

**SCHOOLS**  
First ever  
Shut down  
the school  
Page 10

**SPORTS**  
Field hockey  
gets another  
win  
Page 15



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

(L to R) Fire Chief Michael Andrews, EMS Coordinator Jeff Witek, Capt. Matt Walch and Firefighter Patrick Farrow, in the fire department's headquarters on Public Safety Day.

## Wilbraham Police, Fire collab on Public Safety Day

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
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WILBRAHAM -- Last Saturday was Public Safety Day in Wilbraham, as the fire department and police department opened their headquarters to residents.

The fire department carried on a yearly October tradition, while the police department opened its doors in such a capacity for the first time in more than five years.

Fire Chief Michael Andrews noted that the tradition is planned accordingly with Fire Safety Week, which ends Oct. 14.

"The message this year is pay attention to fire prevention, especially cooking fires," Andrews said. "Cooking fires are the leading cause of house fires right now so we're teaching kitchen safety, especially with kids being around a stove, we're recommend-

Please see **PUBLIC SAFETY**, page 12

## Alpaca farmer with Wilbraham roots earns ribbons at Big E

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
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WEST SPRINGFIELD -- For the second consecutive year, Wilbraham native Emily Jakubasz Bonci delivered prime-cut alpaca fiber from her Rhode Island farm to the Eastern States Exposition and did not leave empty handed.



Sassafras, not exactly thrilled coming in second place this year. She did her family proud, and they told her next year she can take back her blue-ribbon status.

Bonci owns and operates Chaos Farm with her husband Tim, a Holyoke native, in Lincoln, RI, where she raises female alpacas and produces raw fleece.

Last year, Bonci submitted fleece from her alpacas Sassafras and Cecilia in the table fleece competitions at the Big E. To her astonishment, Sassafras won a blue ribbon for first place in her category, and Cecilia



Emily Jakubasz Bonci and her husband Tim Bonci hold ribbons with their daughter Hadleigh and son Lance.

won a ribbon of her own for finishing second in her category.

This September, Bonci raised the stakes.

"Really, this year, we said, 'Go big or go home.' We put five of our girls into the competition. Each one of them placed and each one of them got ribbons. This year, we knew how big of a deal it was. Last year was a bit of a surprise, but this year we

really did a lot of people proud, including ourselves."

Years ago, Bonci, a Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 2004 alum, never would have envisioned leaving Western Massachusetts, let alone the path that brought her back to the region.

As a child and teenager, Bonci at-

Please see **ALPACA**, page 13



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Staff from LUSO Federal Credit Union pose for a fun group photo during The Wilbraham Welcome Project's Harvest Fundraiser at the Country Club of Wilbraham on Oct. 7. A fall harvest-themed backdrop provided an opportunity for attendees to take group photos throughout the night.

## Harvest Fundraiser supports The Wilbraham Welcome Project

Project's mission includes welcoming new residents, building community

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The community gathered at the Country Club of Wilbraham from 6 - 10 p.m. on Oct. 7 for a Harvest Fundraiser event.

All proceeds supported The Wilbraham Welcome Project, a nonprofit organization bringing together residents, businesses and civic groups while providing information and resources to the community.

Throughout the evening, attendees enjoyed dinner from 3 Guys at the Grille along with signature cocktails and mocktails and dessert from Pan'e Dolcetti, photos at a harvest-themed backdrop and

raffles, with prizes donated by numerous organizations including Country Bank and Wilbraham Flowers, Wilbraham Children's Museum, Friendly's, Indulgence by Ingrid, Fern Valley Farms, Love Mich Collection, Mama LIFE Oils & Wellness, Old Sturbridge Village and more.

Also, live music from Project 267 was included.

Aurora Pierangelo Frias founded The Wilbraham Welcome Project, explaining the organization thought of the fundraiser in January as an opportunity to support the Welcome Project and bring friends together for a fun night out.

"We decided on the Wilbraham Country Club because they're such a staple here, and the managers of the 3 Guys at the Grille are awesome to work with," Pierangelo Frias said. "We're just hoping to have a fun night out and celebrate all of the things the Welcome Project has done over the past two years and look forward

Please see **HARVEST**, page 14

# Seniors learn about financial scams at Senior Center workshop



Walter Laskos, communications consultant, talks about the different scams targeting seniors during the Elder Financial Abuse Workshop at Wilbraham Senior Center on Oct. 5.



Det. Sean Casella of the Wilbraham Police Department talks about ways to avoid digital fraud during the Elder Financial Abuse Workshop at Wilbraham Senior Center. Casella was also joined by Police Capt. Shawn Baldwin for the discussion.



Seniors listen and ask questions to the workshop speakers and panelists during the Elder Financial Abuse Workshop at Wilbraham Senior Center.



Zaneta Grasaki, branch manager for Polish National Credit Union's Wilbraham Office, provides opening remarks at the Elder Financial Abuse Workshop at Wilbraham Senior Center. Grasaki also served as emcee for the workshop and a panelist during the Q & A.



Linda Okula asks David Fernandes, vice president of Retail at The Polish National Credit Union, a question during the Elder Financial Abuse Workshop at Wilbraham Senior Center.

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- Seniors stopped by the Wilbraham Senior Center from noon - 2 p.m. on Oct. 5 for an Elder Financial Abuse Workshop.

The workshop provided seniors with information on how to avoid financial fraud and scams and how to spot potential threats, along with an opportunity to ask community leaders, local law enforcement and more questions about what they can do and the best courses of action in various scenarios.

Zaneta Grasaki, branch manager at Polish National Credit Union's Wilbraham office, served as emcee for the workshop.

Walter Laskos, communications consultant, discussed the different scams affecting seniors, including buying gift cards to bail out a loved one, impending lawsuit

scams, robocalls, computer tech scams involving viruses affecting computers and scammers recording people saying "yes" to if they can hear them, later using that recording to access bank accounts and credit cards.

Laskos stressed to the audience that the best way to stay safe from scams is education.

"The more that you know about all this, the better that you can protect yourself. So, I actually applaud all of you for being here today and taking the time to be educated like this. That's so, so important," Laskos said.

Meanwhile, Det. Sean Casella of the Wilbraham Police Department was joined by Capt. Shawn Baldwin to discuss current scams in the community and how to avoid digital fraud.

Casella encouraged seniors to be skeptical, as more scammers are spoofing numbers from Washington D.C. for Medicaid

and Social Security, for example, to get access to accounts.

He shared the story of his father-in-law being scammed out of \$100,000, which was, fortunately, not fully processed when the account was flagged early, by a number spoofing as USAA.

"I would say this: if you get a phone call from someone that you either have that click or it sounds like there's other people around and it's a foreign country, those are some things to kind of keep in mind. That may be something that you want to be skeptical and verify," Casella said. "A lot of these companies, they're not going to ask you for your Social Security number, they're not going to ask you for your username and password. Please be vigilant of that."

Baldwin added the police department is also here to help if someone falls for a scam.

"Give us a call, we'll help you out, the banks will help you out, we'll take care of 'ya," Baldwin said.

Next, David Fernandes, vice president of Retail at Polish National Credit Union, shared the experiences of members who have dealt with scams.

Fernandes was nearly scammed when an email purportedly from his boss asked him to buy gift cards. Talking to his co-worker, Shane Hall, helped him realize it was a scam.

"Don't give out information. Take your time and talk to someone you trust. If I didn't talk to Shane, I was on my way to go buy those gift cards," Fernandes said.

Linda Okula attended the workshop, sharing it was "very informative" and she

learned a lot, including about gift card scams and spoofed phone calls from government agencies.

She appreciated law enforcement being at the workshop and the senior center holding this opportunity for seniors.

"I think it shows that the Wilbraham Senior Center really cares about people. They help people a lot and they go over and beyond what they should be doing," Okula said. "If they can have more programs and more outreaches, I think that would help a lot of seniors in this community."

Okula encourages the community to attend these workshops whenever they're offered, sharing this message.

"The message is just be aware," Okula said.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

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# Cultural Council's grant application deadline is Oct. 17

Council seeks to discover Wilbraham's 'hidden talent'

By Dalton Zbierski  
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WILBRAHAM -- Individuals, organizations, schools and businesses have until Oct. 17 to apply for grants through the Wilbraham Cultural Council that support cultural activities in the community.

This year, the Wilbraham Cultural Council will distribute about \$10,400 in grant funding it receives from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Each grant will be worth at least \$250; many will be worth more.

Cultural Council Chair Jane Clark spoke on the importance of applying and taking advantage of the opportunity.

"Culture solves many of society's concerns. It advances arts, humanities and science and brings people together for a really great experience," Clark said. "We try to encourage activities for all ages... There's a lot of hidden talent here. If there are folks out there who have a talent they wish to share, they might want to explore this."

The grants can support projects and activities such as exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term art residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures. Previously funded projects included Fountain Park concerts, library performances and galleries, Wilbraham United Players theatre productions and drama club productions at Minnechaug Regional High School.

Clark said the council is interested in reaching both repeat and new applicants because it is always looking to add unique cultural activities to the slate of events that occur in Wilbraham. She said the application

process is "quite simple."

Application forms and information regarding the grants are available at [www.massculturalcouncil.com](http://www.massculturalcouncil.com).

Clark is confident that there is talent in Wilbraham that has not yet been recognized and she endeavors to find it.

