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STM Warrant officially finalized and set

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Select Board officially reviewed, finalized and set the 2026 Special Town Meeting Warrant on Oct. 5, unanimously voting to close the warrant.

Special Town Meeting will take place on Monday, Nov. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Minnechaug Regional High School auditorium.

There are 10 warrant articles, and this note for voters.

“The Articles in this Warrant were finalized by the Select Board on October 5, 2026. The Finance Committee was not able to consider its recommendations on these Articles in time for inclusion in the printing of this Warrant due to time constraints beyond the Committee’s control. The Finance Committee, therefore, will give its recommendations on these articles at the Special Town Meeting. All Recommendations are listed in this Warrant as ‘Finance Committee Recommendation: To Be Given at Special Town Meeting.’ for all Warrant Articles, although the Finance Committee may not provide recommendations for all Articles.” it reads.

Article One is a vote on whether the town will accept, acquire by gift, purchase, take by eminent domain or otherwise acquire, permanent easements in portions of

Please see **WARRANT**, page 5

‘GYPSY’ is a spellbinding good time



Here comes Louise/Gypsy Rose Lee, played by Aubrey Vargas. Photo courtesy of Mark Giza

Final show dates
Oct. 23, 24 and 25

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Theatre Guild of Hampden’s production of ‘Gypsy’ is a

spellbinding good time that will entertain new and old fans alike.

From the first notes played by the six-piece orchestra, anticipation builds as the audience awaits the rising of the curtains to meet this cast of characters filled with ambition, dreams, stardom, love and confronting insecurities.

I also have to note the cast’s talent and age range from the youngest actors and actresses to older and whether they’re acting, singing or dancing or a combination of any of these arts, they will have you wowed. A talented

Please see **GYPSY**, page 10



Officer Nicholas Harney (Charlton MA Police Department) with Red the bloodhound.

Community unites at Safety Night Out

By Harold Anderson
Correspondent

HAMPDEN – It was a beautiful fall day and the weather was great for area families to gather behind the Hampden Town Hall for the annual Hampden Safety Night Out, hosted by the Hampden Fire Association, on Friday, Oct. 9.

In what was described in their flyer as “A Night of Community, Family & Fun!,” a lot of activities, food and live music were available for the whole family to enjoy as well as the opportunity for everyone to get to know some of their local first responders and check out the various fire trucks, rescue equipment, police and emergency vehicles that were present that night.

Community partners for the event included the Hampden Police Department, Massachusetts State Police, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Wilbraham Regional Emergency Communications Center.

Appreciation for all those involved in making the Hampden Safety Night Out possible was very high.

“We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many businesses that stood behind this event. Local shops, service providers, and employers didn’t just contribute resources – they showed real belief in what this gathering means for our community. Their partnership helped us welcome families, celebrate local talent, and create a day that truly reflected the spirit of Hampden. We’re proud to call them our neighbors,” noted a representative of the Hampden Fire Association.

Parading around the grounds were officers from the Hampden County Sheriff’s Office Mounted Patrol Unit.

Deputy Tori Gaj rode her horse Odin while Deputy Connie Burke was riding her horse, Autumn.

“We’re out here just to

Please see **SAFETY NIGHT OUT**, page 9

Update on school buses regarding athletics

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The School Committee received updates on school buses regarding athletics during its Oct.8 meeting.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost explained at the last meeting how the bus system

“was working better” but cautioned with athletics, that was not covered and there were concerns about no excess capacity in the system as well.

“So, it was fragile. I think we’re starting to see signs of that fragility starting to impact operations, especially

Please see **BUS UPDATE**, page 13



HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

Beloved Halloween bonfire threatened

In October of 1963
Halloween was
hotly anticipated

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

Anticipation for Halloween of 1963 started to build up from the beginning of the month with an announcement in the Morning Union daily newspaper from Wilbraham Police Chief John S. Leary who cautioned parents not to let their children play in piles of leaves along the roadsides.

“This practice by youngsters,” the chief said, “is extremely hazardous, and

a matter to which parents should give their immediate attention.”

But, looking back 63 years, I remember nobody paid attention to his warning. And, the Halloween excitement kids held back then only

got more rousing as the promise of the usual bonfire to top off the prank-filled holiday at Memorial School Athletic Field grew. Even though it was Fire Prevention Week Oct. 11, 1963, Fire Chief Ralph Tupper said the Fire Department answered 15 brush fires and one house fire erupted by Oct. 11.

To stress his warning, the fire chief said it was a “rough” time of the year. “To make

certain that folks in Wilbraham conform to the ban on outdoor burning of any type except in approved incinerators myself and my deputies are patrolling all roads in town,” said Chief Tupper.

Rummage Sale

Until the scary holiday took place, the usual Fall events were scheduled such as the annual Rummage Sale by the Women’s Guild of United Church on Friday Oct. 11 and 12. A variety of clothing and household items would be for sale along with coffee and donuts on Friday morning 9 to 11 a.m.

That same day, Oct. 11, the Grange planned to install a new slate of officers in the Grange Hall in the center of

Please see **HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM**, page 8



Charlie Bennett

63 years Ago

Tickets Available for Firemen’s Ball

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From a September 1962 edition “Tickets are now available for the fifth annual Firemen’s Ball to be held the night of Nov. 23, 1963 in the Minnechaug Gym, Roger Whitehill, chairman, announced Oct. 22.

Whitehill said people may begin submitting slogans for the ball to Chief Ralph Tupper.”

(Note: The Firemen’s Ball was postponed until a week later due to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy the day before.)

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COMMUNITY

Minnechaug Land Trust holds fall maintenance hike

By Harold Anderson
Correspondent

HAMPDEN – The Minnechaug Land Trust held their fall maintenance hike to Goat Rock in Hampden on a Saturday, Oct. 10 and the weather was perfect for a hike.

Jennifer Bagge, one of the Trust’s board members, along with Trail Steward Charlie Thompson, were joined by a small team of their core volunteers to clean up the area around the Goat Rock overlook.

“Usually, we have a spring and a fall maintenance day, alternating between our two most popular hiking areas – Goat Rock and Minnechaug Mountain,” Bagge said.

In the past few years, underbrush and young trees have sprung up in the area, causing challenges for hikers and partially obstructing the view for the many people that come to enjoy the open space and the panoramic view of the foliage with the town of Hampden below.

The group of volunteers gathered at the closest trail-head entrance to the Goat Rock site and began their hike up the trail, carrying their equipment of various kinds of saws, rakes and pruning shears. Even a leaf blower was brought up later to clear



Turley photos by Harold Anderson
(L-R) - Helve Saarela (Wilbraham), Brandon Warren (Hampden), Tom Duquette (Springfield) Charlie Thompson (Hampden) and Shawn Sullivan (Hampden).

leaves from some nearby steeper trails.

Bagge also brought with her some grey paint. “In case we found any graffiti that needed to be covered up,” she said, noting that “Goat Rock has been a popular spot for graffiti over the years.”

Once at the overlook, the group gathered to review the

area and Thompson led them in devising a plan of attack for what would be needed.

According to Thompson, this included efforts to “clear up the Goat Rock viewing area, cut the bushes (and) get some trees that were starting to come back, down in the bottom part” and added, “There’s a few big trees we’ll have to come back (for) with



(L-R) – Tom Duquette (Springfield), Shawn Sullivan (Hampden), 11-year-old Sam, Brandon Warren (Hampden), Charlie Thompson (Hampden) and Helve Saarela (Wilbraham).

View from Goat Rock.



a chain saw, but the area will be good for another couple of years before we have to come back.”

Thompson, along with Shawn Sullivan from Hampden, went down a short trail behind the Goat Rock overlook “mostly cutting down some of the smaller trees just below the lookout, trying to clear up the view,” Sullivan

said, adding, “I think it went pretty well.”

Brandon Warren of Hampden’s job that day included “clearing out underbrush... and thinning out little bushes along the side of the top up here,” he said.

When asked how it all worked out, Warren replied, “Pretty good. We got a nice view. It’s clear....(We) picked up a lot of trash (and) broken glass.”

Tom Duquette from Springfield was busy, he said, “clearing up some of the brush on Goat Rock using a hand saw...and just clearing the brush and the leaves.”

Did he notice a difference in the view?

“Yes, absolutely,” Duquette said.

Helve Saarela of Wilbraham said she spent time “trimming some of these smaller trees and brush around the rocks.”

“It’s been really nice, I really enjoyed it. It’s a beautiful view here and it’s a nice feeling to keep things looking nice here,” Saarela said.

Bagge did find some graffiti on Goat Rock “while not as bad this year as in past years,” she said.

She worked on covering that with her grey paint as well as trimming brush and leaf blowing a nearby rocky steep trail.

Bagge’s seven-year-old son Patrick joined the effort with his small pruning shears, going around to clip some underbrush that had grown up from the ground in the area. Her other son, 11-year-old Sam, took along his rake and began clearing some of the trail just below the Goat Rock overlook.

Everyone felt that their work that day was a job well done.

“I would say the maintenance hike was a success and (I) am definitely pleased with the result,” Bagge said.

When asked if he agreed with others that the trails are not as bad this year, Thompson, who said he’s been hiking the trails since 1970, replied, “It’s been really great....The trails get used now and trails when they get used are easier



Seven-year-old Patrick helps out.

to maintain than when they’re left by themselves.”

Looking ahead toward their next maintenance hike, Thompson noted that, “the next job will be the other end, the view of the Hampden overlook.”

For anyone looking to see the improved view from the Goat Rock overlook and the other viewing sites this fall, Bagge had some cautionary advice.

“As leaves continue to fall, hikers should remember that trails may be slippery during fall leaf drop season or during rainy weather. We encourage hikers to hike with caution, hike with a partner and use the sign in/out kiosks at the trail entrances,” Bagge said.

