. "If you weren't able to make it to this

**STM** from page 1

"I definitely see the point," Vanderleeden said.

"And then the meat of the town meeting wouldn't be until 7 because the 6:30 to 7 p.m. check-in, we're going to start, couple of announcements, let's do the consent agenda," Flynn said. "And then people would be for 7 for, say, the hefty articles, rather than that might be 7:30, quarter of 8 p.m. in a normal meeting. And they came for a specific thing because of a school article and now they're there for 7 when it really counts."

It was then unanimously decided to put this on the warrant and see where the discussion led.

Flynn also addressed electronic voting after a resident asked him about it recently.

"I don't think that's been a focus at this point," Flynn said.

**Other Warrant Articles**

As for the other warrant articles, they include \$7,500 for the senior center to cover the loss of a federal grant, additional funding for the facilities manager and additional funds for employee benefits.

"I mentioned this to Dick that since we had an unexpected retirement, I thought benefits would be short. We do have a couple of employee changes, but Dick does think there's enough latitude in the budget to cover the employee part of it. So, this really represents the payout we had to do, which wasn't budgeted because we weren't aware of an upcoming retirement," Flynn said.

Installing new HVAC units is also on the list for the new town hall—the former TWB—which Town Administrator Brian Domina said the company would not do "for less than \$100,000," and for the senior center in the rooftop area, with Flynn saying \$250,000 would be the ballpark amount here.

For the transfer station request, this would be \$12,500. "So, it's \$10,000 for electrical and \$2,500 for the signage," Domina said.

Also on the list were a police cruiser request and the Highway Department requesting a new loader—with Advisory Committee Mem-

ber John Matthews explaining what the loader request would entail.

"Thought process was that it was going to be a little smaller than what we have now. We have an L70 now and he wants to go down to an L50 Volvo," Matthews said. "Again, he's thinking of trading the John Deere because there is some value to it."

Meanwhile, a request from the Parks & Rec Department was for a pickup truck for \$20,000.

Also, the Cemetery Commission with a request for the construction of a cul-de-sac in the Old Hampden Cemetery, creating a new section turnaround.

"The only question I had was—and Doug was going to look into it—any restriction on CPA funds for construction as opposed to historical resources? We had been asked for money before for restoration of gravestones, for the restoration of the statue across the street, but in actual construction because there have been limitations on the recreation part as well," Flynn said. "That's what he was going to check with the state and make sure that was all for."

Domina shared Parks & Rec Director Dan Blanchard also reached out to him recently about a Land Conservation Assistance Grant up to \$25,000.

"We're exploring that right now, so it might not require CPA funds," Domina said.

Other warrant articles were adopting a local lodging excise tax and the standard financial transfers.

As the conversation concluded, Davenport asked if \$10,000 left over after covering the Hampden County Regional Retirement System item could be transferred to the senior center to cover a shortfall in their budget.

"And likewise, I guess on the senior center thing, could you repurpose the portion of that \$140,000 towards the \$250,000 and then come back later on when they're ready to do the roof?" Davenport said. "We're talking almost \$750,000 here at the Special Town Meeting. I'm just thinking of a way to (consolidate). So, if you're not

going to do the roof now, but the HVAC—the important thing—could you transfer, I don't know, the bathrooms are like \$40,000 or \$50,000. So, could you transfer that \$90,000 to this?"

Domina said, "You can repurpose the funds from the previous article for different purposes," and Flynn added how a motion would need to be made to change the prior article.

This led to putting placeholders to repurpose the senior center roof amount and change a transfer from one appropriated line to another.

The STM warrant was then officially closed, with lingering questions to be looked into.

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## Java Jaunt going on now

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Welcome Project presents the first-ever Java Jaunt, a two-week coffee passport event celebrating local coffee shops.

Participants collect stamps with each coffee purchase and submit completed passports for a chance to win gift cards. The event runs from Sept. 25 through Oct. 9.

Free passports are available to pick up at any of the participating coffee shops including Pan'e Dolcetti (Wilbraham), Common Grounds (Wilbraham), Rice's Fruit Farm (Wilbra-

ham), The Sugar Chalet (Wilbraham), The Better Bean (Monson), and Ludlow Coffee Co (Ludlow). Passports are also available at Fern Valley Market (Wilbraham).

For more information, check out The Wilbraham Welcome Project on social media or email Wilbraham-welcomeproject@gmail.com.



## GARDEN from page 6

plant into new soil.

Prune away any weak branches and give it some liquid fertilizer. For this situation, storage temperatures can go as low as 45 to 50 degrees.

My fuchsia extraction went much better than the geranium one did. I have equal roots to foliage and flowers. I am going to try and overwinter this plant in a northeast window, knowing that fuchsias don't like bright sun.

The last time I overwintered one of these I got the plant to live into the late winter, long enough to take a cutting. The offspring thrived! The mother plant looked pretty woody, but apparently, if I had waited a little bit

longer and gave it a light fertilization, new supple growth would have ensued.

Live and learn.