"The depth of the creativity and artistry in this town is very deep. There are a lot of people that have a lot of talent that could be shared

between being able to perform in your living room and being able to perform in public," Clark said. "With that in mind, I would just suggest that those people who want to be involved in cultural activities who are shy or who have never done it before become a member of the Cultural Council so they can get involved in that angle."

Clark said that in the past several years, under the stewardship of previous Chair Sue Bennett, the council has worked hard to enhance its image in the community.

Volunteers have worked to create a new logo, and lawn signs have been printed to help promote upcoming concerts.

Moving forward, the council hopes to get more people involved. For artists, working with the Cultural Council provides an incredible way to increase outreach in the community.

"Those of us on the committee think that there are groups of people, organizations or businesses within the Wilbraham community that may be in a position to perform but haven't even thought about it. We are in the process now of trying to figure out the best way to reach out to those folks."

A Cultural Council survey can be completed by opening the QR code attached to this article.



with this community," Clark said. "I would encourage those people to think about coming forward and applying to the Cultural Council for a grant to help support their programs."

For those who seek to share their skills with the public, the money is available. Clark noted that performing is a way of reaching other people; she said showcasing artistic talent helps encourage others to explore their own talents.

However, performing is not easy. Clark encourages people to apply for a grant if they are up to the challenge and added that there are opportunities to further the mission of the council from behind the scenes.

"The majority of the musical and artistic events that we provide are by semi-professionals; people that are used to performing in public. That being said, there is a big leap



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# Hampden Library takes part in “Let Freedom Read” event

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN — The Hampden library was one of 70 across Massachusetts on Oct. 7 to participate in the “Let Freedom Read” event.

The statewide read-in celebrates the freedom to read, with attendees participating at local libraries or digitally through eBooks or audiobooks.

The event comes as book challenges and bans have risen across the country.

According to the American Library Association, 2,571 books were challenged in 2022, up from 1,858 in 2021 and up from 223 in 2020. Additionally, 48% of book challenges have taken place at public libraries, with 41% at school libraries, 10% at schools and 1% at higher education libraries and other institutions.

Director Ellen Moriarty said she hopes to hold this event again next year, explaining she’s been “shocked and appalled” at the book bans.

Moriarty also appreciated having attendees of varying generations at the event to discuss banned books.

“It’s just become so much more important to educate people about this because it’s becoming more and more of an issue,” Moriarty said. “Libraries are very important.”

Moriarty shared the library’s mission statement, which is as follows:

“The mission of the Hampden Free Library Public Library is to provide information, entertainment and education to all members of the Hampden community through a variety of formats including current technology, popular materials, enriching activities and informative programs. We seek to create lifelong learners by fostering literacy for all ages and to develop and promote the library as a resource capable of meeting the challenges today and into the future,” the statement reads.

Edgar B., a longtime library patron, shared these thoughts during the read-in.

“These people that want books banned haven’t read the books. They take it out of context and use it knowingly for others who have not (read them),” he said.

Cathy Rochford, who is part



Hampden Free Public Library Director Ellen Moriarty joins attendees in a group photo celebrating the library’s first annual “Freedom to Read” event on Oct. 7.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Two books on display at the library called “Beyond Banned Books” and “Banned Books for Kids” providing information on intellectual freedom and reading banned books during the “Freedom to Read” statewide read-in event at Hampden Free Public Library.

of the library’s book club and the Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library Board of Trustees, said it’s important for book clubs to read banned or challenged books.

“We’ve talked about it as trustees if someone came in and wanted a book removed, what would we do in that case, that kind of thing,” Rochford said. “It is important, and I think everyone has the choice to read what they want to read, whether it’s a banned book or not.”

Jean Hall, another member of the trustees, said everyone should read whatever books they want.

“I think that we are individuals and that we should make our own choices, and nobody should tell us what we can and cannot read or write. It’s America,” Hall said. “If I choose to allow my children to read a banned book, it’s because I want my child to be aware of everything and be informed and make their own decisions.”

Mary L. is a resident, book club

member and teacher at Washington Elementary School. She has become more aware of making sure children find books they want, stressing the importance of reading.

“Kids, they love to read. If they find something they’re into, they’ll get into the book. It’s just finding that thing that attracts them to become readers. They need to read. Reading is to life. Like they can’t use a computer unless they can read, they can’t do their fractions unless they can read. So, it’s vital, I think, learning how to read,” she said.

Moriarty said she and fellow book club member Teresa Gonclaves also plan to get involved in groups supporting reading banned books.

“We plan to join the American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee with Teresa and I joining the policy and networking groups,” Moriarty said. “Also, keep reading banned books.”

To learn more, visit [ala.org/books](http://ala.org/books).

# FPA announces ‘Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention’

Official theme for Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 8-14

The National Fire Protection Association® - the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ for more than 100 years - has announced “Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention. TM” as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 8-14, 2023. This year’s focus on cooking safety comes in response to NFPA’s latest cooking fire data, which shows that cooking remains by far the leading cause of U.S. home fires, with nearly half (49%) of all home fires involving cooking equipment; cooking is also the leading cause of home fire injuries and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths.

While other leading causes of home fires, such as smoking, have continued to decline since 1980, home cooking fires have not.

“These numbers tell us that more public awareness is needed around when and where cooking fires happen, along with ways to prevent them,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “This year’s Fire Prevention Week theme presents a powerful opportunity to better educate the public about simple but important steps they can take to reduce their risk to home cooking fires, keeping themselves and those around them safe.”

Additional statistics from NFPA’s latest Home Cooking Fires report include the following:

Between 2017 and 2021, an average of 158,400 home cooking fires occurred in U.S. homes each year, resulting in 470 civilian deaths, 4,150 civilian injuries, and \$1.15 billion in direct property damage.

In 2021, the number of reported cooking fires dropped to the lowest level seen since 2005. However, reported home cooking fires hit consecutive new highs in 2012-2015. In 2016-2018, these fires fell below the 2014 and 2015 levels, but remained historically high.

Unattended cooking was by far the leading factor in cooking fires and cooking fire deaths.

More than two-thirds (66%) of home cooking fires began with the ignition of cooking materials, including food, fat, and grease.

Following are cooking safety messages that support this year’s Fire Prevention Week theme, “Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention.”:

Always keep a close eye on what you’re cooking. For foods with longer cook times, such as those that are simmering or baking, set a timer to help monitor them carefully.

Clear the cooking area of combustible items, keeping anything that can burn - such as dish towels, oven mitts, food packaging, and paper towels - at least three feet away from cooking equipment.

Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.

Create a “kid and pet free zone” of at least three feet (one meter) around the cooking area and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

“Staying in the kitchen, using a timer, and avoiding distractions that take your focus away from what’s on the stove are among the key messages for this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign,” said Carli.

Fire Prevention Week is celebrated throughout North America every October and is the oldest public health observance on record in the U.S. For 101 years, Fire Prevention Week has worked to educate people about the leading risks to home fires and ways they can better protect themselves and their loved ones. Local fire departments, schools, and community organizations play a key role in bringing Fire Prevention Week to life in their communities each year and spreading basic but critical fire safety messages.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and this year’s theme, “Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention.” visit [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org). Additional Fire Prevention Week resources for children, caregivers, and educators can be found at [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org) and [www.sparkyschoolhouse.org](http://www.sparkyschoolhouse.org).

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

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# MassDOT visits bridge on Rock-A-Dundee Road

By Dalton Zbierski  
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HAMPDEN -- A team of professionals, including individuals from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, surveyed the bridge on Rock-A-Dundee Road on Oct. 4 but did not come to any immediate conclusions regarding its future.

On multiple occasions this summer, the Board of Selectmen discussed potential state-funded improvements to the bridge that was built in 1987. Last Wednesday, during a site visit, Highway Superintendent Mark Langone offered an update.

"It's my understanding that we're still working with the state and the state's contractors to have a project ready to bid in 2025 and possible construction in 2026," Langone said. "So, we're out here today to just get some measurements of the width of the waterway and some measurements on the



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski

**Hampden Highway Superintendent Mark Langone speaks to a representative of engineer firm CDM Smith Oct. 4.**

right of ways, the project limits, and that will help determine what size structures go in if we decide to replace it."

Langone said the town has been given four options on how it could move forward, but a decision has yet to be made. He said the options range from a repair to various stages of replacement and acknowledged "more options could pop up; it's still really early."

Kristine Chestna, a supervising project manager for MassDOT, said she is the "project manager for the replacement of this bridge" but did note that there is a possibility the bridge could merely be repaired.

"Today, we're doing a site visit to take a look at the river and see what we think the best width of the bridge would be," she said. "Right now, we are at what we call pre-25% design so it's really more like a 10% design, and one of the first things we have to look at is the natural flow of the river here. So, does it make the most sense to put the opening, or the part of the bridge you won't see, exactly the same or a little bit different? (We do that) so we don't have scouring or undermining of the bridge on either side."

Chestna said MassDOT is paying for the design and construction phases of the project. Design engineer CDM Smith is working on the design and was present Oct. 4.

When the design is finished in several years, the project will be put out to bid and construction will occur.

"But before that, when we get to 25% design, we'll have a design public hearing and let everybody know," Chestna said. "We'll do a ton of community outreach, so we'll welcome everybody in the town, especially our abutters here, and let them know exactly what's going on. They'll have time to give their input, and we'll review all that input and



**Hampden Highway Superintendent Mark Langone speaks to Kristine Chestna of MassDOT Oct. 4.**

make sure what we end up with here is something that is a good, sustainable bridge."

