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Dementia friendly community  
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Girls soccer beats Agawam  
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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

(L to R) Debbie Johnson, outreach coordinator at Ludlow Senior Center, Ann Andras, outreach coordinator at South Hadley Senior Center, Janine Leis, social services coordinator at Ware Senior Center, Wendy Cowles, outreach coordinator at Hampden Senior Center, Brenda Labbe, community outreach director at Greater Springfield Senior Services and Danell Tavela, social services director at the East Longmeadow Council on Aging, smile for a group photo during the Outreach Networking and Self-Care event at Hampden Senior Center.

## Outreach event promotes networking and self-care

Multiple communities participate

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- The senior center held an Outreach Networking and Self-Care event from 3:30 - 6 p.m. on Sept. 28 to support outreach care coordinators and social workers.

The event provided opportuni-

ties for refreshment, networking and connection ahead of open enrollment and fuel assistance during the fall season.

The vendors included Bluebird Estates, Louis & Clark Medical Supply, Home Care Hands HomeCare & Staffing, Assisted Living Locators, Brookhaven Hospice and Capuano Care.

Additionally, self-care activities including chair massages, reiki healing sessions, tarot card readings and meditation.

Kimberly O'Connor, community liaison at Brookhaven Hospice, explained she got into hospice care when she experienced it with her family and saw the impact it had.

"It really makes a big difference not only for the patient who's receiving services but the family as well," O'Connor said.

Besides networking, O'Connor hopes to raise awareness about hospice care services while giving back to the community, including how

Please see **OUTREACH**, page 4

## Barn party raises money for the disabled, disadvantaged



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski

A group of residents gathered in a barn on Main Street in Hampden on Sept. 25 to raise money for Mustard Seed Communities.

Local residents fundraise for Mustard Seed Communities

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- A group of Boston College alumni joined family and friends to fundraise for Mustard Seed Communities on Sept. 25 during an event in a neatly outfitted Hampden barn.

Mustard Seed Communities is an international nonprofit organized to care for the world's most vulnerable populations, including disabled and disadvantaged children, in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

Each year, a group of Boston College alumni, including Don Collins of Hampden, travel to Jamaica to help children in need. Last Monday, Collins opened his barn at 721 Main Street for a well-attended party to raise funds for Mustard Seed Communities.

"This is an annual event that I have for the benefit of Mustard Seed Communities," Collins said. "They take care of abandoned and disabled children; children who have disabilities and have been left in the

Please see **BARN PARTY** page 13

## Wilbraham Select Board hears sign options for new senior center

Also, new Commission on Disability appointments

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The Select Board heard possible ideas on Oct. 2 for a new sign for the new senior center.

Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs, explained the base is being constructed and wanted to present a sign for the Select Board's opinion.

The new sign would be larger and include solar lights.

"The sign that's at Town Hall presently kind of overshadows that, and I don't want it that way, so my suggestion was to, maybe,

have one sign. Instead of trying to get two signs that mesh, go together, have one sign and see if Town Hall would like to be added to the sign," Dubord said.

Dubord then presented several mockups with blue and white colors, the town seal and larger fonts.

When Chairman Theresa Goodrich asked where the current sign was, Town Administrator Nick Breault said, "It's right in the center."

"But it's in front, vertical," Goodrich said.

"And this will be sideways and on both sides, so coming from either direction people would be able to see it," Dubord added.

Select Board member Sue Bunnell also asked Dubord about the sign's solar lights after she heard from the Dark Lights



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Wilbraham Select Board 1: Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs at Wilbraham Senior Center, shows a sign for consideration for the new senior center as Select Board Chairman Theresa Goodrich, Clerk Michael Squindo—on GoTo Meeting—and Vice Chairman Sue Bunnell wrap up their discussion on the agenda item during the Oct. 2 meeting.

Initiative, which focuses on light pollution.

"I'd just like to verify that because there's an overhang, and it's coming down from above, that's perfect," Bunnell said. "Part of the Dark Skies proposal that's been brought before the legislature -- I'm not sure if it made it into this legislative round -- but they're looking, actually, to set some standards for any municipal new construction around how lighting is handled, managed, so that we can start to maybe preserve some of the darkness that the birds and everybody else needs."

No motion was presented as Dubord planned to discuss this further with the Senior Center Building Committee the following day.

Please see **SENIORS**, page 7

# Wilbraham launches yearlong dementia-friendly community initiative



Barbara Harrington, social services coordinator and veterans administrative assistant at Wilbraham Senior Center and Paula Dubord, director of Elder Affairs at Wilbraham Senior Center, smile at their table during the Dementia Friendly Kickoff event at the Country Club of Wilbraham.



A wide crowd shot of the audience at the Dementia Friendly Kickoff event at the Country Club of Wilbraham on Sept. 27.



Katie Krupka, certified senior advisor at Assisted Living Locators, talks with an attendee during the networking portion of the Dementia Friendly Kickoff event at the Country Club of Wilbraham on Sept. 27.



Patty Sullivan, program director for Dementia Friendly Massachusetts for the Massachusetts Councils on Aging, shares a book the organization uses for their Dementia Friendly programming to teach elementary school students about dementia during the Dementia Friendly Kickoff event at the Country Club of Wilbraham on Sept. 27.



Wilbraham Select Board Clerk Michael Squindo provides remarks on the community initiative to make the town of Wilbraham dementia-friendly during the Dementia Friendly Kickoff event at the Country Club of Wilbraham on Sept. 27.



Meghan Lemay, regional manager for the Alzheimer's Association, provides remarks on the organization and their work during the Dementia Friendly Kickoff event at the Country Club of Wilbraham on Sept. 27.

The initiative kicked off at the Country Club of Wilbraham

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
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WILBRAHAM -- Community members, organizations and supporters gathered at the Country Club of Wilbraham from 4 - 6 p.m. on Sept. 27 for the Dementia-Friendly kickoff event.

The event officially launched the town's yearlong plan of becoming a dementia-friendly community and helping resi-

dents better understand and relate to those with dementia.

The event featured Patty Sullivan, program director for Dementia Friendly Massachusetts, Becky Basch, senior planner for The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Meghan Lemay, regional manager for the Alzheimer's Association, speak-

ing to attendees about the initiative and what their organizations do to support communities in becoming dementia-friendly.

Additionally, attendees networked with the Hampden County Sheriff's Office TRIAD Unit, the fire and police departments, the senior center, Assisted Living Locators, Orchard Val-

ley at Wilbraham, JGS Lifecare and more about their resources.

Select Board member Michael Squindo thanked the community organizations for taking part and the senior center's committee members for putting the initiative together.

Please see **DEMENTIA**, page 7

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CTG	114 Piney, Ludlow	6 room, 2 bed, 1f bath Cottage, Bungalow	\$300,000	
CTG	28 Dayton St., Springfield	5 room, 2 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$264,900	
CTG	3 Western View Dr., Wilbraham	8 room, 4 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial	\$489,900	
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UAG	39 Rita St., Springfield	6 room, 2 bed, 2f 0h bath Ranch	\$274,900	
UAG	36 Elwood Dr., Springfield	9 room, 4 bed, 1f 2h bath Colonial	\$349,900	
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SLD	41 Fernwood Dr., Hampden	8 room, 4 bed, 2f bath Cape	\$459,900	\$425,000
SLD	230 Prospect St., Ludlow	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Bungalow	\$299,900	\$310,000
SLD	164 Lyon St., Ludlow	7 room, 3 bed, 2f bath Log	\$669,900	\$669,900
SLD	11 Pease Ave., Monson	6 room, 3 bed, 2f bath Colonial	\$260,000	\$270,000
SLD	74 Judith St., Springfield	6 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$222,500	\$260,000
SLD	64 Old Farm Rd., Springfield	7 room, 4 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$259,900	\$265,000
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SLD	301 Springfield, Wilbraham	7 room, 4 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial	\$599,900	\$605,000

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SLD	98 Fuller St., U:32, Ludlow	4 room, 2 bed, 1f bath Garden	\$219,000	\$215,000
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# Hampden to vote on \$108,000 tractor at STM

Board chair: 'This is what we need to get the job done.'

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
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HAMPDEN -- The Highway Department will request that Hampden residents vote to appropriate \$108,000 for the purchase of a new Kabota tractor at the Special Town Meeting on Monday, Oct. 30 at Thornton Burgess Middle School.

Highway Superintendent Mark Langone informed the Board of Selectmen on Oct. 2 that the department's current 1999 model tractor is no longer reliable. Langone said problems stem from both the tractor and its sickle bar attachment.

"Either one's working and the other one isn't. This has been going on for a couple years, and we've been able to kind of piece things together, get it repaired," Langone said. "We're not keeping up on the roadside mowing as much as I'd like to so it kind of upsets me. I'd like to do a better job with that."

Regarding the sickle bar attachment, Langone said he has found that some parts for the dated equipment are no longer available, even after nationwide and worldwide searches were completed by third parties. Langone acquired parts from a company in Pennsylvania, but soon after, the tractor's transmission began having issues.

"It's turning into an unreliable piece of equipment," Langone said. "It's either one thing or another. It's been happening on and off for the last couple of years. I think it was 2019 I actually started putting the tractor on my radar on my five-year

capital projections sheet, and I've kind of increased that number 10% every year."

The Kabota tractor Langone hopes to acquire is a bit larger than the current tractor. It has a closed cab with climate control that will allow it to be operated in all weather conditions.

"The attachment is really what I was after, and this attachment is called a Terrain King. It's made by Alamo Industrial," Langone said. "Alamo makes a variety of mowing attachments for tractors. They have exclusive permission from Kabota to mount these implements onto Kabota tractors."