Aside from a part sunny window, fuchsias can also be overwintered out of the main living space, following my recommendations above.

The polka dot plant is another story all together. The roots were massive and the top growth the same. Although the plant looked diminutive at purchase, there was no saying that now. It became the "hog" of the pot.

I pruned both the roots and the top growth, cutting it back to healthy growth just a four inches tall, settling on an eight inch pot for the three original cuttings that made

up the one plant. I don't have high hopes for overwintering, because, I guess, this plant has always been a finicky one as a seedling in the greenhouse.

It looks dry so you water it, only to find out it has root rot and now you've killed it.

My research indicates that overwintering temperatures should be warmer than what you would use for geraniums or fuchsias. We are talking 65 to 75 degrees. Another point of interest is that the plant likes humidity.

Putting the pot in a tray of wet gravel will provide some humidity to the immediate area and may help, especially since winter air tends to be dry. Indirect light is best for

these plants as well. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

Be adventurous, by trying to overwinter some annuals. You just may make it a little easier on your wallet come spring, especially if your favorites are growing strong right in your own house!

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



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# SPORTS

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## Chaug field hockey falls to E. Longmeadow



Gabiella Eggsware sends a free hit away.



Goalie Gianna Nowicki makes a save.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Natalie Duff is closely pursued.

WILBRAHAM – It's been a tough start to the season for Minnechaug field hockey. The Falcons suffered a pair of defeats last week, falling to East Longmeadow 2-0 and

Andover 3-0. Minnechaug is now 0-8-1 on the season and seeks their first win on Oct. 2 against Greenfield at home at 6:30 p.m.



Giselle Harris gets low and takes the 18-yard hit.



Nolah McConnell winds up to send a hit up the field.



Reese Magee follows through on a pass.



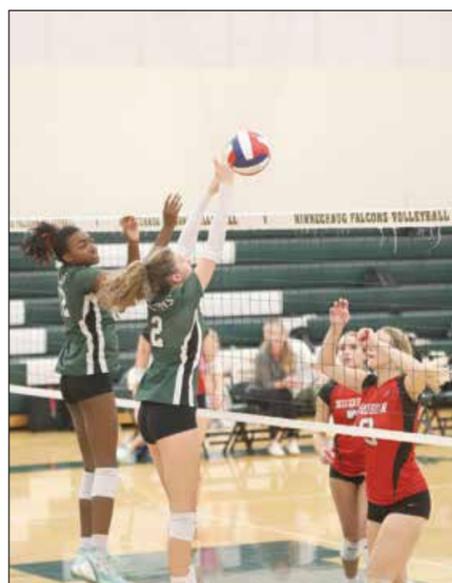
Peyton Lee attempts to stop the ball.



Maliha Daubon sends the ball over the net.



Anna O'Toole sends the ball over the net.



Cora Pace makes a block.

### Falcons golf now a perfect 12-0

WILBRAHAM – Last Friday afternoon at their home course, Wilbraham defeated Agawam 146-173 and are now a perfect 12-0 on the regular season.

Minnechaug also defeated Pope Francis and Tantasqua during the past week. In a 141-152 win over Pope Francis, Ali Awkal was the medalist with a card of 34. Logan Thomas and Andrew Grasso had 35 and Brody Faneuff rounded out the scoring with a 37.

Minnechaug's season continued this week with matchups against Northampton and East Longmeadow. Coming up next Monday, The Falcons are at Westfield at 3 p.m.



Elcin Nehir gets the bump.



Eliana Gunn sends the serve away.

### Falcons notch third straight sweep

WILBRAHAM – The calendar may not have turned to October yet, but Minnechaug Regional High School girls volleyball is headed to the tournament. The Falcons most recently scored 3-0 sweeps of Agawam, Baystate Charter and last Saturday against Hudson. The Falcons enter October at 10-1 and next face Frontier Regional at home on Oct. 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Anna O'Toole bumps the ball back to the other team.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

## SPORTS

## Robie and Zullo crowned champs at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Monadnock Speedway closed out its 55th summer of racing Saturday, with a huge crowd cheering as solid car counts in seven unique divisions battled for the final points and bragging rites earned during the long and successful summer of excitement on the high banks of the Great Race Place.

Along with Weekly Racing Series championships and memorable high finishes atop the 2025 divisional points parades to be decided at the speedway's 2025 season finale at the storied quarter-mile, the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Triple Crown final event, postponed by rain a week earlier, was at stake too.

Longtime pace truck driver Leo Martin led the All States Material Group 604 Modifieds to the green for the final time Saturday, Andrew Brousseau and Joey Jarvis, both 2025 feature winners, sat up front. But not for long.

Blasting off from fourth on the grid, Leary was in front before lap one was completed, and he'd never look back en route to victory. Having early set fast time with a lap of 12.207 seconds, Leary was untouchable.

Ty Leclerc kept him close

until giving way to Robie, who'd started at the back after missing qualifying, on lap 32 but Leary would not be denied. Robie's strong run netted him the 2025 track championship as well the Teddy Bear Pools crown, and Leclerc ended his season in third.