Langone voiced appreciation for the state's contributions, noting that MassDOT invited him to the meeting on Oct. 4 as a courtesy. He said that he can get updates through state's bridge division and is funneling information through MassDOT.

"I don't know how often it is that a town will receive a

letter from the state saying that they're going to help with a repair or replacement just kind of out of the blue. We didn't pursue this project, but the state through their inspections were able to catch some deficiencies, which put this location on one of their lists, and it's a huge help," Langone said.

Chestna noted that Oct. 4 was only part of the initial investigation. She noted that two MassDOT professionals who deal with river morphology made the visit as well to decipher how the construction process should proceed.

MassDOT is required to check all bridges in Massachusetts. Chestna said it takes a team effort to accomplish the task.

"So, we have six districts, which are different regions of the state, and each district has their own what we call a district bridge engineer. Under each district bridge engineer, is a team of bridge inspectors. They're always out generating bridge inspection reports for every bridge in the state," she said.

Langone appeared encouraged by the way things are progressing on Rock-A-Dundee Road. He again thanked MassDOT for making its presence felt in a positive way.

"We usually spend a lot of our money on roadways and stuff like that. Sometimes, bridges get left behind, but they're an important part of the infrastructure so any help we can get from the state is very much appreciated," Langone said.

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## THANKSGIVING REVIEWS

"Hi Paul, she was great! Lots of plump meat and just enough fat to help prevent her from drying out. We will be having leftovers for a very long time."  
 — Beth from Belchertown

"Everyone loved it. Absolutely perfect. I was planning on stopping by between now and Christmas to thank you. You beat me to it. We'll definitely see you next year."  
 — Greg from West Springfield

"It was absolutely AMAZING! This was the first time ever brining a turkey and then I followed your cooking directions on your website. It was perfect cooking it low and slow."  
 — Kelly from Ludlow

---

## BUSINESS GIFTS

Give a Dickens-style gift to employees or business partners this year with a pasture-raised extra-large turkey for Christmas.

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 — Kevin Sullivan  
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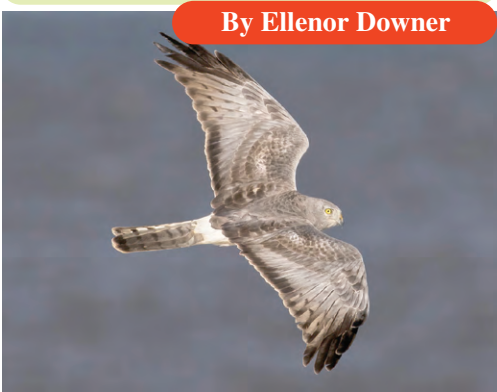
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## VIEWPOINTS



Northern harrier

I received an email about the sighting of a Northern harrier in Warren from a man who reports bird sighting for this column on a regular basis.

The Northern harriers is the only harrier in North America. Harriers are very distinctive hawks, with long wings and long tails. They are about 18 inches long. The male is gray above and white underneath and the female is larger than the male and brown above and streaked brown underneath.

They are usually seen flying low over the ground in open country. At close range, the face of Northern harrier resembles an owl. Unlike most hawks it may rely on its hearing like an owl to help it locate prey as it courses low over the fields.

Males tend to fly lower and faster than females. The female lays four to six pale bluish-white eggs in a platform nest of sticks and grasses placed on the ground. The female remains with young most of time at first and the male brings food and delivers it to female, who feeds it to young. After the young are about two weeks old, the female does much of the hunting for them.

They feed mostly on small mammals and birds. They also eat large insects especially grasshoppers as well as snakes, lizards, toads and frogs. May feed on carrion, especially in winter.

### Ruby throated hummingbirds

Ruby throated hummingbirds still being seen. Pittsfield and Williamstown, Gill, Longmeadow, Amherst, Princeton, Petersham reported sightings to Massachusetts Audubon Society on Sept. 25 and Sept. 26.

### Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee provides loon facts in a newsletter. Loons usually sleep on the water unless they are incubating a nest and loon cams captured nesting loons sleeping while incubating. To sleep, a loon will turn its head and rest it on its back, tucking its bill into its scapular feathers.

The newsletter said, "If you see a loon sleeping during the daytime, don't worry. Loons sleep in short bursts that may happen at any time, day or night." Daytime sleeping bouts tend to be a little shorter, averaging 14 minutes than nighttime one, averaging 24 minutes. Loons spend more time sleeping at night than they do during the day. When sleeping, loons tend to prefer open water, further from the shoreline.

### Sightings Warren and Brimfield

Besides seeing a Northern harrier, a birder reported in an email two great egrets at a no-named pond on New Reed Street. He said, "On South Street at the pond with an osprey nest

one juvenile, who fledged a few weeks ago, was still visiting the nest and perching in the tree with the nest. A second osprey had fledged from the nest and had left the area around the pond over two weeks ago."

He also said, "I did see two osprey flying high over the pond on New Reed Street. The birds were quite high, well above tree top level with one bird following a couple of hundred yards behind the first. They were too far away to tell if it was an adult being followed by a juvenile."

In another email, he said, "There was a flock of hen turkeys with some young. We have not see many turkeys near out property for a couple of years, probably because this are was had hit by sponge moths (used to be called gypsy moths) and we haven't had a decent acorn crop in several years. "He said there were about 20 birds in all with two different age groups based on the size of the young birds.

He said, "As I was watching a young gray fox appeared and that got the turkeys even more excited. I could see the fox moving around and the turkey were running back and forth, however it didn't seems as though the fox was stalking the turkeys. After several minutes a dozen of the turkeys flew away into the woods. I didn't see where the rest of the turkeys of the fox went."

The birder sent an email in mid-September and commented about how I like juncos. He said, "Juncos are harbingers of the coming change in seasons and my wife has the exact opposite reaction to their arrival that you do, 'oh no the juncos are back'"

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.



## Planning ahead for raised beds!

My friend Jacquie is very proud of the tomato plants she grows each year.

She squeezes them into the little garden adjacent to the front door of her condo, and has even grown some in hanging containers. I received this question from her via text a few weeks back, and by the sound of it she wants to expand her gardening endeavors:

"For those of us that like to plan ahead, what are the pros and cons of raised bed gardens, and if you decide to go that route, what is the process?"

There are several advantages to gardening in raised beds. If the ground you would normally garden in is too sandy or too clayey, you can stop dealing with those troubles when you switch to raised beds!

You can carefully choose the soil that you fill the beds with. I personally love the Coast of Maine brand Raised Bed Mix, but I am sure there are resources online for mixing your own blends.

You can also plant more intensively, meaning fewer weeds! Concentrate fertilizers, lime and compost right where you need them, saving money along the way.

You can start working the ground earlier in the spring because it warms up quicker in raised beds. You don't have to worry about soil compaction as much either, because rarely, if ever, will you have to step into the beds.

You no longer have to weed the rows like you would in a normal garden, or will you have to worry about mulch or other materials to cover the rows with.

One drawback might be the cost to get started. Between the edging materials and the mix, you end up filling the bed with, it could get darn expensive.

First, you have to decide on what type of ma-

terial you'll use to edge the beds with. There are pros and cons there too, but more on that in a bit.

A minimum depth of one foot is needed for most crops barring corn; that crop would need a deeper bed. On the flip side, if the ground beneath the raised beds is usable (i.e., not contaminated or pavement etc.) then you could potentially make the beds not as quite as deep, figuring plant roots will penetrate out from the walls.

Wood, stone, brick, pavers and cinder blocks are all possible edge materials. Simple raised beds can even be made within hay bales!

Beds made from pine slabs may only last a few seasons; rock type edging will last indefinitely.

One drawback to beds made out of hardscape materials might be the fact that they dry out more readily. Although that would not have been an issue this year, it could be down the road.

I had a number of raised beds that I made in an old tennis court on my property. They were edged in field stone because I had an endless supply on my property.

Free, yes! Beautiful, yes! But practical, not so much.

On a hot summer day, I was sometimes out there watering two or more times!

The new galvanized metal raised beds seem

to be rising in popularity. I know very little about them or how readily they dry out in between waterings.

As far as bed width goes, usually no more than four feet wide is recommended. That way you can reach inside comfortably.

I have been very successful growing peppers, zucchini and onions in my raised beds. Flowers and herbs also seem to do very well.

Tomatoes perform okay, but for me, green beans seem to be unhappy. There isn't enough room for winter squash, and I've never attempted corn.

Refresh your soil each year with the addition of compost and fertilizer. Because the bed is like a big container, the soil can get exhausted after a season of use.

I would say gardening in raised beds is worth the investment. Start out small and expand if you feel you enjoy having more to take care of.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



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### Correction Policy

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

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# School Committee holds lengthy discussion on regional agreement

Discussion included survey data and financial implications of district reconfiguration

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee held a lengthy discussion on Oct. 5 around the regional agreement.

Superintendent John Provost began the discussion by breaking down several issues addressed in a meeting with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that will need to be modified or reviewed for the agreement.

They include but are not limited to the inclusion of preschool, the practice of electing new board members needing notice to voters on ballots on when they take office, the one person one vote principle, which focuses on representation on the regional committee from member communities, and requirements and recommendations around capital costs.

Provost said, "Even though we have some sort of larger issues that we still need to iron out, there are a number of these things that are just bookkeeping."