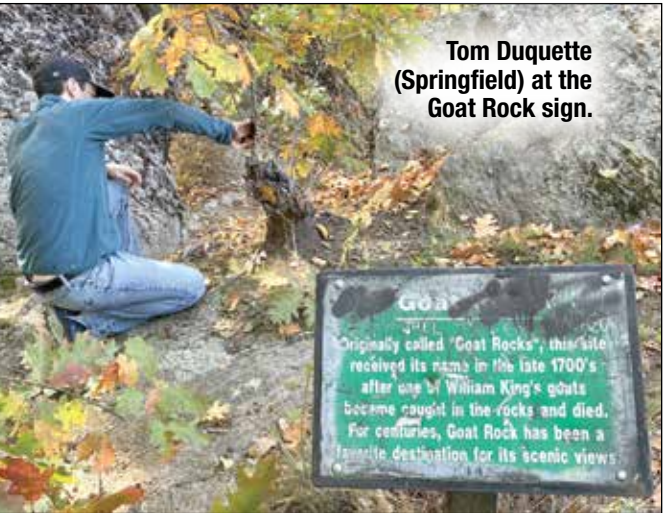
Bagge also reminded hikers that all town conservation areas do not allow open fires, hunting or motorized vehicles on the property.

“We ask that you carry out any trash you have with you,” Bagge said.

Finally, Bagge reached out for help from the public.

“We have, unfortunately, had a difficult time with motorized vehicles like dirt bikes and quads accessing the trails on (the) Minnechaug Mountain Conservation Area,” Bagge said.

Bagge asked people to “reach out either to our conservation agent in Hampden or to the Minnechaug Land Trust at contact@minnechaug-landtrust.org if they see any signs of these activities.”



Tom Duquette (Springfield) at the Goat Rock sign.



Jennifer Bagge (Hampden) painting.



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Motor vehicle crash update

HAMPDEN - On Aug. 30 at approximately 7:45 p.m., a serious motor vehicle crash occurred on Allen Street near Raymond Drive in Hampden.

The crash involved two vehicles, including a Hampden Police Department cruiser. Both the civilian operator and the police officer involved in the crash sustained injuries and were transported to a local medical facility for evaluation and treatment.

The crash remains under investigation by the Massachusetts State Police and the Hampden Police Department.

On Sept. 29, the following update was shared on the police department’s Facebook page.

“Investigations have been completed by the Massachusetts State Police and the Hampden Police Department. Sergeant Roath continues his medical recovery. The operator of the other involved vehicle continues medical recovery however through the investigation, criminal charges have been filed against the other involved operator at Palmer District Court,” they said.

COMMUNITY

Examining the effects of AI usage

Submitted by
Hampden Public Library
Intern, Emma Grover

HAMPDEN - AI has become a huge topic of conversation over the past few years. Debates have arisen regarding whether AI is a useful tool, or if it is no good all together. My overall experience with AI as a senior in high school has been less than favorable.

Such as teachers using it to create assignments that have little to nothing to do with class content, and students regularly cheating instead of actually trying to learn the material.

Most people have succumbed to the fact that AI is now everywhere and is almost unavoidable, but though AI is often encouraged by certain platforms, there is almost always a way to pull back from it. Bangor Public Library of Maine has created a new service that teaches patrons how to opt out of AI on their phones and other devices.

Hampden Public Library approaches the age of AI with heavy caution; they recognize that while it may be good in some aspects, it can be harmful if not used responsibly. Here we prioritize credible sources and AI doesn't necessarily fit that. AI search engines such as ChatGPT, Claude, and Meta skim the whole internet to obtain its information, so when you want information about a topic, it could be from anywhere including miscellaneous social media posts.

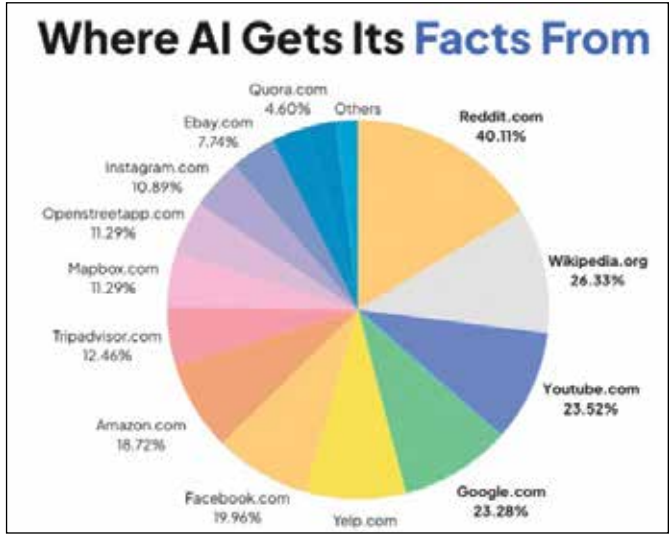
Ellen Moriarty, director of the Hampden Public Library states, "AI diminishes the credibility of those using it by removing the vital aspects of human collection, oversight, and review. Without that, harmful misinformation has easily spread at unprecedented rates."

We also prefer to celebrate human artists and author's hard work rather than AI works that often contain misinformation and grammar slip-ups. Many even get frustrated with AI, and it can make mistakes such as auto-filling forms with incorrect information that you have to go back and fix anyways, and completing texts that you didn't even want to say.

Most AI books do not explicitly state that they were not written by a real person. Sondra Eklund, a librarian in Virginia, accidentally ordered a children's book that was suspected to be produced by AI. Falling back on my statement that AI isn't a credible



Photos submitted by Hampden Public Library Intern, Emma Grover
A photo of books discussing AI and technology.



A pie chart examining where AI gets its information from.

source, the New York Mycological Society issued a statement advising the public not to purchase AI books about foraging mushrooms, since one little piece of misinformation could result in a deadly situation.

AI can even affect salary, as investors put their money into AI stocks, this widens the gap between the upper and lower class. AI also puts the job market at risk by replacing entry level jobs, especially in fields like data entry and data collection. This makes it especially hard for those who are looking to start a career in a company, but cannot enter so therefore they are turned away.

From schools, to libraries, to jobs; AI has infected almost everything. It is import-

ant to be aware of what is real and what isn't.

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Wilbraham residents invited to hear Building Utilization Committee findings

Important public presentation to the Wilbraham Select Board

WILBRAHAM — The Wilbraham Building Utilization Committee invites all citizens to an important public presentation of its findings before the Wilbraham Select Board on Monday, Nov. 16, at 6 p.m., at The Senior Center.

The Wilbraham Building Utilization Committee was formed in April 2025 to conduct a comprehensive review of all municipal buildings

in Wilbraham. Its work is important to the entire community because these public facilities support town services, programs, employees, and residents—and decisions about their use will have lasting operational and financial effects.

After examining the condition, current use, capacity, and future needs of the town's full municipal building portfolio, the committee will present its findings and key considerations to the Select Board. This presentation gives residents an important opportunity to understand the committee's work first-hand and stay informed about

choices that may shape Wilbraham for years to come.

As an advisory body, the Building Utilization Committee will provide its findings and recommendations to help inform the public discussion. Any final authority and decisions remain with the Wilbraham Select Board and, ultimately, with the citizens of the community.

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR BUILDINGS. Residents are strongly encouraged to attend this important community conversation.

Agenda information will be made available by the Town of Wilbraham.

Upcoming Art Show at Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN - Scantic River Artisans (SRA) has another great show coming up. The show, titled "Fall Into Art", is a regular feature of their fall schedule and benefits their Scholarship Fund and Programming. It will be held in the Community Room of the Hampden Senior Center on Oct. 24 and 25. Hours on Saturday are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a reception with music and refreshments from noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, with awards presented at 2 p.m. The Senior Center is located at 104 Allen Street.

You will also enjoy "Reflective Musings" - A Community Art Project, funded

in part by a grant from the Hampden Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Works are being donated not only by the artists, but also by anyone in the community who wishes to participate. Each piece of art is a reflection of the artist's thoughts, memories and emotions. They will be presented on a 5" by 7" by 1 1/2" deep canvas and be done as a painting, collage, drawing, photo or something else. All works are on sale for \$20, with the money going to the Scholarship Fund and Programming.

Scantic River Artisans is also announcing an upcoming workshop at the Senior Center on Thursday Nov. 5

from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Calming the Chaos: Exploring Organic Abstraction, lead by professional artist Erin Leigh Boughamer. Participants will create artwork exploring organic abstraction through playful painting exercises.

The cost is only \$20. Sign up the SRA web site, <https://www.scanticriverartisans.com/>.

Wilbraham Veterans Day Ceremony

WILBRAHAM — The town's Veterans Day Ceremony, presented by the Wilbraham Department of Veterans Services, takes place at Crane Park on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved indoors to the Wilbraham Senior Center.

All are welcome. Please join us as we honor the Veterans of our community and our nation.

Town of Wilbraham Veterans Day Breakfast

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

This event is free and Veterans, Active Service Members, Surviving Spouses and a guest are welcome to attend.

When: Friday, Nov. 6 at 8 a.m.

Where: Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield Street

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

To register and for more information, call (413)596-8379.

WARRANT from page 1

adjoining properties known as 19 Dudley Street and the undeveloped portion of Verge Street for purposes and uses for street widening and utilities. The plan can be viewed in "Exhibit A: Easement-Dudley Street and Verge Street."

Article Two, meanwhile, is land taking for the Stony Hill Road Sidewalk Extension Project through 131, 133, 195, 199, 201, 203, 215, 217 and 269 Stony Hill Road and any other portion of said adjoining properties as necessary for sidewalk installation, street widening, grading and landscaping. This will also further authorize the Select Board and other applicable Town of Wilbraham boards and personnel to take all related actions to accomplish the article's purposes.

The plan is noted as "Exhibit B: Easement Plan-Stony Hill Road Sidewalk Extension Project."

Article Three is an easement of land taking of the portion of property at 404 Main Street for providing a larger turning radius and for all purposes for which streets and ways and sidewalks are used in the Town of Wilbraham. The plan can be viewed in "Exhibit C: 404 Main Street."

Article Four would be a vote on whether to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for traffic studies to identify and evaluate and implementation of traffic calming measures for various areas of the town of Wilbraham. The studies may include assessment of traffic speeds, traffic volumes, pedestrian and bicycle safety, roadway conditions and other relevant factors and, also, determine the feasibility, potential costs and anticipated impacts of traffic calming measures including speed humps, raised crosswalks, curb extensions, signage, pavement markings, traffic islands, improved pedestrian crossings and other appropriate traffic-calming strategies.

The article's passage will establish funding for the traffic studies and implementation of traffic calming measures in the various areas of town under the administration of the Department of Public Works, with prior approval of expenditures by the Select Board. The anticipated funding amount is \$100,000.