A year ago, Chris Rieudeau had a magical season en route to the Monadnock Speedway Super Street championship. This summer, that magic belonged to second-generation ace Dylan Zullo.

Firing from row three in the Twin State Truck Services 50-lap main event, Zullo took the lead from JD Stockwell Saturday and soared off to his sixth win of the season and, with it, his first career track championship. Justin Beecher's runner-up finish earned him the Teddy Bear Pools title, and Stockwell held strong for third.

Cameron Sontag closed out his Fabian Fuels Mini Stock season with a flourish Saturday. Taking the lead from Claremont regular Dick LaMotte on lap 18, the Sterling, Mass. hot shoe outran Jon Fultz to the checkers and his second win of the season.

Fultz's second-place run

earned him his first Monadnock track championship and the Teddy Bear Pools & Spas Triple Crown championship, and Julia Kendall was a strong third in the season finale.

Markus O'Neil led early in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock feature, but he had a swarm of potent challengers flying in his shadow, none more ominous than the dynamic duo of Kyle Kenny and Carlos Grenier as the 20-car field went to war.

Kenny held the deuce spot by lap five, but Grenier had plans of his own. Gordon Farnum's bid for four wins in a row fell by the wayside in a lap-three caution, and Grenier - crowned champion of Claremont's Ridge Runners the night before, took charge on lap 13 and never looked back.

Kenny's second-place finish earned the talented young Green Mountain State pilot his first career track championship, and O'Neil's rock-solid night's work brought him home third, just ahead of Kyle Boniface and Jimmy Zellman. Grenier captured the Teddy Bear Pools & Spas Triple Crown championship.

Travis Hollins earned the 2025 Six Shooter champi-

onship by the slimmest of margins. Entering Saturday's season finale, he trailed 2024 champ Michael Yeaton by two points, then pulling even with his heat race win to be dead even as the feature went green.

Hollins led all the way in the Six Shooter main event, holding off the hard charging Yeaton to win his first career championship. With Yeaton second, Josh Brigham was third in Saturday's 25-lapper.

Matt Robinson took the lead on lap 11 of the Pro V8 Sportsman feature and sped off to his first career win on the high banks. Scott Riggleman - a regular at Wall Stadium in New Jersey, was second, and Stephen Dubois came home third. The exciting full-fendered division will compete eight times next summer on the high banks.

Sofia Rego led all the way in the final Doug's Auto Body Young Guns event of the year. It was Rego's fourth victory in the youth division. Maya Bell was second Saturday, and seven-time 2025 winner Hunter Duquette was third, before later scoring a top ten finish in the Pure Stocks.

## Extra roster spots open in fall baseball league

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

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

ested in registering can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) and click on the registration link. There are six games remaining in the season and the fee to play in the remaining games will be prorated for any player who joins. Players looking to join should be age 28 or older.

For more information or to ask any questions, contact Greg Scibelli at [GScibelli22@yahoo.com](mailto:GScibelli22@yahoo.com).

## Roster takes shape for T-Birds

SPRINGFIELD - St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today that the Blues have assigned 18 players to their AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds, including forwards Nikita Alexandrov, Sam Bitten, Hugh McGing, Matthew Peca, Juraj Pekarcik, Dylan Peterson, Simon Robertson, Jakub Stancl, Sam Stange, Nikita Susuev, and Christopher Wagner,

along with defenseman Michael Buchinger, Quinton Burns, Marc-Andre Gaudet, Samuel Johanneson, and Anthony Kehrer, and goaltenders Will Cranley and Vadim Zherenko. The T-Birds open their preseason slate on Friday, October 3, when they visit the Providence Bruins at 7:05 p.m. at Amica Mutual Pavilion. They host their lone preseason game on Sunday, October 5 at the MassMutual Center, with puck drop set for 3:05 p.m.

## Owls football keeps winning

WESTFIELD - Westfield State University scored a pair of touchdowns on blocked punts on the way to a 31-22 win over Worcester State University in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football win at Alumni Field on Saturday afternoon.

Westfield improves to 2-2 overall and 2-1 in the MASCAC, while Worcester is 0-3, 0-2 in the MASCAC.

Owls were led by 110 yards rushing from first-year fullback Manny Mengata, and got six catches for 88 yards from wideout Will Brewster.

The two offenses were rarely the headline grabbers in the game as five of the scores came from the two teams' defenses and special teams.

Westfield led 10-0 with 46 seconds left in the first half after a 27-yard field goal from Andrew Currier and then a 6-yard TD run from Aiden Fausek.

But Worcester got themselves on the board on the ensuing kickoff, as the Lancers' Gavin Hatfield took the kick at his own two yard line, juke'd his way to the left side of the field and outran everyone for a 98-yard TD return.

The Owls looked to get instant revenge, blocking the extra point try with Andrew Lovell picking up the loose ball and running it back for an apparent 2-pt conversion to the Owls, but two flags flew on the play negating the score. The Lancers second chance at an extra point was foiled by a bad snap.

