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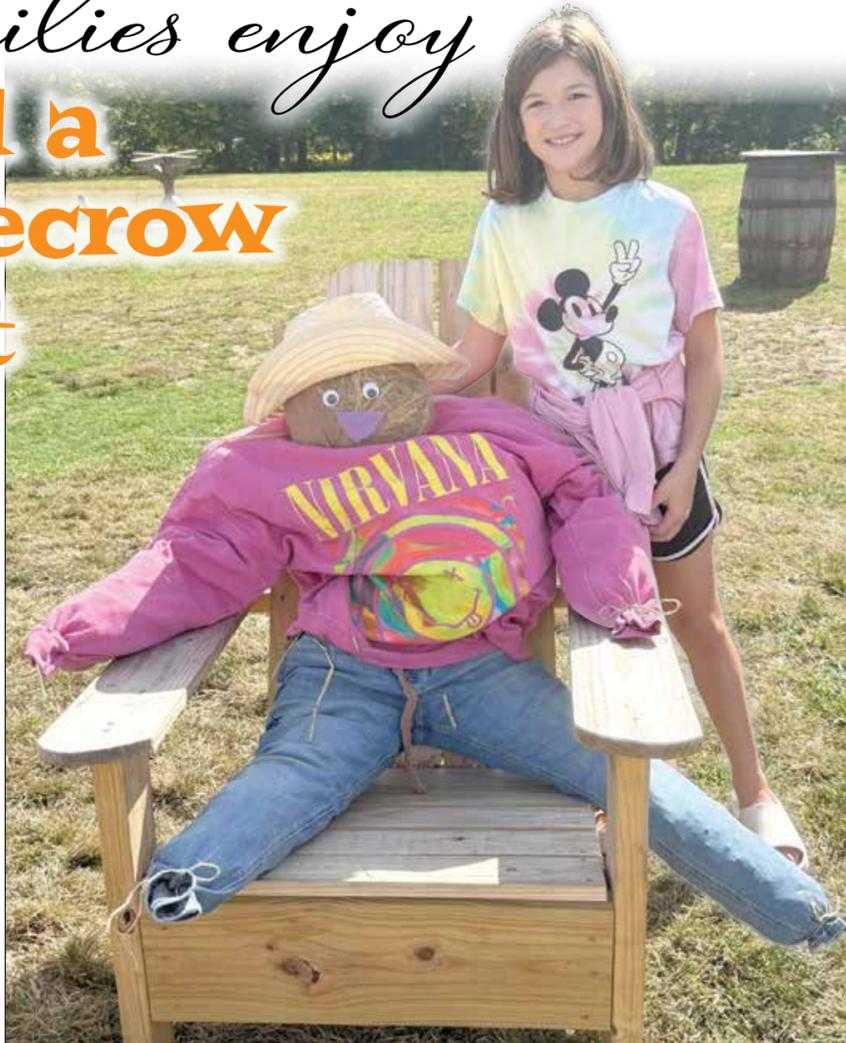
Families enjoy Build a Scarecrow event

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Families gathered outside Rice Fruit Farm on Sept. 27 and 28 for this year's Build a Scarecrow event.

The fundraising event was sponsored by the Minnechaug Regional High School Student Council.

Throughout the event, Student Council members assisted families in creating their own scarecrow with all the trimmings including a hat, stuffing them with hay, big googly eyes and craft pieces to make the faces and whatever shirt and jeans they liked. Afterward, families took their scarecrows home and also posed them in the Adirondack chairs outside Rice's for fun photos.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Harper with her scarecrow decked out in a Nirvana t-shirt, one of many children who had a great time making a scarecrow with help from the Minnechaug Regional High School Student Council.

Please see **SCARECROW**, page 8

HFD to take on Public Safety Night Out

Also, HSC Friends donation announcement

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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HAMPDEN - The fire department will be taking on the Public Safety Night Out event, Fire Chief Ed Poulin announced during the Sept. 29 Selectboard meeting.

Poulin explained how the police department—who has overseen it in the past—would not be doing it this year.

"We believe it's a great community event. The fire department would like to succeed in putting on the event. We might have to change the date to the 17th or 24th. We're going to try for the 17th. We're kind of close, but we have a lot to—material or information—to transfer from the police department to us," Poulin said. "Like I said, it's a great community event. A lot of people come out, a lot of people enjoy it. Just to engage with the public is huge. So, we'd like to continue it."

Poulin then shared what he was looking for from the board.

"I guess we're looking for permission from the board to one, have it at TWB

and two, to have the ability to apply permits needed," Poulin said.

Chair John Flynn expressed support for this.

"I can't see what any reason why the board would be against that type of thing," Flynn said. "Based on what's happened before and Don—you're the chair of the Board of Health—we have, typically, requests for food trucks and stuff like that. So, that might take a little more time getting that out."

Flynn recommended the fire department aim for Oct. 24 "to give enough time."

"The last event had three or four food trucks, Don, perhaps?" Flynn said.

"Yeah," Selectboard Member Don Davenport said.

"Just these other community people that want to participate. For instance, even the Board of Health, the senior center as well—they have a table—they need more time to get that together," Flynn said.

Davenport agreed.

The board unanimously approved the fire department to take on the Public Safety Night Out, which will be slated for Friday, Oct. 24.

Next, the Friends of

Please see **SAFETY**, page 5

Above the Influence Club Walk brings community together

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WILBRAHAM - Residents, community members, Minnechaug Regional High School students and alums and more gathered outside the high school on Sept. 27 for the Eighth Annual Above the Influence Club Walk.

The annual event took place at the Minnechaug Outdoor Cross Country Trail and supported the Partnership to End Addiction.

This year's sponsors were Park Cleaners, Inc.,

Guardian Uniform & Supply, Gio's Pizzeria, Mandarin Wilbraham, Rice Fruit Farm, Fiore Real Estate, Five Star Games - Wilbraham, Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth, Spartan Auto Care Center, LUSO Federal Credit Union, Village Store & Cafe, Pawspaw Full Service Pet Spa, InnerGlow Skin Studio, Biermann Services, StricklyCustoms, Country Bank, The Plaza Shoppe, Steve's Sports, Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden, Comb &



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The participants of this year's Above the Influence Club Walk at Minnechaug Regional High School. The event was held Sept. 27.

Please see **WALKING CLUB**, page 10

Wilbraham United Church opens Annual Pumpkin Patch

By Natalie Proulx
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - This past Sunday, Oct. 5, the Wilbraham United Church opened their Annual Pumpkin Patch.

This event runs through the entire month of October, offering a great variety of pumpkins to pick and decorate your home with this season.

"We will have a range of pumpkins," Deb Trimble, the administrative assistant and coordinator for the Wilbraham United Church, said. "From the very small tennis ball sized up to the very large jack-o-lantern orange pumpkins."

Trimble mentioned that there will also be specialty gourds for sale like "swan gourds," and "Elf Houses," as well as "Cinderella Pumpkins," all in different colors,



Turley photos by Natalie Proulx

Wilbraham United Church Pumpkin Patch Sign.

shapes and sizes.

Pumpkin and gourd prices may vary depending on shape and size, offering small pumpkins for a dollar and larger pumpkins that are priced by their size. Recommended payments are cash and credit cards.

The patch will be run daily through the month of October from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and open 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

on Sundays.

The United Church works with Pumpkin Patch USA who provide the pumpkin inventory and coordinate this fundraiser for churches and schools, scouts, youth groups, habitat groups and other non-profit organizations all over the country. The pumpkins provided this year are sourced from a Navajo

Please see **PATCH**, page 8

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

People from the Past are gone but not forgotten

From John Lovejoy to Evanore O. Beebe

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

While writing about

Glendale citizen B. Franklin Green in our September column, with help from historian Henry Edson's memoirs, I got this idea to provide a purely random list of prominent citizens from Wilbraham and offer a little profile on why they were important to the town.

In past columns, we had written about Wilbraham historic figures like Rev. Noah Merrick, Deacon Nathan-

iel Warriner and first settler Nathaniel Hitchcock. In the August column we reviewed Lt. Thomas Merrick, Daniel Warner, Isaac Brewer and Revolutionary War soldier Lt. William King. The following are more town folks of interest:



Charlie Bennett

Fred W. Green

Fred Green was the epitome of a "town father", a go-to guy who served as a tax collector, assessor, selectman, postmaster and all while being a registered Democrat in a Republican town. One of the few persons from the Democratic party to hold office in Wilbraham's history. Green was appointed

Please see **HISTORY**, page 11

55 Years Ago Work Nears Completion

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From an October 1970 edition. "The project of widening Springfield Street from Faculty Street to the Stony Hill Road intersection is nearing completion, Walter F. Markett Jr. town engineer, said Friday.

Markett said the roadway surface has been completely installed and bituminous curbing is in the process of being installed, weather permitting."

Wilbraham Select Board makes key appointment, reappointment

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Select Board made several key decisions at the start of its meeting on Monday, Sept. 29.

The town officials re-appointed Police Chief Ed Lennon and appointed RN Jennifer Puhalski to a position on the Advisory Board of Health.

Police Chief reappointed

Lennon was reappointed to a term lasting through June 30, 2028. He entered the position on June 25, 2022, following the retirement of former Police Chief Robert Zollo.

Prior to that, he served the town's police department as a captain. His reappointment on Monday came without much discussion, as the board members quickly showed their faith in Lennon and appreciation for the job that he has done leading the police department over the past three-plus years.

Lennon's reappointment did come after some disappointing news. Earlier in September, Lennon discussed how difficult it has been to land new police officers.

At a meeting several weeks ago, an officer candidate cancelled his appointment with the board several minutes beforehand. Something similar appeared to happen entering Monday night.

"We were informed just prior to this meeting that Mr. Charles O'Dowd, a candidate for the police officer

interview, has withdrawn his application and will not be interviewing with us," Select Board Chair Michael Squindo announced.

The police department will continue its efforts to fill that position in the weeks to come.