Article Five focuses on the expansion of senior and veterans tax work-off benefits. Here, the exemption would be adjusted by allowing an approved representa-

tive, for persons physically unable, to provide such services to the city or town or allowing the maximum reduction of the real property tax bill to be based on 125 volunteer service hours in a given tax year, rather than \$2,000.

Article Six is the expansion of senior and veteran tax benefits. Here, the exemption would be adjusted to allow an approved representative, for persons physically unable, to provide such services to the city or town; and allow the maximum reduction of the real property tax bill to be based on 125 volunteer service hours in a given tax year, rather than \$2,000.

Article Seven is a vote on whether to rescind the authorization to borrow \$984,000 approved by the vote taken under Article 23 of the June 3, 2024 Annual Town Meeting warrant that approved the purchase of a new fire truck. The reason is that the fire truck was purchased with grant funds and Free Cash, eliminating the need to borrow.

Article Eight is a general bylaw amendment to add a new section around the prohibition of cryptocurrency automatic teller machines. The purpose and intent read as follows.

"The Town, acting upon

reports of the Wilbraham Police Department, finds that unregulated cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) pose risks to consumers, including financial fraud, money laundering, and lack of recourse for users. Virtual currency ATMs are able to convert currency into virtual currency instantaneously and irreversibly, which exposes the most vulnerable of our citizens to unnecessary risk," it reads. "The Town further finds that the current absence of sufficient federal and state consumer protections and regulatory oversight for such devices necessitates a municipal prohibition to safeguard residents and preserve public safety. The purpose of this article is to prohibit the use of Cryptocurrency ATMs within the Town in an effort to protect our citizens."

Through this prohibition, there would be no installation, operation, maintaining or allowing the installation or operation of Cryptocurrency ATMs in the town, and any existing ones as of the bylaw's effective date must be removed within 60 days.

The police department or the Zoning Enforcement Officer would conduct enforcement, and anyone found in violation would be fined \$300 per day and per device.

Article 9 concerns capital

improvements to Wilbraham Middle School and would be a vote on whether to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to amend the vote taken under Article 19 of the May 11, 2026, Annual Town Meeting to amend the budget line relative to the Regional School District Assessment, entitled "HWRSD Assessment," by increasing the budget line to include the Town's portion of the Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District's supplemental Capital Assessment relative to Wilbraham Middle School. This would involve transferring funds from Free Cash for Wilbraham's apportionment of the cost of \$85,719 relative to Capital improvements to WMS, with Wilbraham's apportionment at \$67,780 and Hampden's apportionment at \$17,939.

Article 10 is a vote to approve amendments to the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District Regional Agreement and for the Select Board to sign the amended agreement. The amendments are in "Exhibit D: Amendments to the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District Agreement."

Exhibits for Articles One, Two, Three and 10 are on file in the town clerk's office and posted on the town website.

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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty:
I was a little confused with one of your past articles. This September I hit my full retirement age and for every month I continue to delay, my SS benefit goes up a little more. But reading your article sounds like the extra benefits are only added at the end of the year.
For example, let's say that at my full retirement age in September I get \$3,524, and in January 2027 I would get \$3,619.
According to the Ask Rusty article I read, if I start my benefits in June of 2027, I will have earned \$3,735, but it sounds like I would only get \$3,619 up until the end of the year, and then they would adjust it.
If this is the case, would I get retroactive money back for the 6 months I did not get the correct amount?

Signed: Seeking Clarification

Dear Seeking:
Thanks for your inquiry. Your understanding of the previous Ask Rusty article is correct.
If you start your benefits in June 2027 (10 months after your Full Retirement Age or your FRA, in September 2026), you will initially only get the Delayed Retirement Credits you earned through the end of 2026.
The DRCs you earned from January 2027 to June 2027 would not be credited until January 2028 and you would not get any retroactive benefits for the DRCs earned during the January – June 2027 timeframe.
SSA's reasoning for this is somewhat confusing but has to do with your ability to claim retroactive benefits when you claim after reaching your full retirement age.
When claiming after reaching your FRA you have the ability to claim benefits retroactively for up to six months. So, to avoid potentially overlapping benefit payments, SSA defers applying your current year's DRCs until January of the following year.
Thus, you essentially lose the extra 2027 DRC money for the remainder of 2027. And, FYI, the

one exception to this rule is that when benefits are claimed mid-year at age 70, all DRCs are immediately paid.
Please understand that I'm not endorsing this SSA rule; only trying to explain how it works and why. Like many SSA rules, there are nuances to how benefits are paid. And this is a classic example. And just remember, as attractive as taking 6 months of retroactive benefits may sound, it also means your monthly amount would be reduced by about 4% for the rest of your life.
As you contemplate when you should claim your Social Security retirement benefits, you should always keep in mind your anticipated life expectancy when making that decision.
If you expect to live at least to the "average" life expectancy for those in their mid-60s (about mid-80s for someone your current age), then waiting longer to claim is usually a better long term financial decision (even considering the DRC issue described above). But if your life expectancy is less than "average," claiming sooner is usually a better choice.
If you have further questions about when to claim Social Security, please contact us at SS-advisor@amacfoundation.org or 1-888-750-2622. There is never a fee for our advisory service because we are a non-profit organization.

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

Letters to the Editor

Vote No on Article One at STM

To The Editor:
To: Hampden Voters

At the Special Town Meeting, Monday, Oct. 26th, Hampden Voters will be asked to amend the Regional School Agreement. Two sections of the proposal are of immediate concern.
Section III, B states "Residents of the Member Towns in grades six through eight shall attend schools within The District as designated by the Committee" (underlining added). This means, not only will parents no longer be required to request a change of town, but also the School Committee can place our middle school students in any building, including Minnechaug, with no further input from parents. In 2018 Hampden AND Wilbraham overwhelmingly rejected moving 7th and 8th grade student to the high school.

Section IV, D states "Capital Costs of the District. . .shall be apportioned to the member towns. . .for grades served by that property. . . ." (underlining added). This means that since the District has succeeded in drawing all middle school students to Wilbraham, Hampden will be apportioned the capital costs of the Wilbraham (owned) Middle School.
What will Hampden gain? Nothing. What will the School Committee gain? More unchecked power. What will Wilbraham gain? Hampden's money to pay capital costs for its building.
Please attend the Special Town Meeting, Monday, Oct. 26 at 6:30 PM at the new Town Hall, 85 Wilbraham Road, and vote NO on Article 1.

Rita Vail,
Hampden

Candidate Statement

Hi, my name is Brian Ashe and I have been your State Representative in the 2nd Hampden District for the past 18 years. Serving as your representative continues to be an honor and privilege that I do not take lightly. Having lived in this district for my entire life I have a very strong understanding of our communities, their similarities and their differences. This is extremely important when drafting legislation or bringing funds back to WMass. Prior to being elected to the House in 2008 I served on the Longmeadow Select Board for 8 years. While it's not a prerequisite to be a state legislator, it certainly helps having an understanding of the needs of the city and towns that I serve. I try to look at being a State Representative as being an ambassador for not only the 2nd Hampden District but for the Pioneer Valley, for WMass and the Commonwealth as whole.



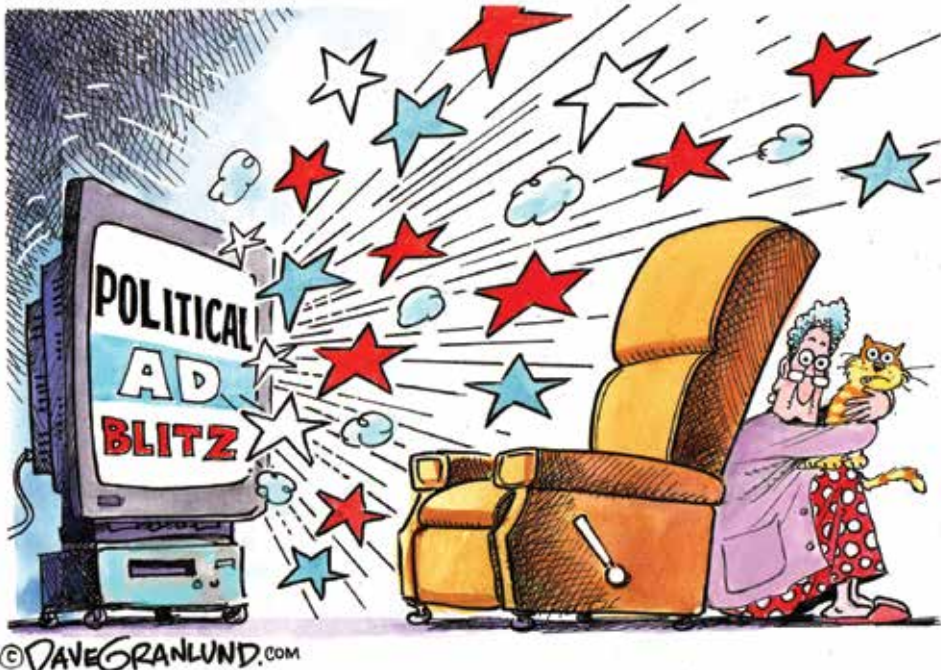
Brian Ashe

An important aspect of being an effective legislator is building relationships on the local level as well as in the State House. It takes years to build and cultivate good relationships that will in turn, benefit the good people of WMass. Over the past five years alone, I have secured \$4,267,720 in budget allocations for the 2nd Hampden District, funding that has supported 36 different projects. These dollars have made a

real difference, supporting maintenance improvements at East Longmeadow American Legion Post #293, a wheelchair-accessible van for the Monson Senior Center, new Chromebooks for Monson students, much-needed upgrades to the Longmeadow Police Department, and so much more. None of this would be possible without the relationships I have built with leadership in Boston.
As your State Representative, I take pride in being accessible. This work goes far beyond just the towns but also helping individuals. In the last legislative session alone, my office directly assisted more than 400 constituents with state-related issues. I'm also extremely proud of my voting record, standing with and fighting for our brothers and sisters in blue, supporting and voting for legislation that benefits our military, making Massachusetts a leader in military benefits, especially for men and women coming home after deployment.
I was extremely proud of legislation that I filed and subsequently made into law, Ollies Law. This helped correct a big loophole around pet care, where there were no rules and/or guidelines, leading to senseless injuries and sadly deaths, as was the case with Ollie. We passed common sense legislation that holds doggie daycare owners responsible for proper

staffing, emergency protocols and an understanding of dog behavior.
My wife Sonja and I moved to Longmeadow in 1993 and sent our two children, Tiernan and Kyra through our public school system. They both benefited from our new high school which was completed in 2013. I was proud to support that project as well as the new high school, Minnechaug for Hampden and Wilbraham students which opened in 2012 and last but certainly not the least was the new high school in East Longmeadow which just opened this year. The last one took a while but it was worth the wait. We have a new soldiers home opening in Holyoke and a new and "healthy" courthouse coming soon.
There are numerous projects and pieces of legislation that I am currently working on but none more important than the issue of crumbling concrete. I am committed, if the voters see fit to re-elect me, to seeing this through until we have the money and solutions to help the homeowners in the currently, 51 cities and towns that are being negatively impacted by this unfortunate problem. WMass always has and always will be my home and serving as your state representative has and continues to be an extreme honor for me and I humbly ask for your vote on Tuesday November 3rd, or at any time if you're voting by mail. Thank you!!

