

SENIORS
The 50s returned
Page 16

SPORTS
Girls soccer defeats Westborough
Page 17

Dedicated to Improving the Quality of Life in the Communities We Serve

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

OCTOBER 26, 2023

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com



Photos courtesy of Orchard Valley
Residents participate in Dementia Live, as part of the Dementia-Friendly Wilbraham Initiative that is being overseen by the team at Wilbraham's Orchard Valley.

Orchard Valley launches Dementia-Friendly Initiative

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

WILBRAHAM — The Dementia-Friendly Wilbraham Initiative has officially been launched by Orchard Valley at Wilbraham, a Benchmark assisted Memory care community on Boston Road.

Throughout the next year, the team at Orchard Valley will partner with businesses, professionals and community members in town to increase Alzheimer's and dementia awareness with a variety of training programs.

When the campaign is complete, Wilbraham will be certified as dementia friendly.

"What we're doing is called Dementia Live," Stephanie Zelazo, director of community relations at Orchard Valley, said. "It's a virtual dementia tour so people get to basically walk in the shoes of someone with Alzheimer's or dementia so they kind of get to have that experience. We're working with the Alzheimer's Association to provide educational programming, and a lot of this will be like 'train the trainer' programs."

From Town Hall to local banks and the Wilbraham Big Y, Orchard Valley has teamed up with a diverse group of community partners that interact with the senior population on a regular basis to increase those entities' understandings of Alzheimer's and dementia.

A launch event held at the Country Club of Wilbraham on Sept. 27 kicked off the project, and monthly programs will continue to occur.

Please see **DEMENTIA**, page 7

Hundreds attend Fall Fest



The Ghostbusters came out to the Fall Fest in full force Sunday.

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN — Oct. 22 was a memorable day for many, as Hampden held its first Fall Fest at Thornton Burgess School.

Less than 24 hours after the event was postponed due to rain, the TWB parking lot filled to the brink Sunday, and residents began parking on the grass, as several hundred people attended the festivities in the afternoon and early evening.

From trunk-or-treating and a craft fair to a chili cooking competition and fireworks, there was something for everyone. Most in attendance

were focused on ensuring that the event's youngest participants had a great time.

"The kids are what it's all about. We love seeing them happy," Lt. Tim Evans of the Hampden Fire Department said. "This is a great, phenomenal turnout. We've been able to answer fire questions and hand out candy."

The fire department had its vehicles on hand and set up multiple spaces during the event. Evans helped oversee the creation of free smores, which the fire department handed out in conjunction with the library.

Dorothy Welch of Palmer arrived to create balloons for the children.

She makes balloons with her daughter as a hobby and attends different craft fairs.

"We absolutely love the kids' events. They get excited when they see us and when they see the different balloons," Welch said.

Hair stylists Liz Boghosian of Wilbraham and Kristen Tranter of Hampden came to TWB to help children fill their hair with glitter. Boghosian, who loves to be creative, enjoyed how everyone seemingly took to the glitter.

"We love children, and they're so excited when they see the glitter," she said. "It doesn't matter what gen-

Please see **FALL FEST**, page 12

Al Gag elected into the International Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame

Gag was recognized for his contributions to freshwater fishing

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM — Longtime fisherman Albert Gagliarducci, or Al Gag as he's well known, has been elected for induction into the International Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame's Class of 2024.

The International Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, located in

Hayward, WI, has inducted 500 people from its 1960 inception to today, including legendary Red Sox player Ted Williams, 26th U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, John Shedd of Shedd Aquarium in Chicago and sportscaster Curt Gowdy.

Gag, a Wilbraham resident, has been in the freshwater fishing industry for 45 years, starting his venture in 1978 and later hosting "Gone Fishing" on WWLP for 12 years before moving to WGGG and, later, working with ESPN.

His business, Al Gag's Custom Lures, is in Indian Orchard. He credits his late longtime

friend, Frank Sousa, outdoors columnist for *The Republican*, for where he is today, explaining Sousa encouraged him to market his fishing lure after his shad dart was found in a giant Atlantic Salmon at a fish hatchery.

"I always tell everybody that it was because of him that this happened, and it's the truth," Gag said.

Additionally, Gag said his father got him into fishing at four years old.

"I could barely stand up and I would watch a bobber for hours in the water just go down and get

Please see **FISHING**, page 14



Al Gag holds one of his fishing products, Twitch It Eels, in front of fish-themed art with his logo, Al Gag's Custom Lures, inside his studio at Indian Orchard Mills in Indian Orchard.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Hampden Selectmen vote to have Level 3 EV chargers installed

Chargers to be placed at senior center, are covered by grant money

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted on Oct. 23 to have two Level 3 EV charging stations, consisting of four ports, constructed and installed in the parking lot of the senior center on Allen Street.