Appointment made to Advisory Board of Health

One candidate who did make her way to Monday's meeting virtually was RN Jennifer Puhalski, who has worked for decades in the nursing field. Puhalski expressed interest in joining the Advisory Board of Health.

Squindo offered some information as to why the position on the Advisory Board of Health was open.

"It's my understanding at this point that we believe that Catherine Jurgens has moved out of town, so she's no longer able to remain on the Advisory Board of Health," Squindo said. "[Town Administrator Nick Breault] sent correspondence requesting confirmation, but it was returned to sender. So, if the board sees fit, we can declare that vacancy in order to consider an application."

At first, it appeared as though Puhalski's appointment would have to wait, as she was late to the meeting, but she did show up and was eventually named to the position. She offered information as to her background and why she is interested in serving on the town's Advisory Board of Health.

"I have been a nurse for, wow, 40 years," Puhalski said. "I have done general

pediatric nursing for most of my career and did a good stint of public health when I lived in Seattle. I loved the whole public health work and lens on things. It was an amazing job. I moved back to the East Coast where I am originally from and did some more pediatric nursing."

Puhalski realized she wanted to get into the school system and blend her experience in public health with pediatrics, and she said it's worked out well.

She spent a decade as a middle school nurse in Wilbraham and is currently in her fourth year as the director of school health for the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District.

Puhalski became aware of the opening when the previous school health director, Teri Brand, mentioned it to her.

"I was interested with the feeling that my background and my current position as the director for the school district that I have a pretty good opportunity to know what's going on in the community with our families in the Hampden-Wilbraham community and, hopefully, I'll be able to offer some advice or guidance or whatever to the Board of Health. In a nutshell, that's where I'm at," Puhalski said.

Select Board Clerk Sue Bunnell vouched for Puhalski before the reappointment became official.

"I've gotten to know Ms. Puhalski, living adjacent to the neighborhood that she's in, and I'm thrilled with the idea of her being part of this," Bunnell said.



Theatre Guild of Hampden announces 'Lost in Yonkers' auditions

HAMPDEN - The Theatre Guild of Hampden is excited to announce their Fall (November) 2025 stage production of *Lost in Yonkers*.

This Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Nell Simon takes place in the 1940's and follows the life of Jay Kurnitz, a teenage boy sent with his younger brother, Arty, to live with his grandmother in Yonkers. It explores themes of abbreviated childhood, war and generational trauma.

Try-outs for the show will take place on Sunday March 2 at 2 p.m. and Wednesday March 5 at 7 p.m. in the Hampden Town Hall 625 Main St Hampden Mass.

downstairs in the Melville Room. Tryouts will be for the following roles:

Jay: He is fifteen "and a half" years old. The play tells his coming-of-age story.

Arty: Jay's younger brother, he is 13 "and a half" years old.

Bella: Jay's aunt, late 30's to early 40's. She is sometimes a bit off-center and is mentally challenged, but despite this she is also loving and protective of her nephews.

Louie: Jay's flamboyant, jovial uncle, in his late 30s, who comes to live with the family when he is hiding from the local mob. He works as a "bag-man" for the mob.

Grandma Kurnitz: Jay's grandmother. A very old and stern woman, an immigrant from Germany.

Eddie: Jay's middle-aged father. After the death of his wife, he is forced to send his two sons to live with their grandmother, while he repays his large financial debts.

Gert: Jay's aunt, and Grandma's daughter. She is a very interesting addition to the family.

Performances to take place Nov. 7-9 2025 and Nov. 14-16, 2025

For more information, please contact Rick Rubin 413-250-8108 or rrubin1@hotmail.com.

Crane Hill Road incident

WILBRAHAM – The police department shared this press release with the public on Oct. 3 regarding a heavy police presence at Crane Hill Road.

"On Oct. 3, at approximately 7:15 a.m., the Wilbraham Police Department responded to a residence on Crane Hill Road following reports that a male individual had threatened another person with a firearm.

Upon arrival, responding officers encountered an armed male who was actively discharging firearms. Due to the nature of the threat, assistance was requested from the Massachusetts State Police Special Tactical Operations Team.

After several hours of coordinated response, the suspect was safely taken into custody at approximately 12:30 p.m. No injuries were reported during the incident.

The investigation remains ongoing and is being conducted by the Wilbraham Police Department.

Motor vehicle crash

WILBRAHAM - On Oct. 3, at approximately 6:45 a.m., the Wilbraham Police and Fire Departments responded to reports of a serious motor vehicle crash on Monson Road near the intersection with Hol-

low Road. Upon arrival, emergency responders discovered three vehicles involved in the col-

lision. One male occupant was found trapped inside his vehicle and was extricated at the scene. He was transported to a local hospital with critical injuries.

The crash remains under investigation by the Wilbraham Police Department. Further details will be released as they become available.

WPL presents Fourth Annual Jack-O-Lantern Contest

WILBRAHAM- The Wilbraham Public Library invites families of all ages to join us for a spook-tacular evening of Halloween fun at the Fourth Annual Jack-O-Lantern Contest!

Get ready for glowing pumpkins, Halloween crafts, hot cider, and a festive atmosphere that's a little spooky, a lot of fun, and perfect for the whole family.

Kids and families are encouraged to carve their most creative Jack-o-Lanterns and bring them to display along

our StoryWalk® path. The event will take place indoors in the library in the event of inclement weather.

Entries may be submitted individually or as a family, but please use LED tealights—no real candles.

Wednesday, Oct. 29 • 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. • Outdoors at the Library (weather permitting).

Registration is required. To sign up, visit www.wilbrahamlibrary.org or call (413) 596-6141.

CLARIFICATION

The Times was recently made aware that the new vice chair of the School Committee is Michael Tirabassi and Sean Kennedy is no longer

vice chair. Tirabassi was selected as the new vice chair in July.

Michal Bourdeau, who has served as chair in the

past, was also reelected to chair and continues to serve in that capacity.

We apologize for any confusion.



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Prime Rib Night
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Sunday Brunch 9am-Noon



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Open Mic Night

Saturday, Nov. 8

7pm-9pm

Sign up to perform

EVANGEL ASSEMBLY
348 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham (East Wing)

Wilbraham's newest firefighter is excited to join the team

Renee Forgues leaves the Palmer FD to join Wilbraham's.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham's newest firefighter was appointed to a position within the department by the town's Select Board on Sept. 15.

Renee Forgues is leaving the Palmer Fire Department to join Wilbraham's. She interviewed with the Select Board and got a recommendation from Fire Chief Michael Andrews at the meeting several weeks ago before being appointed.

Forgues is a single mother of a 10-year-old girl who rides horses and plays hockey. She has been in the fire service for about five years and spent the past two years in Palmer.

She acquired her EMT license after Palmer started its fulltime ambulance service last October and said that she has been very busy since.

About a month ago, Forgues did a ride along with members of the Wilbraham Fire Department and was very impressed. She knew she wanted to join the team.

"I love the structure. Everything was just so wonderful, and everyone was just so well-educated. It was inspiring to be around, and they were all so knowledgeable," Forgues said. "When I found out about the position, I wanted to throw my hat in so while I learned to be a medic, I could learn to be a medic alongside ones that I respected so well. We don't run an ALS service in Palmer. So, I'm looking to further

my career somewhere I can hopefully retire from. That's pretty much my story and how I got here."

Each Select Board member asked Forgues two questions. Select Board Vice Chair Marc Ducey asked her if she would ever disobey a direct order and why.

Forgues provided a thoughtful answer.

"I hope not," Forgues said. "There is a chain of command for a reason. Most of the people who would be in charge know a lot more than I do, and I respect that. I suppose if there was a situation where I felt I really had to, then there would probably be something that they didn't see or they didn't know. I would really have to be prepared to back myself up on this."

Forgues was also asked what her most rewarding call as a firefighter has been. She described a situation at the beginning of the summer in which she and her colleagues were the first to arrive on scene for a rolled over car.

"When we got to the vehicle, I realized it was a friend of mine inside of the car. So, we had to extricate her from the car, and to her it was more of a serious situation. She wasn't hurt, thank goodness, but she did have to be extricated from the car, and it was a bit of a hassle to do so," Forgues said. "To be able to be there for a friend and a patient both at the same time was very rewarding. To be able to help her reminds you that the people you care about get in these situations, and you have to be there."

Select Board Clerk Sue Bunnell asked Forgues what her favorite firefighting tool is. She responded that it is most likely a Halligan.

"It pairs with an axe; you

can use it for many different things," Forgues said. "You can use it for forcible entry, you can use it to get out of something, you can use it to turn off gas, you can use it for a multitude of things. It's usually the first thing I'll grab when going to a structure fire."

When asked what policy she would enact if she was empowered to do so, Forgues said she would do more to help individuals going through difficult mental health situations.

"I wish that there would be something more we could do to maybe advocate for patients that are going through mental health crises. I say that because we have a couple patients who become frequent flyers," Forgues said. "I wish there was something more we could do for them to make life a little bit better. That's something I wish we could maybe help out with a little bit more."

Following Forgues' interview, Andrews spoke positively on her behalf. It appeared he was very proud to see her reach this point and join the squad.

"She did very well to make it in front of you. This is the second time she's interviewed with us. She did not make it to this point the last time, mostly because she did not have her paramedic [license] and was not in paramedic school at that point," Andrews said. "Since the last hiring process, she's enrolled in paramedic school, she's recruit-academy trained already, so she would be able to start right away. My recommendation is that we appoint her to the department."

The Select Board did just that, unanimously.

Fire Prevention Week

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, October 5-11, "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home," works to educate everyone about using these batteries safely.

1. Buy only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards.

2. Charge devices safely. Always use the cords that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved. Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

3. Recycle batteries responsibly. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire. Recycle your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit call2recycle.org (http://call2recycle.org/) to find a recycling spot near you.

A message from your Wilbraham and Hampden fire & life safety educators.

THE BEST FRESH FOR FALL FUN!