Westfield marched the ball down the field on the next possession to give Currier a chance for a 47-yard field goal try at the buzzer, but the kick was wide left and the Owls took a 10-6 lead into the half.

Worcester grabbed the lead, 13-10 after Cam Godrich got a charity hop on a Westfield State fumble and scooted 72 yards for a TD early in the third quarter. Westfield answered a few minutes later, as Nick Gauger broke through the line to block a lancers punt, and Tafari Proctor scooted the ball up and returned it sev-

en yards for an Owls touchdown and a 17-13 lead.

A couple of series later, Worcester took advantage of another short field after an Owls fumble, capping a 5-play, 35-yard drive with a 2-yard touchdown run from Jermaine Norfleet to grab a 20-17 lead.

Westfield answered early in the fourth quarter, marching 75 yards in 10 plays with Mengata punching it in from nine-yards out to take a 24-20 lead after Currier added the extra point.

Westfield built the lead to 31-20 after pinning the Lancers back in their own end, and forcing a punt from tight formation with ball at their own 1 yard line, Westfield's Budder Ferreira not only blocked the punt, but smothered it in the endzone for the touchdown with 8:37 left in the game.

The Owls had the opportunity to run the clock out late, but after a 3-and-out in their own end, the punt snapped sailed out of the back of the end zone for a Worcester safety to trim the lead to 31-22.

Westfield sacked Worcester State quarterback twice on the ensuing possession, and ultimately forced Worcester to turn the ball over on downs and the Owls ran out the clock for the win.

Westfield State's defense held the Lancers to just 92 yards of total offense, and -43 yards on the ground.

The Owls sacked Ayotte six times for a total loss of 46 yards with Ferreira and Aydan Verba each racking up 1.5 sacks, and Chase Goldberg, Justyn Gardener and Emerson Ysnardi each getting home for a sack as well.

Westfield held Worcester to 12 first downs on the day and the Lancers were 1-12 on third downs.

The Lancers were led by Lance Williams, who caught 11 passes for 83 yards, and Ayotte finished the day 16-30 for 135 yards and two interceptions.

Westfield will be back in action next Saturday, hosting Anna Maria in a MASCAC conference game at 12 noon at Alumni Field.

## Pastel Workshop to be held at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM - Award-winning pastel artist Gregory Maichack will lead a pastel workshop at the Wilbraham Public Library on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 5 p.m.

Designed for beginners to experienced artists, participants will learn how to create The Seahorse. All materials will be provided, and everyone who attends will get to take home their artwork.

This program is sup-

ported in part by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Funding is also provided by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required as space is limited. Sign up at [wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://wilbrahamlibrary.org), or call the library at 413-596-6141.

## Babes for a Cause: Shop for a Reason Nov. 29

HAMPDEN - The Babes for a Cause: Shop for a Reason event takes place on Saturday, Nov. 29 from 2 to 7 p.m. at The Starting Gate at GreatHorse.

The Holiday Tour event supports Shriners Children's New England and will feature 35+ women-owned businesses, acoustic music featuring Project 267, a cash bar, snacks and small plates for purchase and complimentary spa services and mediumship readings.

Also, a 360 Photobooth by JD 360 Video, Professional Photographer donated by Inspire Me Photo.

Additionally, meet and

greet local sponsors including Northwestern Mutual, Rice Fruit Farm of Wilbraham, Inspire Wellness Co, Team413, Caesar K9 & Equine, Common Ground Cafe of Wilbraham and Key4Women.

10% of sales from vendors will be donated back to SCNE and 50% of ticket sales will be donated back SCNE.

Tickets are \$30 and VIP tickets have already sold out.

This event is hosted by Jill Moccio Connors, owner of Hustle & Heart and founder of Babes Brews & Browsing.

## Join us for the Wilbraham Hampden Softball Annual Meeting and Party

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - Mark your calendars for a fun-filled evening on Friday, Oct. 17, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Fountain Park!

The Wilbraham Hampden Softball Committee is hosting its annual meeting and party, and it's the perfect opportunity to come together, celebrate and get involved in the future of our softball program.

Here's what's in store: Vote in New Members: Help shape the future of the program by casting your vote for new members.

Hear About Falcons Softball Plans: Learn about the exciting developments and goals for the upcoming season and beyond.

Equipment Swap: Bring gently used gear or find something you need in our softball equipment swap.

Food Truck: Grab a bite from 5050 food truck to keep you fueled for all the fun.

Wiffle Ball and Cornhole: Join in for some light-hearted wiffle ball games for all ages and skill levels.

Raffles & More: Don't miss out on more prizes, games, and surprises throughout the evening.

Whether you're a player, parent, or supporter of Falcons Softball, this event is the perfect way to connect with the community and have some fun. We can't wait to see you there!

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## Send Us Your Community Dazzler Events

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar events FREE OF CHARGE in our Dazzler Supplement which will be published November 19, 2025.

Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION 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 "Dazzler" in the subject line of your email.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 20.