Brian M. Ashe
State Representative
2nd Hampden District



The next steps for frost tinged dahlias and glads

It finally came inside at 6:45 p.m. with a flashlight in hand.
It was my own fault. I started a project much too late in the day for the work that it entailed.

You see, we had a frost last night. The first one of the year, for me, anyway.
The temperature just hit the 32-degree mark, so the tips of certain plants were hit. Leaves that were under the cover of other plants looked pretty good.

I probably could have left the gladiolus and dahlias in the ground for a bit longer based on the upcoming, warmer forecast, but I decided to seize the moment and get them dug up and moved indoors.
Read on to learn the specifics of how to overwinter these summer loving, tender bulbs.
As mentioned, dig up dahlia tubers either just prior to or soon after frost hits. I typically use a shovel or pitchfork, starting a foot or so away from the stems.
Once the soil is loosened up a bit, the stem should lift up easily with the tubers intact.
Soil should be eased off the tubers with a spray of water before placing in storage. Leave a small portion of stem attached to the tubers – it is a

great place to adhere a label.
Once the tubers have air-dried for a bit, you can even write on the tubers themselves with a permanent marker. Take it

and re-dampen the medium in which they were placed. If you see mold, bring down the temperature and humidity level.
Some growers like to get a jump-start on the season by pre-starting dahlias indoors.

We have done this occasionally at Old Sturbridge Village and I am always amazed at just how fast the plants grow, and how quickly they outgrow their pots and become leggy. If you attempt it, four weeks prior to the last spring frost would be soon enough.
Similarly, around the time of our first frost gladiolus corms should be lifted from the ground with a spading fork or shovel. Never just yank the plant out by pulling on the stem!
Once out of the ground, cut the stem from the corm as closely as possible. Rinse under running water and allow to dry in a frost-free airy location for two-three weeks.
Check the corms regularly, and when a corky area develops between the mother corm and the new corm break off and discard the mother. After drying is complete, store

Please see **GARDEN**, page 9



from me – it is easy to forget a name over the winter months!
Placing tubers in damp peat moss, saw dust, shredded leaves, or even ventilated plastic bags will help to prevent shriveling.
Choose a location to overwinter your tubers that maintain 40-50 degrees temps and 90% humidity. These conditions will keep them dormant and healthy until it is time to replant.
Many people have good luck using a cold basement or root cellar; small quantities of tubers can be stored in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator. Be sure to check on your tubers every couple of weeks throughout the offseason.
Should you see shriveling, mist them with clean water

The Wilbraham-Hampden
TIMES

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Correction Policy

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

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Cub/Boy Scout garden help this weekend: "Muffins and Mulch"



The Wilbraham Public Library would like to thank the Boy and Cub Scouts who took time out of their days on Saturday to help Wilbraham Public Library spread a lot of mulch around the gardens. The Wilbraham Friends of the Library provided muffins and juice for the hungry crew. They were amazing and we are so grateful!

Their names are: Nate and Caleb Choinski, Johnny Guerin, Harley Long, Jack Campion, Cole Michael, Vinny Lauziere, Miller Sabia and Liam Matthews.

Submitted photo and caption Melissa Harte

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

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



Submitted photo and caption Jack Luttrell

PVPC Annual Dinner and Meeting

Wilbraham was well represented on Oct. 8 at the Annual Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) dinner and meeting. Left to right Select Board Vice Chair Sue Bonnell, Planning and Community Development Director Michelle Buck, PVPC Executive Director Kimberly Robinson and PVPC Executive Committee Member Jack Luttrell.

Hampden Garden Club Fall Fun



Submitted photos and caption Sue Austin

The Hampden Garden Club has had a busy start to the fall season. Club members beautifully decorated the Hampden town gazebo, fire station and senior center with mums, pumpkins and cornstalks.



On Saturday, Oct. 3, club members gathered to create succulent clay planters under the direction of Kessa McEwen from Berkshire Botanical in Stockbridge. A fun, creative morning was had by all.



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department
R-L: Detective Sean Casella, Katherine Tackett, May Institute; Jenna Gilder, May Institute; Matt Riley, May Institute, and Sergeant Kevin Gilbert, Randolph PD.

WPD Detective serves as panelist

On Friday, Oct. 9, Wilbraham Police Department's Detective Sean Casella was a panelist during the annual BA-BAT - Massachusetts Professionals In Behavior Analysis Conference, hosted at the DCU Center in Worcester. The conference is comprised of clinicians, behavior analysts, and professionals in the field of mental health/human services.

Detective Casella and Sergeant Kevin Gilbert from the Randolph Police represented law enforcement for the training block "Clinicians and Cops: Forming a Collaborative Relationship with Police Departments."

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COMMUNITY

Halloween Decoration Contest

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Welcome Project announces “The Great Halloween Decorating Contest.”

Open to all residents and businesses in Wilbraham/Hampden. Multiple award categories including the Mountain of Fright Award (scariest house), The Peach and Black Award (most original display), The Falcon’s Flight Award (most family-friendly display), the Boo-Tique AwardD (best business display), The Haunted Hollow Award (best decorated street), The Apple Orchard Award (best harvest display).

Sign up at <https://www.thewilbrahamwelcomeproject.com/halloween>. Judging will be the weekend of October 24-25. Winners will receive a trophy, lawn sign, and bragging rights for a year.

Hampden Parks & Recreation announces 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat on Oct. 24

HAMPDEN — Hampden Parks & Recreation is excited to invite families from Hampden and the surrounding communities to the 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at Hampden Town Hall, 85 Wilbraham Road. The cost is free.

Following the success of last year’s event, Hampden Parks & Recreation is bringing Trunk or Treat back for another evening of Halloween fun. Children are encouraged to come dressed in their favorite costumes and walk from decorated trunk to decorated trunk collecting candy in a safe, family-friendly environment.

The event will feature:

- Candy at every trunk
- Trunk Category Prizes –



voted by you.

- Music
- Creative decorations and Halloween fun

“After a great turnout last year, we’re excited to bring Trunk or Treat back for a second year,” said Hampden Parks & Recreation Director Dan Blanchard. “It’s a fun way for families to celebrate Halloween together and enjoy a safe, community-focused

event.”

The event is free and open to the entire community. Families are encouraged to invite their friends, relatives, and neighbors to join in the celebration.

Hampden Parks & Recreation is also welcoming community members who would like to participate by decorating a vehicle and handing out candy. Participants are encouraged to get creative and compete for Trunk Prizes.

Come dressed in your favorite costume, bring the family, and join Hampden Parks & Recreation for an evening of Halloween fun!

For more information or if you interested in decorating a trunk contact: Hampden Parks & Recreation parks@hampdenma.gov, (413) 566-2151 ext. 108.

St. Cecilia Women’s Club to sponsoring Calendar Raffle

WILBRAHAM - The Saint Cecilia Women’s Club is sponsoring a Calendar Raffle for the month of November.

Prizes for the month total over \$3,500. Tickets are on sale now with the drawings beginning Nov. 1.

Tickets can be obtained

in the church rotunda, on the church website under downloadable forms, or call Sue Agnew, 596-9480 to get forms or for any questions.

The proceeds help the club fund its scholarships and donations to many charitable organizations in the area.

Thank you for your support.

ATI Club sets new walk date

WILBRAHAM – Due to the Sept. 26 Nor’easter, the Minnechaug Regional High School Above the Influence Club postponed their Annual Walk event to Saturday, Oct. 24.

It will be from 10

a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Minnechaug Outdoor Cross Country Trail, which is located near the far corner of the teacher parking lot. The community is encouraged to come by for the event.



HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

from page 1

town by State Deputy Dudley E. Bliss. Ernest Jefferson was installed as Master. Mitch Kowyna was overseer, Mrs. May Jenkins was lecturer, Holton Pease treasurer and Helen Barna, steward. A social followed.

Not to be outdone, the Women’s Guild of the Church of the Epiphany scheduled their own rummage sale to be held at the Springfield YMCA on Oct. 26 in Springfield. Members were asked to bring sellable items to the church starting Oct. 23. Mrs. Henry Gensheimer was chairman and committee members were Mrs. Ernest Kenney, Mrs. John Mykrantz, Mrs. William Shaw, Miss Marion Brooks and Mrs. Charles Bergeron .

Five seniors at Minnechaug Regional High School, who would be in their 80’s today, were honored for their high performance on the National Merit Scholarship by Principal Lincoln Dexter. They were Peter Haynes, Jean Malachowski, Fitzhugh Turner, John Richards and Barry Nims. They joined 32,000 other students nationally that year.



(Photo courtesy Dave Bourcier)

Fire Chief Ralph Tupper said, “Vandalism of any sort and particularly involving setting of fires will bring plenty of trouble to those involved!”

Master Plan

However, not all things happening in town were social or scholastic. The Planning Board scheduled an informal discussion on the proposed Master Plan to be taken up in November in the Stony Hill School auditorium.

Among the subjects that would be taken up would be the relations of Wilbraham to the metropolitan area, reports on general planning for the fast-growing town, neighborhood shopping and amend-

ments to the zoning laws.

The Polish-American Veterans Club was very active in those days and expectation for their next event, Oct. 26 in the club’s hall at the end of Stony Hill Road was riding high. The Halloween party for the vets and their wives would be staged by Victor Janowicz, Henry Kzepka, chairman, Steve Kiełtyka, co-chair and Henry Kzoll, who was in charge of food.