Instead of a sickle or rotary attachment, the Kabota model he prefers uses a 60-inch "drum with teeth on it" that "raises up and down" and has a curved height adjustment with a "flail concept," Langone said.

Langone is happy with the price of the equipment. He noted that a neighboring community recently spent over \$100,000 to replace its over-the-guardrail mid-mount boom attachment.

"So, it's like, this doesn't sound so bad then. Everything is expensive," he said.

Langone noted that the town can enhance its new tractor in the future. It could add a Buffalo Turbine blower to blow leaves in the fall or rear-mounted snowblowers, brooms or sweepers.

Board Chair John Flynn was impressed that the current tractor lasted 24 years, noting that the town got its money out of it. He asked Langone about the timing of the potential acquisition.

"I don't think anyone doubts the fact that you need this. Just like you needed a dump truck and things like that. The timing is kind of the question," Flynn said.

Langone noted that it was "an excellent point" and said that it would take three or four months to build the tractor and an additional two to add the flail attachment, making for a six-month wait time.

If approved at the upcoming meeting, the town can purchase the new tractor on Oct. 31, and it will be available for use next spring.

If the item is defeated or wasn't made available for voting until the Annual Town Meeting next May, it couldn't be purchased until at least July and wouldn't be available to the Highway Department until the end of 2024.

In that case, the Highway Department would have to rent a tractor next summer.

"A rental with a machine comparable is \$2,500 a week so that could get pricey over the course of several months. And of course, if we were renting, we would cut that season as short as possible, but typically I like to do two rounds," Langone said.

Langone likes to do one round in the spring, cutting everything back, and another in the fall right before the winter, where his department touches up the main roads and problem areas.

Flynn is glad that residents will be able to vote on the item in the coming weeks. He told Langone to be prepared to give the same summarization at the town meeting and spoke against the prospect of renting or moving the item to next spring's warrant list.

"If we wait until the spring, we would lose the entire use of it next year and potentially have to pay rental costs; it makes no sense to have to throw that money away," Flynn said. "You got, shoot, almost 25 years out of the tractor you got last time. This isn't a frivolous purchase. This is what we need to get the job done."

## Funding available for cultural events

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

According to Council Chairperson, Jane Clark, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Wilbraham, including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, or performances in schools,

workshops and lectures.

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

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

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



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Angie Thornton, marketing director at HomeCare Hands 24/7 Care at Home & Staffing, shows off her organization during the Outreach Networking and Self-Care event at Hampden Senior Center. Home Care Handa 24/7 Care at Home & Staffing provides home care helper services, companionship, personal assistance and, also, staffing needs, to patrons.



Kimberly O'Connor, community liaison at Brookhaven Hospice, has her materials ready to talk about her organization and the importance of hospice care for seniors during the Outreach Networking and Self-Care event at Hampden Senior Center.



Tripp from Bright Spot Therapy Dogs gives a big smile during the Outreach Networking and Self-Care event at Hampden Senior Center.



Allyson Grammo, community services manager at Bluebird Estates, poses at her vendor table during the Outreach Networking and Self-Care event at Hampden Senior Center.



Tiara Chatman, RN, BSN, and administrator at Capuano Care, at her vendor table during the Outreach Networking and Self-Care event at Hampden Senior Center. Chatman's organization focuses on certified and private home health services for seniors.



Diane Cordero, COO of Louis & Clark Medical Supply, shows information about health care supplies and home medical equipment during the Outreach Networking and Self-Care event at Hampden Senior Center.

**OUTREACH** from page 1

hospice is a Medicare benefit that seniors "are entitled to have."

"It just gives you an opportunity, really, to be able to share that message with a group of people, like-minded community folks who are focusing on seniors in the community," O'Connor said.

Public Health Nurse Ashley Boudreau, who's part of the Public Health District serving the towns of Hampden, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow and Monson, said the event was great and appreciated the opportunity to meet the organizations that are out there in the community.

Boudreau stressed the senior center holding this event is "wildly important."

"Especially during the pandemic, people felt so alienated from everyone that having these events is incredibly important for the camaraderie, for just like this. For seeing the different things that they have in the community that can be helpful to them that they might not know

about," Boudreau said.

Angie Thornton, marketing director for HomeCare Hands 24/7 Care at Home & Staffing, also stressed raising awareness, sharing several organizations are part of the Community Care Warriors, an alliance to support one another and seniors.

"So just collaborating and helping each other, bringing each other resources, supporting each other," Thornton said. "And then we collaborate and do things like this: supporting each other, putting on events like this and we come out and we support each other this way. There's just that common goal of being there and being part of a community to give back to the community."

Debbie Johnson, outreach coordinator for the Ludlow Senior Center, said the event helps her connect with fellow outreach coordinators in surrounding communities.

She enjoyed the opportunity to network and get new information.

"I learned a few things about the different vendors that are here that I didn't know in the past and even

some of the networking that we were unsure of, a lot of my questions got answered," Johnson said. "So, I'm very happy I came tonight."

Wendy Cowles, the senior center's outreach coordinator, said after last year's event, people came to her saying they got great information and used business cards from those they connected with.

Cowles added, "It's a nice feeling to see everyone come together."

"Like I said, it takes a village and we're all in it together and support each other, which, you know, just makes your job a whole lot easier," Cowles said.

Johnson wants the community to know the town of Hampden has a great senior center, encouraging residents to visit.

"They have a wealth of information that they can hand out to the seniors of Hampden, and it would be great if they could all just participate and ask questions. It's a great informationally referral place and it's also a great socialization place for Hampden," Johnson said.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
Christina Conti, LMT, of Idle Moments Massage prepares Diane Marino, activities coordinator at Hampden Senior Center, for her massage during the Outreach Networking and Self-Care event at Hampden Senior Center.

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## Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry

HAMPDEN – On Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m., the Federated Community Church in Hampden is offering healing touch sessions. The group of people offering this to the public is trained and certified in energy work.

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# Horror musical podcast to share New England ghost stories

Launch event on Oct. 15 will feature music, readings, historical lectures

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- A culmination of several years' work is near, as Scantic River Productions will debut the initial episodes of "Rocking Chair", a horror musical podcast, on Oct. 21.

"Rocking Chair" is a nine-episode podcast centered on New England ghost stories, including the oldest American ballad "On Springfield Mountain" and tales of Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary and Rock-A-Dundee Road.

Before the first episodes are released, there will be a celebration at historical Academy Hall on Main Street on Oct. 15 from 1-5 p.m. featuring music, readings and history-themed lectures.

Hampden native and Scantic River Productions Artistic Director Colby Herchel shared more.

"Essentially, 'Rocking Chair' is a community event. 'Rocking Chair' is about a community in a small rural area. It is essentially about us; Hampden and Wilbraham," Herchel said. "We want you to come in and tell your ghost stories, and the stories that we're telling with songs and readings are actually things we've heard from you. So, this is really a celebration of our heritage and culture in an old schoolhouse where our great-grandparents were educated. It's going to be a wholesome and synchronistic experience."

"Rocking Chair" is an audio drama; each episode will be about 40 minutes long. Herchel said that his team has created a horror musical journey, which tells three centuries of ghost stories from New England.

The podcast tells the tale of characters that are lured into a haunted forest over the course of three centuries, the ghosts that haunted them there and the mysterious rocking chair at the heart of it all.

"Essentially, this is a codifying of all

of these kinds of urban legends and ghost stories, putting them in one place and telling them all simultaneously and with music," Herchel said.

Scantic River Productions is a non-profit theater and production company with New York City roots. The team consists of Herchel, a composer, lyricist and playwright, Nathanael Taylor, a creative producer, and Kelly Oostman, a technical and creative director.

The team has been working on "Rocking Chair" for about three years. It was originally envisioned as a stage musical, but upon initial feedback, the team learned that audiences wanted to learn more about the stories. It was Oostman's idea to transform it into a podcast.

"So, we cast it. We got an entire orchestra into the studio," Herchel said. "Over the course of two years, we had 25 actors come in and provide their voices and make a complete character arc."

The team traveled to Laughing Brook to record the brook and the sound of footsteps on the leaves. All the piano

music was recorded on Herchel's parents' 1884 Steinway piano.

"We collected all of this sound with all of these actors and all of this talent, and we combined it into something that's going to be really spectacular," Herchel said.

The first two episodes of the podcast will be released on Oct. 21 and the rest will be released periodically through New Year's Eve and will be uploaded to Spotify, Apple Music or "wherever you get your podcasts."

On Oct. 15 at Academy Hall, residents can view the Hampden Historical Society's museum while enjoying historical readings, music and lectures. Herchel thanked the historical society for opening its doors.

"If you've never taken the time to look around the Hampden Historical Society, there's a lot of incredible stuff upstairs," he said. "We'll have the opportunity during this performance to go and explore. It's going to be a relaxed time; it's not going to be like watching a show. You'll hear a song, hear a reading and go explore, learn a little bit more about where we live and who we are."



Photo courtesy of Scantic River Productions

# Hartsprings Bin receives extended stay at Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN -- The Hartsprings Bin will stay at the Hampden Senior Center at 104 Allen St. We have been allowed an extended stay of the bin and will gladly accept your donations. As you begin your Fall Cleaning, please consider donating your unwanted clothing, purses, shoes, jewelry, bedding (no pillows or rugs) small kitchen supplies, dishes, glassware, suitcases in good working order, duffle bags or tote bags. Books are also accepted, however, NO Encyclopedias.