Randall's Best Ever Scarecrow Contest

October 18th & 19th
\$3,000 In Cash Prizes

TWO ENTRY CLASSES ~
YOUTH UP TO AGE 12
ADULTS 12 & OLDER

FIVE WINNING CATEGORIES
Best Overall, Most Creative,
Scariest, Most Traditional, Funniest

Twenty Different Prizes Plus Ten Charity Matches!

Bring Your Entry To The Greenhouse By End Of Day

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18TH

OCTOBER FALL FUN WORKSHOPS

Outside In The Garden Center

Saturdays, Sundays & Columbus Day

11AM – 4PM

SCARECROW MAKING WORKSHOP

MAKE YOUR OWN

LIFE-SIZE SCARECROW

We Provide All The Materials

"Make It Here" Or Buy A Kit To Make At Home

Pumpkin Decorating Workshop

We Provide The Pumpkins & Decorations

"Make It Here" Or Buy A Kit To Make At Home

Randall's Pumpkin Decorating Contest

October 25th & 26th

Beautiful HARDY MUMS

In Fabulous Fall Colors

Pumpkins, Pumpkins, Specialty Pumpkins!

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Volunteers needed for Trunk or Treat event

HAMPDEN — Hampden Parks & Recreation is seeking volunteers to decorate car trunks for its upcoming Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at Thorn-

ton Burgess Middle School. Community members, organizations, and businesses are invited to participate by decorating a trunk and handing out candy in a safe, fam-

ily-friendly setting. A prize will be awarded for the most original trunk.

To sign up or learn more, please contact parks@hampdenma.gov.

Hartsprings Truck event taking place Oct. 18

HAMPDEN – On Saturday, Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., a Hartsprings Truck Event will take place in the parking lot of the Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen Street Hampden. Items to be accepted are clothing, shoes, purses, jewelry, small kitchen items, such as toasters,

toaster ovens, can openers or other small kitchen items in good working order. Additionally, we can take dishes, books, glassware, bedding and luggage. However, no bed pillows or library books can be taken or large pieces of furniture or Mattresses.

If you have any ques-

tions, please contact Joan Shea at 413-566-8224.

Once again, thank you for your continued support to The Friends of the Hampden Senior Citizens.

All proceeds are used to support the ongoing programs at the Senior Center.

Evangel Assembly hosts Open Door Open Mic Night

WILBRAHAM - Evangel Assembly is excited to announce our Open Door Open Mic Night, a vibrant community event taking place on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. at Evangel Assembly, located at 348 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham in the East Wing.

This event is open to all, inviting guests to enjoy a night of diverse performances or take the

stage themselves for a five-minute performance of their choice. Whether you're a singer, poet, comedian, or storyteller, this is your chance to shine!

Open Mic participants can sign up to perform by visiting <https://evangelassembly.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1054840>. Spectators are welcome to come, relax, and enjoy an evening of lo-

cal talent and entertainment in a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

"We're thrilled to open our doors to the community for a night of creativity and connection," said Steve Devereaux, the Open Mic Organizer at Evangel Assembly. "This event is all about celebrating the diverse talents of our neighbors and fostering a sense of togetherness."

Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with laughter, music, and inspiration. Admission is free, there will be coffee and treats for donations, and all are welcome. For more information or to register for a performance slot, visit <https://evangelassembly.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1054840>.




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Cookbook Club hosts October meeting

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM- Cooking is an essential part of any community, whether it's friends or family, people can come together over a good meal.

This idea is what the Cookbook Club at the library practices whenever they meet to share good food.

Most recently, on Wednesday, Oct. 1, the Cookbook Club chose recipes from the book "Zaytinya: Delicious Mediterranean Dishes from Greece, Turkey, and Lebanon" by renowned chef José Andrés. Andrés not only cooks five-star meals, but is known for his humanitarian aid in war-ridden areas, like Ukraine and Gaza, as well as places where natural disasters occur.

Members of the club talked about Andrés' work, and how he "goes to these terrible places and provides help to those in need", as said by club member Roz, but also shared their thoughts on the recipes they saw in the book and the ones they brought.

During Cookbook Club, each member chooses a recipe to bring to the meet and share, allowing for everyone to try different recipes and taste unique and interesting food.

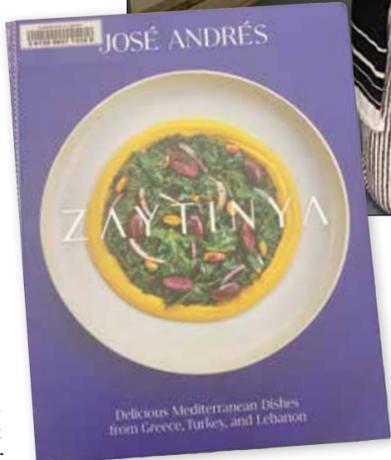
One member stated that "it's nice to have a different meal, not just the same meat and potatoes."

Some of the meals brought to the club include Tabbouleh, which is a Mediterranean



Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo

The Cookbook Club at the Wilbraham Public Library with their past bi-monthly cookbook.



The cook book for the Oct. 1 meeting was "Zaytinya" by José Andrés.

salad made of chopped tomatoes and mint, Roasted Red Pepper with Feta, Cucumber Melon Soup and Olive Oil Cake.

Those in attendance are welcomed to try all of the dishes brought, and talk about not just the food, but life in general. A point that was brought up continuously throughout the meal by most was how "the images of the food were so picturesque, and overall beautiful to look at."

Each dish came with its own story in the cookbook, which was found to be extremely interesting by many. Club member Roz shared, "There were many recipes I wanted to try, and the stories behind them are touching. When I first read through whatever cookbook we have, I end up making a list of all the recipes I could make. I'll eventually settle on one to bring, but they all look so good."

When asked about why she enjoys coming to Cookbook Club, member Lynn said, "I get to meet people, and I get to eat food. I also like cooking from the books, since they aren't always dishes I think about making."

"Last time, we cooked from Dolly Parton's book,

and I made one of her cakes, which was definitely a trial and error run, but that's like any kind of food you make for the first time. We're all making these dishes for, likely, the first time. We all like doing it and sharing what comes out of it," she said.

Cookbook Club is run bi-monthly on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., and its next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 3. The book chosen for next time is "Baking in the American South: 200 Recipes and Their Untold Stories".

While the last meet in October had a more diverse option of dishes—resulting in a meal—the December meet will be much more pastry-oriented.

WJWC Comfort Pillows

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is proud to announce that the Club has received a Rays of Hope grant to create Comfort Pillows!

Comfort Pillows are small hand-sewn and stuffed pillows for use by women undergoing breast cancer treatment and surgical breast procedures at Baystate Medical Center. The pillows are used as cushions for seatbelts and protection for sensitive areas post-surgery.

The Wilbraham Junior Women's Club has been hand-sewing, stuffing, packaging and delivering these small pillows to Baystate Medical Center to provide comfort and support for women following their procedures. We are extremely proud of our work! Over the years, we have delivered over 5,000 pillows to the hospital for distribution to patients.

Receiving a handmade Comfort Pillow is like receiving a hug from a group of local women who care and understand that a little extra

TLC is needed after undergoing invasive procedures. The Club regularly receives letters of thanks from women all across the western Massachusetts area. It's incredibly rewarding to hear from many of the women who have used our pillows and found them helpful! It's another small way our club makes a big difference in the lives of others.

The Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is an all-volunteer 501c3, non-profit organization. Our mission is to better our community through volunteer service. Any woman, 18 years or older, from Wilbraham or any surrounding town without a current Junior Women's Club is welcome to join.

For membership and club information, visit our website Wilbrahamjuniorwomens.org or contact Brenda Willard at (413) 279-1394. Please visit our booth at the upcoming Rays of Hope Walk in Springfield on October 19th to learn about our Club and the Comfort Pillow project.

Wilbraham Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

WILBRAHAM - Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs are due Thursday, October 16, 2025.

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

According to LCC chair, Jane Clark, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Wilbraham, including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, performances in schools, workshops, and lectures.

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

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

This year, the Wilbraham Cultural Council will distribute about \$10,800 in grants.

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

Wilbraham Junior Women's Club to host Designer Bag Bingo on Oct. 16

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

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

at 7PM. Admission tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Purchase a table of 10 for \$300, (a discounted rate of \$30 per ticket when purchased in advance!) Tickets include 10 bingo games, a dauber and a special lucky charm!

A cash bar will be available and attendees can bring their own snacks or order off

of the club's menu. Extra bingo cards will be available for purchase as well as raffle tickets for our spectacular bag-themed raffle of over 30 beautiful handbags! All proceeds benefit charitable projects in the community!

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

Veterans Day Breakfast

WILBRAHAM - The town of Wilbraham will hold their annual Veterans Day Breakfast on Nov. 6.

This event is open to all Wilbraham Veterans or surviving spouses and one guest.

When: Thursday, November 6th at 8 a.m.; **Where:** Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield Street

Breakfast is sponsored by the Wilbraham Junior Women's Club.

Please register by Nov. 3. Call (413)596-8379.

Java Jaunt going on now

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

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

Free passports are available to pick up at any of the participating coffee shops including Pan'e Dolcetti (Wilbraham), Common

Grounds (Wilbraham), Rice's Fruit Farm (Wilbraham), The Sugar Chalet (Wilbraham), The Better Bean (Monson), and Ludlow Coffee Co (Ludlow). Passports are also available at Fern Valley Market (Wilbraham).

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

We don't only work here, we live here too!

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Wilbraham-Hampden Academic Trust raises over \$10,000 at Family Fall Festival

WILBRAHAM — The Wilbraham-Hampden Academic Trust (W.H.A.T.) was thrilled to host its Second Annual Family Fall Festival on Sunday, Sept. 28 at the scenic Fern Valley Farms, welcoming hundreds of families from across the community for a day filled with fun, food, and fundraising—all in support of local education.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, the event raised over \$10,000, which will directly benefit educational enrichment initiatives within the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District.

“We’re beyond grateful to our community for their support,” said Briana LaChapelle, Brand and Marketing Director for W.H.A.T. “Each year, our events continue to grow—not only in attendance, but in the awareness and appreciation for the mission behind what we do. We’re seeing more and more families, local businesses, and educators express interest in getting involved, which is exactly how lasting impact is made.”