Dress was optional but Mitchell S. Belyck, director of publicity, told reporter Ethel Bennett (my mother, the daily newspaper’s Wilbraham correspondent) that Halloween costumes would be judged as most original, funniest, best dressed and outstanding. Follow the judging there would be a smorgasbord. The party would begin at 7 p.m.

Usually the Boy Scouts, Troop 177 led by Scoutmaster and Lions Club member Bob Swallow, would announce Scout activities in the Morning Union but that Sunday, Oct. 13, it was the girls’ turn.

Girls and their parents interested in Girl Scouting activities from Wilbraham were invited to attend the Juliet Low birthday program from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Grange Hall.

Along with honoring Low, the woman who founded the Girl Scouts, the event would be an opportunity to meet Mrs. Robert Daniels who was recently named neighborhood chairman for Wilbraham and Hampden.

Girls were urged to invite their parents to the program and to bring their pennies, according to their age, which would be contributed to the Juliet Low Fund. The fund enables exchange Girl Scouts from other countries to visit the United States.

Card Party

I had mentioned in a recent column about the Glendale section of Wilbraham that one of the popular social functions of the day were card parties that took place all over town. One important card par-

ty that shuffled the cards was a fundraising event at Grace Union Church Oct. 18 at 8 p.m. to benefit Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wisor who, along with their young son, were seriously injured and whose infant daughter had recently died in an explosion-fire at their home in Monson. The event was organized by the Women’s Christian Fellowship of Grace Union Church. The Wisor Family were members of the Wilbraham church. Many prizes were to be awarded to winning card players and refreshments would be served.

Since the end of October foreshadowed the cold-weather season and its promise of winter sports activities, the Wilbraham 4-H Club thought it would be a good time to hold a winter sporting goods consignment sale Oct. 24 and 25, 1963 in the Grange Hall. Proceeds would go towards the town’s share of 4-H awards. Profits of articles for sale such as skis, poles and boots would be divided with 60 percent going to the owners and 40 percent going to the 4-H Club.

The club recently held its “Signup Night” at the Grange with children registering for various 4-H activities such as woodworking, arts and crafts and sewing. Mrs. John J. Madeira, co-chair of the club, said there will be no square dance clubs this year but it is hoped some square dance parties would be held. The club was also looking for more adults to be leaders.

A Halloween Costume Party and dance sponsored by the Youth Committee of the Grange took place Oct. 25 from 8 to 12. A live band played tunes for round and square dancing and prizes were awarded for best costumes in various categories.

Fires Threaten

As Halloween approached hints of its anticipation built, but fears of fire danger threatening the holiday also grew. Rumors circulated at the Unit-

ed Church Fair the Saturday before Halloween there could be some changes in the air.

On Oct. 26 both police and fire officials, as a result of recent incidents, said they regarded as vandalism and not Halloween pranks. They promised an immediate crackdown. Police Chief Leary issued a sharp warning that acts of damage or destruction would result in prosecution. He was very angry there was destruction of Halloween lawn decorations at a Springfield Street home, “in defiance of my warning,” he said.

Fire Chief Tupper also fumed that some Halloween decorations were taken from a property and “burned.” Tupper said he would get to the bottom of the matter.” Both chiefs jointly told the newspaper, “Vandalism of any sort and particularly involving setting of fires will bring plenty of trouble to those involved!”

As the Wilbraham Lions Club inducted more new members at a dinner meeting Oct. 23 its King Lion Frank Shannis noted that the club membership was at a new peak.

Some heavy hitters had joined the club that night. Inducted was Chief Leary, Bill Leonard, who would eventually become a selectman, and popular businessman Jim Alberici. Guest speaker was Reuben Frost of Springfield College, the coordinator for the training of Peace Corps volunteers.

During the Business session final plans were set for

the annual Halloween Parade and Party at Memorial School

Athletic Field

which the Lions conducts for all children of the community.

On Halloween Eve, things came to a head. As the town fireman “stood by” Chief Tupper reiterated his previous warnings about what would happen to anyone caught setting fires.

Then the Lions Club announced a change of the original plans and sadly announced: Due to the present emergency drought which had created serious forest fire hazards, the usual bonfire at Memorial Field associated with the Halloween event had been reluctantly canceled, putting a chilly silence over that part of Main Street.

All of the other usual scary features, which have been part of the program for 15 years would be carried out.

Exactly four weeks after Halloween, on Friday, November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated while riding in a motorcade in Dallas, Texas, tearing apart our small-town innocence and ushering in a new era.

Sources: News items from The Springfield Morning Union files.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbennett4765@charter.net.



(Photo courtesy Charles Bennett)

I ran across this photo of the Boston Road street sign for the Parkway Drive-In. The movie “Let’s Make it Legal” was released sometime in 1951. Directed by Richard Sale and starred Claudette Colbert co-starring Macdonald Carey, Zachary Scott and Marilyn Monroe. The adventure film “Bagdad” starred Marueen O’Hara and Vicent Price.

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(L-R) - Rich Benoit (Ludlow), Sylvie Benoit (Ludlow) and Capt. Pat Farrow (Wilbraham Fire Department).



(L-R) - Officer Chad Martowski (Hampden PD) and Officer Paul Mayo (Monson PD).



Turley photost by Harold Anderson
Seven-year-old Amelia at her "Amelia's Little Scribblers" table.

SAFETY NIGHT OUT
from page 1

give people knowledge on our unit and what we do and let the kids come up and pet the horses....It's great," Gaj said.

Jerry Hodges, Joseph Miserendino and Vinny Marino, who work for DCR Fire Control out of Chicopee State Park were there to inform attendees about "fire safety, prevention....putting out your campfire, not going out in the woods and playing with a lighter kind of stuff" said Miserendino, adding, "Making us unemployed....in a perfect world."

EMT Deon Goines and Paramedic Ray Rodriguez attended with one of the Action Ambulances from Hampden for people to check out. In addition to being at the event to help, if needed, Rodriguez said that they were there, "for safety, showing the kids, so that they're comfortable with the ambulance, teaching them when to call 911 verses not to call 911, stuff like that."

Goines said he wanted kids to know "that EMTs aren't scary and are people that you can approach and be comfortable around.....Kids, if they're not familiar with someone, they might be a bit reserved."

Officers Chad Martowski of Hampden and Paul Mayo from Monson were there to represent the Hampden and Monson Police Departments and were quite approachable in their full uniforms with greetings and smiles for all who wanted to meet them.

"It's good to engage with the community and for them to see us as people and not just officers who are trying to arrest people," Mayo said.

"It's good for the kids to see us in the public like this, makes it more comfortable with talking with us....An event like this has a positive impact....(on) how they see us," added Martowski.

Event presenters weren't only humans, however. Nicholas Harney from the Charlton MA Police Department's K9 unit brought Red the bloodhound, who, he said, is certi-



(L-R) - Madison Nassar (Westfield) holding 18 mo old Stella. Deputy Tori Gaj on her horse Odín and Deputy Connie Burke on her horse Autumn.

fied in trailing. "Her job is to find people," said Harney. Red got her name in honor of "Officer Reddick who passed away," said Harney

Capt. Pat Farrow from the Wilbraham Fire Department presented an informative display about lithium-ion batteries as part of their focus on safety.

Sylvie Benoit of Ludlow was impressed after she visited their table. "It's great for the kids," she said.

Rich Benoit agreed, noting that the information is "good for homeowners too."

Representing the Hampden Fire Department were Lt. Brendan Kennedy who attended with firefighters Ryan Fitzgerald of Hampden and Jonathan Cadieux of Wilbraham.

"Everybody had a good evening tonight," Kennedy said.

Some of those selling items at the event were children who ran their own businesses as part of the Youth Entrepreneurship Program of the Hampden Wilbraham Partners

for Youth.

Seven-year-old Amelia was there with her Mom at "Amelia's Little Scribblers" with crayons, fun toys, goodie bags and many other items available.

Live entertainment was provided by the Hampden based group, Then and Now, performing "new and old country and classic rock," according to vocalist Joshua Sterling of Hampden, a member of the Hampden Fire Department, who was joined by Dale Varney from East Longmeadow on electric guitar and Steve Tongue from Hampden playing acoustic guitar.

Community businesses and organizations were also in attendance, such as Bethlehem Church in Hampden where Ministries Director Ryan Spring was there with Jaime Pardane from Hampden, 14-year-old Harper and 11-year-old Valerie giving out free bags of freshly popped popcorn.

At their table, Jillian Calsetta from Village Food Mart was offering samplings of some their baked items which

they also sold there as well as their chili, both made in-house at the store.

"We like to be involved in the community....We love coming out to support events like this," Calsetta said.

Attendees even got to meet Lou Lortie herself from Lou's Bagel Nook in Hampden who was giving out coffee along with Barb Lecuyer from East Longmeadow and Cheryl Schneider from Springfield.

"This town has helped me stay in business for 10 years. I will always do something for them....It's very important to me....They're the reason I'm in business....I just love this town," Lortie said.

The Life Star 3 helicopter, based out of Westfield MA, right at the airport, according to Pilot Rick Vance from Southington CT, made an impressive entrance to the event, flying in and landing in the field behind Town Hall. Families were able to visit the helicopter and speak with its crew before it made an equally impressive departure later in the evening.



(L-R) - Here is Steve Bigos (Wilbraham), 4-year-old Audriana, Sonya Bigos (Wilbraham) and 3-year-old Dylan.

Environmental Police Officer James Dalton spoke to attendees about their work policing recreational areas and brought a Yamaha Kodiak 450 Quad ATV to the event, much to the delight of 8-year-old Jace who got on the 4-wheeler to check it out.

"Oh, yeah," Dalton said. "Kids like this."

Anthony Gentile Jr., Director of the Wilbraham Regional Emergency Communication Center, was at their table.

"We're the dispatch center for Police, Fire and EMS for three communities, Belcher-town, Hampden and Wilbraham....We like to do community engagement to show residents how we operate," Gentile said.

He also noted that "not a lot of people know that you can actually text 911 now instead of calling. We prefer that you call, but you can text if you can."

Last but not least, at dusk, was the climax for the event



Fireworks were on display for the grand finale.

as adults and children alike gathered for the Grand Fireworks Show from the field in back of Town Hall. An impressive way to end a fun and informative evening.