If items are placed in The White Tall Kitchen plastic size bags, they will easily fit in the drop-down door of the bin. If you have large bags or boxes of items or anything breakable to donate, please feel free to contact Joan Shea at 413-566-8224 to arrange a special drop off.

Items left at the senior center are also accepted, and Joan will pick up from there for the truck. However, please refrain from leaving bags next to the bin. Please call Joan for help with any questions in regards to what you can donate if you are



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

unsure. Thank you for your continuing support of this fundraiser, which supports The Building Fund of the Hampden Senior Center.

# Wilbraham has a positive sample of EEE

WILBRAHAM — Unfortunately, the town of Wilbraham recorded a positive mosquito sample for Eastern equine encephalitis, or EEE, obtained on Sept. 21 somewhere in the northwest part of Wilbraham.

While no animal or human cases are documented as of Oct. 2, a positive mosquito sample raises the town's risk to moderate. With that in mind, education

is the best tool to fight against infection. Please feel free to share this information and reach out with any questions or concerns to Regional Public Health Nurse Ashley Boudreau, BSN, RN, of the Eastern Hampden Public Health Services, Hampden-Longmeadow-Monson-Wilbraham. She can be reached at 413-565-4154.



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

- Scariest**  
People run screaming!
- Most Creative**  
Best use of recycled materials!
- Kid Friendly**  
Kids just want to hang out with you!
- Flashy**  
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- Mt. View Restaurant
- Route 20 Bar & Grille

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

Please send all entries to dzbierski@turley.com labeled halloween contest. All entries must be submitted by October 20th. Include Name, Address & Phone



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**VIEWPOINTS**

# Friends in the garden

For the last couple of weeks, I have been eagerly observing a garden spider in one of my flower beds.

It is so beautiful.

Spider foes might balk at that particular choice of words. But if the shoe fits, wear it!

This spider is indeed a beauty. Over an inch long, yellow and black in color and attached to an intricately woven web, the spider on guard, waiting for unsuspecting prey.

Many years ago, when I grew flowers that were members of the Celosia genus in a big cut flower garden, it seemed this particular spider was a frequent visitor. I haven't seen one like it in a few years.

Lo and behold, she's attached to some plumed celosia, doing her thing. Read on to learn more about a real hero, garden style!

This particular garden spider goes by the name of Argiope (rhymes with calliope). Besides its brilliant color, other distinguishing characteristics include a large, egg-shaped abdomen, three claws on each foot, and a foot wide (or larger) web that has a zig zag band of silk called "stabilimenta" running through its center.

The argiope makes its home in most of the lower 48 states, Mexico and Central America as far south as Costa Rica. It prefers sunny areas among flowers, shrubs and other tall plants to construct its web.

If weather permits, the female spider will construct and repair her web both day and night and will remain there unless food is scarce, or disturbances are frequent. Males generally roam in search of a mate, and when they find one will sometimes build a small web nearby to begin courtship.

Although their vision is rather poor, males



Submitted Photo

**This garden spider, an Agriope, is a helpful friend to gardeners.**

get their intentions across by plucking and vibrating the females' web.

Once mating is complete, it is presumed that males die. Females produce up to three brown egg sacks, each one containing 300-

1,400 eggs.

The sacks are positioned close to mom, nearby her resting position in the center of the web.

Unfortunately, she will die prior to or as a result of the first hard frost, and although her eggs will hatch within the sack they do not emerge until spring. In warmer climates the female argiope may live for several years.

As with all spiders, the black and yellow garden spider is carnivorous. Its orb-shaped web will capture all sorts of flying insects, including aphids, flies, grasshoppers, and even wasps and bees.

Amazingly, she can bring down prey nearly twice her size thanks to a venomous bite that immobilizes its victims. We need not worry about this spider.

Although it is large, it bites only when harassed, and reportedly, its venom poses no threat to humans. In fact, the argiope is a valued predator of grasshoppers in American rangelands.

The spider will be fun to watch as the season progresses.

I have to admit I am a little sad that she won't survive the winter. I will have to be on the look out for her egg sacks.

Nature is just amazing. Be sure to stop and admire the spiders every now and then and smell the roses, too!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.*

The Wilbraham-Hampden  
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**TEAM**



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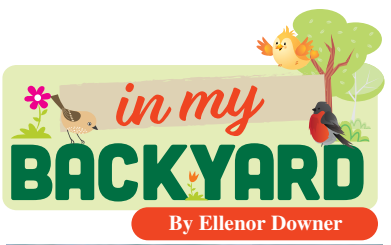
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**American white pelican**

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a rare sighting of an American white pelican at Big Pond in Otis.

The white pelican winters along the Florida and Gulf Coast. It breeds in the western part of Canada and the United States. It is 62 inches long, white with a large orange-yellow bill and throat pouch. In flight, the trailing half of the wings are black.

The immature is similar to the adult, but the bill and throat pouch are gray and the wing markings are brown not black. The immature plumage is kept for three to four years.

These pelicans feed while swimming, dipping the bill into the water to catch fish in its pouch. They often feed in small groups where they herd fish toward shallow water to make facilitate catching the fish.

The female lays one to three white eggs in a nest that is a slight depression on bare ground or on a mound of earth, brush stems and debris. They often nest colonially on large inland lakes.

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 14

## Letters to the Editor

### Parent of Minnechaug athlete speaks out about ticket prices

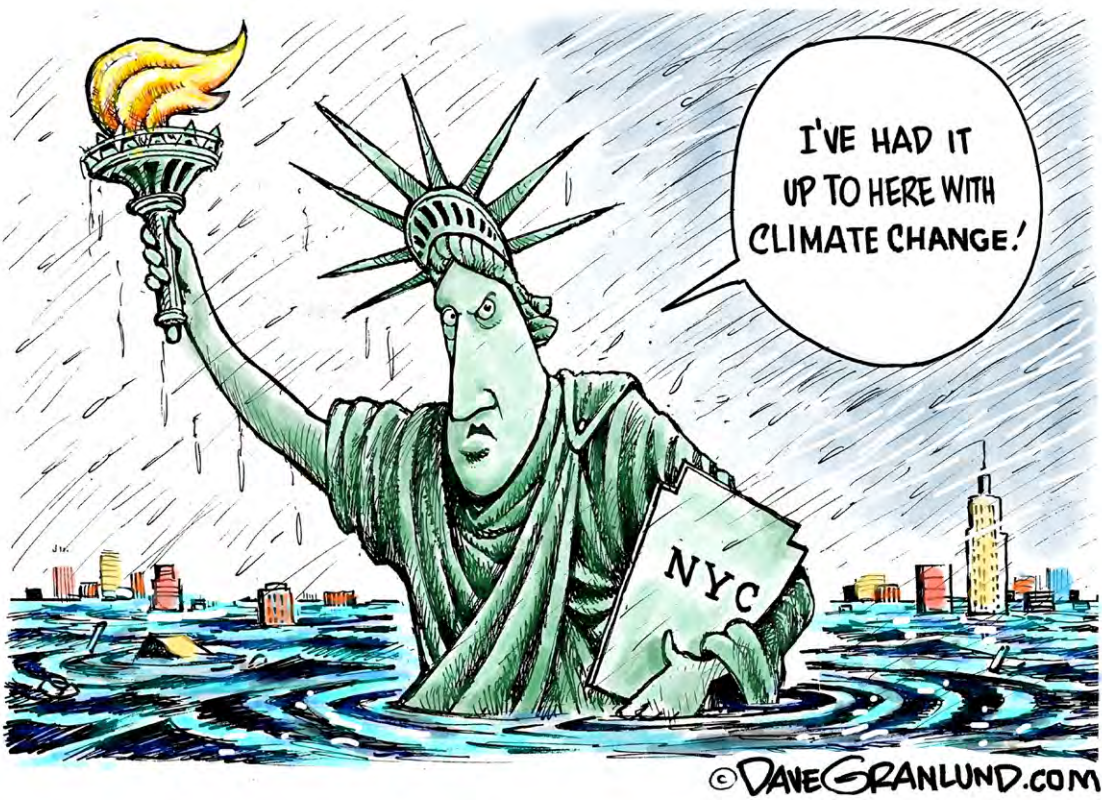
To the Editor,

As a parent you want to support your children in the extracurricular activity they love, whether it be a sport, musical instrument, chorus, or something else, whatever it is that they're passionate about. You want to cheer them on. To be there for the good and bad performances, the wins and losses, the ups and downs. Unfortunately, our local high school is making that a very difficult thing to do. We paid hundreds of dollars for our child to participate on a Minnechaug sports team and yet we are expected to purchase tickets to watch them play. For a family that cost could easily surpass \$70 a week.

As homeowners we pay taxes, and our schools get a very large sum of that money. Where do those funds go? Doesn't Minnechaug want parents, sib-

lings, grandparents and cousins to support their teams? Don't they want the community to come together and cheer on the local players? As a parent it is unconscionable that they make us purchase tickets to watch our children play a sport that we pay for, in a building that is funded by us taxpayers. Maybe they could set up a donation jar with an explanation of what the money will be used for. Or sell raffle tickets for small prizes. I am sure that the school can understand the impact this cost has on the families of these young athletes, and I am hopeful that they can think of another way to raise money if needed.

**-Anonymous parent of a Minnechaug athlete**



## Editorial Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Editor, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-682-0013 or via e-mail to dzbierski@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

### Correction Policy

The TIMES will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper and can be substantiated. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on the editorial pages. To request a correction, send information in an e-mail or mailed communication to the editor at the above address listed above. The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc. One year out of town subscriptions are available at \$45, out of state \$50 by calling 800-824-6458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.