"It might be advisable at this point to approve some legal fees for the School Com-

mittee's legal counsel to begin preparing an updated draft with the parts that can be changed now and the parts that are purely regulatory, so that when we fill in the blanks with the other more substantive decisions that the committee would need to make, we have a document that's ready to go or not then faced with another delay of preparing a regional agreement," Provost said.

After a brief discussion, the motion to have legal counsel prepare an updated agreement passed 7-0.

For survey data, Provost said the Planning Committee received 270 responses, with over 60% from Wilbraham residents, 20% from Hampden and 20% from other communities. Additionally, about two-thirds were from parents and caregivers and one-third from district employees.

Additional data focused on facility usage and whether people felt the school they most connected to was underutilized, overcrowded or just right.

"We had 26% who felt that utilization was just right. We had a third who said that the school they were connected with was either underutilized or overcrowded and we had 16% who said that they had more than one condition," Provost said.

On supporting the regional agreement, over 80% of respondents were in favor, with support overwhelming in all groups surveyed.

"Among those who were opposed to changing the agreement, the most common reason cited was concerns about the appropriateness of having eighth graders in the

same school as other students," Provost said.

On the four regional agreement options, it was 42% for option one, 18.5% for option two, 10% for option three, 9% for option four and 21% who felt none of the four options were advisable.

School Committee member William Bontempi asked during this part of the discussion, "What is the best way to educate our children?"

"It's a pivotal point in this district's history because this is going to determine the education of students moving forward, possibly another 30 years, and so I don't want to get three years into a plan and say, 'Oh jeez we should have done this.' Educationally, if you removed all barriers, what would be your ideal situation?" Bontempi said.

Several people responded, including Vice Chair Sean Kennedy, who explained the constraints "aren't gone" when addressing the school buildings that the district currently has.

"That's the issue. We have financial constraints, we have constraints of different member towns," Kennedy said. "There is no way of looking at this without the constraints because the constraints are what's going to make what happens happen."

For the financial discussion, Aaron Osborne, assistant superintendent for finance, operations and human resources, broke down the costs, explaining they look at the span of four years and beyond for each option.

Option three, particularly, would include keeping Thornton W. Burgess Middle

School open.

"We do have some disclaimers regarding reopening TWB. TWB has been closed for quite a while. There haven't been some upgrades done to it that have been done in the other schools," Osborne said. "So, there would be some costs that we'd have to look at if we were to reopen TWB."

As the discussion continued, the issue of when the implementation plans would take place came up, with Michael Tirabassi asking if they are not being considered for the 2024-2025 school year.

"I totally understand with the complexity and everyone wanting to do it right that we might not be sure if we're going to be successful implementing for 2024-2025, but I would encourage to not slow down and just keep moving forward and if it happens and it can't be done right, then, you know, I would be happy to accept that. I'm just curious," Tirabassi said.

Addressing what will still need to be done, Chair Michal Boudreau said how the committee "is trying our best to do our due diligence" and how "all of these pieces, they've all taken time."

"We're trying our best to make sure that we are working through this as methodically as we can, you know, taking in all considerations," Boudreau said. "But some of the stuff does take time and we want to make sure we do it well because like you said, we have one shot, and we want to make sure that it sticks and it's the best for our students."

## Hampden's Fall Fest scheduled for Oct. 21 at TWB

HAMPDEN -- Hampden's Fall Fest on Saturday, Oct. 21 with a rain date of Sunday, Oct. 22 held at Thornton W. Burgess School grounds at 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden.

The Festival begins at noon and will encompass a large craft fair, trunk or treating, Minnechaug Regional High School band and "Thriller" dance. There will be a S'mores pit and chili competition from our towns Fire and Police Departments. Plenty of food and food trucks with music and finally our fireworks display.

You can visit our Facebook page for

more information, activities and times at "Hampden Fall Fest". We are seeking volunteers for small shifts and carved pumpkins for our illumination. Contact Laura with any questions at leqsaler-no@gmail.com.

Sending special thanks to some of our top supporters like Great Horse, Monsons Savings Bank, Skinner Excavating, K. Sacco Electric, Affordable Waste, Hampden Village Mart, Cj's Towing, Halluch's Landscape, Polish National, Peoples Bank And Hampden Vfw.

## Library has delayed opening Oct. 20

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham Public Library will have a delayed opening on Friday, Oct. 20 to allow all staff to attend a special training.

We will open to the public from noon-5 p.m. Our digital resources are always available through the library website at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org).

## Saint Cecilia Parish Women's Club to hold Rummage Sale Nov. 3

WILBRAHAM — The Saint Cecilia Parish Women's Club is holding its annual Rummage Sale in the Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham, on Friday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 4, 8:30 a.m. until noon. (Saturday is Bag Day!) Gently used clothing for men, women, and children, toys, puzzles, household items, curtains, towels, sheets, and other linens, jewelry, scarves,

purses and much more will be sold at very reasonable prices.

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Information
  - 5. Seaport (abbr.)
  - 8. Agricultural disease (abbr.)
  - 11. Riding horses
  - 13. Boxing's GOAT
  - 14. Hurt or discomfort
  - 15. A small sharp knife to trim vegetables
  - 16. A beaver builds one
  - 17. Horizontal passage into a mine
  - 18. Self-immolation by fire rituals
  - 20. Chain bar with lots of games (abbr.)
  - 21. Goo Goo Dolls' hit
  - 22. Agreeable
  - 25. In an early way
  - 30. In a way, struck
  - 31. It's there in the morning
  - 32. County in the S. Pacific
  - 33. Central Florida city
  - 38. Numbers cruncher
  - 41. Mexican beers
  - 43. Lawyers say you can indict one
  - 45. Capital of South Australia
  - 47. Wings
  - 49. Drug used to treat HIV/AIDS
  - 50. Fencing sword
  - 55. Capital of Qatar
  - 56. Portable bed
  - 57. Afflicted
  - 59. Lying down
  - 60. Midway between northeast and east
  - 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
  - 62. Inflamed
  - 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
  - 64. Impudence
  - CLUES DOWN**
  - 1. A way to fish
  - 2. Greek mythological figure
  - 3. Scarlet's home
  - 4. Assist
  - 5. More doleful
  - 6. Premeditated
  - 7. Dish featuring minced food
  - 8. San Diego ball-player
  - 9. Eight
  - 10. Unwelcome picnic guests
  - 12. Human gene
  - 14. Bucket
  - 19. Make full
  - 23. Dirt
  - 24. Person cited as ideal example
  - 25. A part of (abbr.)
  - 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
  - 27. Very long period of time
  - 28. Gas usage measurement
  - 29. North American native people
  - 34. It says "moo"
  - 35. Folk singer Di Franco
  - 36. Resinlike substance of certain insects
  - 37. Residue
  - 39. Grand homes
  - 40. Popinjays
  - 41. Man who behaves dishonorably
  - 42. Figures
  - 44. One who watches over children
  - 45. Expressed pleasure
  - 46. No longer living
  - 47. Hebrew calendar month
  - 48. Part of the ear
  - 51. Swiss river
  - 52. Prejudice
  - 53. Italian Island
  - 54. Resist authority (slang)
  - 58. Criticize



Photo courtesy of Joan Shea

Shown in Picture is Michael Shea of Hampden donating his father's uniform to Bob Dassat, current commander of The Dalton American Legion. Michael Shea's father served as the first Commander of the Legion from 1920-1921.

## Hampden residents rediscover Dalton, MA history in storage chest

HAMPDEN/DALTON -- A piece of Dalton, MA history was recently uncovered in a storage chest in the Hampden home of Michael and Joan Shea. While looking through bins that had been kept in a family home for seventy years, Michael recognized his father's uniform as being among the contents. His father, Dr. Michael Shea of Dalton, MA, was the first ever Commander of the Dalton American Legion. He was appointed to the position in 1920 and held that position for one year. Upon finding the uniform, Mike and Joan decided it would be only fitting to donate it back to the Legion.

In addition to his service in the American Legion, Dr. Shea was a dentist in Dalton until his death in 1953. Dr. Shea held offices in both Pittsfield and Dalton for many years. He also cared for the children in town, serving as the school dentist and offering in-school care during the academic day.

Bob Dassat, the current Commander

at the Legion, was very happy to be in possession of this uniform, which will be framed and hung in the entrance of the Legion. Even after many years of being stored, the uniform is in fantastic shape, and Mike was happy to donate it, honoring all the great work the legion does for Veterans.

The American Legion was founded in 1919 by Veterans to help with the transition to civilian life after discharge from military service. Post #155 was established in 1954 and named after Benjamin F. Sullivan of Dalton. Mike fondly remembers his father meeting with the Legion's members at The Union Block in Dalton.

Dr. Shea also was instrumental in the construction of the building in which the current legion meets. The Shea Family is so pleased that his memory will now be a part of the home to the current membership.

## Wilbraham library to bring back Jack-o-Lantern contest and StoryWalk

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham Friends of the Library's second annual Jack-o-Lantern contest and StoryWalk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 29. Please register through the library's event calendar at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org). Families

may enter one Jack-o-Lantern for display. (LED tealights please, no real candles). Set-up begins at 4:30 p.m., and the display will run from 5-7 p.m. Prizes will be announced at 6:45 p.m. In the event of rain, we will hold the event inside. This event is free. Hot Cider will be available. Donations to the Wilbraham Friends of the Library will be gratefully accepted.