GARDEN from page 6

on trays or in mesh bags in a well-ventilated area at temperatures between 38 and 58 degrees. The lower the temp, the better.

Inspect throughout the winter months and throw away any corms that begin to rot.

Typically glads are planted directly in the ground, with no pre-starting needed. You can stagger when you plant, though, so that all of your flowers are not borne at once. Plant a few every week of June for color throughout the late summer through frost.

By harvesting your bulbs now, you are protecting your investment for years to come! Only get out there and do it before you run out of daylight!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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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Veterans dinner, we are collecting photographs of Veterans in uniform that will be used as decorations for this event. If you have a photograph of yourself or a family member to share, please drop it off at the front desk. Please include your name and phone number on the back of the photograph so it can be returned to you after the event. To attend the Veterans dinner, please call 566.5588 or to RSVP. Veterans are FREE; non-Veterans \$5.

If I were you, I'd grab tickets for "Gypsy" now because you will regret missing this one. You need an escape and entertainment? Enter the world of "Gypsy" and you will get just that.



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CLUES ACROSS

- Nocturnal rodent
- Requesting
- Give temporarily
- F frivolousness
- Military arm
- "Westworld" actor Harris
- Persian Gulf port city
- Air hostesses
- Partner to "Pa"
- Percussion instrument
- Raincoats
- Lower the light
- Asian mountain range
- Every one of two or more
- Lack of difficulty
- A public announcement of a proposed marriage
- Reduces in size
- Make an impact
- Serviceman
- A French river

CLUES DOWN

- Colorless part of blood
- Of a main artery
- Photog's tool
- Blues Traveler hit "But ___"
- Grew older
- Not the leader
- ___ Lang: country singer
- A driver's license is one
- Nests of pheasants
- Antelopes
- One quintillion bytes
- Japanese lute
- A type of cat
- It cools your home
- Dorm official
- Pouches
- German trigraph
- Form of Persian
- ___ route
- Upper body part
- Bridge building degree
- Indicates position
- Political action committee

- Edible nuts
- Front part of a quadruped
- Locate
- Geological time
- Of I
- Northern Utah city
- They work in the trenches
- Hammer is one
- Tall deciduous tree
- Performers
- Slang for mistake
- More open
- Most slick
- Provokes
- Home of the NCAA's Flyers
- Sodium
- Large fish of the mackerel family
- Not one
- ___ and behold
- Atomic #21
- "The Great Lakes State"

SPORTS

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Falcons in danger of losing tourney spot

WILBRAHAM — At 7-10 now, the Minnechaug Regional High School girls volleyball team needs three win right now to qualify for the state tournament. With a sub-.500 record, the Falcons are also ranked No. 39 in Division 2, outside of the top 32 which automatically qualify. The Falcons, whether it be the Western Mass. tournament or non-playoff action, will get the opportunity to try and make it to .500, but their next opponents beyond Westfield are not known.



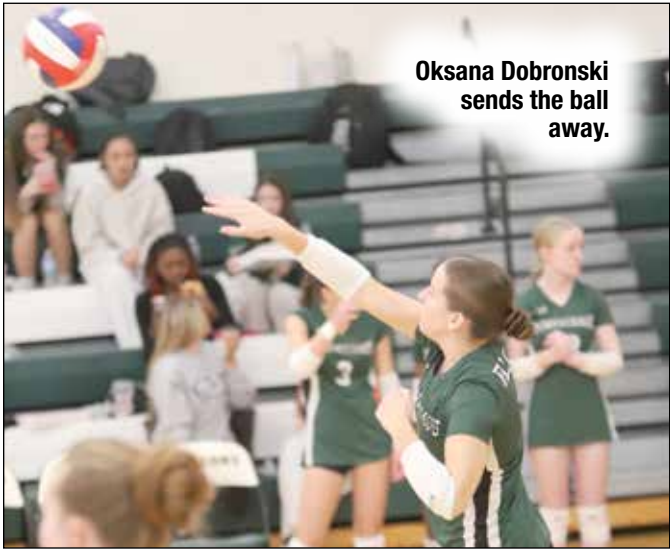
Siree Awkal sends a set straight up.



Nehir Elcin makes a backwards hit over the net.



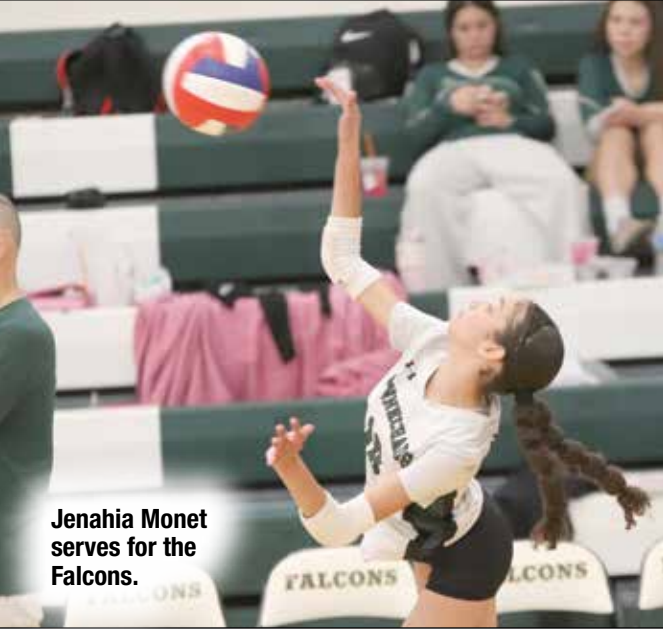
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Aa'mani Blanco and Leah Croteau make a block for the Falcons.



Oksana Dobronski sends the ball away.



Haley Powers gets the easy bump.



Jenahia Monet serves for the Falcons.

Chaug boys shut out at Agawam

WILBRAHAM — Last Tuesday evening, Minnechaug Regional High School boys soccer fell to Agawam 1-0. That was followed by an 8-1 loss to Amherst. Minnechaug is now 1-13.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 12

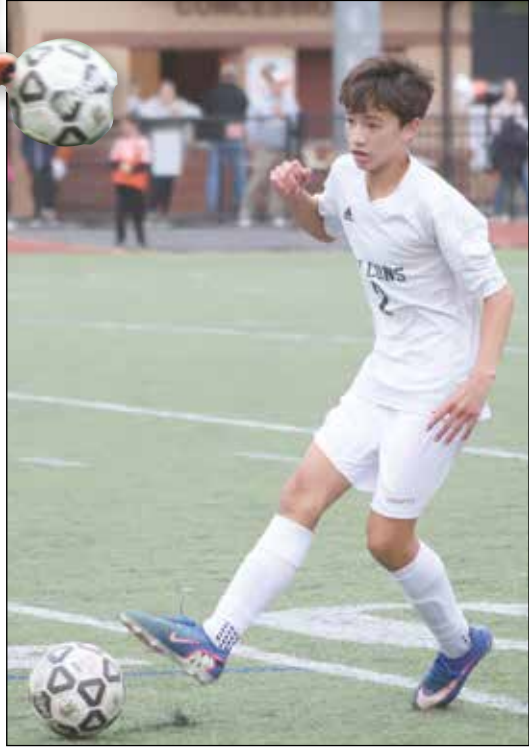
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Tyler Supczak makes a stop.



Laniel Vera focuses on possessing the ball.



Owen Piquette makes a pass.

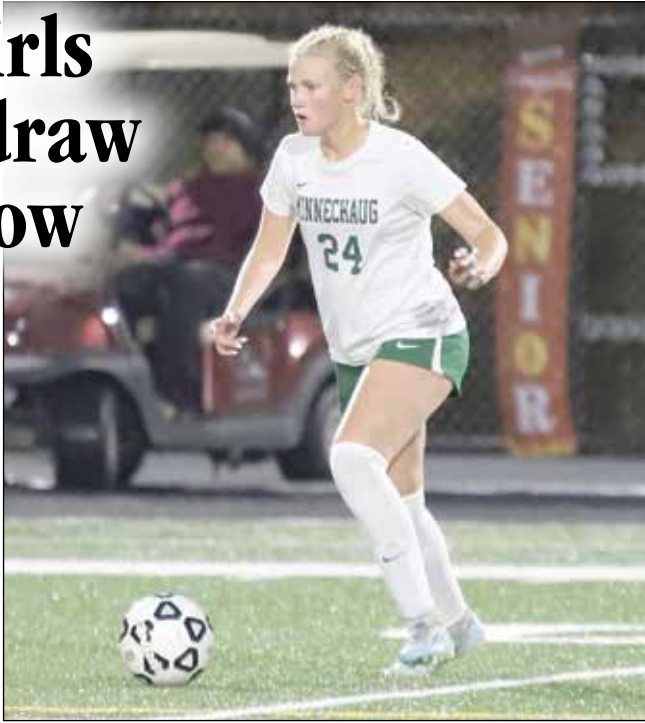
Falcons girls battle to draw with Ludlow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Each of the previous five meetings between the Minnechaug Regional Lady Falcons and the Ludlow Lady Lions ended in a 1-0 decision.

When the two rivals met for the only time during the 2026 regular season, the Lady Falcons appeared poised to celebrate their third consecutive 1-0 victory over the Lady Lions.

Ludlow senior captain Valentina Molinari spoiled those hopes, scoring the game-tying goal with 19 seconds remaining in regula-



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Ainsley Holden looks for a teammate to pass to.

tion. The non-league match, which was held at the Ludlow Sports Complex last

Tuesday night, ended in a 1-1 draw.

“Minnechaug is one of the better teams that we’ve faced this season. Scoring the game tying goal in my final game against them was a great feeling,” Molinari said. “I just took my time and stayed composed. Then I shot the ball without thinking very much about it.”

Molinari, whose father, Federico, coaches both the Western Mass. Pioneers and the New England Mutiny, had not scored a goal since the second game of the regular season, a 1-0 victory at West Springfield. The senior co-captain scored five goals in her first varsity season as a sophomore and tallied four more goals as a junior.

Junior Geia Guzman was given the assist on the game tying goal.

Please see **GIRLS SOCCER**, page 12



Katelyn Hoar seeks to center the ball.

SPORTS

Railers split opening weekend of games

WORCESTER – This is not new around these parts. The city’s pro teams — IceCats, Sharks, Railers — have always seemed to run into some opponent, at some time, they just can’t find a way to beat. In this time and place for the Railers, those guys are the Trois-Rivieres Lions.