Town Administrator Bob Markel was given authority to engage RISE Engineering to begin the process. Markel said \$270,000 in grant money is available to the town to compliment the \$9,000 it already received from the state.

Markel emphasized that the installation will "not cost the town a penny."

Markel, owner of an electric vehicle, has facilitated the discussion for much of the year, and the conversation began before that. On Monday, the Selectmen finally made their decision.

"This first came to us on Feb. 16, 2021," Selectman Donald Davenport said. "We're now 30 months down the road and we're still on the same topic. We've gone

through every scenario possible. The senior center makes the most sense because it's visible, it's safe, it's on town property so we don't have to worry about sharing any revenues with businesses."

A Level 3 EV charging station, also known as Direct Current Fast Charging, can deliver a full charge to an electric vehicle in approximately 30 minutes. Markel pushed for the installation of Level 3 EV chargers for their efficiency, as by comparison, it takes between four and 10 hours for a Level 2 charger to fully charge an electric vehicle.

Markel anticipates that out-of-town residents will stop in Hampden to recharge their vehicles, as the chargers will be conveniently located. He estimated that the town will pay National Grid between 20 and 25 cents per kilowatt hour while it could charge users between 40 and 50 cents per kWh, creating a revenue stream.

"Anyone wanting to charge their car would use a credit card," Markel said. "We would not have any expenses in that regard either. You pay for the power that you get typically with either a credit card or a cell phone

app, and there would be a margin of some kind, which the town would have to establish."

Markel said some of the revenue will go towards upkeep of the chargers while a decision will be made as to where the surplus funds will go. He said there will be a slow gain in terms of usage.

Many locations in Hampden were considered for the two chargers. Davenport listed out most of them.

"The three churches can't do it because obviously church and state separation. Mountain View (Restaurant) said no," he said. "The people at the mini mall can't figure out who

owns what portion of land, and even if we put it in the back of Dunkin Donuts, I guess it's going to be very expensive because they have to dig underneath the pavement to run the wire. The Cumberland Farms says they have a buyer; who knows? Gerrish Park is out. Town Hall employees don't want it anywhere near them. The police department doesn't want it so the senior center (is) an obvious place to put it."

Markel had considered the green space between the police station and senior center on Allen Street, but the spot wouldn't work because backed up cars waiting for a charge would flow into the street.

Board Chair John Flynn questioned how the revenue stream would work. He said it puts the town in an unusual position.

"Is the town in the business of being a vendor like that? We're here to provide municipal services to people. Are we in the business to be like a common vendor? We're also talking about the potential that the majority of people using it are from out of town," Flynn said.

Flynn also noted that the layout of the senior center parking lot could change depending on the direction the building expansion project takes. He isn't overly confident the senior center wants the chargers either.

"I think the characterization that they've been enthusiastic about having it there is incorrect. I've had numerous conversations with that, and it's more like, 'Well, if you're telling me we have to have it there, I guess I work for you and that's it,'" Flynn said.

Markel said he spoke to Council on Aging Executive Director Becky Moriarty prior to Monday's evening, and she supports the project. Davenport said the installation of the chargers will supplement the work that could be completed at the senior center.

"If we're going to spend a couple million bucks to renovate the senior center and bring it to a modern facility, then that would be a nice compliment, an EV charging station, because I got news for you. That's where it's going; by 2035, it's all going to be electric cars," he said.

Markel agreed. He pointed out that the "Automile" in Norwood on Route 1, which is home to about a dozen dealers, is selling 80 to 100 electric cars per day.

"That's not the case around here but clearly the way it's going to hit, and the auto dealers are reporting significant increases in sales," Markel said.

Selectman Craig Rivest inquired if grant money could really cover the entirety of the project, to which Markel said he's seen it work in numerous communities such as Becket and Monson.

With that said, Rivest supported the motion and voted in favor of installing the charging stations in town on Allen Street.

"The senior center makes the most logical sense because of where it is and proximity to everything, and it's town property; we own it," Rivest said.



Liberty
HOLIDAY TURKEY
PASTURE-RAISED IN LUDLOW

To Reserve:
Call 413-426-6636

More Sizes
More Turkeys
Prices and sizes
posted on the web site:
LibertyFamilyFarms.com

THANKSGIVING REVIEWS

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

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

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

BUSINESS GIFTS

"We tried Liberty for our gift program this year. I had one employee thank me five times."
Kevin Sullivan
Commercial Machine

Volume pricing and exceptional taste with traditional farm-raised birds make a reasonable and generous holiday gift.

HAND FED, PASTURE RAISED

On a Ludlow family farm, we raise turkeys in a pasture where they can run freely, hand fed on healthful grains and extra vegetables from our farm. Minimally processed, these birds have more meat, less water and the extra taste found only in tradition. No antibiotics, animal by-products, hormones or additive are used.