W.H.A.T. extends heartfelt thanks to this year’s event sponsors, including GMH Fence Co., Sarah Nolan Design, Forge Athletics, Shannon Mumblo Consulting, Fern Valley Farm, Dream On Event Designs, Luso Credit Union, NEPM, Pop Orthodontics, Cloverbrook Farms, Meadowbrook Farms, and Clean Restroom Rentals Inc. Their generosity helps ensure continued funding for vital educational initiatives across

the district.

This year’s festival featured an incredible lineup of local vendors and activities—from facepainting and hand-crafted art to sweet treats like cookies and bubble tea, savory bites like smoked meats, and classic favorites like kettle popcorn. Families also enjoyed special appearances from the Wilbraham Fire Department and Wilbraham Police Department, as well as an inspiring Youth Entrepreneurship Program showcasing the next generation of local business leaders. A heartfelt thank you to the Key Club for volunteering throughout the event and bringing extra smiles by dressing up as mascots—their energy and support helped the day run seamlessly.

Since its founding in 2003, W.H.A.T. has proudly raised over \$200,000—supporting recent projects like the Stony Hill Cafeteria renovation, Soule Road and Mile Tree Library upgrades, playground and recreation equipment at all elementary schools, immersive cultural trips for Minnechaug students, critical technology enhancements, and arts and enrichment programs across all schools that foster creativity and innovation in the classroom.

The Family Fall Festival is one of W.H.A.T.’s signature annual fundraisers, helping the organization sustain its mission to enhance educational opportunities and inspire lifelong learning for students in Hampden and Wilbraham.

W.H.A.T. is currently ac-

cepting grant requests from educators, administrators, and community members with innovative ideas for programs or projects that enrich learning experiences. To apply for a grant or learn more about W.H.A.T.’s mission, board members, and upcoming events, visit www.whatfund.org.

Photos courtesy of Briana LaChapelle and Jackie Hafner



SAFETY from page 1

Hampden Senior Citizens announced a donation, with Executive Board Member Ted Zebert explaining it would support the senior center’s bathroom upgrades.

“As you know, past six years or so—wherever we started on the supposed expansion of the senior center—there have been some naysayers. This being on the back of our mind that the sector came up that we were going to be a little bit short on bathroom upgrades, on money and they were looking for us to do it, we hired, contracted—whatever word you want to use—with Fitzgerald Law out of East Longmeadow,” Zebert said. “We had them go through our bylaws, our state articles of organization, our attorney general papers that we have to do and the state statutes and they deemed that we can make the donation to the town.”

Zebert said up to now, “we bought TV sets, we bought

refrigerators, we bought furniture, we pay for speakers, we pay for all kinds of things, but not brick and mortar.”

“And that was a sticking point,” Zebert said.

After Flynn asked if they could have bought parts for the bathroom renovations, “but not the labor,” Zebert replied no.

“Because once we paid for a toilet, which gets installed, if you decided to move the senior center to Thornton Burgess, that toilet’s not going to move. It’s going to stay there. That means you sell the building, we’ve lost our investment,” Zebert said.

“So, it’s loose stuff,” Flynn said.

“It’s stuff that’s attached,” Zebert said.

He added if a TV was bought and the senior center was moved to TWB, that would get moved with it.

“That’s the big sticking point and that’s why we got a legal opinion,” Zebert said. “So, we have been cleared to make the donation.”

The donation, Zebert said, as he presented the letter to the board for them to sign, would be \$17,100.

“The above set amount is only to be used for the intended project. These are the qualifications. The project is canceled for any reason—if there’s any unexpended funds—the funds must be returned to the Friends. If additional funds are needed, it would be an additional request which would have to be renegotiated,” Zebert said.

“Additionally, an accounting of the expended said funds is appreciated.”

After Zebert read the rest of the letter, Flynn recapped how there was a budget for this at \$15,000, but by the time it went out for quotes, two were around “\$80-something thousand” dollars and one for \$47,000.

“The \$47,000 was obviously the lowest. Becky (Moriarty) went out and got a grant from the state for an additional \$15,000 to go on top

of the appropriated \$15,000. The Friends are gracious enough to make up the difference,” Flynn said.

It was also revealed that the donation included a \$5,000 donation from John Matthews to reach the \$17,100 total.

The board then unanimously approved for Town Administrator Brian Domina to sign the letter to accept the donation, also thanking the Friends for their efforts.

Friends President Claudia

Kapinos had these words of thanks.

“We just want everybody to know how hard we worked for that money. The seniors, we have a great group of people, volunteers that really help us and it’s a lot of hard work,” Kapinos said. “But this is something we feel very strongly about. So, we have a lot of people that are not in the best of shape that come there and the bathroom renovation is going to make a big difference for them.”



Fall Into Savings

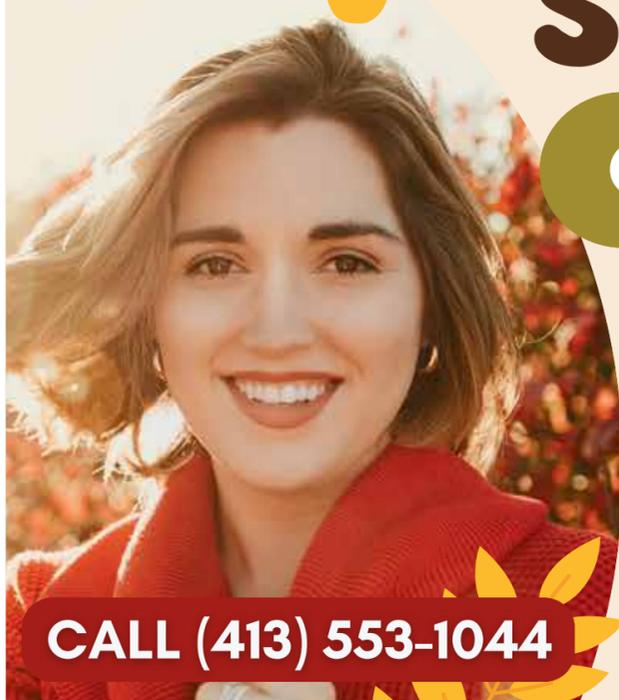
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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

When will my disability become my regular Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I hope you can answer this question.

I'm currently receiving Social Security Disability benefits, and I will be turning 65 in February 2026. I'm confused as to how Social Security Disability transitions to regular Social Security, and when. I assume it's age 65, but maybe it's my retirement date?

Also, does the amount remain the same or will it change? I've been on SSDI for about 15 years. Thank you.

Signed: Disabled Senior

When you applied for SSDI, even though you hadn't yet reached your FRA when you went on SSDI. Thus, the monthly benefit amount will not change because it is based on your lifetime earnings record, from before you became disabled.

FYI, although age 65 was once Social Security's "retirement age," full retirement age for Social Security today is based on the year you were born. So, your SSDI benefit will automatically switch to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit as soon as you reach age 67. Essentially, the only thing that will change is the Social Security Trust Fund from which your benefits will be paid.

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

Dear Disabled Senior:

If you are collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, those SSDI benefits will automatically convert to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit when you reach your SS Full Retirement Age, which, in your case, is age 67. For information, FRA today is somewhere between age 66 and 67, depending on your year of birth, and the full retirement age for everyone born in 1960 or later is age 67.

The change from SSDI to your regular Social Security benefit will be transparent to you because your monthly benefit amount will remain the same. SSDI benefits were originally awarded to you based upon your full retirement age enti-

Letters to the Editor
Make voices heard on broadband

To the Editor,

There has been recent and concerning conversations about Wilbraham building, owning and operating its own broadband system. This is a significant and expensive idea to consider since the Town already has broadband providers offering service in the town.

The idea of the broadband network being owned by the local government was first brought up in 2014 with the establishment of a Municipal Light Plant. A lot has changed since then and this issue should be discussed more open and vigorously by our Select Board, but our Select Board appears to have

whiffed on that.

Shouldn't something as costly and disruptive as this, be aired, pros and cons, in public?

The Select Board has made the owning and operating of a newly constructed broadband system one of its top five priorities. On top of that, they voted recently to give themselves the ability to call a Special Town Meeting (with only a couple of weeks' notice) on this issue. This vote was moved forward as far as I can tell, without a single minute of dialogue. This is not the kind of transparency I expect, nor is it what Wilbraham residents deserve.

One gets the impression when observing a meeting

of the Select Board that they have worked things out ahead of time and behind the scenes. I can't help but question if transparency matters to our Select Board, because without open discussion about an issue with such huge financial consequences for the town, it doesn't appear to matter at all. I encourage other residents of the Town to reach out to our Select Board-call (413) 596-2800 or email sb@wilbraham-ma.gov and ask them for more discussion on something as big and expensive as a Town-owned broadband network.

Richard Kagan,
Wilbraham

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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 krivers@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Thursday 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.

Election letters to the editor welcome

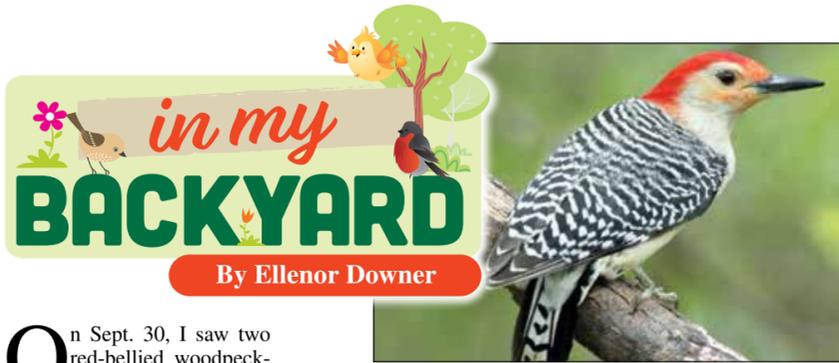
The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden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

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

Campaign news

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

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



By Ellenor Downer

Red-bellied woodpecker

The Garden Lady answers a unique question on a unique plant

Sue, who gardens in Gilbertville called the Garden Lady with a question about Stinging Nettle. Apparently, she has it growing in numerous places on her four-acre property and wants to eradicate it.