Sunday afternoon, they pasted the home team by a 5-2 score. It was a letdown for Worcester which played so well in a 4-2 triumph over Maine on Saturday night.

In Game 2 of this season the Railers were out-everything except for outshot. A particular issue was special teams play. The Lions scored four times on special teams. They had three power play goals, one into an empty net, and a shorthanded goal.

In the year 2026, Worcester has played Trois-Rivieres eight times and won just one of those games. It has been outscored, 27-16 in that time and is 0-3-1 at the DCU Center.

These are divisional games. Each has a four-point swing.

The Railers goals were scored by Cole Donhauser and MacAuley Carson. It there is a sliver of sunlight in Sunday’s total eclipse, it is Donhauser’s goal. He scored on a power play at 14:32 of the second period, a beautiful play set up nicely by linemates Jordan Kaplan and Lincoln Hatten.

It was not a game-winner, or even a game-tyer, but might mean something as the year progresses. It was Donhauser’s first goal since Jan. 2, a span of 47 games and at least 99 shots on goal, maybe one or two more.

It was, indeed, a beauty.

If hockey awarded three assists on a goal Hatten would have had two of them. He got the play going with a pass to Kaplan, got the puck back, then slid it across the top of the crease to Donhauser blazing in from the left side.

Carson scored at 11:41 of the third period on a goal was reviewed for a possible high stick. The puck popped up out of some traffic in front of the Lions net and wound up going in off the back of Trois-Rivieres goaltender Francisco Lapenna. Hatten got an assist on that goal as well along with Cooper Moore.

Lapenna was very good for the visitors. He stopped 24 of 26 shots and kept his team ahead all night. Lapenna is a rookie and his career is off to a memorable start. In his first seven pro games including six last season Lapenna is 6-0-1 and has given up just 10 goals on 221 shots.

That is a .955 save percentage.

The Lions got two goals from two players. Anthony Beauregard was one of them, Mathieu Bizier the other. Eduard Charron also scored for the Lions and Isaac Dufour had a pair of assists.

Beauregard scored at 5:32 of the first period, a power play goal, to make it 1-0. Charron gave the visitors a 2-0 lead at 3:55 of the second. Those first 20 minutes may have lost the game for Worcester. The Railers played well and outshot the Lions, 11-4, but could not beat Lapenna.

Donhauser’s goal was the Railers first power play goal of the season.

Phantoms steal win away from T-Birds

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (2-2-1-1) could not hold onto a two-goal advantage as the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (3-2-1-0) rallied back for a 3-2 overtime win on Saturday night inside the MassMutual Center to sweep the two-game weekend set.

After succumbing to an early goal against on Friday, the T-Birds flipped the script quickly on Saturday as Calle Rosen crept up into the left circle and deposited a rebound off the pads of Aleksei Kolosov into the twine, giving Springfield the 1-0 lead.

Both Kolosov and T-Birds starting goalie Will Cranley had plenty of work in the opening 20 minutes, but neither goalie blinked after the Rosen goal, with Kolosov denying 14 and Cranley stopping 11 to carry the 1-0 score into the middle frame.

Springfield’s power play, building confidence after a pair of strikes late in Friday’s contest, added insurance at 3:35 of the second, as Rosen set up Jakub Stancl for a one-time rip from the right circle to make it 2-0. It was the second point of the night for each player, and Jack Finley accrued his first point as a T-Bird with the secondary

helper.

Lehigh Valley proved resilient, though, and David Goyette beat Cranley on a backhand in tight to cut the lead in half just 1:13 after Stancl’s tally.

Penalty trouble then haunted the home team, as two penalties in less than two minutes set the Phantoms up with a 5-on-3 advantage. The red-hot Alex Bump took full advantage, rifling home his sixth goal in five games on a one-timer to tie the score at 15:09 of the second.

Cranley and Kolosov did their part to keep the stalemate intact through the third period, with both clubs killing off two power plays in the final 25 minutes of regulation to get the game into overtime.

Bump’s scorching week continued in the extra session, as he took a faceoff drop pass from Jacob Gaucher and fired a shot that bested Cranley on the glove side, giving Lehigh Valley its third straight road win of the week just 15 seconds into the extra session.

The T-Birds look to continue their strong start on the road as they visit the Charlotte Checkers for a pair of games on Oct. 23 and Oct. 24 at Bojangles Coliseum.

Saturday Adult Craft at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham Public Library is offering an Adult craft program on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Join us to create a mason jar leaf lantern! This is a fun, relaxing, and easy-to-learn project.

No experience is needed, and all craft supplies will be provided. But registration is necessary as space is limited. For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

This week in recreation



Dina Sciarra
Administrative Clerk

WILBRAHAM - As the newest member of the department, I am excited to introduce myself to the community. My name is Dina Sciarra and I started at the Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department as our new Administrative Clerk, on Monday, October 5, 2026.

I bring a wealth of administrative experience, small business management skills, and a diverse professional background to the department. In addition to managing All Paws Pet-Salon, a small family-owned pet-grooming business in Palmer, I have held a variety of Executive Assistant positions with UMass Memorial, the VA Medical Center in Florida, and Genzyme. My skills include desktop publishing, website design, database management, and administrative support.

In my new role, I will help keep the day-to-day operations of the Recreation Department running smoothly. I will assist residents with questions and program inquiries, support program enrollment and registration fee processing, and help prepare and distribute reports, calendars, schedules, and program announcements in print and online. I will also help coordinate the use of recreation facilities and playing fields.

Outside of work, I enjoy helping out at my daughter’s pet-grooming business, where I assist primarily with feline clients, in addition to all the day-to-day operations behind the scenes. When I am not busy with administrative tasks or cats, I enjoy crocheting, sewing, and spending time with my family—which includes two adult children, six cats, two grand dogs, and one grandbaby!

I am excited to work with the Wilbraham community and help manage the many programs and sports offered here at WPRD. It is so encouraging to join such a vibrant recreation department with so much going on. I look forward to speaking with and meeting many of you here in the office. You can reach me at dsciarra@wilbraham-ma.gov.

Notes: To register for all our programs and for more information, please visit WilbrahamRec.com.

Chaug boys shut out at Agawam



Geoffrey Ohemeng-Kyei takes the free kick.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
John Morley kicks the ball away.

GIRLS SOCCER

from page 11

Ludlow (6-4-4) and Minnechaug (8-1-3) used to battle each other twice during the regular season as members of the Coombs Division.

The Lady Lions, who joined the Kurty/Fielding Division a year ago, haven’t defeated the Lady Falcons (8-1-3) since posting a 1-0 win in their first meeting of the 2024 campaign.

“We were really hoping to win this game, but a tie feels just as good,” added Molinari, who hasn’t made her college decision yet. “It was probably the biggest goal of my high school career. My father taught me everything that I know about soccer.”

The Lady Lions’ other senior captains are Maeve Carter, Payton Dersarkisian, and Maddy Riley, who was the starting goalie.

Riley also played a key role in the non-league contest by making a total of nine saves.

“We played really hard for the entire 80 minutes,” Riley said. “I was really hoping that we could score a goal and tie the score. I was so happy when Valentina scored that goal with 19 seconds left.

At most high school soccer matches, the clock is stopped with five minutes remaining in regulation.

The Ludlow Sports Complex scoreboard clock operator kept the clock running, which allowed the players and the fans to know exactly how much time was left in the match without having to rely on the referees.

Ludlow head coach Amanda Nacsin was unavailable for comment following the contest.

While the Lady Lions players celebrated their last second tying goal, it was a disappointing outcome for the Lady Falcons and their

supporters.

“We held the lead with less than a minute remaining and we should’ve won tonight’s game,” said Minnechaug head coach Nundi Goncalves, who graduated from Ludlow High School. “We had a lot of opportunities. We had one breakdown and they capitalized on it. You can throw the records out the window whenever we face Ludlow because this has always been a big rivalry game. All the players know each other.”

The Lady Falcons took a 1-0 lead during the 12th minute of the first half when senior Addison Derosia sent a pass into the box where senior Isabella Usher headed the ball into the net past Riley.

“That was a fantastic scoring play,” Goncalves said. “It’s something that we always work on at practice. We had several other scoring chances, but we couldn’t capitalize on them.”

The Lady Falcons other seniors, who played against the Lady Lions for the final time on the soccer field, are Paige Holt, Carson Humphries, Katelyn Hoar, Makenna Sacco, and Ainsley Holden.

Minnechaug, who posted a 2-0 home shutout versus Coombs Division rival Belchertown two days later, entered the final week of the regular season as the fifth ranked team in the MIAA Division 2 state power rankings. They were also ranked second behind Pope Francis in the



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Carson Humphries looks to get past an opponent. LEFT: Isabella Usher heads toward midfield.



Maya Usher sends a free kick away.

Western Mass. Class A power rankings.

Ludlow was ranked 20th in the Division 3 state power rankings and seventh in the Class B rankings.

The pairings for the Western Mass. tournament are scheduled to be released on Friday.

BUS UPDATE from page 1

cially in the afternoon. Not exactly sure why. The mornings seem to be running fairly smoothly, but we're running into a lot of issues in the afternoon. Particularly on the afternoon and Friday for whatever reasons," Provost said. "But, it not only has impacted not only athletics, but also late buses, especially at the middle school. We're now paying staff to stay to monitor students because the late bus is not getting there on time, and so there's a gap—in some cases—a pretty significant gap between the time when the rest of the staff leave and the time the late bus can arrive."

Provost added the bus company "has not been able to provide as we had hoped for athletics and is not projecting that they'll be able to do it for the month of October either."

"So, we've projected the cost of athletic transportation for routes not covered in September at \$4,400. We think that the cost of uncovered runs for athletics in October will be approximately another \$6,000. So, there's about a \$10,000 deficit in athletic transportation just due to the inavailability of transportation and us having to go to higher cost vendors," Provost

said.

Provost also had a conversation with the athletic director on different cost mitigation strategies.

"He has some creative ideas, but the core issue is that we're not getting the buses that were in the plan. Not getting buses that are part of our assessment. So, not happy about it," Provost said.

He stressed it would "not be as much of an impact for winter sports, which will be coming up as soon as we get through the month of October, essentially."