Wilbraham-Hampden Times

### OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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## Attorney Amelia J. Holstrom named to Top Women of the Law

### Recognition received from Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly

SPRINGFIELD – Wilbraham resident and Attorney Amelia Holstrom of Skoler, Abbott & Presser, P.C., a leading labor and employment law firm serving employers in the greater Springfield area, has been recognized as one of the 2023 Top Women of Law by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. The Top Women of the Law program celebrates the outstanding achievements of exceptional women in the legal profession. Each year, the publication and accompanying event scheduled for Nov. 1, 2023, honors women who have demonstrated great accomplishments in their field.

“Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly has a long tradition of recognizing pioneers and role models in the legal field,” said Holstrom. “I am honored and humbled to be recognized among so many exceptional women in the legal profession.”

Holstrom has been with Skoler Ab-

bott since 2012 and was named a partner in 2019. She defends employers in litigation involving claims of discrimination, harassment and retaliation, wage and hour violations, contract disputes and other employment issues. She also advises clients with respect to compliance challenges, personnel policies and day-to-day employment issues and provides custom training programs and materials on a variety of important topics, including harassment, paid and unpaid leave and ADA accommodations.

Holstrom resides in Wilbraham with her family and is an active participant in the Greater Springfield Community. She is the Chair of the Wilbraham Personnel Advisory Board, a member of the Wilbraham Commission on Disability, the boards of Clinical and Support Options Inc. and the East of the River Five Town Chamber of Commerce, the board development committee for the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts and the personnel committee for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

## Events & announcements schedule

### Minnechaug Class of 2001 reunion Oct. 14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Wilbraham Friends of the Library's Clothing and Household Textile Drive to benefit all

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

With millions of pounds of clothing and household textiles ending up in U.S. landfills each year, the Friends are working to raise awareness of waste and inspire consumers to take responsible action through donations and upcycling.

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

Join us with your clothing drive donations on Oct. 14, learn more about the Friends and receive a coupon for a free book at our Annual Book Sale, which is scheduled to take place in May 1-4, 2024. For more information on the Wilbraham Friends of the Library visit them on the web at <http://wilbrahamlibrary.org/friends.asp>, on Facebook or via email at [friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org](mailto:friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org).

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

WILBRAHAM — The Wilbraham Friends of the Library are presenting their Annual Art Exhibit, taking place at the Brooks Room of the Wilbraham Public Library through Oct. 29 with a reception for artists, Friends and the public, Saturday, Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Artists will be able to sell additional unframed pieces at the reception. The library is located at 25 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham. The show is open for various art media, and Chairman Mary Bandoueres is now welcoming artist's applications.

Respond early at [wplartshow@gmail.com](mailto:wplartshow@gmail.com) to insure your spot. Entry deadline is September 22.

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

For more information, contact the Friends at [friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org](mailto:friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org).



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*Life in* **WILBRAHAM**

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

# Shut Down the School

Photos courtesy of Kristen VanDerBeken

On Friday, Oct. 6, Wilbraham Middle School participated in its first-ever Shut Down the School. For the last 90 minutes of the day, Wilbraham Middle School teachers and students shut down the school and played games to build positive

relationships with each other. They played limbo, sweep the potato and toilet plunger race. The teachers were even wrapped up as mummies. As a huge surprise, Einstein the Eagle even stopped by! It was a fun day, and students had a blast!



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# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

**Community Bulletin Board**

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

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please keep it to less than 50 words.  
Please send to [dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com)**



The Strings and Friends Middle School Ensemble at the Big E

Members of the Hampden Wilbraham Strings and Friends program performed at the Grange Hall at the Big E on Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023, at 6:15 p.m. The program is led by Denise Gendron, director, and Elaine Holdsworth, founder. Photo courtesy of Elaine Holdsworth.



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# Remarkable Robotics!

HAMPDEN — Girls and their guardian are invited to a free Remarkable Robotics activity on Thursday, Oct. 19, from 5-6 p.m. Participants will try their hand at programming a robot and experience a typical Girl Scout troop meeting. Adults will discuss volunteering to form a new Girl Scout troop. Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts seeks volunteers to form new leadership team (three to four adults) so that the troop fun and responsibilities can be shared. No previous Girl Scout experience is necessary.

When: Thursday, Oct. 19, from 5-6 p.m.

Where: Hampden Public Library  
625 Main St, Hampden

This event is for girls entering grades K and 1, who are not currently Girl Scouts. RSVP by Oct. 15 <https://bit.ly/23hampden>.

For information on Girl Scouts contact Angie at [Arodriguez@gscwm.org](mailto:Arodriguez@gscwm.org) or call 413-584-2602 x4028.

## Library to host program on Adams and Jefferson

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham Public Library will host actor George Baker for his one-man-show "John Adams and Thomas Jefferson - Their Historic 50-Year Friendship" on Monday, Oct. 23 at 6 p.m. in the Brooks Room.

George Baker, as John Adams, will present his views of the nation, history and family life in a humorous and inspiring speech. He will be dressed in the clothes he would have worn as the Second President of the United States 1797-1801. Adams will describe how he and Thomas Jefferson met in 1775 at the Continental Congress, how they worked on the Declaration of Independence, their comradeship as fellow ambassadors in England and France, the bitterness of the presidential elections of 1796 and 1800 and their famous reconciliation.

The program is free of charge and registration is suggested through the library's Event Calendar at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org), or by calling 596-6141. This program is funded by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.



Maribeth Moss from the Hampden County Sheriff's Department's Emotional Support Division poses with her K9 Tess, a support dog.



Sgt. Billy Kennedy of the Hampden County Sheriff's Department poses with his K9 Scout.

Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski



Dillon and Jayden check out the ATVs brought to the Wilbraham Police Department last Saturday as part of Public Safety Day.

### PUBLIC SAFETY from page 1

ing all kids unsupervised stay three feet away from any stovetop."

Andrews said the department looks forward to the open house each year because it provides a rare opportunity to interact with residents in a non-emergency environment. Andrews especially enjoys speaking with the kids; he listed the different activities that were available for all.

"We have an informational station with our fire prevention Capt. (Matt) Walch, who's talking about smoke alarms and the regulations and sprinklers to make sure your sprinklers are tested," Andrews said. "Additionally, we're running our hands-only CPR station (and) providing files of life. We have our regional safe trailer here, which lets the students come in and see some kitchen safety tips and get low and go, which we encourage for anyone crawling in a smoke environment."

At the fire department, attendees also got to spray the fire hose and watch the newly acquired drone, which is shared by police and fire. Andrews noted that in the first year of the joint public safety open house, the attendance numbers were the highest they've ever been.

Several K9s from the Hampden County Sheriff's Department were also on-hand, including Tess, a support dog, who came with Maribeth Moss of the department's Emotional Support Division.

Moss, a registered nurse, said that Tess "is localized in medical.

"So, any inmate, patient that comes up to the medical department to receive treatments of any kind have access to Tess, who is in medical at all times," Moss said. "People who are having anxiety or are going through a mental health crisis, people who just need to talk about missing their dogs at home, she's there for them."

Moss said that dogs are "definitely crowd pleasers" at events such as the one on Oct. 7. She appreciated the invite to the public safety headquarters for Public Safety Day.

Police Chief Edward Lennon said the department held an open house not long after the new building opened; he estimated it was in 2018. Lennon discussed why the department brought back the initiative.

"We decided it would be a good idea for both agencies to do it at the same time. We're geographically very close to each other. We worked with (fire) to put this together," Lennon said, noting it would be more difficult if the fire headquarters was on the opposite side of town.

Last Saturday at the police department, residents were able to view the facilities, equipment, lockup, vehicles, the booking area and the boat that is shared with the fire department.

"We had officers working that brought small groups through and answered questions. A lot of kids came," Lennon said. "We're really happy about it. A lot of people came through today, and we really enjoyed it."

Lennon said the kids enjoyed getting in the cars and entering the lockup cells. Police officers gave out stickers and glowsticks.


Lennon said, "I wish we could show them everything," but noted that there are spaces that not even he has credentials to enter such as the property intake room.

"We have a big vault, and there's only two officers in the department that (can access it). I can't get in there. I don't have credentials as Chief to get in there. Only two people do; they're the only ones that can do that," Lennon said.



# Wilbraham & Monson Academy

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## Sunday, October 22, 10 a.m.

### Shenkman Trading Center, Mattern Hall

Hear from recent WMA alumnae about their experiences from WMA to the boardroom. Gain new perspective about WMA's Center for Entrepreneurship, Economics & Finance and the opportunities that abound for WMA students.

**RSVP by Oct. 18: [www.wma.us/womeninbiz](http://www.wma.us/womeninbiz)**

# Events & announcements schedule

## Get ready to shake, rattle & roll!

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

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

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

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

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

*Fall Festival to occur Oct. 21*

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

Pumpkin sales benefit the Wilbraham United Church Steeple Repair fund. Cash or Credit Cards will be accepted. Donations to the Steeple Fund are also gratefully received!

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

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

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

## Hampden Garden Club celebrates 92<sup>nd</sup> year with guest speaker Ginny Blake

HAMPDEN -- The Hampden Garden Club is celebrating its 92nd year by hosting guest speaker/member Ginny Blake to present "The Tulip: Not Just Another Pretty Face". Learn the fascinating history of this be-

loved spring bulb as well as view the many stunning varieties in bloom at the Keukenhof in Holland at the height of the tulip season.