"Roberta, are you familiar with this plant?" All I could say, was "Ah, yes," and then I began the story.

Not too long ago I was grabbing weeds by the handful, stuffing them into a bucket. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye I saw the familiar saw-tooth shaped leaf and distinctive hairy stems within my clutches. As soon as my brain registered what I had just plucked, my hand started to sting...burn, really.

Yup, I was fooled again by stinging nettle. Ice helps a little, but usually the burn has to run its course. Once you have identified stinging nettle, it won't be hard to miss. Urtica dioica and other members of the Urticaceae family have in common one particular trait: hairs on the undersides of their leaves as well as on their stems.

It is the hairs, that when brushed upon or grabbed, release formic acid into the skin causing a stinging, burning and a just plain painful reaction. Another giveaway to the plant's identity is its elongated, heart-shaped, saw-tooth-edged leaves that form opposite one another and then alternate back and forth up the stem.

From July through October, the plant sports greenish white flowers, upright at the top of the plant, but drooping

in g f r o m the leaf axils. If these t h r e e characteristics d o n ' t make it

unique enough to spot, look for height and girth! Nettles can grow as tall as five feet, maybe more, and make large colonies easily, thanks to a tangled web of underground runners that sprout new stems every few inches.

Once it has gotten a foothold it can be difficult to eradicate - think mint but on a larger, pickier scale! Expect to find it growing in rich soil along the forest's edge, in moist woodlands and even flood plains.

If you shuddered at my suggestion of eradicating stinging nettles, chances are you are aware of some of its reported health benefits. Some herbalists even go as far as to plant it on purpose!

I'll admit I even bought some dried leaves once to use along with other herbs in a spring tonic rich in vitamins and minerals. Although it grows wild all over my property I was afraid to harvest it! Since then, I have learned that once cooked or dried, the sting disappears.

Nettles have been used to treat all kinds of ailments over the years. Urtication was a common, albeit curious, practice in ancient times. It involved slapping inflicted body parts with

Please see **GARDEN**, page 10

On Sept. 30, I saw two red-bellied woodpeckers fly from one tree to another.

Since I do not feed the birds suet or seeds until winter due to bears, I had not noticed them before. The red-bellied woodpecker has a black and white barred back and a pale belly. Males have a red crown and nape and the females have just a red nape, but no crown.

These woodpeckers cling to tree bark and use their stiff tail feathers for support while they probe into the bark for insects. White is visible on their wings in flight. They are about nine inches long, the same size as the hairy woodpecker.

Like other woodpeckers, they have an undulating flight. They pick at the bark rather than drill into it like many other woodpeckers. They inhabit woodlands and forests from old stands of oak and hickory to young hardwoods and pines. They also appear at backyard feeders especially for suet.

They nest in a cavity excavated in dead wood. Males may begin cavity excavation with the female selecting one of the holes and completing it. The female lays two to six eggs. There most common call is a shrill rolling "kwirr" or "churr" given by both sexes. They also make a "cha cha cha" sound.

Helping birds

Another way to help birds is to plant native trees, shrubs and plants in ones yard. Many provide a food source and others become a nesting site or shelter. Leaving a section of yard not mowed and letting it "run wild" also attracts birds, but provides food, nesting sites and shelter. Putting out bird feeders and water sources also bring birds to one's yard,

but they also attract black bears and other unwanted visitors.

Blue jays

I heard blue jays squawking away on Sept. 30. I looked toward the noise and saw four blue jays flitting about among the trees. They were near a winter feeding spot. In winter, I put out shelled peanuts, which is a favorite of blue jays and tufted titmice to name a few. The first year I fed peanuts, I put out unshelled peanuts. They make a mess with the peanut husks, but I enjoyed watching them fly off with a whole peanut and opening it to get the peanuts inside.

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield birder, who emails regularly said, "In the yard most summer visitors have headed south but catbirds are still around and a couple of male towhees were seen last week. Also a male and female common yellowthroat visited the bird bath."

He said, "I filled the hummingbird feeders last week but haven't seen a hummingbird in several days and the feeders haven't been used much because they are still almost full."

He reported he had to take down my feeders because bear were visiting during the day. He had planted a couple dozen sunflowers in the yard and last week he cut the seed heads off and hung them in the garage to dry. He attached a few of the seed heads to the poles where he hangs his bird feeders. A pair of cardinals, at least three titmice and a black capped chickadee came for the seeds.

Trip to Norwottuck Rail Trail

The Brimfield resident in his email of Sept. 30 said, "Last Saturday a friend and I spent a couple of hours walking on the Norwottuck Rail Trail, Station Road in Amherst. It was a beautiful day to be out and about. We didn't see song birds but a few ducks, a couple of great blue herons, three green herons (good looks at one quite close) and one horned grebe. A pair of beaver were out enjoying the nice day and we got good looks at them. A few people walking the trail had never seen beavers before and were quite excited and asked lots of questions. Do they eat fish?"

Warren ponds

The Brimfield resident frequently visits ponds in Warren. He saw a bald eagle one day and yesterday (Sept. 29) in addition to three great blue herons I saw a northern harrier and two male turkeys.

Trail camera

The Brimfield resident said in his email, "The trail camera near the bird bath captured a visit by a bear one night. Three days later a bear visited again and chewed open a pumpkin and ate the seeds and then went to one of the poles with sunflower seed heads and knocked the pole down. It didn't bother another pole with seed heads."

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.

Life in &

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

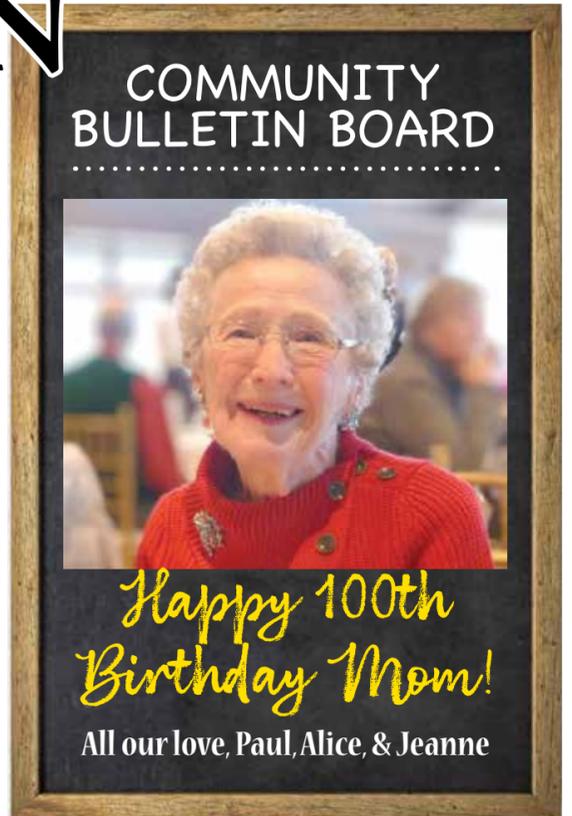
WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

WMS enjoys Fall Social

On Friday, September 19, Wilbraham Middle School hosted a fall social where students stayed after school to enjoy a variety of activities, including small games, soccer, kickball, football and basketball.



Submitted photos Kristen VanDerBeken



WPD thanks St. Cecilia's for donation

Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department

A belated thank you to St. Cecilia's for providing breakfast and snacks on Sept. 21. It is greatly appreciated!

WFD presents at safety conference



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department

Captain Patrick Farrow and Firefighter Jeff Witek were selected to present at the 2025 Massachusetts Fire & Life Safety Conference! On Sept. 19, they shared insights on the innovative initiatives implemented by the Wilbraham Fire Department Public Safety Educators to enhance community safety. We appreciate all the hard work and dedication these individuals put in to delivering important safety education.

WPL holds Plant Swap

Submitted photos Emilie Lang

The Wilbraham Public Library held a Plant Swap event on Sept. 20 where residents could bring extra houseplants, clippings and propagations to the library to swap with others, creating a fun community event for all.



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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Brett Overgaard, a science teacher at Soule Road Elementary School, and his family also stopped by to build their own scarecrow.



The fun wasn't just limited to the kids and families, as the adults also had a blast building a scarecrow.



Volunteers hard at work putting together the scarecrow.



These two scarecrow buddies were among the many creative creations during the event.

SCARECROW from page 1

Abigail O'Sullivan, an English teacher at Minnechaug, is one of the advisors to the Student Council and was thrilled with the turnout, explaining the event has gone on for many years.

Besides this event, O'Sullivan added, the Student Council also does pep rallies, toy drives for Toy for Joy, food collections, a "You Are Beautiful" Week, scavenger hunts and many more.

"It's a really great event, so we use the money to fund our trips and our conferences, but we also use the money to do events for students at Minnechaug for school culture," O'Sullivan said. "So, it helps us fund our fundraisers or just other school events for the whole student body."

O'Sullivan said she loves helping the students become great leaders, building school culture and meeting students she might not have in her class.

"There are lot of families who come back year after year every year and they look

forward to it. We also—for me—have been an advisor for the last eight years," O'Sullivan said. "I've been at Minnechaug for 22 years and there's so many students that are no longer kids, but adults, and they come here with their families and they were either on Student Council. So, for us, it's just a really nice way for our kids to bond with the little kids and also for us to kind of give back to the community."

She also enjoys seeing the scarecrows up in town throughout the season, sharing her number one tip for the perfect scarecrow is the right outfit and having the right amount of hay in the head.

Student Council Vice President Nina Semanie is the event chair and said the group enjoys doing this event every year, including meeting the kids and families.

"It really helps us find meaning with all of this, like seeing how many people appreciate us. It allows us to be able to do more for our community and make a difference," Semanie said.

Semanie joined the Student Council when an upper-classman friend encouraged her to sign up.

"Ever since then, I kind of attended everything I could and then I really kind of connected with a lot of the people, which made me want to go more because everyone was so welcoming and it just made me really feel like I belong there," Semanie said.