## Knights sponsor Benefit Dinner to support Community Survival Center Oct. 18

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

The Survival Center helps feed and cloth over 400 individuals each month in Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow, Indian Orchard and 16 Acres. According to Executive Director, Cristal Turcotte, this year is particularly

impacted by the anticipated federal cuts in SNAP and the less successful Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive by the National Association Letter Carriers. "Our shelves are very bare" according to Turcotte, "and with the holidays fast approaching we are asking for assistance to help us support those in need."

The benefit dinner will be held Saturday Oct. 18 at 5 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main Street,

Wilbraham and will feature a delicious homemade chicken parm Italian dinner complete with pasta, salad, bread, coffee and cannolis. The event will include numerous raffles and musical entertainment with sing-alongs. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by contacting George Reich at ticketskoc10195@gmail.com or may be picked up at after Mass in the St. Cecilia rotunda starting on Sept. 27.

## Town of Wilbraham Veterans Day Breakfast

WILBRAHAM - The town of Wilbraham will hold their annual Veterans Day Breakfast on Nov. 6 at 8 a.m. At Wilbraham Senior

Center. This event is open to all Wilbraham Veterans or Surviving Spouses and one guest.

Breakfast is Sponsored by the Wilbraham Junior Women's Club. Please register by Nov. 3. Call (413)596-8379.

## Wilbraham Junior Women's Club to host Designer Bag Bingo!

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is hosting a Designer Bag Bingo! This fabulous event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 16 2025 at the Gremio Lusitano Club, 385 Winsor Street, Ludlow, MA.

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

Admission tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Purchase a table of 10 for \$300, (a discounted rate of \$30 per ticket when purchased in advance!) Tick-

ets include 10 bingo games, a dauber and a special lucky charm!

A cash bar will be available and attendees can bring their own snacks or order off of the club's menu. Extra bingo cards will be available for purchase as well as raffle tickets for our spectacular bag-themed raffle of over 30 beautiful handbags! All proceeds benefit charitable projects in the community!

Grab your friends and get your tickets at: Wilbraham-JuniorWomens.org or Contact Brenda Willard at (413) 279-1394.

## St. Cecilia Women's Club October meeting

WILBRAHAM - The St. Cecilia Women's Club will be meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m.

Experience the Transformative Power of Thankfulness presented by Sr. Mary McCue.

You are warmly invited to an uplifting presentation as Sr. Mary McCue guides us through "A Journey of Gratitude." Discover how embracing gratitude can illuminate everyday moments and deepen our sense of connection and joy.

We will be collecting socks for adults in need at this meeting. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

# PET PAGE



### PET OF THE MONTH Meet Mimi and Gigi!



They are both rescues who live with their mom, Tammy Accorsi in Wilbraham. Gigi (bottom) is 6 years old and Mimi (top) is 3. They are indoor cats but love going for walks in their stroller and enjoy hanging out in the Catio when the weather is nice. Bird, squirrel and chipmunk watching are a favorite past time as well. They also enjoy videos for Cats on YouTube!

### ATTENTION READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our "Pet of the Month" and receive a FREE weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care.

Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet's name.

### WILBRAHAM Animal Hospital

Andrew R. Hersman, DVM  
Lynn Dgetluck, DVM  
William D. Anderson, DVM  
Hannah Belcher-Timme, DVM  
Denise Chiminiello, DVM  
Leah Guidry, DVM  
Madison Harris, DVM  
Nicholas Schipper, DVM



Now Accepting New Patients!

**Wilbraham Animal Hospital**  
2424 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA  
413.596.8395  
wilbrahamanimalhospital.com

**East Springfield Veterinary Hospital**  
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### ELDOTC East Longmeadow Dog Obedience Training Club

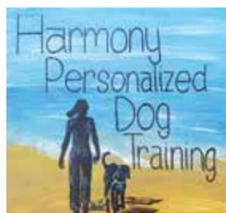
Classes held at  
546 Main Street, Hampden, MA  
Classes held every Monday-Thursday evenings



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NEW - Young Adult Obedience Class! 6 Week Class Begins Oct. 11th at Post Office Park Wilbraham \$35/Class • \$210 Total

- "Saturday In the Park!" Every Saturday at Post Office Park, Wilbraham 12 noon - Pack Walk 1:30 p.m - Basic Obedience & Socialization All ages & breeds - \$20 each - Attend 1 class or both!
- Wednesday Nights in Belchertown Obedience & Socialization Group Classes. Located on the common area in front of Christopher Heights & Belchertown Day School. All ages & breeds. 5:30 p.m. - \$20 each
- Private training in your home
- Intro to your puppy or new rescue training
- Basic obedience, life and manners training
- Behavior modification

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Catos offer a range of benefits for both indoor cats and dogs, enhancing their lives in many ways. Here are some of the key advantages:

**Safety:** Catos provide a secure environment for cats to explore the outdoors without the risks of traffic, predators, or diseases.

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**Fresh Air Exposure:** Catos allow cats to breathe in fresh air, contributing to their overall health and immune system.

**Stress Reduction:** Catos provide a peaceful retreat where cats can unwind and relax, significantly improving their emotional health.