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

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

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

## Hartsprings Bin receives extended stay at Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN -- The Hartsprings Bin will stay at the Hampden Senior Center at 104 Allen St. We have been allowed an extended stay of the bin and will gladly accept your donations. As you begin your Fall Cleaning, please consider donating

your unwanted clothing, purses, shoes, jewelry, bedding (no pillows or rugs) small kitchen supplies, dishes, glassware, suitcases in good working order, duffel bags or tote bags. Books are also accepted, however, NO Encyclopedias.

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

Items left at the senior center are also accepted, and Joan will pick up from there for the truck. However, please refrain from leaving bags next to the bin. Please call Joan for help with any questions in regard to what you can donate if you are unsure. Thank you for your continuing support of this fundraiser, which supports The Building Fund of the Hampden Senior Center.

## Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry

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

It will be first come, first served and will have a free donation.

A chairlift is available. For more information, one can contact 413-566-3711 or hampdenfederated@gmail.com.



Photos courtesy of Emily Jakubasz Bonci  
MaryJane is humbled by getting second place in light fawn fleece.



Olive won sixth in fawn fleece. Pink is her favorite color, so she was happy.



Celia won fifth in white fleece competition. Her daughter Lilly won the blue ribbon for Keith Tetreault. So, champions breed champions, news which made Celia smile.



Dawn winning fifth place. She is a 16-year-old alpaca, which is elderly, but she beat out girls half her age.

## ALPACA from page 1

tended the Big E every year.

"We grew up going to the Big E. It was one of the cool things that you got to do," she said.

Before she was an alpaca farmer, Bonci was a pediatric speech therapist. Ultimately, Bonci chose to become a stay-at-home mom for her children, and the family moved to Lincoln.

For several years, the family raised three alpacas as pets. Then, Bonci met her mentor, Keith Tetreault from Plain View Farm in Hubbardston, who showed her how to process the fiber and introduced her to a fiber mill in Fall River, 20 minutes from Lincoln.

"We use them to produce the most amazing, finished goods with our alpaca fiber," Bonci said. "We pull it together, and the mill makes our items with our raw fleece, and we purchase

it back with a farmer's credit. Then, we go forth."

Bonci participates in local markets and sells her products online. She's also the president of a co-operative in Chepachet, RI with 14 other artists.

"So, that's how we started the actual farming aspect of it; making a profit from what we do," she said.

In 2020, the farm did well enough in its sales to double its herd, which doubled the available material to make items. This time, Bonci was careful about the alpacas she purchased.

She jokingly described her first group as "fall out of the back of a truck alpacas."

"For us, it wasn't important about pedigree or fiber or anything like that. It was just these are our pets, and they were fine," Bonci said. "This time around, we realized the importance of purchasing an animal that looked

like a pedigree and what it could do for us, we could compete, and what that could do for us."

Bonci was confident that the new alpacas could help double sales and put the farm on the map. Now, with six alpacas, Bonci was ready to make moves, which led to a return to the Big E.

"Competing was definitely something that was available for us if we played our cards right, so we did purchase three pedigree alpacas from my mentor and we set about entering the girls into the Big E. We thought, 'Well, I don't know any other fairs.' It was something that Tim and I were very familiar with; the Big E," Bonci said.

Last year, Bonci said she had no idea what she was doing at first but learned quickly. She pointed out that you don't actually bring the alpacas to the Big E, just their blankets.

When Bonci discovered Sassafras won in 2022, she was shocked.

"That was just kind of a riot," Bonci said. "Here we were. We're really young considering farming in general, we really don't come from farmers, we're just two city mice that found their way into alpaca farming, and we pop up and, wow, we have some really great stuff. It was silly to kind of stand there and be like, 'Yeah look at me,' when it was really a hope and prayer for much of it."

This year, although all her alpacas placed, Bonci did not earn a first-place finish. She noted she lost to Tetreault and "has never been prouder to lose because just being in league with him is a monumental achievement that's been almost a decade in the making."

Reflecting on the experience, Bonci was most thrilled that she

introduced the Big E to several people back home in Lincoln. She thanked her family in Western Mass and her fans from Lincoln.

"It's really amazing," she said. "My family came down and supported us, and we had fans. We have a very big fan base, and we had people taking pictures with our fiber in the glass and sending it to us to say, 'We're here, we see you.'"

For those looking to raise alpacas, Bonci encourages getting a mentor such as Tetreault. As for her next homecoming to the Big E, Bonci is excited about the prospect of participating again in 2023.

"The Big E is in our DNA coming from Western Mass. Now, we're just a bigger part of the Big E. It's really quite neat," she said.



Jennifer Powell, media/public relations for the Wilbraham Cultural Council, and her husband, Russell, enjoy the evening during The Wilbraham Welcome Project's Harvest Fundraiser at the Country Club of Wilbraham on Oct. 7.



Meagan Michel, president of the Wilbraham Children's Museum, gets ready to welcome attendees purchasing raffle tickets during The Wilbraham Welcome Project's Harvest Fundraiser at the Country Club of Wilbraham on Oct. 7. Several local businesses and organizations donated prizes for the raffle including the Wilbraham Children's Museum, Fern Valley Farms, Hustle & Heart and many more.



Attendees dance the night away as Project 267 gets the crowd going during The Wilbraham Welcome Project's Harvest Fundraiser at the Country Club of Wilbraham.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

dents over the past year, and in the next year we're looking to expand that program with more businesses and with more community organizations," Pierangelo Frias said.

Pierangelo Frias also looks to build on other goals, including the Wilbraham-Hampden Organization Festival and starting resident meetups at different businesses in town.

"So, coffee hours, plant hours and workshops and go from there," Pierangelo Frias said.

Pierangelo Frias stressed how "new residents are vital to our community," whether they're brand new or grew up in town and later moved back.

"The whole reason the Welcome Project started was because I was one of those residents that grew up in Wilbraham, left and came back and was just trying to figure out and find my footing," Pierangelo Frias said. "So, we know that there's a lot of information out there. We're trying to centralize that and give people a resource or information hub for that type of thing.

How to get involved in the community, what information they need, what resources do they need."

Pierangelo Frias added it's "really important" to support nonprofit organizations in the community.

"There are a lot of nonprofits in town that do such great work. Everybody is trying to get their message out there, get their word out there, show what they're doing in town, so having these forward-facing events is really important to keep the name top of mind," Pierangelo Frias said.

Pierangelo Frias encourages residents to support their community organizations and get out and volunteer, stressing how community groups are impacted by the people who get involved.

Additionally, support The Wilbraham Welcome Project.

"We're always looking for people, some new ideas, new events. We would love for the community to get more involved because there's a small number of people that are doing all of the work. We'd like to see new faces," Pierangelo Frias said.

Pierangelo Frias thanked everyone for attending the event, humbled by the support.

"We're excited to start planning for next year," Pierangelo Frias said.

To learn more, visit [www.thewilbrahamwelcomeproject.com](http://www.thewilbrahamwelcomeproject.com) or check out Facebook and Instagram at @thewilbrahamwelcomeproject.

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Deb Trimble and members of the Wilbraham United Players smile for a group photo during The Wilbraham Welcome Project's Harvest Fundraiser at the Country Club of Wilbraham. The Wilbraham United Players are a community theatre group who have been entertaining attendees of all ages since 1956.



Wilbraham Select Board Clerk Michael Squindo and his wife, Liz, smile for a photo during The Wilbraham Welcome Project's Harvest Fundraiser at the Country Club of Wilbraham.



Project 267 rocks out during The Wilbraham Welcome Project's Harvest Fundraiser at the Country Club of Wilbraham. The band served as the fundraiser's entertainment.

HARVEST from page 1

to the future. We got some exciting things planned."

Pierangelo Frias explained The Wilbraham Welcome Project's main goal "is to welcome new residents" to Wilbraham and Hampden.

"Our biggest initiative is the Wilbraham Welcome bags, so we have brought over 50 bags given to new resi-

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## Field hockey has big week



Ainsley Sheehan tries to steal the ball away.

WILBRAHAM – Last week, Minnechaug field hockey grabbed three very big wins, taking down Greenfield twice and then defeating Cicero-North Syracuse High School of New York. Due to all the rainouts, Minnechaug found itself meeting up with Greenfield twice in the same week. The Falcons defeated the Green Wave at home 2-0 and then on the road 2-1. They defeated Syracuse by the same score last Saturday afternoon. The three wins have brought Minnechaug to 7-1-1 for the regular season. The Falcons have a big matchup with Agawam on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 4 p.m.



The Falcons offense lines up for a penalty corner.



Kendall Gates chases after the ball.



Mary Woytowicz squares up a long hit.



Alayna Lucas gets the backhand near the sideline.



Kate O'Connor sends a backhand pass away. Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

## Falcons shut out Lions in another great matchup

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Minnechaug senior Kylie Ray, who's a midfielder, entered last Monday's Coombs Division soccer match against rival Ludlow with 19 career varsity goals.

Ray netted her 20<sup>th</sup> goal late in the second half which turned out to be the game-winner, as the Lady Falcons celebrated a 1-0 shutout victory over the Lady Lions at the Ludlow Sports Complex.

"I'm very happy that we were able to win today's game," Ray said. "We did have a lot of scoring opportunities, especially during the second half, and fortunately one went in. Everyone

played very well."