Semanie shared as a kid, she made her own scarecrow at this event.

"It was such a surreal experience that my freshman year and sophomore year to come do this and help out because those little kids they might remember me like that one day," Semanie said. "It's crazy to think about."

The community support means a lot.

"If it wasn't for their support, then we wouldn't be able to do things like this. Student Council, we want to give back to our community and we can only do that if the community allows us to. We have such a great Wilbraham community here that we are really able to do so much for everyone," Semanie said.

Collin Purcell, a junior delegate for the Student Council Executive Board, also enjoys the event. He was introduced to the Student Council through his brother, who was also a part of it.

"This is our best fundraiser the entire year for sure. Probably the most fun, we get the most support, ton of participation from our Student Council and I love to see it pay off with a ton of community participation as well. It's just amazing, I love it," Purcell said.

For Purcell, there's so much to enjoy at events like this with his fellow members.

"You get to enjoy new people every single day, you get to interact with my friends and my family, really, and build scarecrows. Be active in the community which is awesome. No better feeling," Purcell said. "And just be part



Elaina Bergeron and Savannah Sheerin were amongst the Student Council volunteers, sharing a fun hug in-between building scarecrows.

of something bigger than me. It's really nice."

Purcell also encourages anyone interested in Student Council to consider joining.

"Join up, be involved, don't be afraid to be the one that does more. Don't be afraid of anything because you will be welcomed and you will feel incredible afterward. I can say that from personal experience," Purcell said.

O'Sullivan, Semanie and Purcell thanked the community for coming out and for their support.

"We just really appreciate everyone's support year after year. Every year, they come out, they help and they always give back to us, which is always so appreciated," O'Sullivan said.

"Just a big thank you for everyone who supported and that if it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be able to do this and we're greatly appreciative of them," Semanie said.

"Thank you to everyone who came out and we look forward to seeing you next year!" Purcell said.

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PATCH from page 1

Indian Reservation in Farmington, NM.

To learn more about their group, you can visit: <https://www.pumpkinsusa.com/about-us/#our-story>

Trimble's favorite part of the event is the sight of all the pumpkins, beautifully laid out on the church's front lawn.

"It's a glorious visual of fall," Trimble said, "I think the appearance of the pumpkin patch is also a wonderful visual touch to the center of our town. The impact of hundreds of pumpkins laid out across the lawn give our town a decorative fall touch in a big way."

With the leaves beginning to turn and deep oranges, creams, and browns layering the streets and lawns, we are led into the fall season.

"Our church volunteers love meeting the community who come to purchase pumpkins," Trimble said.

Trimble mentioned how wonderful it is to see the community gathering together; kids with their families at their pumpkin patch.

"It gives us an opportunity to talk about the programs here at our church," Trimble said.

She elaborated on what the proceeds will support.

"The pumpkin fundraiser benefits the general missions of the church," Trimble said, "We will also have a donation box if people wish to donate funds."

She mentioned how any donations collected alongside the fundraiser are greatly appreciated and will be specifically used to help the church pay off the roof replacement project that was completed earlier this year so they are able to continue hosting these events.

Another fall event coming up for the Wilbraham United Church is their Harvest Dinner, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 8. Families and friends are encouraged to gather that night at 6 p.m. at the church or anyone is welcome to buy an individual ticket for themselves.

Tickets for this event can be purchased at www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/events/.

SPORTS

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Minnechaug wins first conference game



The Falcons score a tackle on third down.



Jasper O'Connor gets a clean tackle.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Jack Lucarelle receives the snap.

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Minnechaug Regional High School football team has remained in the toughest conference in the region, the AA, through the last three realignment cycles. The Falcons faced off with West Springfield in its first AA game this season. Despite

the Terriers scoring first, the Falcons answered right back to take the lead. That was all the momentum Minnechaug needed to get a 35-20 win over the home team. The Falcons have their next conference game on Friday, Oct. 10 against East Longmeadow at home at 6:30 p.m.



Aiden Bean is pursued by the West Springfield defense.



Donovan Belton puts up a good block for the Falcons.



David Quinn braces for impact with a defender.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Alexis Carreira gets the header.



Sophia O'Connor tries to get past an Orioles midfielder.



Ava Kearney collects a loose ball near the middle of the field.

Falcons score home win over E. Longmeadow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Only three of the Minnechaug Regional boys' varsity soccer team's first nine regular season matches were played at Falcon Field.

After posting a 2-1-1 record in four consecutive road matches, the Falcons returned home and defeated the Monument Mountain Spartans, 5-1, in a Churchill Division battle last Monday afternoon (Sept.29).

It was the most goals scored in a game by the Falcons since an 8-5 victory at Pittsfield High School last October.

"It feels very nice to be playing a home game and not having to get on a bus," said Minnechaug senior tri-captain Nick Cianflone, who joined the varsity soccer squad as a sophomore. "We really wanted to win today's game."

In the first meeting of the regular season between the two teams, which was held in Great Barrington on September 5, the Falcons suffered a 2-1 loss.

The home victory evened Minnechaug's overall season record at 3-3-4. Three of their four ties took place on the Falcons home turf field.

Cianflone contributed with a goal and three assists in the second meeting against the Spartans (4-3-2). Both teams had a 2-2-2 league record.

Minnechaug sophomore Gavin Goldrick, who missed the first eight games of the regular season with an injury, led the way offensively with three first half goals, which was his first hat-trick in a varsity game.

"Gavin is a threat offensively and we love having him back on the field again," said longtime Minnechaug Regional head coach John O'Keefe. "Six players missed today's game due to injury. It's probably the most injuries that we've ever had during my coaching career."

Senior tri-captain Jediah Stewart has been out of action since suffering an injury in the first meeting against the Spartans.

The Falcons' other senior tri-captain is Chase Henderson, who's the starting goalie. He was credited with five saves against Monument Mountain, which all came during the second half.

Henderson, who was selected to the all-state team last season, was aided by a stout defensive unit led by junior Eli Childers, junior Tyler Supczak, junior Cam Salvador, and senior Tyler Jaslank.

Sophomore Geoffrey Ohemeng-Kyei also helped defensively during the second half.

Goldrick, who was called up to the varsity team before the start of the 2024 postseason tournament, scored his first goal of the 2025 season in the Falcons previous game at West Springfield, which ended in a 2-2 draw.

It didn't take Goldrick very long to score his first goal in last Monday's contest.

After receiving a pass from senior Nate Wesloski, Goldrick fired a low shot into the left corner of the net past junior goalie Calvin Cooney (2 saves) 1:09 into the opening half.

Please see **FALCONS**, page 10

Falcons battle to scoreless tie with Belchertown

BELCHERTOWN – Last Thursday evening, Minnechaug Regional High School girls soccer engaged in a very

tough battle with host Belchertown. But by game's end, no one was able to get one through the posts as the contest ended in

a 0-0 draw. Minnechaug's Isabel Horne had five saves for a shutout. Minnechaug is 3-5-3 this season.



Taylor Bartosz gets a header.



Cailin O'Brien sprints across midfield.



Elizabeth Woytowicz tangles with an Orioles defender.

T-Birds score preseason win over Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds picked up a 2-1 overtime victory on Sunday over the Providence Bruins inside the MassMutual Center to close their preseason slate.

The Bruins picked up the first goal of the afternoon on a power play with 1:08 remaining in the first, as Lynden McCallum lifted a one-timer over the right shoulder of Vadim Zherenko to give Providence the 1-0 lead at intermission. That came less than a minute after Hugh McGing was awarded a penalty shot, but could not get the puck past Simon Zajicek in the Bruins goal crease.

Springfield had an answer from one of their veterans at 3:53 of the second when Corey Schueneman lifted a point wrister through traffic and past Zajicek to tie the score. McGing had what appeared to be the go-ahead goal on a power play at 14:07 of the period, but after replay, the officials waved it off, saying that the T-Birds forward had directed the puck in with a kicking motion.

Zherenko's night was complete after 40 minutes and 20 saves on 21 shots.

Gage Alexander came on for the third period and overtime and stopped all nine shots he faced.

After neither team could break the ice in the third period, the T-Birds picked up the triumph in the extra frame as Nikita Alexandrov fed a saucer pass to McGing's blade at 3:32, and McGing got enough of it to beat Zajicek upstairs to finish the game.

The T-Birds now prepare themselves for the regular season slate, beginning with MGM Springfield Opening Night on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 6:05 p.m. against the Charlotte Checkers inside Thunderdome. The action starts with the Community Bank N.A. Block Party from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Plaza at MGM Springfield, featuring live music from Moonlight Saints. Fans are encouraged to arrive at the MassMutual Center early for pregame ceremonies, including full team introductions, which will begin promptly at 6 p.m. - all fans in attendance will receive a T-Birds 10th Anniversary Banner and a magnet schedule.



This week in recreation

Dan Beauregard,
Program Coordinator

WILBRAHAM - It is late September and all fall sports are in full swing for all Wilbraham teams.

With the fall sport season underway it is time to start looking at what is around the corner, Recreational Basketball.

Wilbraham Parks and Recreation Department offers Youth Recreational Basketball for all Wilbraham residents and Wilbraham school-choice students in grades kindergarten through

eighth grade. WPRD will also be offering Pre-K Basketball for Wilbraham residents, ages 4-5 years old that aren't in kindergarten yet.

For grades third/fourth, fifth/sixth and seventh/eighth teams are split by gender and the goal is to divide the teams evenly as possible, to do this there will be a brief evaluation for each age group on Sunday Nov. 2 at Minnechaug Regional High School. For these same age groups, teams will participate in the Quabbin Valley Basketball League unless there are enough teams

in an age group to have an in town league. Teams will usually practice once per week and will start playing games in early January.

Kindergarten through second grade basketball are coed programs that are non-competitive and stress the fundamentals of basketball. Each group begins late November and runs through March.

WPRD is also looking for volunteer coaches for all recreational basketball teams this winter and thanks everyone who continues to volunteer their time to coach youth

sports in Wilbraham.