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

Call 413-426-6636 to Reserve

Adventure tours of Warren

Share the Adventure with us!

NYC WEEKEND
January 12-14, 2024

Nov. 4Book of Mormon.....	\$120
Nov. 18Vermont Country Store.....	\$79
Dec. 30Moulin Rouge!.....	\$125
Jan. 12-14	..NYC Weekend	\$469
Jan. 27Ain't Too Proud - Temptations	\$99

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

A mix of volunteers, local businesses will repair VFW pavilion roof Nov. 1

Donations from Home Depot, Vista Home Improvement lead the way

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- On Nov. 1 at 7 a.m., a mix of volunteers and professionals will begin a team effort to repair the pavilion roof at VFW Post 9397 on Main Street; volunteers are still being requested to assist in the cleanup.

Post 9397 Quartermaster Jered Sasen described the problem that needs fixing.

"Our pavilion at our VFW, which is a decent source of our income because we rent it out for parties and events, is in such disrepair. It's leaking all over the place and is causing a lot of issues for us. A couple months back, we decided (it needs to be addressed)," Sasen said.

It is estimated that the project could cost up to \$30,000, Sasen said. He noted that such an expenditure "isn't in our financial cards right now," as the VFW, like many clubs, continues to climb back from difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the summer, Sasen announced over the VFW Facebook page that the pavilion roof needs fixing. He hoped to assemble a team of 12 volunteers and collect a small amount of donated supplies to slightly improve the structure.

Sasen didn't envision a major response and was shocked by what came next.

"It was kind of a pipe dream, but I got an outpouring maybe within a week of numerous people (expressing they could volunteer)," he said. "Non-members, non-veterans, veterans alike; all these people came out and wanted to help. I'm completely taken back and overjoyed."



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

The VFW pavilion roof will be repaired on Nov. 1.

Then, a gentleman representing West Springfield-based business Vista Home Improvement informed Sasen that the company would be willing to coordinate and complete the job at no cost.

Sasen reached out to an assistant manager at the Wilbraham Home Depot, a business he has worked with before in his role as Wilbraham's Veterans Agent, to see if it might be willing to contribute.

The assistant manager asked for a supply list, which Vista Home Improvement provided. Again, Sasen was blown away by the response of a local business.

"Come to find out, Home Depot is donating at the end of the day over \$15,000 worth of materials for us. Vista Home Improvement is doing all the labor. I am still getting a bunch of just general volunteers there to help with doing the cleanup process and stuff like that," Sasen said.

Sasen has also been in touch with USA Recycling, which can donate certain services. Certain state fees cannot be waived, and it will cost \$160 per ton of waste disposed.

Sasen is still ecstatic about the support the project is receiving from the community. He noted he is

speechless, which he joked almost never happens.

"Roughly, we're getting anywhere from a \$25,000 to \$30,000 for free, and they're coming out on Wednesday, Nov. 1 to kind of start the entire process. That day they'll be tearing down the old roof and will be putting on the new roof," Sasen said.

All those who volunteer or contribute will be "fed like kings," Sasen said, noting that he will hire catering to provide sandwich platters and drinks such as water, Gatorade and soda.

Volunteers are still being sought for Nov. 1. Sasen said he hopes to create a wheelbarrow brigade to deliver the trash from the pavilion, over the bridge to the dumpster.

Sasen explained what the day's biggest challenge will be.

"When they tear off the roof, we have the Scantic River that goes right through it," he said. "We've already talked to the Conservation Commission, and we are going to be putting down some tarps and some haybales to make sure none of the actual materials bounce into the river. It's very important."

Wilbraham Women's Club to meet Nov. 9

NOVEMBER -- The November meeting of the Wilbraham Women's Club will take place on Thursday, Nov. 9 at noon at the Saint Cecilia's Parish Center on Main Street in Wilbraham. The cost will be \$12 for a soup, sandwich and dessert luncheon, catered by the Village Store Café. Please

make your reservation by calling Linda Raffa at 596-8245. The deadline is Nov. 2!

The speaker for the day will be Bobbie Albano, local artist, who will demonstrate how to transition holiday wreaths into the winter months. Her wreaths will be raffled at the end of the presentation. Also at this meeting we will be collecting miscellaneous items and cash donations for our Veterans. These donations will be given to the Veterans Hospital in Holyoke.



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.289.1977
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com

Editor

Dalton Zbierski
dzbierski@turley.com

Subscriptions

\$45 per year pre-paid
(\$50 out of state)

WEB

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.
turley.com

@Wilbraham-Hampden Times

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times
is published by
Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

D.A.C.
Landscaping

FALL CLEANUPS

Prices vary on your yard size

Don't wait, contact us today!