Ray will be signing her National Letter of Intent to play college soccer at Seton Hall University in November. She's also one of the three girls' varsity soccer players from Western Massachusetts, who are candidates for the All-American team, which is chosen by the United Soccer Coaches.

"There are about 150 soccer players throughout the United States, who are candidates for the All-American award. Three of them are from Western Massachusetts, which is awesome" said Minnechaug head coach Nundi Goncalves. "Kylie is a very talented soccer player."

The other two All-American candidates from Western Mass. are Monson senior Kendall Bo-

dak and South Hadley senior Lauren Marjanski.

It was the final meeting between the two squads on the grass football field located behind Ludlow High School. The school is expected to start installing a new turf field before the end of the regular season.

"Anytime that you can come here and win a game, it's very special," said Goncalves, who graduated from Ludlow High School in 1978. "We're also the top ranked team in the state power rankings for the first time. All the players have worked very hard and they're a lot of fun to be around."

Minnechaug was the top ranked team in the MIAA Division 2 power rankings before moving down a spot at the end



McKenzie Murray heads up the field. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

# Cambridge half-marathon registration open

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

The Cambridge Half Marathon is a

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

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

Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K

at CambridgeSide race proceeds benefit Cambridge Camping (CambridgeCamping.org), City of Cambridge Scholarship Fund (Cambridgema.gov/Services/City-Scholarship) as well as other local charities. Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K is sponsored by Canam Group Inc. and training sponsor MYSTRYDE.

## T-Birds fall in preseason tune-up

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds erased a 2-0 second intermission deficit before the Providence Bruins squeaked out a 3-2 overtime win in the final preseason matchup at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Colten Ellis and Brandon Bussi kept the opposition off the board through 20 minutes before the Bruins connected for two quick goals in the second from Marc McLaughlin and Reilly Walsh respectively. Providence held the 2-0 edge into the final period of regulation.

However, the T-Birds showed some comeback magic as Drew Callin and Hugh McGing each tallied goals of their own just 27 seconds apart, and just 4:06 into the third, the game was deadlocked, 2-2. Ellis even helped his own cause, picking up the secondary assist on Callin's marker.

Despite being outshot 35-21 in regulation, Springfield got the game to overtime thanks to 33 Ellis stops, but Providence got the last laugh as John Farinacci beat Ellis at 1:35 of OT to secure the Bruins win. The T-Birds open their regular season slate next Saturday, Oct. 14 against Hartford, with puck drop set for 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.



Ava Kearney separates from an opponent.



Claire Poindexter looks for an open teammate.



Zoriah Wray makes a quick pass.

Zoey Cardano is pressured while she possesses the ball.



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

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|---|--|

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

of last week.

After beginning the regular season by posting three consecutive shutouts, Minnechaug (7-2, 6-2) hit a little bump in the road. Following back-to-back road losses to West Springfield and Longmeadow, who's currently the top ranked team in Division 2, the Lady Falcons posted four more straight shutouts.

"We've been getting back into the groove again during the last few games," Ray said. "We're now ready for the second half of the regular season, which is the most important part of the season for us."

Ludlow (1-4-4, 1-4-3), who also lost to Minnechaug, 1-0, at the beginning of the regular season, was ranked sixth in the latest Division 2 power rankings.

"This is a tough loss for us," said first-year Lady Lions head coach Amanda Nacsin, who graduated from Ludlow High School in 2006. "Minnechaug has always been a very good team and I thought we challenged them today."

The Lady Lions were looking to get into the win column for the first time since they defeated West Springfield, 2-0, in the season opener.

Both teams had a couple of scoring chances during the first 40 minutes, but the contest was still scoreless at the break.

The Lady Falcons first half shot attempts were from sophomore midfielder Ava Kearney, junior defender Nora Kennedy, senior forward McKenzie Murray, senior forward Gianna Sakowski, and senior midfielder Zoey Cardano.

Minnechaug junior goalkeeper Makenzi Pastreck, who was looking into the bright setting sun during the first half, only had to make five saves in recording her sixth shutout of the regular season. Senior Lylah Jeannotte anchors the

Lady Falcons defensive unit, along with freshman Ainsley Holden, sophomore Zoriah Wray, and Kennedy.

Three of the Lady Lions shots in the first half were taken by junior striker Sophia Scyocurka. Junior midfielder Ryleigh Remillard also had a shot on goal for the home team.

Ludlow sophomore keeper Kacie Klimek, who's one of the top goalies in Western Mass., made eight of her 12 saves during the first twenty minutes of the second half, which kept the match scoreless a little bit longer.

"I'm very glad that Kacie will be a member of the varsity soccer team for the next couple of years," Nacsin said. "She always does everything that I ask her to do. We also have a very young defense."

The members of the Lady Lions defensive unit are senior Emma Ellis, junior Mia Carvalho, junior Calleigh Foley, and freshman Payton Dersarkisian.

The visitors from Wilbraham took the lead during the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute.

After receiving a pass from Kearney, Ray lofted a shot with her left foot from about 25 yards out. The perfectly placed shot sailed into the back of the net just out of Klimek's reach.

"After I received a pass in the attacking third of the field, I made a move around a defender and I took a shot with my left foot," Ray said. "I normally take most of my shots with my right foot, but I'm very glad that my floater went into the net."

The Lady Falcons managed to hold onto the lead during the final seven minutes of the match.

The two rivals could face each other twice more this fall in the Western Mass. Class A tournament and the Division 2 tournament.



# Bubar steals show in Granite Series win

LEE, N.H. - Corey Bubar was probably not the favorite to win Sunday evening's Bosowski Properties 150. But in the season finale for the Granite State Pro Stock Series, Bubar stole the show.

The Windham, Maine, racer held off Jimmy Renfrew, Jr. to claim the \$8,500 victory at Lee USA Speedway, closing out Lee USA Speedway's year-ending Russ Conway's Oktoberfest spectacular.

And well back in Bubar's mirror, fellow Pine Tree State native Travis Benjamin drove a patient race to earn the GSPSS championship.

Sunday's season finale earned intrigue before the drop of the green, with a \$2,000 bonus offered to any top-five starter who would forfeit their position on the grid if they could come back to win. Derek Griffith, the 2015 GSPSS champion, answered the call, lining up shotgun on the 28-car field to chase the bounty.

Bubar, starting outside of Ryan Green, jumped into the lead early, building an advantage over Green in the opening stint as Griffith picked his way through traffic. When a yellow flag flew on lap 35, Griffith had already clawed his way to 12th with plenty of laps left.

On the restart, Renfrew surged to second, pursuing Bubar until a wreck in the back of the field brought out another caution on lap 47. Reigning champion Joey Doiron pitted from fifth, while Griffith cycled through to eighth for the restart. Benjamin, well ahead of challenger Brandon Barker in the title race, was tenth.

Bubar held off Renfrew's advances on the restart, but the Candia, N.H., youngster prevailed, making his way to the front and leading at halfway. A long green-flag run allowed Renfrew to stretch the gap between himself and Bubar, but Bubar reeled Renfrew in as they diced through lapped traffic. A slow car ahead of Renfrew at just the right time gave Bubar an opening, and Bubar charged back through to take the lead.

Griffith's bid for the bounty went up in smoke with 31 laps to go, as he shredded a right-front tire running fourth. Griffith rejoined the field after a tow, but his shot at the win was all but over and he would rebound to finish eighth.

Bubar brought the field to green, and while Renfrew hassled him for a couple laps, he was able to pull away down the stretch. In his first series start of the season, Bubar raced to his second GSPSS win and his first since winning at his home track, Beech Ridge Motor Speedway, in 2021.

Renfrew followed Bubar home in second, with Green, Dave Farrington and Angelo Belsito rounding out the top five.

And with an eleventh-place finish, Travis Benjamin completed his championship season, becoming the tenth different driver to fly the GSPSS champion's banner. The Belfast, Maine, veteran, a former NASCAR racer and multi-time regional champion, won the first two outings of the season and committed to a full-time schedule that saw him finish out of the top-five only once all year.

The Granite State Pro Stock Series and president Mike Parks extend their gratitude to the tracks, teams and sponsors that made this 2023 season possible, and hope to release details on next year's schedule soon.

# Falcons have tough week



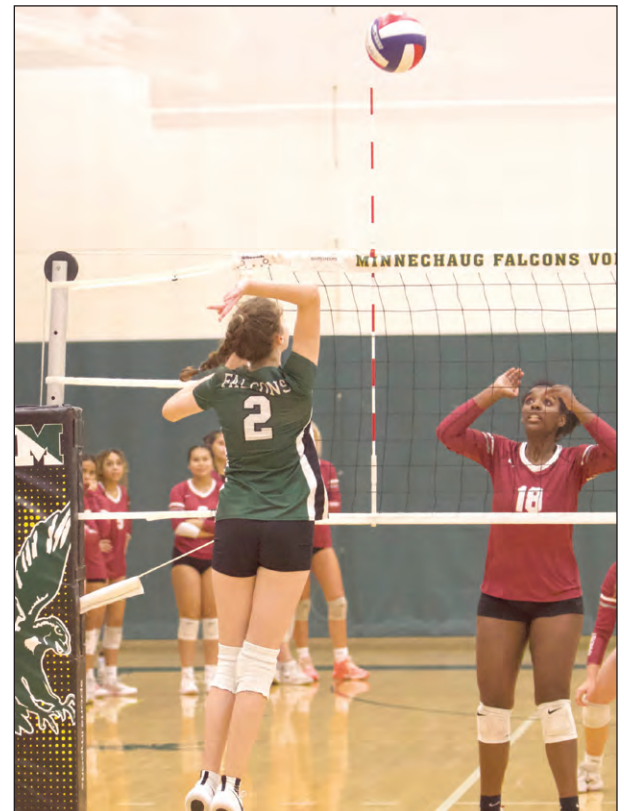
Sam Long serves the ball away.