SENIORS from page 1

Another meeting highlight was two appointments to the Commission on Disability.

Attorney Karen Romano shared she has a child with complex special needs and has been working with State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) to put a bill before the state legislature around universal changing tables in public spaces.

"So, I've been working with Angelo Puppolo on that. We just went to a hearing two weeks ago now on that, so I really have been increasing the amount of time and energy that I've been putting into disability advocacy, and I really feel strongly that I would like to be able to, sort of, be a part of that conversation in town," Romano said.

When Bunnell asked if she'd been to other commission meetings, Romano clarified she had not yet, but she was ready to get to work with the commission.

"Romano said she had applied a while back to the commission and things had sat for a little bit, stressing she hopes to get more involved."

"I do know some of the other members already, so there's some

familiarity there," Romano said.

Romano was appointed 3-0 for a term beginning Oct. 2, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.

Meanwhile, Olivia Feehan recently graduated from the City University of New York with her master's in Disability Studies.

Feehan is interested in disability rights, is disabled herself and is a foster parent.

"So, I'm trying to work towards advocating for disabled parents. I'm interested in this position as I feel I would be a good voice for other people with disabilities," Feehan said.

Select Board member Michael Squindo asked if the link to her degree was a public site. When Feehan confirmed yes, he explained the site was phenomenal and thought the links were worth sharing.

"If you would share it, I think that would be a great resource as I found it both very interesting and informational," Squindo said.

Feehan agreed to share her e-portfolio, which can be found at <https://cunyonline.digication.com/olivia-fee-hans-disability-studies-e-portfolio/home>.

Feehan was appointed 3-0 for a term beginning Oct. 2, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.

DEMENTIA from page 2

"This is one of those opportunities that the town has to build community in a really meaningful way, bringing together businesses, partners, the citizens in serving a uniquely, probably underserved population within a marginalized population on top of that," Squindo said.

Sullivan was happy to see the community resources and organizations getting involved, stressing the importance of raising awareness and talking about dementia in communities, including sharing resources like the 24/7 dementia helpline provided by the Alzheimer's Association, which is 1-800-272-3900.

"It's incredibly exciting to see a community come out and support this initiative. The reason why a community like this and 113 others across the state do this is because the community can see and share the fact that there are many people, older adults and younger adults, who are living with dementia in the community," Sullivan said.

Karen Riviello of 3 Guys at the Grille at the Country Club of Wilbraham said the country club was honored to support the initiative.

"We do a lot of community service and we felt that this was a very important cause because it affects everyone," Riviello said.

Riviello hopes attendees had the opportunity to network with the organizations while learning more about the available support.

"Just to do the networking and have people that are knowledgeable of what you're going through and can offer you the knowledge and

be supportive not only emotionally but how to educate you on how to deal with these things, I think that's key. So, the networking and knowing resources available are really important," Riviello said.

Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs at the senior center, is grateful for the community support and stressed the importance of supporting residents with dementia.

Dubord added how she hopes the new senior center will open opportunities for a Memory Cafe, support groups for residents and caregivers and more.

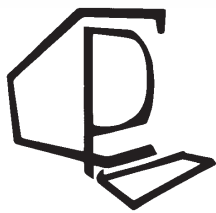
"Like they said tonight, one in three persons over 80 is going to have some sort of dementia. So, if it's not in your family or your neighbor, it's going to be," Dubord said. "We want to make Wilbraham a community for everyone. We have wonderful schools, we have a wonderful library, we have wonderful other services, and the senior and dementia part of this is something we also want to make as a welcoming community for those folks."

Dubord encourages residents to get involved to help make Wilbraham a dementia-friendly community.

"We're hoping that within a year, we will be certified as a dementia-friendly community," Dubord said. "The committee set a wonderful calendar and every month they're going to have some type of training or program or activity for the community to get involved in and we're hoping to get as many people involved in this as possible."

# HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES



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# Markel offers update on EV Charging

By Dalton Zbierski

Editor

[dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com)

HAMPDEN -- Hampden Town Administrator Bob Markel is working hard to make Level 3 EV charging a reality in Hampden, as he explores potential locations for the chargers.

"Here are the potential sites: senior center, police department," he said. "I did talk to (Highway Superintendent) Mark (Langone) briefly about that green space in between the police department and the senior center. We agreed that's not going to be practical."

Markel said that "something changed" recently, as he's observed there are now enough electric vehicles to completely fill charging stations. Recently, he explored a Level 3 charging port on Memorial Drive in Chicopee; all four ports were being used, and two cars were waiting in line.

"In thinking of a place to do this, we have to think that eventually we may have a couple of cars that will sit and wait in line, and certainly that green space I thought might work will not work because you don't want cars stacked up along (Allen Street)," Markel said.

Business owners have incentive to implement chargers in their lots, and Markel is traveling throughout Hampden to explore possible options. Among the businesses he's reached out to are Mountain View Restaurant on Allen Street and Rediker Software, Inc on Wilbraham Road.

Markel said that Rediker Software, Inc had not responded but noted that might be the best place, depending on the conversation he

will have with the business owner.

"They have plenty of room. I doubt the parking lot ever fills up. I drove in there to take a look at it," Markel said. "I think it would work really well. You wouldn't see it from the highway, but what happens now is you can plug in chargers, and the GPS will take you right in there."

Markel has also had discussions involving the mini mall on Allen Street, a central location in town. Davenport proposed installing the ports in the lot behind the Dunkin Donuts, but Markel shared an idea that he believes would not interrupt parking in the main lot.

"I think the one place that would make sense would be between the restaurant La Cucina and Somers Road. Around the back there are spaces there; the parking wraps around, and there are spaces that are rarely occupied behind there. I went back there to take a look... It would be less disruptive," Markel said.

Board Chair John Flynn questioned the location, noting, "I've never seen that, and that's an area that floods."

Markel responded, "The attraction there is they could be seen from the highway."

Flynn supports installing the ports on Main Street, as he proposed another location.

"The other parking lot that's never filled is the hardware store. Then they could walk to the park," he said.

Selectman Craig Rivest doesn't believe there will be enough room at Mountain View Restaurant, as parking is extremely limited during the summer. He proposed another idea.

"Here's another thought. What about Gerrish Park? I see some

cars there rarely driving down Main Street. We could encourage people to park, sit down and read a book for a little while. You can go fishing, go hiking on trails," Rivest said.

As the board considered his idea, Rivest offered another possibility and reminded the board that the charging station will be a revenue generator.

"Here's another thought. What about (the former) Cumbies, if we didn't talk about CPC funding for taking possession, we're not using it for anything other than parking. We wouldn't need the septic," he said.

Flynn supported the idea, again supporting installing on Main Street.

"Craig makes a good point," he said. "The park is right there. Main Street is about the best walking area. You have access to the restaurant right there."

Markel reaffirmed that the town can still get incentives if the ports are installed on non-town-owned land.

"It used to be the rule was you had to put it on public property. Not now. I've checked on that. You can put it someplace that is not public property. Businesses are using these chargers as an incentive to come in, park your car and go ahead and shop. The tendency would be to stay longer," he said.

Markel supported Rivest's idea for the former Cumberland Farms parking lot on Main Street, but reminded the board that the clock is ticking.

Markel said, "I think it would be a great idea, but we have to act relatively soon, or the money (available from the state) will go to somebody else."

# Several items dropped from Hampden STM warrant

A total of 18 articles remain

By Dalton Zbierski

Editor

[dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com)

HAMPDEN -- On Monday, the Board of Selectmen closed the warrant for the Hampden's Special Town Meeting at Thornton Burgess Middle School on Oct. 30.

Two items were removed from the list, and 18 remain. Removed from the list were Article 4, pertaining to an increase in funding for the Emergency Notification System, and Article 11 a request from the police department for six new rifles.

Article 4 requested \$2,000 to increase funding for the town's Emergency Notification System, "Alerts powered by Smart911 - Hampden MA". On Sept. 18, Board Chair John Flynn said the number was raised because of inflation.

The town's official emergency alert and notification system is used to send alerts to the public during emergencies. The system is a free service that allows residents to sign up online and receive customized alerts via text message, email and voice message.

Selectman Donald Davenport noted that the number was small to be on the warrant, and Flynn and Selectman Craig Rivest agreed to remove it from the list.

"Article 4; you don't think we can come up with \$2,000 by the end of the year? It's just such a small amount. Let's take it off," Davenport said.

Article 6 remained on the warrant despite requesting only amounting to \$800 to cover expenses incurred as the town houses a dog named Luna.

More money was expected to be requested as part of the article to help the town cover the costs of solving its beaver problem by purchasing beaver deceivers and taking other measures, but the information did not appear on the version of the warrant that was closed.

Town Administrator Bob Markel noted that the town has the option to "not vote" on the article on Oct. 30 if there is no additional information about the dams.

Article 9, the fire department's request for an additional \$34,000 on top of the \$10,962 that was appropriated during May's Annual Town Meeting to purchase a brush truck, remains on the warrant. The requested funding would supplement a \$219,047 grant the fire department received from FEMA.

Davenport, who questioned the nature of the request during the previous two meetings, voiced further issues on Oct. 2.

"Here's the issue that I think we need to resolve. The grant was given to the Hampden Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., which is a separate, private organization from the town. It wasn't given to the town," Davenport said. "I don't know how they buy the truck. Do they send the bill to FEMA or does the town buy the truck and get reimbursed?... I don't want to screw up the paperwork and not get the truck."

Rivest said that it is a similar process to a grant being awarded to the Friends of the Library or Senior Center and distributed from there.

Flynn pointed out that this is not the department's first FEMA grant.