413-204-6584
or
413-896-3071

THE BEST FRESH FOR FALL!

Order Fresh All Natural Thanksgiving Turkeys

- Bob's Turkey Farm

"Broad Breasted White Turkeys"

From Lancaster, MA

- Bell & Evans

"Excellent Turkeys"

From Pennsylvania



Order Deadline: November 5, 2023



Pumpkins!
Pumpkins!
Pumpkins!

CARVING PUMPKINS
SUGAR PUMPKINS
MINI PUMPKINS

STRAWBALES,
INDIAN CORN
CORNSTALKS
AND GOURDS



30% OFF Halloween



PUMPKIN
DECORATING
& PUMPKIN
CARVING KITS

HALLOWEEN FAVORITES

APPLE CIDER
DONUTS
FRESH SWEET
CIDER

Pumpkin Pies,
Pumpkin Breads
& Pumpkin Muffins



HANGING
SUCCULENT
& HANGING
FOLIAGE
BASKETS

6-inch Pots **\$16.99**
(Reg. Price \$19.99)

ALWAYS FRESH AT



631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54
LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net

OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM - 8PM

Find us on and

Minnechaug improvements approved in Special Town Meeting

Temporary Town Moderator also elected

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- Residents gathered in the Minnechaug Regional High School auditorium on Oct. 23 for Wilbraham's Special Town Meeting.

The brief, 17-minute meeting had residents voting on five town warrant articles; four of them around capital improvements at the high school.

Town Clerk Carole Tardiff opened the meeting by explaining a Temporary Town Moderator needed to be elected to proceed.

"Due to unforeseen circumstances, Town Moderator James Jurgens is unable to conduct the Special Town Meeting. Therefore, we must nominate and elect a temporary town moderator from the floor. This individual will serve as Town Moderator until the Special Town Meeting dissolves," Tardiff said.

The residents nominated two candidates, Jane Clark and Jeffrey Smith; Clark was elected Temporary Town Moderator after receiving 48 votes, with Smith receiving 39 votes.

Articles One and Two focused on transferring free cash for capital improvements to the HVAC system at Minnechaug.

Article One focused, specifically, on the boiler heat exchange, a device transferring heat from one medium to another and heating water.

Wilbraham's cost share is

\$100,082.15, while Hampden's is \$24,917.85. The total project cost is \$125,000.

John Hegarty asked how much free cash the town had.

"I'm in favor of this motion, but I want to see how much we have right now in free cash," Hegarty said.

Finance Committee Chair Kevin Hanks replied, "Currently, approximately \$2.8 million."

Article One passed by majority.

Article Two specifically focused on AC Split Units for IEP needs, meaning heating and cooling systems allowing for the control of temperatures in individual rooms or spaces.

Here, Wilbraham's cost share is \$24,019.72, while Hampden's cost share is \$5,980.28. The project total is \$30,000.

Gregory Dahl wondered if the same contractors would be used for the new systems, understanding the problem.

Aaron Osborne, assistant superintendent for finance, operations and human resources, spoke on behalf of the School Committee, saying, "We've had no quality control issues with AC Split Units."

Dahl replied the system is "only 12 years old."

Osborne provided further insight. "The building does not have AC that was put in when the building was built, so we had to put individual AC Split Units in rooms and we have students with health needs for air conditioning," Osborne said.

Article Two passed by majority.

Next, Articles Three and Four focused on transferring free cash for capital improvements to technology

at the high school.

Article Three centered around classroom projector/monitor improvements.

Wilbraham's cost share is \$43,235.49, with Hampden's at \$10,764.51. The total project cost is \$54,000.

When Dorothy Borden asked how old the technology was currently, Osborne spoke again.

"These units are predominantly original to the building, so 12 years old," Osborne said.

Article Three passed with majority.

Article Four, meanwhile, centered on transferring free cash for camera system updates.

Here, Wilbraham's cost share is \$60,0489.29, while Hampden's share is \$14,950.71. The total project cost is \$75,000.

Chairman Theresa Goodrich announced a motion to dismiss this article.

Additionally, this article was not recommended by the Finance Committee in a 4-2 vote.

The motion to dismiss Article Four passed by majority.

Lastly, Article Five concerns the transfer of free cash to reduce the property tax rate.

Vice Chairman Sue Bunnell announced a motion to dismiss.