Ava Murray makes the backwards hit.



Emma Powell follows through on a spike.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande  
Cora Pace jumps up to get the ball back over the net.

WILBRAHAM – Last week, Wilbraham girls volleyball suffered a pair of losses, getting swept by Amherst 3-0 and then losing 3-1 against Longmeadow on the road. With the

two defeats, Minnechaug is now 4-9 on the season. Minnechaug had a tough start to the regular season with five straight losses, but responded with four wins in six games before

the most recent two-game skid. The Falcons travel to Pope Francis on Friday, Oct. 13 at 5 p.m.

## This Week in Rec

Dan Beauregard, Program Coordinator

It is early October, 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 grade 8. WPRD will also be offering Pre-K Basketball for Wilbraham residents, ages 4-5 years old that aren't in kindergarten yet.

For grades 3rd/4th, 5th/6th, and 7th/8th 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, Oct. 29 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 thank

everyone who continues to volunteer their time to coach youth sports in Wilbraham.

Registration for K-8 began Sept. 28 and went until Oct. 10; please contact the Parks and Recreation Department immediately if you are still interested in registering. Pre-K registration runs from Dec. 5 through Dec. 18.

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, wilbrahammyrec.com or contact our office at 413-596-2816.

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## SERVICES



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The Town of Wilbraham is now hiring for the following vacancies:

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- P/T Basketball Officials
- P/T Gym Supervisor
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For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). EOE

## HELP WANTED

Town of Hampden Cemetery Commission is hiring for part time administrative staff. Position requires advanced computer skills, research ability, clerical skills and reports to the Cemetery Commissioners.

Weekly hours from 12 to 16.

Send resume and letter of interest to [Cemetery@HampdenMA.gov](mailto:Cemetery@HampdenMA.gov)

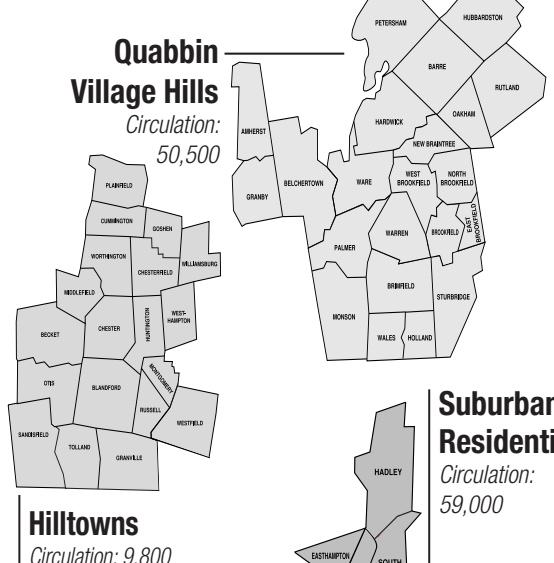
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Founder Lucy Giuggio-Carvalho on stage



Submitted photos

Rays of Hope - Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer

# Celebrating 30 years of hope and local support

## 30th Annual Walk & Run Steps Off on Oct. 22

SPRINGFIELD, Oct. 7, 2022 -Thirty years and nearly \$17million raised, the 30th annual Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer has plenty to celebrate on Sunday, Oct. 22, when the largest fundraiser steps off from Temple Beth El in Springfield.

This year's presenting sponsor is Gary Rome Hyundai.

Over the years, all money raised remains local to assist individuals and their families affected by breast cancer. Baystate Health Foundation administers the funds which support treatment, breast health programs, outreach and education, the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment through the Baystate Health Breast Network, as well as support for the Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research. Rays of Hope also provides grants to various community programs throughout



Rays of Hope Chair Lindsey Bubar

western Massachusetts. "As we approach our 30th year, we invite all our friends and family back for another year and welcome all survivors whether you're at day one or year six or thirty. As with every year, our 30th anniversary event will be filled with hope and love and a few surprises along the way, and we truly hope to make this the best year yet. Now is a perfect time to get your teams organized, recruit new team members, and most importantly spread the word. It's because of this

community and the great people in it that we've been able to raise nearly \$17 million dollars," said Lindsey Bubar, 2023 Rays of Hope Chair.

It all began in 1994 when Lucy Giuggio-Carvalho was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I was recovering from my treatment and wished that there was a centralized space for breast cancer support - someplace to find information, a place to go for care, and research conducted in our own backyard," Giuggio-Carvalho said,

who was at the time working as a case manager in the oncology unit at Baystate Health.

"I was grateful for my care at Baystate and knew I'd need an organization to work closely with to make this dream a reality, so I aligned myself with Baystate to begin the Rays of Hope. The rest is history," she added about the original walk which attracted 500 people and has now grown to over 20,000 participants.

"As we kick off Rays of Hope's 30th anniversary, we reflect on those who have helped us get to this moment," said Kathy Tobin, Director of Annual Giving & Events for Baystate Health Foundation. "We may not have a cure for breast cancer yet, but we have made lifesaving breakthroughs in treatment and the research continues. Importantly, we have a big extended family of support here in western Massachusetts."

Once again, the Ray of Hope will step off from Temple Beth El on Dickinson Street in Springfield and wind through and around Forest Park. The 14th Annual Run Toward the Cure 8K is coordinated and timed by 4Run3. As in the past, the Rays of Hope BIG WIG pro-

gram offers special "big wig" status to those raising \$1,000 or more online only by credit card.

Using the simple and convenient registration at baystatehealth.org/raysofhope, participants can create their own personal webpage to assist them in their fundraising efforts. Participants must raise at least \$50 to receive the collectible Rays of Hope 2023 t-shirt.

Check-in for the run begins at 7:30 a.m. followed by step off at 8:30 a.m., while check-in for the walk begins at 9 a.m. followed by step off at 10:30 a.m. Buses begin operating at 7:30 a.m. for runners and at 8:30 a.m. for walkersto shuttle them to Temple Beth El. Parking for runners is only at the Lenox American Saw & Mfg. Co. lot in East Longmeadow at 301 Chestnut St. Parking information for walkers can be found at baystatehealth.org/raysofhope. Parking for walkers is at Lenox American Saw and East Longmeadow High School and Blueberry Hill School and Longmeadow High School in Longmeadow. There will be lot attendants to assist participants.

If you want to support the Rays of Hope, but cannot participate on October 23, or you are

unvaccinated or immune-compromised, there is the option online to fundraise and sign up as a "virtual" participant walking or running anywhere on any day.

Also, walkers and runners can visit the Rays of Hope Shop with branded apparel for sale, the Pink Hope Survivors Lounge, as well as a variety of breast health exhibitors. There will also be water stations and entertainment along the walking routes and cheerleaders "cheering" everyone on to success.

In addition to presenting sponsor Gary Rome Hyundai, other major sponsors include Baystate Breast & Wellness Center, Baystate Breast Specialists, Radiology & Imaging, Inc., Gilead Oncology, Golden Years Home Care Services, Kinsley, MGM Springfield, Pfizer, Peoples-Bank, USA and Zasco Productions. Also, all Baystate Health Foundation events are underwritten by Health New England. A listing of all sponsors can be found on the Rays of Hope website.

For more information about this year's Rays of Hope Walk and 8K Run, held rain or shine, call 413-794-8001 or visit baystatehealth.org/raysofhope.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 5:45 PM** on the application of Suzanne Hicks for a special permit under the provisions of Sections 3.4.5.5 and 3.4.5.8 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the operation of a barbering school in a portion of the building owned by Medeiros Realty Trust located at 2701 Boston Road as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at [www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals). Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/595496349> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 595-496-349).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman  
10/05, 10/12/2023

### WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 5:30 PM on the application of Matthew Goncalves and Owen Cavanaugh for a special permit under section 3.4.5.5 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the operation of a barber shop on a portion of the property owned by Roberta J Dowd located at 2803-2805 Boston Road as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at [www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals).

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/595496349> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 595-496-349).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman  
10/05, 10/12/2023

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The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
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Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23C0285CA  
In the matter of:  
Marie Angel Langevin  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Marie Angel Langevin of Wilbraham, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
Marie Angel Terzian-Langevin**

**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 10/27/2023.**  
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. **Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: September 29, 2023  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
10/12/2023

**Town of Wilbraham PUBLIC HEARING: TAX CLASSIFICATION**  
(Posted September 21, 2023)  
**The hearing will begin at 7:05 PM, October 30, 2023**  
The Wilbraham Select Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, October 30, 2023, at 7:05 P.M.** in the Town Office Building, Select Board's Meeting Room, 240 Springfield Street, for the purpose of explaining, and soliciting comments relevant to, the establishment of the property tax rate for fiscal year 2024. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Sections

18-25. Residents may comment relative to the adoption of the tax levy percentages required by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 56, as amended. Anyone wishing to testify or comment should participate, virtually or in person, at the hearing at the time and date noted above.

WILBRAHAM SELECT BOARD  
10/05, 10/12/2023

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**CODE: QL416011**