Registration for K - 8th basketball starts Sept. 30 and goes until Oct. 20 and Pre-K registration runs Nov. 25 through Dec. 15. All Hampden residents must register with Hampden Parks and Recreation.

NOTE: To register or to find more information about Recreational Basketball or any program run by the Wilbraham Parks and Recreation Department, please visit our website, wilbrahama.myrec.com or contact our office at 413-596-2816.

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Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

FALCONS from page 9

The visitors from Berkshires netted the tying goal nine minutes later when junior Milo Potoski sent a crossing pass across the field to sophomore Mason Finn, who fired a low shot into the right corner of the net.

Minnechaug, who out-shot Monument Mountain, 9-6, retook the lead during the 33rd minute following a corner kick goal.

Cianflone booted the ball into the box from the left corner where Wesloski finished off the play by putting the ball into the net.

Three minutes later, Cianflone delivered a free

kick into the box. This time, Goldrick scored his second goal of the match.

Goldrick completed his varsity hat-trick with a shot attempt that deflected off Cooney's hands before bouncing into the net with 37.1 seconds remaining in the opening half.

It gave the Falcons a commanding 4-1 halftime advantage.

Less than a minute into the second half, Cianflone received a pass from senior Ben Lopez before booting the ball into the right corner, which sealed the Falcons first home victory this fall.

GARDEN from page 6

bunches of stinging nettles to impart a cure of a particular ailment.

Slapping below a man's navel was thought to improve his virility. If a paralyzed limb was slapped it was hoped feeling would be renewed.

There are other bizarre accounts of the application of this herb. I read one case of crushed leaves being packed into the nose to stop a nosebleed. Ouch! Or used in juice form to make hair grow. Grow? Maybe, but stand on end a definite!

All kidding aside, there are other benefits of nettles that go beyond folklore. Studies are being conducted for its use in treating prostate problems, asthma, allergies and arthritis.

Whether or not nettles are part of your apothecary chest, be sure to handle them with kid gloves! Although the stinging and burning sensation may last for only a few minutes, it very well could last for hours!

That brings me back to Sue's question. There are multiple ways to try and eradicate the plant. You can suit up and hand pull or get the mower out and mow the area as you would the lawn. Repeated mowings during active growth will eventually kill it.

You can also take a soil test and make the necessary recommendations to improve the soil to a point that the grasses in your field will thrive and choke out the stinging nettle. Small areas can be covered in black plastic—again, you would do this when the plant is in active growth. Usually a month or more is necessary for this route to be successful.

Spot spraying with weed killers in another option but one that I only use as a very last resort. Good luck!

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

WALKING CLUB

from page 1

Company Salon & Day Spa, Mental Health Association Inc., Empower Health Group, Wild Roots Farm and Was Brothers Construction.

After the walk, attendees enjoyed lunch provided by Mandarin Wilbraham and Gio's.

Mateo Garcia, whose brother is part of the Above The Influence Club, was among the many students lending their support and helping with set-up, expressing excitement at the community support.

"I think it shows that these people are aware of what we're trying to do, like how all of these small businesses, clubs, organizations are coming here to help us today. That shows that what we're doing is actually having an impact on people. So, it shows we're having that outreach," Garcia said.

Garcia hopes attendees—especially first-timers—get a better understanding of what the community is like.

"There's so many people right now. That shows that these people care and if you're new to the community, then you should see that these people are really connected through what they do," Garcia said.

Peter Salerno, vice president of The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club, shared the club was honored to be an event sponsor, especially when it involves the kids and education.

"These kids—the ATIs, as we say—is an organization that helps kids and if we can help kids, we are a lot better off in this country, and that's how we believe," Salerno



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Annie Gao, owner of Mandarin Wilbraham, and Jay Dalessio, club advisor for the Above the Influence Club, pose for a photo with thumbs up.

said. "Visual activities are very important. You bring people together, you smile at people, you shake hands. Being part of a community like Wilbraham and Hampden, that's the thing for us, so we are going to continue to build us in this fashion."

Salerno also noted the smiles and joy on everyone's faces, emphasizing the kids being the future.

"If you take a look at a group like this, it's essentially focused on helping others and boy does that bring happiness in their faces," Salerno said. "So, a local group like this—and we are a local group—these are the things that bring us together and bringing us together is the glue that keeps our community together."

Joining attendees on the trail, Superintendent Dr. John Provost reflected on supporting the students and their message of substance abuse prevention and healthy living.

"It's an amazing turnout

and what I really love is that you have people from all stages of life here from babies being pushed in their strollers to senior citizens all trying to help our young people make healthy choices," Provost said.

Provost was also happy to see many students involved in the club, explaining how he's gone to several of their meetings and, oftentimes, it's standing-room only.

"I think it's just very positive to see so many young people trying to raise awareness about the potential dangers of substance abuse and trying to support each other in making the school as healthy of an environment as possible. I know peer pressure and peer influence plays such a large role in the decisions kids make and when kids come forward to provide healthy or positive role models for each other, I think it just helps to lift everybody up," Provost said.

Provost added, as super-



Anne Hicklen and Samantha Catellier pose for a photo during a quick stop on the walk.

intendent, being part of the Hampden-Wilbraham Partners For Youth Coalition has also helped him learn more information.

"I think it's really important we have a club like this to give students some skills to resist temptation to take substances that could impair their health and development," Provost said.

Sophia Kozub, Ava Disa, Ava Scatolini and Ainsley Patterson are members of the ATI Club and enjoyed this year's walk as well.

"It's nice to walk for such an important cause," Kozub said.

"Mr. Dalessio did a great job," Scatolini said.

"My sister graduated two years ago. She had been in this club for her whole high school, so she told me it was a really good club," Patterson said.

"My friends told me about it and said it was a good thing," Disa said.

Patterson also stressed raising awareness for mental health.

"I feel like it's really important to help mental health. I feel like we do have a lot of clubs that have to do with it, but Above the Influence does good activities that other clubs don't do," Patterson said.

"Yeah, there's a lot of activities," Scatolini said.

"It's just a fun way to spread awareness while also including the public," Kozub said.

"Join again next year!" Disa said.

Scatolini and Disa summed it up best in the message to the community.

"Addiction's a real thing and to join the club if they aren't already involved," Scatolini said.

"It's a good community," Disa said.



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Knights sponsor dinner to support Survival Center

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

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

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

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

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

Join us for annual softball meeting and party

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

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

Here's what's in store:
Vote in New Members: Help shape the future of the

program by casting your vote for new members.

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

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

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

Wiffle Ball and Corn-

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

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

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

HISTORY from page 1

postmaster by the Democratic administration of President Grover Cleveland.



Fred Green

The town's Annual Report of 1939 printed a memorial to Green that read, "Probably no one in the entire history of Wilbraham has served as long as Mr. Green on the Board of Selectmen and very probably there has been no citizen of the Town in recent generations who was better known to residents in all sections of town."

Green made his living operating a four-horse stage-coach route and carried the mail, cargo and passengers, to the North Wilbraham Railroad Station located where the former Skorupski Brothers gas station is located now on Boston Road near the Police Station.

Many of his stage passengers were students at the Academy who needed to travel from the Center Village of town to board the Boston & Albany railroad train in North Wilbraham. He kept up the business until the arrival of "the horseless carriage".

Evanore O. Beebe

Miss Evanore O. Beebe was mentioned in descriptions about how the town celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1913. She was a co-chair

of the town's 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee. What we would call today, "a strong woman", she clashed with author and co-chair Chauncey Peck who also had strong temperament on that committee.

Beebe's personality could be described as an active town leader, an educator and a popular member of town committees. She was described by famous author H. G. Lovecraft, author of the well-known horror story "The Dunwich Horror" that used Wilbraham as a setting for his tale. Lovecraft said Beene was "the leading spirit of Wilbraham; a kind of feminine village Pooh-Bah who held, among numberless other offices,



The famous author H. G. Lovecraft, author of the well-known horror story "The Dunwich Horror" that used Wilbraham as a setting for his tale, said Evanore O. Beebe was "the leading spirit of Wilbraham". (Times file photo)

the posts of Superintendent of Schools (and was a town leader)." She came to Wilbraham from Wisconsin at age 20 to live with relatives and to teach at Glendale School and stayed.

Lovecraft shared a friendship with Beebe and the fiction writer, journalist, editor Edith Dowe Minitier whom he knew from Boston literary circles. They were both members of The Hub Club. Everyone called her "Mrs. Minitier"; there is no record of a husband in town archives.

Minitier's signature appears a few lines down from Lovecraft's in Beebe's 1928 guest log on the July 4 page suggesting that Beebe hosted a patriotic Fourth of July party that day at her Monson Road large farmhouse, she called Maplehurst because of the row of stately maple trees lining the street. Most are now gone. Lovecraft said Beebe was a locally famous antiquarian and antique collector.

According to a digest of Lovecraft's notes called "Miscellaneous Writings", Minitier had moved back to Wilbraham in 1924 or 25 to live with Beebe in the large rambling Monson Road farmhouse. The three unlikely friends made for strange bed-fellows.

John Lovejoy

With the passing of former Wilbraham Selectman and Minnechaug Building Committee co-chair John "Tony" Lovejoy of Covid 19 April 11, 2020, it signaled an end of an era. Superintendent of Schools from 2001 to 2009 Dr. Paul Gagliaducci wrote a letter to the Times hailing Lovejoy's work as co-chair of the Minnechaug Building Committee. In the letter, Gagliaducci said:

"John Lovejoy loved the community where he lived. He wanted to make a difference for future generations and he did so with his work on the Minnechaug Building



John Lovejoy was the keynote speaker in the kickoff of Wilbraham's observance of its 250th birthday as a town on a frigid New Year's Eve, 2013. By the time his speech was over he was almost frozen solid. A hundred years from now Lovejoy will still be remembered. (Times file photo by David Miles)

Project."