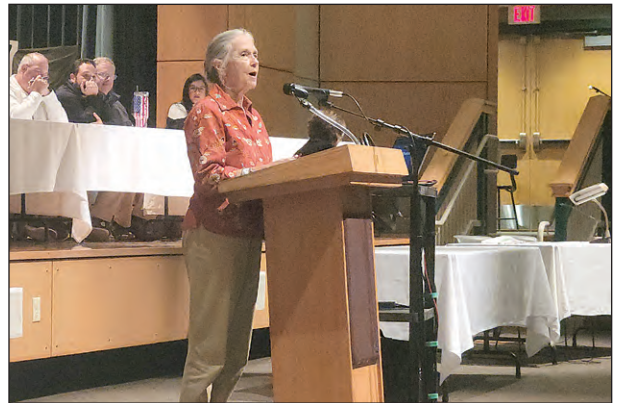
Hanks explained why the Finance Committee did not recommend this motion.

"The catalyst for this is the Central Dispatch Grant. We incurred a little bit more out of that and went into the budget a little more lean. We didn't want this on here in case once free cash was certified. We felt that there was out there," Hanks said.

The motion to dismiss Article Five passed by majority.



Wilbraham Town Clerk Carole Tardiff opens the Special Town Meeting in the Minnechaug Regional High School auditorium on Oct. 23.



Temporary Town Moderator Jane Clark presents one of the town warrant articles. Due to unforeseen circumstances, a Temporary Town Moderator was elected to hold the meeting.



Aaron Osborne, assistant superintendent of finance, operations and human resources, and Gregory Dahl discuss a town warrant article. Osborne spoke on behalf of the School Committee.



Select Board Clerk Michael Squindo, Select Board Chairman Theresa Goodrich and Select Board Vice Chairman Sue Bunnell hold up their voting cards.



Select Board Chairman Theresa Goodrich presents a motion on a town warrant article.

NEED EXTRA CASH FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

HANNOUSH JEWELERS® CHICOPEE

WE BUY Gold

Present This Coupon for **10% more** on your unwanted gold.

Expires 12/31/23

704 MEMORIAL DRIVE, CHICOPEE, MA • 413-377-1433
www.hannoush.com



Dorothy Borden asks a question on a town warrant article during the Special Town Meeting in the Minnechaug Regional High School auditorium on Oct. 23.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN PORK LOIN END CHOPS... \$1.59 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIB EYE STEAKS \$8.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND ROAST or STEAKS... \$4.66 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN SPARE RIBS PORK... \$1.79 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG... \$1.44 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH WHOLE CHICKEN TWIN PACK... \$1.39 lb
USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI REUBEN POINT CUT CORNED BEEF... \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS \$7.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP 16/20 CT 2 LB BAG \$7.99 ea
SLICED IN OUR DELI DOMESTIC HAM... \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF \$3.79 7 LB BAG	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN TRUE TIDES FROZEN FISH ITEMS ALL VARIETIES TUNA, SHRIMP, SALMON 10 OZ. \$4.99 ea
TAILGATE SPECIALS	USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKENS... \$2.49 lb	90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS... \$3.35 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN PARTY CUT CHICKEN WINGS 5 LB BAG... \$8.99 ea	SALE DATES: 10/26/23-11/1/23 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

centerstreetautoparts.com
651 Center St., Chicopee 413-733-2778

CENTER STREET AUTO PARTS OF CHICOPEE, INC.

We will pay you top dollar for your car AND we will pick it up! Call us for a price!

- Top-Of-The-Line Auto Salvaging Services
- First-Rate Used Auto Parts
- Top-Grade Auto Body Parts
- Sell Your Old or Used Car to Us

"Serving all of Western Mass."

\$\$\$ Money on the Spot for All Vehicles

centerstreetautoparts.com
651 Center St., Chicopee 413-733-2778

Enjoy library programming? Thank the Wilbraham Friends of the Library

Contribute to the Friends by eating at Uno Pizzeria & Grill Nov. 2

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- Since 1973, the Wilbraham Friends of the Library has funded programs for children, teens and adults at the Wilbraham Public Library on Crane Park Drive.

The Friends is also responsible for funding the library's Museum Pass program and providing furnishings and other library equipment. The nonprofit is dedicated to supporting and enhancing one of the community's most valuable resources, the library.

"The Friends of the Library is an organization that raises funds for the library to use. Being a public building and part of the town, the library itself cannot solicit donations. That's why they have the Friends so that we can solicit donations for things that the town doesn't pay for," Friends President Mary Bandouveres said.

Bandouveres said a continuing misconception in town is that taxes pay for the programs the library provides. While the town pays for the building, the staff, the books and the maintenance, the Friends raises funds to support programming.

Each year, the Friends contributes \$20,000 for library programming and other services. To raise the money, the Friends holds a variety of initiatives such as plant sales, textile drives and dine-outs at Uno Pizzeria & Grill on Boston Road, the next of which is Nov. 2.

If residents retrieve a coupon from the library and present it to their server on Nov. 2, 20% of their check will go to the Friends.

"At Uno's, it's all day, and it's their whole (menu). Some places

don't include alcohol or certain dinner or lunch foods, but this one that we do at Uno's, whatever time of day you go on Nov. 2, a percentage of your bill goes right to the (Friends)," Bandouveres said.