**Safe Socialization:** Catos

facilitate social interaction without the risk of territorial disputes, enhancing the cat's social skills and reducing feelings of loneliness.

**Natural Sunlight:** Catos offer a safe spot for cats to soak up natural sunlight, aiding in vitamin D synthesis and boosting their mood and energy levels.

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**RETIRED ELECTRICIAN** has tools and supplies for sale. Call **413-658-8535.**

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**OCTOBER 4, 9AM-1PM.**  
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**1 Pioneer Drive, Palmer.**

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Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

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Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.  
**Call Paul 413-206-8688.**

#### Find archives of this local newspaper at

www.newspapers.turley.com

### WANTED

#### SERVICES WANTED

**NEED SNOWPLOWING THIS WINTER** for 200' gravel driveway by 9 a.m. in Belchertown on Old Bay Road. Call **413-687-1090.**

#### JUNK REMOVAL

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### HELP WANTED

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Email **Bob@HoleSpecialists.com**

#### PART TIME SNOWPLOW DRIVERS NEEDED

Part time snowplow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2025-2026 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL license.  
If you are interested, please contact  
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Richard Ayer at  
**(508) 867-2451**  
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### FOR RENT

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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# Events & announcements schedule

## Friends to sponsor Jewelry Buying Show Oct. 9

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

The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors are sponsoring a one-day only jewelry buying event on Thursday Oct. 9 at the Wilbraham Senior Center. Hosted by Family Jewels of Northampton, a family business for 55 years, they'll evaluate items you wish to sell and make you an offer. Whether it's antique and vintage jewelry, (including broken pieces), silver, gold and copper coins, sterling silver flatware, cups, bowls, trays, watches, and rings to name a few, just bring it in.

There's no fee or obligation on your part and if you accept their offer, payment will be made to you on the spot! You must pre-register for an appointment at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

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

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

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

## MRHS Class of 1975, 50th Class Reunion

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

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

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

We hope you'll be able to join us to celebrate this milestone. If you can't attend in person, you can still have a presence by sending a photo / information for our slide show to Donna Sclafani Parker at donnasclafani357@yahoo.com. Please let others in our class know about the reunion.



## Hampden Senior Center Group Exercise Classes

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

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

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

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

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

Pre-paid rate for eight classes is \$65. Drop-in rate is \$10 per class.

Call to register or for more information at 413-566-5588.

Sponsored in part by the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens.

## Fall Programs for kids at WPL

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

**PRESCHOOL FUN WITH MRS. B**  
This is a program for children ages three to six to come into independently, while care providers wait in the library.

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

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

Registration includes all six dates.

## Livy's VIP Dance Oct. 5

LUDLOW - Livy's VIP Dance, in support of a fundraiser for Rett Syndrome, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 5, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

The special dance is in memory of Livy, who succumbed to Rett Syndrome at the age of five.

Sparkle, shine and support! Music and memories with VIP Princess guests.

To learn more, contact Maggie Wurm at [maggie@rsangels.org](mailto:maggie@rsangels.org) or Shanon at [shanon.m.hardy@gmail.com](mailto:shanon.m.hardy@gmail.com).

To learn more about Rett Syndrome, visit [rsangels.org](http://rsangels.org).

For the event page, visit [rsangels.org/event/livys-v-i-p-dance/](http://rsangels.org/event/livys-v-i-p-dance/).

## Wilbraham Junior Women's Club to host Community Fleece Blanket Making Event

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is hosting a community Fleece Blanket Making Event. All are invited to attend and help out.

This community get-together will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2025 from

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield Street Wilbraham.

It's an opportunity to meet new people and come together to create warmth for those in need. No sewing experience is required and all supplies will be provided.

Bring a friend (or two!), lend a hand and make a difference! Every blanket made will be donated to local shelters, nursing homes and The Ronald McDonald house.

Contact Kathy (413) 478-1185 for questions or more information.

## Family Marshmallow and Toothpick Challenge

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

Do you have a budding engineer? Please join in the fun, Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 to 10:45 a.m. for this event.

Teams will compete to make the tallest free-standing tower, with a marshmallow on top, for 10 seconds!

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

All materials will be provided. We'd love to have

your Team come join in the fun!

Registration is required for this event. Please either register online at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org), or by calling the front desk at 413-596-6141.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## NOTICE OF TIER CLASSIFICATION Residential Property 711 Main Street Hampden, Massachusetts 01036 Release Tracking Number 1-50879

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. To evaluate the release, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation was performed pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0480. The Site has been classified as Tier II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500. On September 26, 2025, Mr. Ryan Leal filed a Tier II Classification Submittal with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact William J. Fabbri, President / Principal Hydrogeologist and Licensed Site Professional, WjF GeoConsultants, Inc., 2789 Boston Road, Wilbraham, Massachusetts at (413) 233-4220. The Tier Classification Submittal and the disposal site file can be viewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) 1-50879 at:

<https://eeonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal/dep/wastesite/viewer/1-50879> or at Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup, 436 Dwight Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01103, 413-784-1100. Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404. 10/02/2025

## WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40 Section 15C ("Scenic Roads Act") and M.G.L. Chapter 87 Section 3 ("Public Shade Tree Act"), the Wilbraham Planning Board and the Wilbraham Tree Warden will hold a joint Public Hearing on **Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, to solicit public comment regarding a request by the Wilbraham Department of Public Works to remove a total of five (5) trees along Stony Hill Road (4 Maples and 1 Hickory tree ranging from 11" to 48" in diameter) as part of a multi-phased infrastructure improvement project aimed at enhancing sight distance and overall safety for both motorists and pedestrians. As part of the project scope a section of Stony Hill Road and Springfield Street will be widened and a section of the existing stone walls within the project limits will be removed and reset. A project narrative and plans showing the proposed work is available for review in the Engineering Department during normal business hours and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town website at [www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board). Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/255931165> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 255-931-165).

James Rooney,  
Planning Board Chair  
David Graziano,  
Tree Warden  
10/02, 10/09/2025

## Notice of Herbicide Application

The Town of Wilbraham contracted TruGreen to apply herbicide for right-of-way vegetation control along road ways.

Dates: 06/20/2025 and 08/18/2025

Products: Finale XL and Pendulum Aqua Cap

Application method: Liquid spray

Locations: Stoney Hill Rd., Dipping Hill Rd., Maynard St., Monson Rd., Faculty St., Springfield St., Main St., Crane Hill Rd., and the intersection of Glendale and Monson Rd.

Wilbraham DPW: (413)596-2800

TruGreen: KevinRadawiec@TruGreenMail.com 10/02/2025

## LEGAL NOTICE Sale of Motor Vehicle Under G.L. c. 255 Sec. 39A

Bach Towing Inc., 165 Benton Drive, East Longmeadow, MA is holding a private sale of the following vehicle on **10/17/2025 at 2:00 p.m.** to satisfy our garage keepers lien thereon for storage and towing charges and expenses of Notices of Sale.

York Tree Service  
210 Thayer Rd.  
Hagganum, CT 06441  
2012 Ford F450 Super Duty  
VIN# 1FD0X4HTXCEB81726  
10/02, 10/09, 10/16/2025



## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

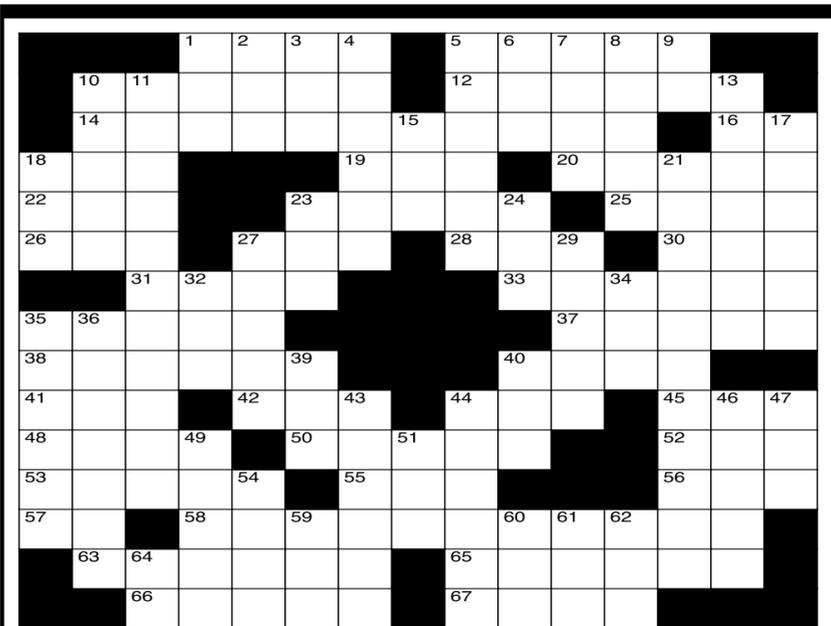
## SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **October 10, 2025** the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle: 2004 Monte Carlo  
VIN#: 2G1WW12E149232487  
COLOR: Brown  
LKO: Antonio Cousins  
213 State St  
Ludlow MA 01056

R & S Assoc. Inc  
PO Box 543  
Wilbraham, MA 01095  
413-596-4374  
09/25, 10/02, 10/09/2025

Visit us on the web [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Native American people of CA
5. Long periods of time (Brit.)
10. Classroom tool
12. Rods
14. One who renews
16. They start the alphabet
18. Periodical (slang)
19. Smooth singer Cole
20. Dorsal sclerites in insects
22. One from Utah
23. The world of the dead
25. Singer Redding
26. Mafia head
27. Wrongly
28. Unhappy
30. Anger
31. Dark olive black
33. Places to sit and

### CLUES DOWN

1. Witch
2. Utilize
3. Writing utensil
4. Where rockers work
5. Becomes less intense
6. Consume
7. Type of catfish
8. "Horsetown, U.S.A."
9. Atomic #50
10. The Muse of lyric poetry
11. Brings back to life
13. Humorous critiques
15. Cool!
17. Worst
18. Wet dirt
21. Useful
23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
24. High schoolers' test
27. Internet device
29. City in India
32. A place to rest
34. Chat responder
35. A way to move on
36. What consumers are given
39. Digital audiotape
40. More (Spanish)
43. Disfigured
44. White (Spanish)
46. Church building
47. Georgia rockers
49. Surgeon's tool
51. "Much \_\_\_ about nothing"
54. Make by braiding
59. Local area network
60. Unit of work
61. Indigenous person of Thailand
62. Liquefied natural gas
64. Distance to top



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The MRHS Marching Band's percussion section.