Some of us knew him as an antagonistic selectman and a town character. But he had another side to him. He was an artist and the author of three books of poetry. He was an avid researcher, and he spent countless hours combing the historical records of New England to piece together the history of African Americans in the Northeast prior to 1700. As an artist he created stables and mobiles, one of which was displayed at the Guggenheim Museum in New York for many years. He traveled to Sweden and Norway, was interested in Scandinavian folk arts and had a treasured collection of Swedish glass.

He was admired but he was not loved by everybody and had a penchant for rising at town meetings to make a speech to a sometimes-groaning audience. But he always meant well. He had one of the best speaking voices and diction in town.

Lovejoy was the keynote speaker in the kickoff of the town's observance of its 250th birthday as a town on a frigid New Year's Eve, 2013. By the time his speech was over he was almost frozen solid. A hundred years from now Lovejoy will still be remembered.

Abel Bliss

Much has been written about Abel Bliss, a formidable and burly character from the Outward Commons' pioneer days until it became incorporated as Wilbraham in 1763. In the Charles Merrick history book Bliss is referred to as "one of the sturdiest and most colorful sons of early Wilbraham history". Bliss was born in 1708 in Springfield but became a Wilbraham pioneer and was pivotal as a leader, commissioned an ensign in 1756 in the French and Indian War and governed the area as a justice.

In Dave Bourcier's new book, "Historic Tales of Wilbraham", Dave has a chapter about Bliss called, "Abel's Pretentious New Home".



The grave of Abel Bliss in Adams Cemetery. (Times file photo)

Most of the Wilbraham settlers built and lived in log cabins. Bourcier describes how Bliss got into trouble with Rev. Noah Merrick for planning to build an expansive new two-story home reflecting that Bliss showed "arrogance and excess", according to Bourcier. So, Rev. Merrick chastised Bliss in a sermon called, "Build not your house too high".

In 1771 Bliss was evaluated modestly, owning only one horse and 10 cattle, 24 goats and sheep. He produced 64 bushels of grain a year and four tons of hay. But he did not brew any cider.

Revolutionary Moment

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

On July 29, 1774, the Wilbraham Militia assembled to cast ballots on a drum head for new officers. They chose John Bliss as Captain, Paul Langdon for Lieutenant and William King to be Ensign (color bearer).

From then until the next April the town soldiers met three times a month for military drilling in preparation for a large meeting in Brookfield on Aug. 26, 1774. As part of the South Hampshire Regiment.

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913 by Chauncey E. Peck; "Miscellaneous Writings" by H. P. Lovecraft, publ. by Arkham House, Wisconsin, 1995; "Glendale Stories" by Henry Edson. "Miscellaneous Writings" by H. P. Lovecraft.

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

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

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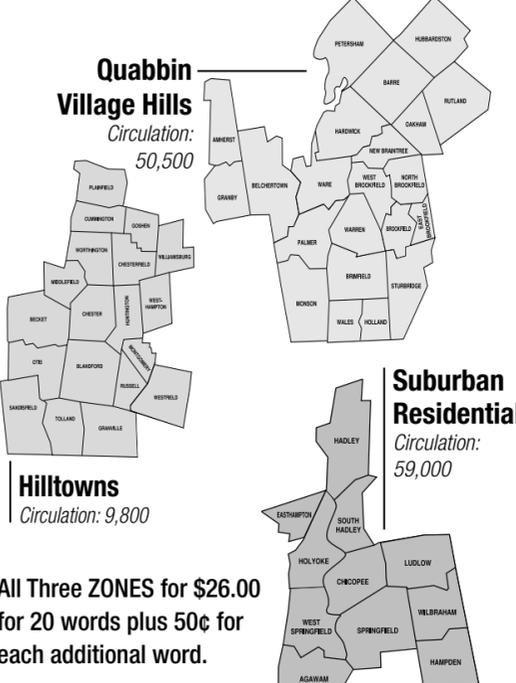
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Sale of Motor Vehicle Under G.L. c. 255 Sec. 39A Bach Towing Inc., 165 Benton Drive, East Longmeadow, MA is holding a private sale of the following vehicle on 10/17/2025 at 2:00 p.m. to satisfy our garage keepers lien thereon for storage and towing charges and expenses of Notices of Sale.

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P2017EA Estate of: Michael A Ciecko Also known as: Michael A Ciecko, Sr. Date of Death: 09/03/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Michael A Ciecko, Jr. of Hampden, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Michael A Ciecko, Jr. of Hampden, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/28/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: September 30, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 10/09/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25C0296CA

In the matter of: Mason James Dean CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Mason James Dean IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/24/2024. This is NOT a hearing date,

but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: September 26, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani Register of Probate 10/09/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P1999EA Estate of: Lynne Gosciminski Date of Death: 05/27/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

The Petitioner requests that: Michael A. Gosciminski of Biddeford, ME be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/27/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: September 29, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 10/09/2025

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of October 10, 2025 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien: Vehicle: 2004 Monte Carlo VIN#: 2G1WW12E149232487 COLOR: Brown LKO: Antonio Cousins 213 State St Ludlow MA 01056 R & S Assoc. Inc PO Box 543 Wilbraham, MA 01095 413-596-4374 09/25, 10/02, 10/09/2025

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

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

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD25P2024PM In the matter of: Richard Spear Of: Wilbraham, MA RESPONDENT (Person to be Protected/Minor)

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO

G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405 To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Hampden Post Acute of Wilbraham, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Richard Spear is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Lisa Judkins of Auburn, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve With Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 10/29/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance,

you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 01, 2025 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 10/09/2025

Wilbraham Housing Authority Window and Door Replacement Project #339117

Section 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT TO BID MGL c.149 Over \$150K

The WILBRAHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Window and Door Replacement at State Aided Development:

Family Housing - 116 & 118 Manchonis Road (705-2): 116 & 118 Manchonis Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095

Family Housing - 3 & 3 1/2 Cottage Avenue (705-2): 3 & 3 1/2 Cottage Avenue, Wilbraham, MA 01095

Family Housing - 73 & 75 Old Boston Road (705-2): 73 & 75 Old Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095

in accordance with the documents prepared by TRICIA KENDALL, ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN.

The Project consists of but not limited to:

Replacement of windows and exterior doors at three duplex buildings.

The work is estimated to cost \$187,002.00.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 10/20/2025 at 10:00AM EDT for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, General Building Construction, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until 24 October 2025 at 2:00PM EDT and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the WILBRAHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

General bidders must agree to contract with minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 13% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. Request for waivers must be sent to EOHLC (Chad. Howard@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE

OPENED. The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at 6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a statutory requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled Date and Time: 10/16/2025 at 10:00AM EDT

Address: 116 Manchonis Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095

Instructions: None

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street Hudson, MA 01749 978-568-1167

10/09/2025

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

Bach Towing Inc., 165 Benton Drive, East Longmeadow, MA is holding a private sale of the following vehicle on 10/24/2025 at 2:00 p.m. to satisfy our garage keepers lien thereon for storage and towing charges and expenses of Notices of Sale.

Kevin Leblanc 687 Frank Smith Rd. Longmeadow, MA 01106 2066 Jeep Grand Cherokee VIN: 1J4GR48K26C200963 10/09, 10/16, 10/23/2025

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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10x10 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-64 indicating starting positions for clues.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Comedic actor Rogan 5. Bits per inch 8. Tire pressure measurement 11. Angels great Mike 13. Own (Scottish) 14. Notable FI racing team 15. Upper bract of grass 16. Tax collector 17. Electronic counter-measures 18. Informal loan clubs 20. Skeletal muscle 21. Popular fish type 22. Salts of acetic acid 25. Arriving early 30. Worded 31. Single Lens Reflex 32. Amphibians 33. Warm greeting

CLUES DOWN

- 27. A major division of geological time 28. Angry 29. St. Francis of 34. Romanian monetary unit 35. Stale 36. Go quickly 37. Commercial 39. Canadian city 40. One who slices 41. Perform perfectly 42. Nest of pheasants 44. Tactile sensations 45. Sword 46. Climactic 47. Adrenocorticotrophin 48. Fisherman's tool 51. Swiss river 52. Plant that makes gum 53. A French abbot 54. One point east of northeast 58. Get free of

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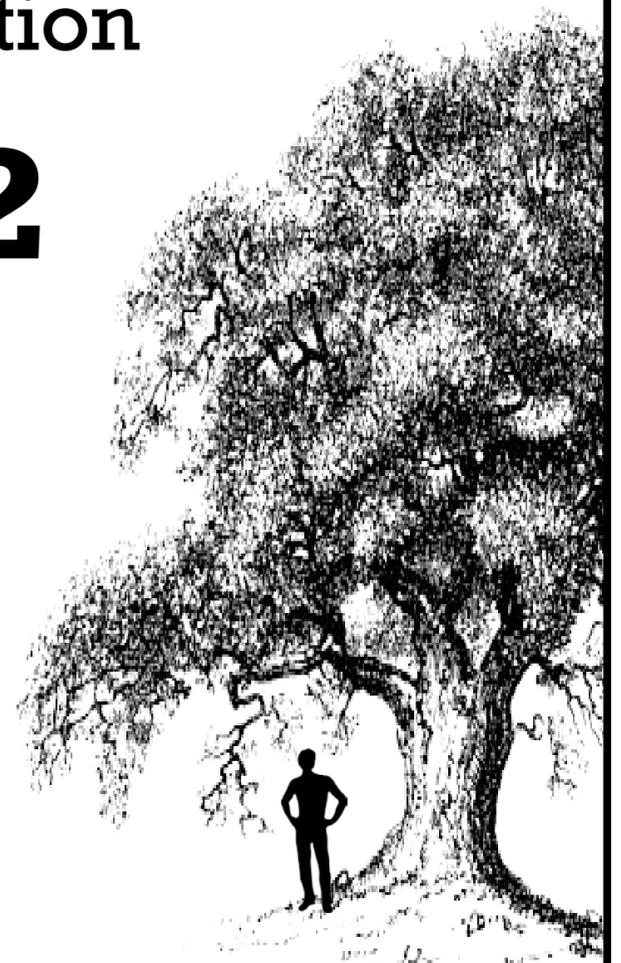
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