Memberships are another key method of fundraising. There are currently about 300 members of the Friends of the Library.

"When you consider how many people patronize the library, I feel like that is incredibly low. Personally, I think anybody who uses the library should be a Friend if they can afford it and it's in their budget," Bandouveres said.

One can join the Friends for a year for the following rates: \$15 for



Music educator and percussionist Craig Harris played at the Wilbraham Public Library on May 5.

seniors (65 and older), \$25 for individuals (19 to 64), \$35 for a couple, \$40 for a family, \$50 for patron status and \$100 for benefactor status.

Bandouveres doubled down on her understanding that not all people can afford to become Friends, but she is proud that the library, "provides, programming, events and materials for those who would not otherwise be able to afford them.

Particularly for young families with children and the related expenses, the library is an excellent resource."

Bandouveres said the library provides programming for every age group. At the end of each fiscal year, Library Director Karen Ball submits to the Friends an itemization as to how the monies were spent that the Friends raised.

"You can see from that list that it goes children's, there's teenage programs, (programs for) young adults, they have the space up on the second floor for teens so they feel like it's their own place they can go," Bandouveres said. "Any furnishings, any extra supplies are through Friends' money. Then, there's the adult programming, lectures, musical programs, and now they have the library of things where you can pick out a telescope or a sewing machine or a computer or any one of those items."

Bandouveres joined the Friends because she had extra time and wanted to give back. She chose the library because it's given so much to her family over the years; she said her children and grandchildren both use the library.

Bandouveres encourages new members join because members of the Friends are looking for fresh and creative ideas. Apart from July and August, the board meets once a month for about an hour or 90 minutes.

One can attend a board meeting and contribute ideas without being on the board and one can be a member of the Friends even if they only have limited availability. Bandouveres said the goal is to get more help and more perspectives to help raise money for the library, a worthwhile cause.



A full house enjoyed the Toe Jam Puppet Band's July 29 performance in the Wilbraham Public Library.



Photos courtesy of the Wilbraham Public Library. The Wilbraham Friends of the Library support a variety of programs at the Wilbraham Public Library such as this musical act on May 18.

"The library to me is one of if not the most important place in town because it's there for everyone," Bandouveres said. "There are a million things that the library has to offer for everyone in town and people from other towns. Everybody's welcome there."

MY BANK MAKES A DIFFERENCE BY KEEPING MY MONEY

100% SECURE.

CAN YOUR BANK SAY THAT?

See that little "Member DIF" down there? Basically this means that your money is not only insured by the FDIC up to a certain value, but that ALL of your money is safe! That's right, all deposits are 100% insured. When it comes to your money, this is the difference Country Bank can make.

Open your account today at CountryBank.com!

Member FDIC | Member DIF

Wilbraham United Church Pumpkin Patch

Open Daily ~ October 15-31
Monday through Saturday 10-6 • Sunday 12-7
BUY YOUR PERFECT PUMPKIN!

Fall Festival
October 21st! 10-5
Food Trucks, Arts & Crafts Vendors, Pumpkin Painting & More!

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
500 Main Street, Wilbraham

HAMPDEN SEPTIC

WE'RE STILL TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS!

Time To Get Your Septic Pumped, Call To Book Now!

WE ARE A LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED BUSINESS

Pumping • Installation • Title 5 Inspections • Perc Tests
SEWER PUMP REPAIRS • FULLY INSURED • FAMILY OWNED
Evening & Weekend Appointments Available!

Evening & Weekend Appointments Available! **566-2916**

VIEWPOINTS

Black cats? A purr-fect addition to the family



Mayra and Rosie, two black cats who found their fur-ever homes.

Reports indicate that black cats are less likely to be adopted than other fur colors, and if you've ever *purr-sonally* known a black cat, you may be just as bewildered as I was when I learned this fact.

As I'm writing this, my two black cats are curled up on a nearby blanket, basking in a sunlit autumn glow. Yet, the stats of the matter remain—according to several studies, including one regarding a cat's fur color and how this impacts their adoptability, the results were certain.

"Black cats in (shelters) should receive extra consideration for rehoming," the study revealed.

Further, entirely black cats did not enjoy "improved outcomes" during the month prior to Hallow-



By Kimberly Palmucci



een, the one time of year when their outcomes might be expected to improve, the study reported.

So, when considering a new pet for the family, why not consider a black cat or two?

Here's my adoption story for Mayra and Rosie, my "foster kittens turned fur-ever cats."

I met them at a book signing event during which I'd teamed up with a local animal rescue to raise donations. The event started out great, but very soon after I arrived, a dog that I lovingly refer to as "the stinky dog" arrived, too. The event was in a pet store that offered a doggie bathing area, and the stinky dog chanced in after an ill-fated experience—getting sprayed by a skunk.