"Going back to the last couple FEMA grants, this is not our first one, and see how they've dispersed it in the past. It might be a bit of a paperwork struggle to check from year to year. Research the last couple FEMA ones," Flynn said.

Article 11 would have requested \$7,794 to purchase six new rifles for the police department, replacing outdated ones. Little was said on Oct. 2 as to why the item was dropped from the list.

All Davenport said was, "the police department rifles we're taking out."

## Wilbraham-Hampden Times OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## Hampden Garden Club celebrates 92<sup>nd</sup> year

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Garden Club is celebrating its 92nd year by hosting guest speaker/member Ginny Blake to present "The Tulip: Not Just Another Pretty Face". Learn the fascinating history of this beloved spring bulb as well as view the many stunning varieties in bloom at the Keukenhof in Holland at the height of the tulip season.

The presentation will occur Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at Academy Hall at 625 Main St., Hampden. The guest fee is \$5. Please contact Lil Fedora at 566-1137 with any questions. Thank you!

## Minnechaug Class of 2001 reunion Oct. 14

SOMERS, CT – The Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 2001 will have its reunion on Oct. 14 at the Iron Fox on Main Street in Somers, CT from 6-11 p.m.

The cost to attend is \$50 per ticket; includes buffet dinner and drink. One can pay on Venmo @Chaug-Reunion. Please email photos to [ChaugClassof2001@gmail.com](mailto:ChaugClassof2001@gmail.com).



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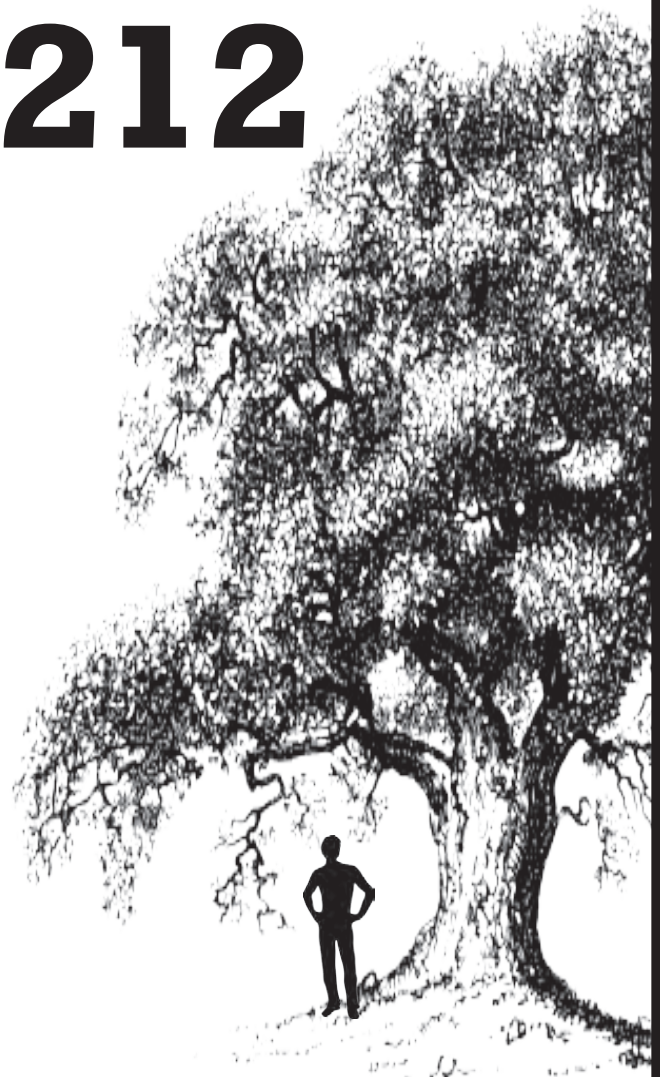
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# DL&G TREE



# A COMMUNITY GALLERY



The Theatre Guild of Hampden held its Dancing with the Stars fundraiser at Thornton Burgess Middle School on Sept. 30. Photo courtesy of Nancy Giza.

(L to R) Second-place finishers Craig Rivest, a Selectman, and Diane Flynn stand next to the winners of Dancing with the Stars, Stacy Goldberg and Police Chief Scott Trombly on Sept. 30. Photo courtesy of Nancy Giza.



Surrounded by other dignitaries, Gov. Maura Healey addresses the crowd outside The Massachusetts Building at The Big E on Massachusetts Day. Photo courtesy of Wilbraham photographer Peter Camyre.

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

# WIL HAMPTON




The following St. Cecilia Women's Club members were honored for years of service to the club. (L to R) Susan Manseau, 25 years, Linda Fidalgo, 25 years, Mary-Lou Sanderson, 30 years, Sister Mary McCue, 30 years, Norma Bandarra, 40 years, Felice Coffey, 65 years and Barbara Fitzgerald, 30 years. Photo courtesy of Sue Agnew.



At its first meeting, the St. Cecilia Women's Club honored the club's past president, Serra, Sue Agnew, Jean Blanchard, Norma Bandarra and Ann Mango. Photo courtesy of Sue Agnew.

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# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

**Community Bulletin Board**

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

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



idents who were in attendance. (L to R) Lorrie Broadbent, Linda Hitas, Pat  
ourtesy of Sue Agnew.



### Drawing the lucky winners...

Dennis Picard, right, the guest speaker at the Old Meeting House Museum Open House Sept. 10 is helped by Program Chairman Charlie Bennett as he draws the lucky winners of the museum's free raffle for a Wilbraham Atheneum Tee Shirt, open to anyone who attends the talks. Picard gave a brief history of Wilbraham resident Joshua Brooks' involvement in the founding of the Big E. The next open house is Oct. 8.

Photo by Lucy Peltier



(L to R) Tom Farrow and Jim Dupuis volunteered at the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day meals fundraiser at the Hampden Senior Center Sept. 17. Photo courtesy of the Hampden Senior Center.



On Sept 16, Wilbraham Regional Emergency Communications Center received an emergency call and dispatched Action Ambulance Service Inc. Hampden Fire Department and Hampden Police Department. Upon assessment, it was determined that the patient required transportation by helicopter to Baystate Medical Center. A landing zone was established on Glendale Road in Wilbraham, with the assistance of Wilbraham Fire Department and Wilbraham Police Department On-scene paramedics and personnel transferred the patient's care to Life Star, who then airlifted them to Baystate Medical Center. Photo and caption courtesy of the Hampden Fire Department.

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# PET OF THE MONTH

## Meet Scout!

Hi my name is Scout, I'm 3 years old and live in Ludlow with my family, the Brusso's. I may look silly but it's just my personality. I love hogging the sun on the back steps and sticking my tongue out while my photo is taken.



# PET PAGE



## 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](mailto:jwalker@turley.com). Please include your name and your pet's name.

## Choosing to Adopt Smaller Pets

Local pet adoption agencies are starting to see a trend towards smaller animals. The rising cost of pet care for cats and dogs is making people rethink their pet choices. If you are one of those people here is a little information about a few of the most popular small pet choices to help you choose the right one for your family.



### Rabbits

Rabbits are unique creatures who form tight bonds with their families. They are easy to train and live an average of 5 – 10 years. They do require some veterinary care. They are not low maintenance if you are doing it right. You'll need a good- sized cage or hutch for their home. Rabbits are playful, active, and curious, and they need a good variety of toys to keep them occupied (and out of trouble) and lots of love and interaction.



### Hamsters

Hamsters are typically low-maintenance pets but proper care is essential to keeping them happy and healthy. They typically live about two years and are usually best housed alone. Choose a cage that has good ventilation, is easy to clean, has space for a hamster to run and explore, and won't allow your hamster to escape. Inside the cage you'll need to provide soft and absorbent bedding, a water bottle, an exercise wheel, chew toys, a house, and food dish. Young hamsters will be easier to train and hand-tame than older hamsters.



### ELDOTC

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Hannah Belcher-Timme, DVM  
Denise Chiminiello, DVM  
Leah Guidry, DVM  
Madison Harris, DVM



Amy Zander & Andrew Hersman, DVM

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[wilbrahamanimalhospital.com](http://wilbrahamanimalhospital.com)

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# WFOL Clothing and Household Textile Drive to benefit all

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham Friends of the Library, a non-profit committed to raising funds for the Wilbraham Public Library, is holding a clothing drive on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

With millions of pounds of clothing and household textiles ending up in U.S. landfills each year, the Friends are working to raise awareness of waste and inspire consumers 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 Oct. 14, 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 1-4, 2024.

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



This group of people has taken a trip to Jamaica to care for youths as part of Mustard Seed Communities.

## BARN PARTY from page 1

streets or taken to the public hospitals under an assumed name and are never picked up.”

Collins, a Boston College alum, first learned about Mustard Communities more than 15 years ago.

While reading the Boston College newspaper online, he saw a blurb about a trip to do maintenance and interact with the young residents at a Jamaican home for disabled youth.

Collins made his first trip in 2008 and has only missed two years since due to the pandemic. He said the group that makes the annual trip is called “Boston College Alumni and Friends”, but you don’t have to be a graduate of Boston College to be involved.

“We go down each year with eight to 10 people and spend a week down there,” Collins said. “If you get involved, you just will be so impressed. Up here in the states, we all kind of know we have it made, but you really don’t appreciate it and know it fully until you go to a country like this and see how some other people live and what they’re lives are like.”

Kristin Kerwin, director of communications for Mustard Seed Communities, traveled to Hampden for the celebration on Sept. 25. She was moved by the positivity in the barn and further explained the nonprofit’s vision.