The MRHS Marching Band participates in the 2025 Big E Parade.

# MRHS Marching Band



Drum Majors Abigail Lee, Hayden Carlotto and Isabella Strand conduct the band through their warmups.

### BAND from page 1

The weather was cloudy for the majority of the day up until the performance where students were caught up in the rain, but the show still went on. Band members marched in formation playing the song "Military Escort."

Drum Majors Hayden Carlotto, Abigail Lee and Isabella Strand guided the band during their performance, helping them stay in line and organized while they were playing.

This is the Minnechaug Band's first public performance of the year, aside from home field football games, showcasing the passion and hard work they've been perfecting the last couple weeks to a broader audience.

Setting up for the parade, members worked together in their sections to tune, give advice to the newer students and perfected their piece. This is an important beginning of the year event for the Juniors and Seniors of the Minnechaug High School Band to show the younger students the ropes to kick off their marching season, collaborating to put on a show for the hundreds of people at the Big E.



MRHS Marching Band lines up to perform.

Photos courtesy of Kyle Garron



The MRHS Marching Band's flute section.



The MRHS Marching Band with their director David Morris lift their instruments in the air in celebration.

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Eileen O'Sullivan 505-9244



John Mollenbrey 427-5176



Zoe Czapliski 519-9224



Linda Alston 246-8616



Sandy Wegrzyn 519-1056



Kathi Calabrese 374-5867



Shari Lokey 218-8811



Luci Giguere 575-2837



Ann Paquette 626-6871



Maria D'Angelantonio 575-2898



Ann Marie Martin 206-1161



Art Ferrara 348-5827



Alyssa Rhodes 896-9269



Chrissy Albano 374-6254

### CALL US FOR DETAILS ON ANY OF THESE PROPERTIES

#### SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS

STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
NEW	74 Blanche St., Springfield	Sixteen Acres, 5 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$319,900	
NEW	41 Brookside Dr., Wilbraham	8 room, 4 bed, 2f 1h bath Cape	\$499,900	
ACT	92 Juniper Ridge Dr., Agawam	8 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Ranch	\$824,900	
ACT	61 West Street, Ludlow	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$290,000	
ACT	11 Ina St., Springfield	8 room, 2 bed, 1f 0h bath Bungalow	\$239,900	
ACT	95 Weaver Rd., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Cape	\$279,900	
CTG	19 Deerfield Circle, Hampden	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Cape	\$389,900	
CTG	211 Butler Rd., Monson, MA	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Cape	\$675,000	
CTG	131 Endicott St., Springfield	East Forest Park, 5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$309,900	
UAG	58 Bennett Rd., Hampden	6 room, 4 bed, 2f 0h bath Cape	\$329,900	
UAG	53 Wood End Road, Springfield	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$275,000	
UAG	30 Beauchamp, Springfield	8 room, 4 bed, 1f 0h bath Colonial	\$289,000	
SLD	313 Bennett Rd., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Cape	\$510,000	\$500,000
SLD	75 Puritan Rd., Springfield	Sixteen Acres, 9 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Ranch	\$299,900	\$312,000

#### CONDOMINIUM LISTINGS

UAG	88 Tall Pines Rd U:88, Hampden	6 room, 2 bed, 2f 0h bath Garden	\$424,900	
SLD	2205 Boston Road U: 82, Wilbraham	7 room, 2 bed, 2f 1h bath Townhouse	\$289,900	\$265,000

#### MULTI FAMILY LISTINGS

CTG	40 Rittenhouse Terrace, Springfield	Forest Park, 2 unit, 12 total rooms, 6 total bedrooms 2 Family - 2 Units Up/Down	\$425,000	
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#### LAND LISTINGS

ACT	7 Old Reed Rd., lot: 6, Monson	8.50 Residential acres (370,260 SqFt)	\$99,000	
ACT	454 Ridge Road, Wilbraham	1.78 Residential acres (77,555 SqFt)	\$218,000	
UAG	Lot 16, Woodhill Rd., Monson	2.17 Residential acres (94,525 SqFt)	\$72,500	
SLD	160 Silver Street, Monson	4.93 Residential acres (214,751 SqFt)	\$99,000	\$90,000

#### COMMERCIAL LISTINGS

ACT	599-609 Page Blvd., Springfield	3278 SqFt Mixed Use Building	\$850,000	
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