The dog's owner was noticeably stressed out, and I tried my hardest to ignore the scent, but tears were quite literally forming in my eyes. Approaching the volunteer leading the event—Kathy—I intended to tell her that I, as a very sensitive soul who can't handle the atrocity of foul odors, would be packing up my books and heading out.

When Kathy turned around, I saw that she was wrangling and

wrestling with an incredibly tiny black kitten—and this cat was upset. Meowing, crying, and wiggling, the kitten was passed around to several volunteers, and as a person who'd recently drifted into the center of this chaotic scene, the cat was eventually passed to me.

The kitten, Rosie, was around eight weeks old. She was so small, but she was zesty. I hadn't expected to be holding a distressed cat, but I understood the assignment; I also related to the kitten's concerns, and holding her close against my chest, I rocked her like an infant and walked down an aisle into a quiet corner.

In my arms, little Rosie calmed down instantly. The volunteers exchanged glances and sighs of relief; at the time, I didn't know why this kitten chose me as the one human who could calm her. But looking back, I know now what I hadn't known then—it was fate!

For the remainder of the event, no more books were signed. After the kitten had fallen asleep in my arms, I spent the next two hours cradling her, swaying her, and walking around the store. Over the years, in my career as a writer and as a volun-

teer with several animal groups, I've held countless adoptable pets. But this little kitten? There was something inexplicable about the way she made me feel. As the event neared its end, I knew it would soon be time to hand over the kitten, who would be transported back to her current foster home and, eventually, adopted. And thinking about that, I felt an overwhelming sense of sadness.

"What are the chances of me taking this cat home?" I jested to Kathy, who responded by telling me that I could.

"You said what now?" I retorted, still swaying the cat. "I can take her home with me?"

"Well, you could foster her if you wanted to. It would actually be really helpful," she said. "We've got lots of kittens right now and are looking for foster homes."

I knew that fostering kittens didn't require a lot of space; any extra room, or even a small bathroom, could be used to house the kitten until she found her fur-ever home. My mind ignited into a blaze of calculations, and I came to the conclusion—this could actually work.

"Let me ask my husband," I said, not wanting to make a unilateral decision for the family without him. "He will be the deciding factor."

When my husband, Dom, answered the FaceTime call, I knew the possibility of him saying yes was slim—very slim—but it wasn't zero.

"That's a cute cat," he said when he answered; the camera was fo-

Please see **FUREVER**, page 17

Letters to the Editor

Service clubs foster, create community

To the editor:

What a joy it was to see last week's Times in the mailbox, an edition focused on so many of the service clubs that keep our Wilbra-Hampden community alive and well.

When we think of our towns, I'm sure many of us think about annual traditions like tree lightings, Memorial Day parades, fishing derbies, St. Patrick's Day dinners and good-spirited fundraisers. Some may assume that these are put on by the towns themselves, but in fact are organized by clubs and volunteers looking to create and foster the community we've come to expect.

It is easy to complain about the past and present and worry about the future. It is natural. As natural as change. And our service clubs have been there to take action to ensure our community remains connected through it all, reminding us that while change is inevitable, the

heart of our community doesn't stop beating.

But it can.

Service clubs in communities across the region are facing similar issues with attracting and retaining members. Some clubs have merged with their counterparts in neighboring towns while others have disbanded. These issues aren't new, and the clubs in ours aren't immune from them. But all of us have a say in whether they stay, and we can each contribute in our own way. Consider attending a meeting or volunteering for a service project. If a particular club aligns with you, consider joining and becoming part of the change in the community heartbeat.

Who knows? Maybe your heart will thank you for it.

Tyler Witkop
Hampden

Past president and current member of the
Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden

Attention Hampden voters: Municipal broadband is a risky business

To the editor,

The internet has become essential to the way we live, learn and connect with one another – a reality made possible by robust broadband infrastructure funded by billions of dollars in private investments and public-private partnerships. Yet, taxpayers across the Valley have routinely been asked to spend their money on duplicative municipal networks without knowing all the facts. Hampden is next, with local voters having to decide on Oct. 30 whether to spend \$8.5 million on a risky, town-owned internet project. Before voting, residents need to understand that these types of projects have a track record of failure in Massachusetts with serious consequences to taxpayers.

All broadband network operators face significant challenges: keeping up with the latest technology, adapting to shifts in consumer demand and spending, ensuring a steady supply chain, maintaining a ready workforce and absorbing extrinsic economic hardships. Will a municipal operator have the financial fitness and operational wherewithal to deal with today's problems while still having the ability to fund tomorrow's innovations? Consider that private operators invest billions to continuously upgrade their networks and protect against cyberattacks.