“We seek to shelter, feed, nourish, house and give food to children with disabilities who have been abandoned in developing countries and have HIV and teen moms who are in need of a house. We feed 1,200 kids a day in our nutrition program in Zimbabwe and (care for children at homes in the other listed countries),” Kerwin said.

Gregory Ramkissoon, a priest, founded Mustard Seed Communities in 1978 on the outskirts of Kingston, Jamaica. While he could not attend this year, Ramkissoon was present during last year’s celebration in Hampden.

“It’s not just the amount of money raised. It’s the amount of love registered. That’s why I come,” Ramkissoon said in 2022. “Think about if you have to worry



Don Collins opened his barn on Main Street on Sept. 25 for a fundraiser for Mustard Seed Communities.

about your next meal. Just say a prayer for all the millions of children that is their life, wondering where is their next meal.”

Kerwin credited Collins and the other supporters on hand for giving out of their own kindness. She noted that the children Mustard Seed Communities cares for don’t really have a home; the nonprofit is their safety net.

“If they didn’t have Mustard Seed, they would be literally on the street still or in institutions that are not safe and don’t take care of them how they need to be taken care of,” she said.

Regarding the mission trips, Kerwin said volunteers are needed. She said the benefit of participating in a mission trip is being able to open yourself to a different way of seeing culture and a new way of meeting people.

She praised supporters like Collins for seeing the transformative work that Mustard Seed Communities does.

“We are in the business of changing lives, and we have children who come in and are in really dire positions medically, and we provide physical therapy, nourishment, love, and we see such a transformation in their lives that it just catches on,” she said. “People go down to Jamaica and see this. They see the light in the children’s eyes and are able to say, ‘I want to be part of this.’ Then, they come back here to communities like Hampden and (tell their stories).”

For more information, one can visit [mustardseed.com](http://mustardseed.com) or visit Mustard Seed Communities on Facebook or Instagram.

# Oliveira and Senate colleagues pass comprehensive tax relief package

BOSTON — On Thursday, Sept. 28, Senator Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and his colleagues in the Senate passed one of the most generous tax relief packages in decades aimed at providing responsible tax relief to Massachusetts’ residents and businesses and making the Commonwealth more affordable, equitable, and competitive.

The total impact for fiscal year 2024 will be \$561.3 million, with a \$519.3 million on-budget impact. In fiscal year 2027, when fully phased in, the total impact will be \$1.02 billion, with a \$969.3 million on-budget impact. Senator Oliveira was encouraged by the package that will “put money back into people’s pockets.”



Senator Jake Oliveira

“When you look at this considerable and well thought out package, you’re going to see tax relief that is focused on not only bringing equity to those who need it the most but also one that is both inclusive and far-reaching,” said Oliveira.

Oliveira highlighted the significant impact the package would have on families.

“The expanded Child and Dependent Tax Credit will more than double what families can claim per dependent by 2024, going from 180.00 to 440.00,” he said. “This will benefit more than 565,000 families and become the most generous universal child and dependent tax credit in the country. I’m grateful to the Conference Committee for this incredible expansion and my colleagues in the Legislature for agreeing to support families as much as possible.”

Additional package highlights in-

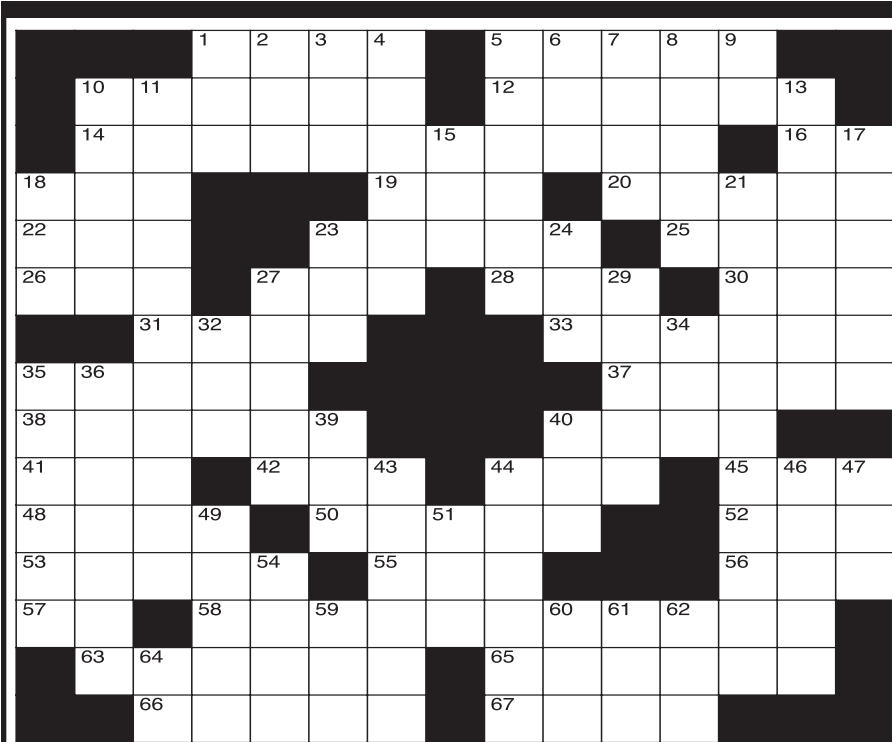
clude increased earned income tax credit and the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit. The earned income tax credit will increase from 30% to 40% of the federal credit increase and provide crucial support to working individuals and families, benefitting nearly 400,000 taxpayers with

incomes under \$60,000. The Senior Circuit breaker credit increase doubles the maximum senior circuit breaker credit from \$1,200 to \$2,400. This increase will make it easier for approximately 100,000 seniors who struggle with high housing costs to stay in their homes.

Oliveira also praised the Conference Committee’s decisions to include credits for users of Regional Transit Authorities. A choice he believes shows the Legislature’s commitment to regional equity. “The decision to make regional transit passes eligible for the commuter expense tax deduction shows the Legislature’s commitment to all of Massachusetts, including the many folks out here in Western Mass who use regional transit in their daily lives.”

“Another detail in the package that will provide relief to more rural areas of the state is the Septic System Tax Credit. This bill will triple the maximum credit from \$6,000 to \$18,000 and increase the amount claimable to \$4,000 per year, easing the burden on homeowners in Western Mass who are facing the high cost of tank replacement or repair,” said Oliveira.

Having passed the House of Representatives and Senate, the bill now goes to the governor for her consideration.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 5. Byproduct of fire
- 10. Talked
- 12. Unique skill
- 14. Unembarrassed
- 16. Where teenagers go
- 18. Boxing’s GOAT
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Reproductive structure found in rust fungi
- 22. Auburn great Newton
- 23. Some are for Christmas
- 25. Dried, split pulses
- 26. Self
- 27. Where to get your mail
- 28. High schoolers’ test
- 30. Flightless bird
- 31. Expectorated
- 33. Practice of misrepresenting the truth
- 35. Type of patch
- 37. French river
- 38. Told on
- 40. Hillside
- 41. Peyton’s little brother
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Progressive country musician
- 45. Witness
- 48. Brews
- 50. Yellowish-brown
- 52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- 53. Mexican agave
- 55. Type of “cast”
- 56. Popular breakfast food
- 57. Atomic #52
- 58. Position north or south of the equator
- 63. Gadget
- 65. Another recording
- 66. Irregular bulges in cell membranes
- 67. Dark brown

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Licensed for Wall Street
- 2. Partner to flow
- 3. A very large body of water
- 4. Accumulate on the surface of
- 5. Central cores of stems
- 6. Angry
- 7. Spanish stew: \_\_\_ podrida
- 8. Fastened with a pin
- 9. On your way: \_\_\_ route
- 10. Soviet labor camp system
- 11. Enmities
- 13. B complex vitamin
- 15. Go quickly
- 17. Toast
- 18. A team’s best pitcher
- 21. Philly culinary specialty
- 23. Small child
- 24. Unhappy
- 27. Trims away
- 29. Full of tears
- 32. Touch softly
- 34. Former OSS
- 35. A person’s chest
- 36. Came from behind
- 39. Fall back
- 40. Nellie \_\_\_, journalist
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Weather
- 46. Sports broadcaster lan
- 47. Electroencephalograph
- 49. Phenyl salicylate
- 51. Web of Things
- 54. Ship goods as cargo
- 59. The bill in a restaurant
- 60. Young female
- 61. OJ trial judge
- 62. One’s grandmother
- 64. West Siberian river

## Wilbraham Public Library's Teens Who Code

First meeting pushed back to Jan. 31, 2024

WILBRAHAM -- Teens Who Code will have their first meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Wilbraham Public Library. Facilitated by Mrs. Christine Goonan, this club is looking for new members. Grades 6-12 can explore project-based coding in a fun and friendly environment. Meetings are once a month in the Teen Loft at the library, and all attendees need a laptop to join in. Online registration is required at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org) or call 413-596-6141. After registering, teens will receive more info by email. This is a free program hosted by the Wilbraham Public Library.

## Wilbraham United Church to sell pumpkins from Oct. 15-31

Fall Festival to occur Oct. 21

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham United Church will be selling pumpkins at their Pumpkin Patch daily from Oct. 15-31. Shoppers can pick their perfect pumpkins and take advantage of photo opportunities Monday through Saturday between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sundays between noon and 7 p.m.

Pumpkin sales benefit the Wilbraham United Church Steeple

Repair fund. Cash or Credit Cards will be accepted. Donations to the Steeple Fund are also gratefully received!

On Saturday, Oct. 21, the church will hold an outdoor Fall Festival featuring the pumpkin sales as well as pumpkin painting activities, food trucks, a bake sale, arts and crafts vendors and more fall fun!