"Because you don't have the issue with the fading light to deal with. Most of the sports are indoors or they're on ski slopes that are already lighted," Provost said. "So, hopefully, before spring rolls around and we're dealing with fields again, we'll have (a) more stable bus driver situation with some excess capacity so that the buses can get back to us, and hopefully prior to spring, they will build capacity so that way we can get our late buses back on schedule."

When Vice Chair Dr. Michael Tirabassi asked if they would get money back from the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative (LPVEC), Provost replied "potentially" in the form of a dividend.

"The collaborative is able to

have its own E & D Fund. Their threshold is much higher than the district's—threshold is 5%, I think, they can hold something like 20%—but when they exceed that, which they essentially have a balance when they're collecting fees and not experiencing cost because of it, because they're not running the routes, that could result in a dividend," Provost said.

"However, I will also point out that they may be experiencing some unexpected costs in transportation because diesel is now through the roof and we're not paying excess fuel charges for that. We're still locked in to that place so that might be eating into any excess that they're experiencing for not running those."

School Committee Member Sean Kennedy noted how the current federal administration is saying home heating oil can be used "to defray the cost."

"Unfortunately, from the research I've been doing, it's going to void any warranty that we have, so unless you hear from the manufacturers that they will allow this to take place..." Kennedy said.

Tirabassi agreed, noting the concern that if trucks start burning home heating oil, for example, people won't be able to heat their homes.



Nadia Milleron addresses Wilbraham Town Republican Committee

WILBRAHAM — Nadia Milleron, the independent candidate for U.S. Representative in Massachusetts' 1st Congressional District, spoke last night, Oct.13, before members of the community and members of the Wilbraham Town Republican Committee.

Milleron, a Sheffield resident, attorney, farmer, and mother, is challenging longtime Democratic incumbent Richard Neal in the November 3 general election. She is running as an unenrolled independent and is not affiliated with either major party.

In her remarks to the committee, Milleron emphasized her record as a consumer and aviation-safety advocate. Following the 2019 Boeing 737

MAX crash that claimed the life of her daughter Samya Stumo, she helped lead efforts that contributed to the bipartisan Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act of 2020.

Key themes of her campaign include lowering health-care costs, eliminating the federal income tax on earnings under \$100,000, strengthening American manufacturing of essential goods, and supporting term limits. She has pledged to serve no more than three terms if elected.

The Wilbraham Town Republican Committee is the local Republican organization in the town of Wilbraham, which falls within the 1st Congressional District.



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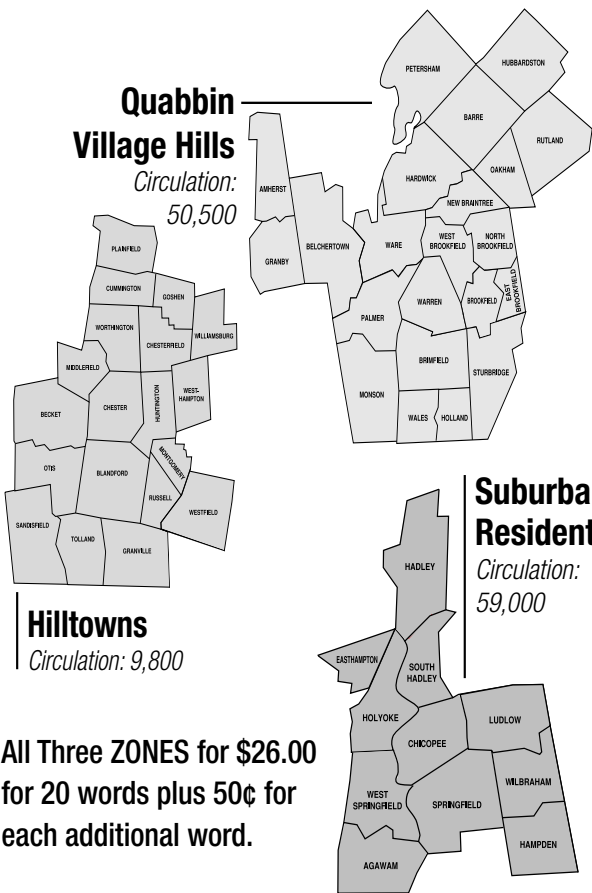
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Hampden Conservation Commission Notice of Public Meeting
In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, section 40, a public meeting will be held by the Hampden Conservation Commission on **November 4, 2026, at the Hampden Town Hall at 6:00pm**. This is for a **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by Andrew Poirier. The property is located at 336 Wilbraham Rd., Hampden MA. It is for construction of a 12 X 12 shed within 200 ft of a perennial stream. The meeting will be held in the selectboard meeting room. For more information contact Conservation@Hampden.ma.gov. 10/22/2026

Wilbraham Community Preservation Committee Annual Public Hearing
The Wilbraham Community Preservation Committee will hold its Annual Public Hearing on **Thursday, November 5th, 2026 at 6:00 PM** in the conference room at the Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street.
The purpose of this hearing is to get input from the general public as it relates to Community Preservation efforts in Wilbraham in the categories of Open Space, Historic Resources, Recreational Land and Community Housing. Members of other municipal boards and committees as well as Town employees are also welcome to attend. This hearing will be followed by a regular meeting of the Community

Preservation Committee. The agenda for the hearing/meeting will be posted on the Town Hall outdoor bulletin board and on the Town's website at <https://www.wilbraham-ma.gov> at least 48 hours prior to the meeting time and date 10/22, 10/29/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P2177EA Estate of: Dana R Gahres Also known as: Dana Gahres Date of Death: 05/25/2026 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kimberly T Calvanese of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that **Kimberly T Calvanese of Wilbraham, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/10/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is **not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**
WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 13, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 10/22/2026

Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club thanks sponsors and guests

WILBRAHAM - The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club extends heartfelt thanks to the generous sponsors who helped make this year’s Designer Bag Bingo fundraiser an unforgettable evening. The event combined fun, friendship, and philanthropy, drawing over 250 guests to raise funds for local, national and international community projects.
From the inspired home designs of Kitchen Encoun-

ters, compassionate care from Chanda Care, to financial guidance from Willard Financial Group, and Curated Luxury by Jackie’s Vintage Vault, community commitment from LUSO Federal Credit Union, the expert care and personalized service from Louis & Clark Pharmacy, and the Unbelievably Simple and Incredibly Clean Riverbend Laundry— these partners helped turn Bingo fun into funding for programs that

touch lives. They not only invest in their clients, but also in their community.
100% of the proceeds from the event support the Club’s ongoing work; including scholarships, local outreach, and service projects. The Club is proud to live its motto of “Living the Volunteer Spirit” and is deeply thankful to the support of sponsors and guests who make its mission possible.

Springfield Symphony Orchestra’s Musical Petting Zoo returns to Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM – The Springfield Symphony Orchestra’s Musical Petting Zoo returns to the library on Tuesday, Nov. 3 (HWRSD Day Off – Election Day) at 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Space is limited, register today!
We are excited to welcome back Springfield Sym-

phony Orchestra’s Musical Petting Zoo! Join us for a fun and informative hands-on traveling exhibit of musical instruments for children entering grades PreK-5. After an introduction to the instruments, participants get a chance to bow a violin, blow a horn or tap out a rhythm on a drum. Here’s your chance

to discover an instrument in a judgment-free zone that encourages exploration and excitement!
This event is made possible by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Christopher L. Carlotto 1945–2026

Christopher Lawrence Carlotto, 81, of Wilbraham, Massachusetts, passed away on October 11, 2026, leaving behind memories, laughter, and a family he loved more than anything.



Born in Great Barrington, Chris grew up in Springfield. He moved his family to Wilbraham, November ‘68 because he wanted to raise his family in town. Like his father, John, he pursued a career in stationary engineering. Despite his father’s advice never to take a job at a laundry, he spent 35 years managing Highland Laundry in Holyoke until its closure in 2008, a decision he never regretted. It was demanding work, but being home by three and having weekends off meant he could be there when his kids needed him. Later, he enjoyed working as a boiler operator at Smith College, a job his family affectionately compared to Homer Simpson’s.

In 1985, he married his beloved wife, Susan. Together, they raised five children and never made a distinction between children and stepchildren. A devoted husband, he would do anything Susan asked, including maintaining the swimming pool long after the children moved away.

Above all, he loved being a dad, and he was the best at it there ever was. He loved dropping in on Mike as he restored an old Mustang or soaking up the sun with Christine on New Smyrna Beach. Ed knew his kitchen specialty well: “I thought you already ate.” With Jim, he shared the unforgettable experience of Game 6 of the 2011 Stanley Cup Final in Boston. And when Nick played college hockey for Georgia in front of 8,000 fans in Savannah, there was no question who his number one fan was.
Some of his happiest memories were made at the

family cottage on Highland Lake in New Hampshire. Weekends meant packing the Ranger and heading north. Though content to fish and relax, he was always willing to trade a quiet afternoon for boating, water sports, or another adventure with his kids.

Glasses on, ball cap pulled down, Chris could often be found sitting in his driveway soaking up the sun, taking in the neighborhood, nature, and the place he called home. The hat might change between the Bruins, Red Sox, Patriots, or whichever hockey team Nick was playing for, but the scene was always familiar.

A man of stubborn routine and understated humor, he liked his coffee black and HOT. An afternoon beer, a snack, a nap, and dinner with Seinfeld on the kitchen television rounded out his routine. When the evening was over, he’d make his familiar exit with an announcement: “Alright...I’m going to bed.”

Chris is survived by his beloved wife, Susan (Freelley) Carlotto, children; Michael Carlotto and his wife Sheileen of Wilbraham, Christine Lamb and her husband Henry of New Smyrna Beach, FL, Edward Hewitt of Atlanta, GA and James Hewitt and his wife Larissa of Norfolk, MA, Nicholas Carlotto and his wife Coco of San Diego, and brothers John Carlotto (Pat) of RI and Paul Carlotto (Joanne) of Haverhill, MA and five cherished grand daughters; Samantha, Lauren, Hayden, Lily and Maddie. He was predeceased by his parents John L. and Cathleen M. (Galland) Carlotto.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Oct. 23 from 2-4 PM, concluding with a Celebration of Life Service at 4 PM at Wilbraham Funeral Home, 2551 Boston Rd., Wilbraham.

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 \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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Contact Jordan at jconrad@turley.com or 413.283.8393

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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