The festival begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.

Wilbraham United Church is located at 500 Main St. in Wilbraham.

## Hike along the New England Trail set for Oct. 22

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham Hiking Club is delighted to announce that a Moderate Mount Holyoke Hike along the New England Trail is now set for Oct. 22! Participation is limited to 12 hikers, so please sign up soon at [wilbrahamrec.com](http://wilbrahamrec.com) to take part in this wonderful opportunity for an uphill hike with very rewarding views. Please note that the terrain is very rocky with several steep climbs. There will be one point where hikers might need to climb down some rocks.

# Events & announcements schedule

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

WILBRAHAM -- The town of Wilbraham is excited to announce that both the Wilbraham Fire and Wilbraham Police Departments will be hosting open houses on Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at their Boston Road stations. During the event, public safety personnel will be offering station tours and showcasing various equipment that helps keep the community safe.

## 50th Reunion for Minnechaug Class of 1973

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

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

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

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

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

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham Friends of the Library is holding a pollinator plant sale on Saturday, Oct.

7 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Wilbraham Public Library, 25 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham. Cash or checks only. There will be a variety of pollinator friendly biennials, perennials, shrubs and vines available for sale at the library. Early October is an excellent time to plant, the ground is warm enough to support root growth and there is plenty of time for plants to get established before winter sets in. According to the USDA, "Three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. That's one out of every three bites of food you eat. More than 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths, birds and bats, and beetles and other insects." Help keep these important pollinators fed by planting their favorite food sources in your garden. Proceeds from the sale will benefit both the Wilbraham Public Library and Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke. The sale is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library, which was established in 1973. The Friends of the Library fund programs for children, teens and adults, as well as the library's popular Museum Pass program, furnishings and other library equipment. For more information, contact the Friends at [friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org](mailto:friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org).

## Harvest Fundraiser Dinner on Oct. 7

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

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

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

## Searching your family history with Ancestry Library Edition

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

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

tips for researching genealogy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham Friends of the Library are presenting their Annual Art Exhibit, taking place at the Brooks Room of the Wilbraham Public Library through Oct. 29 with a reception for artists, Friends and the public, Saturday, Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Artists will be able to sell additional unframed pieces at the reception. The library is located at 25 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham. The show is open for various art media, and Chairman Mary Bandouveres is now welcoming artist's applications. Respond early at [wplartshow@gmail.com](mailto:wplartshow@gmail.com) to insure your spot. Entry deadline is September 22.

The event is free and open to the public. This show is always popular and many of the artists will have pieces for sale. The show is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library which was established in 1973.

The Friends of the Library fund programs for children, teens, and adults, as well as the library's popular Museum Pass program, furnishings, and other library equipment. For more information, contact the Friends at [friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org](mailto:friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org).

## Get ready to shake, rattle & roll!

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

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

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

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

# SPORTS

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## Late goals lift Chaug over Agawam

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM—After scoring a goal 29 seconds into the opening half, it looked like the Minnechaug girls' varsity soccer team wouldn't have very much trouble dispatching Agawam for the second consecutive year.

The non-league match wound up being a little more difficult than longtime Minnechaug head coach Nundi Goncalves and his players thought it would be.

The Lady Falcons, who didn't score another goal until there was less than a minute remain-

ing in regulation, walked away with a 2-0 victory at Harmon A. Smith Field, last Wednesday afternoon.

"Every time that we come here it's a hard-fought battle," Goncalves said. "Agawam is a well-organized and they're a well-coached team. They came to play today. It was a good high school soccer game."

The Lady Falcons, who also defeated Coombs Division rival Belchertown 1-0 last week, entered the first week of October with a 5-2 overall record. They were the top ranked team in the first MIAA Division 2 power rankings.

The Brownies, who fell to 3-5, are the 24th ranked team in Division 2. The top 32 teams in each of the five Divisions automatically qualify for the state tournament.

For the first time since 2019, Agawam head coach Laura Wray-Ramos faced Minnechaug without her daughter, Lilli, wearing a Lady Falcons uniform.

Lilli Ramos, who was a four-year member of the Lady Falcons varsity soccer team, is currently a freshman member of the Elms College women's

soccer team. After meeting with coach Goncalves and a few of her former teammates during the pregame warm-ups, Lilli Ramos watched last Wednesday's match from the Agawam bench.

"Lilli played soccer at Minnechaug for the last four years, and it was nice to have her sitting on my bench today," Wray-Ramos said. "I know a lot of the Minnechaug players, and I've been coaching against Nundi for the past 25 years. There is a lot of mutual respect between the two teams."

A year ago, Minnechaug celebrated a 4-0 win against Agawam on senior night.

During the fall of 2021, the Brownies posted a 1-0 home shutout versus the Lady Falcons.

With 39:31 remaining in the first half of last Wednesday's contest, Minnechaug sophomore midfielder Ava Kearney received a pass from senior forward Bianca Facchetti and put a shot into the back of the net giving the visiting team from Wilbraham a 1-0 lead.

"I really wasn't expecting us to score a goal 29 seconds into

Please see **SOCCER**, page 9



Ava Kearney goes after the loose ball.



Ainsley Holden tries to keep the ball from going out of bounds.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

## Field hockey gets big win over Lancers



Kate O'Connor chases down a loose ball.



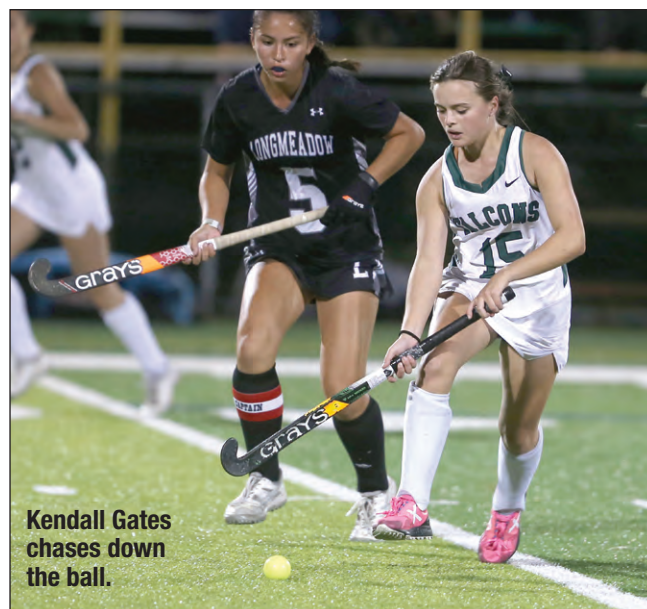
Audrey Izzo looks to pass.



Serina Chan socks a pass up the turf.



Ainsley Sheehan makes a backhand play.



Kendall Gates chases down the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Falcons edged by Orioles



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande  
Chad Santos uses his body to keep possession of the ball.

WILBRAHAM – Last Monday afternoon, Belchertown boys soccer took one away from Minnechaug, winning 2-1. For the Orioles, they improved to 5-3-1. Minnechaug fell to 2-3-2. The Falcons also had a tough match with East Longmeadow, falling 7-1 last Thursday afternoon. The Falcons hope to get back on track when they face Ludlow on Oct. 6.

## Bonsignore heads for Thompson for big event

NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C. – After 150 laps at North Wilkesboro Speedway, Justin Bonsignore brought his No. 51 machine home in third-place on Saturday night. As the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour made their debut at the North Carolina oval in the Brushy Mountain Powersports 150, Bonsignore ran inside the top-five for much of the race.

A final green-white-checked finish where Bonsignore lined up in fifth was exactly what he needed in the Phoenix Communications entry. Bonsignore followed fellow championship contender Ron Silk up through the field to finish third, just behind Silk.

In the title battle, Bonsignore will hold a two-point lead heading for the final two races of the season.

“The green-white-checked restart definitely helped get us back to the podium,” Bonsignore said. “We got a good jump on the final restart. It was a good night for us. We were just a bit tight on the second set of tires. It’s going to go down to the end. It’s going to be a championship battle for the ages.”

Bonsignore will move to Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park next on Sunday, Oct. 8 for the Sunoco World Series 150. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is part of a three-day event at Thompson next weekend.

For more information on three-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore, visit JustinBonsignore.com and follow his Athlete page on Facebook for the latest news and updates, including from the track on race day.

## Cambridge half-marathon registration open

CAMBRIDGE – Registration is open for the Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide. The races are scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 5 (race begins 7 a.m. EST) on a gorgeous new course with views of the Charles River along Memorial Drive.

The Cambridge Half Marathon is a 13.1 mile fast and flat course featuring views of the MIT, John W. Weeks Footbridge, Harvard University Stadium, Charles River and more. The new 5K race also offers scenic views alongside the Charles River. Both courses are USATF certified and start and finish at CambridgeSide.

Race registration includes quarter zip pull over (half marathon participants) or long sleeve shirt (5K participants), five complimentary CambridgeSide parking passes, training plan, race bib with timing chip, and finishing medal. Register for both races at CambridgeSide.com.

Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at Cambridg-



Ryan Purchas goes stride for stride with a Belchertown player.



Matt Ryan passes the ball away.



Brady Suomala tips a shot away.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



Noah Dunn follows through on a pass.



Chase Harrison makes a long throw-in.

### BACKYARD from page 6

The American white pelican is one of the largest birds in North America. It can soar for long distance and often flies in line or V formation. During breeding season, they may do flights involving soaring and diving. They are generally quiet away from their breeding grounds. The young in the nest can give loud whines or grunts.

#### Bald eagle

An Oakham couple camped with family members at Lake Denison over the Labor Day weekend. They spotted a bald eagle while kayaking. Upon returning to shore, their son was looking at a bird perched in a tree and said it was a bald eagle. They took turns watching the eagle through the binoculars.

#### Lots of wild turkeys

Seeing wild turkeys along the side of the road or even having to stop while they cross the road is a common occurrence in my travels around the area. This Monday, I

stopped and watched a flock of six or so Tom turkeys. The three largest ones displayed their tail feathers in what looked like a competition between them.

Although wild turkeys are a common sighting now, I enjoy watching them. I also see flocks of several hens with their poults in various stages of growth.

#### Hummingbirds

The ruby throated hummingbirds are now migrating. Many people keep their nectar feeders out until later this month for a food source for the stragglers. Soon, it will be time to take in the nectar feeders, clean them and put them away until next May when the ruby throated hummingbirds return.

#### Audubon society sightings

In addition to the American white pelican in Otis, the Massachusetts Audubon Society reported another rare sighting a masked booby at the edge of the continental shelf near Hydrographer Canyon. The booby was one of only three or four sightings ever record-

ed in Massachusetts.

Other sightings included red crossbills at Montague Plains Wildlife Management area, eight red crossbills at the Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area in Winchendon, four sandhill cranes Meadows Conservation Area near Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Northampton, and upland sandpiper, a whimbrel, a Baird’s sandpiper, a short-billed dowitcher, a dickcissel and two lark sparrows in Northampton. Also reported were a Bonaparte’s gull and a common tern at the Quabbin Reservoir Visitor Center in Belchertown and three black vultures over Mount Wachusett in Princeton.

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

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## T-Birds make roster moves ahead of opener

SPRINGFIELD – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today the team has assigned 12 players to its AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds, including forwards Mikhail Abramov, Drew Callin, Tanner Dickinson, Andre Heim, and Mitch Hoelscher, defensemen Jeremie Biakabutuka, Joseph Duszak, Marc-Andre Gaudet, Austin Osmanski, and Hunter

Skinner, and goaltenders Will Cranley and Vadim Zherenko. In addition, the Blues released forward Nick Ritchie and defenseman Andy Welinski from their professional tryouts.

The Calder Cup quest begins on Saturday, Oct. 14 for Opening Night presented by MGM Springfield. In the team's annual tradition, fans will be treated to a pregame Block Party on the property of MGM Springfield from 4 to 6 p.m. presented by Com-

munity Bank N.A. with the support of the Springfield Business Improvement District (BID). The outdoor bash will feature live music, food, and drink. Thunderbirds fans will have the opportunity to get their hands on a plethora of giveaway souvenir items this season, beginning on Opening Night with jersey-shaped rally towels on each and every seat at the MassMutual Center.

## Owls hold on for first victory

WESTFIELD – Westfield State's Max Margeson (Littleton, Colo./Mullen HS) and Alec Rodriguez (Westfield, Mass.) combined for a memorable interception return play for a touchdown to lift the Owls to a 17-10 win over Massachusetts Maritime Academy at Alumni Field on Saturday to bring a happy conclusion to Family and Champions Weekend.

Margeson delivered a perfectly timed hit on MMA wide receiver Andrew Brightman (Wareham, Mass./Upper Cape Tech) to jar loose the ball on a catch, with the ball pinging directly to Owls' linebacker Rodriguez for the interception at the MMA 32-yard line. Rodriguez returned the ball a couple of yards before Brightman snagged him by the ankle, and Rodriguez handed the ball off to Margeson, who rambled 30 yards through traffic for the touchdown to give Westfield a 17-10 lead with 9:07 left in the third quarter.

The Owls hung on down the stretch for the win, improving to 1-4 on the season and 1-2 in the MASCAC. MMA slips to 1-3 overall and 1-1 in the league.

The two teams traded salvos in the first half, with the Buccaneers getting on the board on their first drive of the game with a 7-play, 73-yard march that was capped by a 29-yard TD pass to Brightman on deep post route completion from quarterback Marc Murphy (Norwood, Mass.).

Westfield answered on their first drive, getting a big 52-yard kick return from Christian Julian (Hingham, Mass.) to set up the drive at the MMA 32. Seven plays later, Westfield's Jordan Smith (Coventry, Conn.) rumbled four yards up the middle for a game tying TD.

The two clubs traded field goals in the final 10 seconds of the half. MMA got a 24-yard TD from Logan Tsai (E. Freetown, Mass./Appoquonnet) to take a 10-7 lead with eight seconds left in the half.

Westfield got the ball back on the ensuing kickoff, and Owls QB Gabriel Fernandez (Holyoke, Mass.) found Danny Farrell (Milford, Mass.) on a 25-yard completion and a personal foul on the Buccaneers gave the Owls the ball at the MMA 22 yardline with four seconds left in the half.

Westfield State first-year kicker Cooper Harvey (Niskayuna, N.Y.) booted a 39-yard field goal as time expired to tie the game 10-10 at the half.

Neither team particularly threatened the end zone after the big interception return by the Owls. MMA drove the ball as far as the Owls' 38-yard line with less than two minutes to play, but Tyler Cooley (Randolph, Mass./Arch. Williams) dropped Murphy for a loss on third down, and Murphy's long bomb try to Brightman on fourth down fell incomplete to end the threat, and Westfield knelt on the ball three times to run out the clock.

Fernandez finished 14-25 passing for 138 yards. Farrell finished with six catches for 65 yards, and Smith rushed for 77 yards on 25 carries.

For MMA, Murphy completed 12 of 23 passes for 206 yards with a TD and an interception. Daniel Molloy (Franklin, Mass.) led the rushing attack with seven carries for 22 yards, and Brightman finished with eight catches for 96 yards. Molloy added three catches for 54 yards.

Defensively, Cooley led the Owls with 13 tackles, and Cam Danahy (Kingston, Mass./Silve Lake) added nine. Dylan Clark (Bellows Falls, Vt./BFA) came up with two big plays with two tackles for losses of 12 yards.

Liam Hines (Quincy, Mass./North Quincy) led MMA with seven tackles. Owen Shea (Scituate, Mass./Norwell) made five tackles, 2.5 TFL's and a sack.

Westfield heads into its bye week, before returning to host its homecoming game against UMass-Dartmouth on Saturday, Oct. 14. MMA faces UMass Dartmouth next Saturday, Oct. 7 with a 4 p.m. kick off in North Dartmouth, Mass.



Kylie Ray looks to shoot.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande  
Kelly Cronin heads down the left side of the field.



Zoey Cardano tries to corral this pass.



Bianca Fachetti heads up right through the middle of the field.

### SOCCER from page 1

the game," Goncalves said. "I was hoping to score two or three more after that, but we just relaxed. We didn't score another goal until the final minute of the game."

Following the match, Goncalves congratulated Agawam senior goalie Joann Schmuck, who made more than ten saves.

"She just did a great job," Goncalves said. "She gave her team a chance."

Following a corner kick in the fourth minute, a header by Minnechaug senior midfielder Zoey Cardano sailed over the crossbar.

About ten minutes later, Agawam senior midfielder Ella Wood sent a pass into the box towards senior forward Isabello Castro, but Min-

nechaug junior goalie Makenzi Pastreck (2 saves) made a diving save on the ball.

Castro also played defense during the match.

Pastreck's only other save was on a shot attempt by sophomore midfielder Kylie Warner in the middle of the opening half.

It was also Pastreck's fifth shut-out of the regular season.

The Lady Falcons had a total of eight shots on goal during the first 40 minutes.

Three of them were from senior midfielder Kylie Ray. Senior midfielder Claire Poindexter also had two shots in the first half, while senior midfielder Paige Hebert, senior

forward Gianna Sakowski, and Fachetti had one each.

The Lady Falcons had several more scoring chances during the second half.

With less than five minutes remaining, a wide open shot by Kearney was saved by Schmuck.

Kearney didn't miss her next wide open shot, as her goal with 40 seconds sealed the deal for the Lady Falcons. Cardano was credited with the assist.

It was the only meeting of the regular season between the two teams.

## Fall Market at Outside the Box Gift Shop

LUDLOW – On Sunday, Oct. 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., crafters and all residents are invited to enjoy tasty treats, face painting and free popcorn during Outside the Box Gift Shop's Fall Market. Come join the fun on the back lawn at 314 Sewall St., Ludlow.

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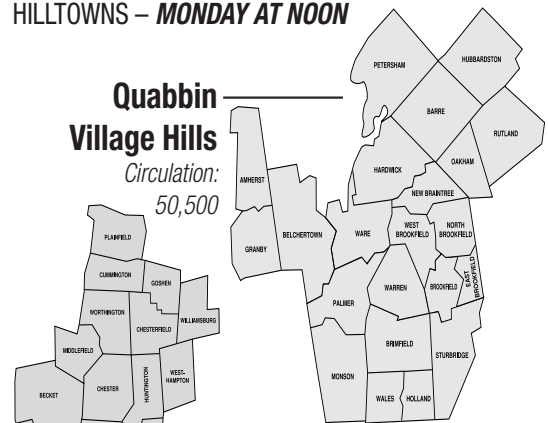
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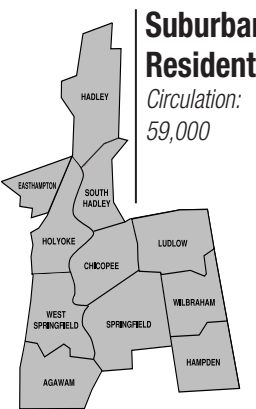
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