If a municipally backed broadband operator fails to account for all these risks, it is the taxpayers who suffer. That is what happened in Braintree and Russell, where both cities sold off their networks when they could not keep up with multimillion dollar routine maintenance and upgrade costs. On Oct. 30, Hampden voters need to know: The risks are real, the funding is significant and knowledgeable taxpayers have a choice.

Michael MacGregor
Hampden



The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM



EDITOR
Dalton Zbierski
dzbierski@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



@Wilbraham-Hampden Times

WEB

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Editorial Policy

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

Correction Policy

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

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc. One year out of town subscriptions are available at \$45, out of state \$50 by calling 800-824-6458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.



Photos courtesy of Orchard Valley

Orchard Valley at Wilbraham's Dementia-Friendly Initiative will leave Wilbraham certified as dementia friendly.

DEMENTIA from page 1

"One of the things we really try to combat with dementia and Alzheimer's is isolation," Zelazo said. "Sometimes, we see with these diseases when folks don't feel like they fit in or they can't keep up or they feel embarrassed or they have some awareness they have a cognitive issue, they're going to pull back and stay in their homes more often."

Zelazo said individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia may stop completing routine tasks like going to the bank or the post office. However, it is important that they feel comfortable in these environments.

"It's really important that we kind of rally around these folks and make sure they feel like they are still part of their community, they are welcome in places and that they're safe to go places," Zelazo said.

From a family perspective, Zelazo said there is often a worry that a relative with Alzheimer's or dementia will go somewhere and be unsafe, taken advantage of or inadvertently treated unkindly because someone is unable to catch on to the signals of how individuals with a cognitive impairment act.

During the campaign's October program, participants experienced Dementia Live. On Nov. 15 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Wilbraham Public Library, Corp. Jennifer Holley of the Hampden County Sheriff's Department will lead an informational session on awareness.

Through her work with the Hampden County TRIAD program, Holley works to empower and educate seniors in the county. Zelazo spoke on the importance of bringing in qualified, experienced professionals.

"It really brings validation to the programs," she said. "People usually look for trusted advisors in the community to talk about these things for them to really feel as though the program is supported by the state and other departments because people don't want to feel like they're alone in this."

Zelazo has worked in senior living for about a decade and realized long ago no one wants to feel like they're the only volunteer. Most volunteers want to be part of a larger community that offers support, so Orchard Valley is completing outreach, and there are numerous opportunities to become involved with the initiative.

When asked what one can do to make a difference, Zelazo offered the following advice.

"I think when you are interacting with somebody and you really know that something is off, it's really about being patient... Really when you're interacting with people, it's just important to validate them and be patient with them and just meet them where they are," she said, noting that some people with a cognitive impairment might repeat themselves, but it's important to stick with them until they are satisfied with the interaction.

Zelazo acknowledged it is challenging, which is the reason for the training initiative. She encourages residents to lead with kindness, be patient and supportive and don't argue.

"It's really just meeting them where they are in their world because it really is their own world entirely that they are living in," she said.

Zelazo said this current generation of seniors is special and has much to offer young people. She said it is meaningful to be empathetic and tell someone with Alzheimer's or dementia it's okay.

For more information on the Dementia-Friendly Wilbraham Initiative, one can visit <https://www.benchmarkseniorliving.com> or call Orchard Valley at 413-596-0006.

Hampden Planning Board fills vacant position in joint meeting with Selectmen

Also, a new associate member appointed

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- The Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board held an Oct. 11 joint meeting to fill a vacant position and appoint an associate member.

David Demers, a prior candidate for the role, has been a resident since October 2019, serving the military for almost 28 years; he's worked as a state corrections officer in Connecticut for 15 years.

When Selectmen Craig Rivest asked Demers why he was interested in the Planning Board, he said "It's a stepping stone."

"It's a start to get involved in my community. When I came to town, I joined the VFW. I've been, you know, helping them out, volunteering, have no issues with that," Demers said. "With retiring soon, I just want something to do."

Planning Board member Christina Brodeur asked Demers if he had any other experience.

He replied he's been working with GIS "to learn how to do stuff in there and see what distances are."

"I use it for hunting, so I got really familiar with it and I started reading the bylaws on my own just so I can get a little more familiar with them," Demers said.

Demers was appointed 7-0.

Next, the appointment for an associate member had two candi-

dates: Board of Selectmen Chair John Flynn and Joe Sibilias.

Sibilias shared why he was interested in the position when Planning Board Chair Madison Pixley was curious about his interest at the last minute.

"I think the Planning Board is integral in creating the quality of life in a community that will inspire our children to come back and live here and we can hang around," Sibilias said.

Planning Board member Heather Beattie then asked why he was not interested in the permanent position.

Sibilias replied he "wanted to go in slowly" into the role.

"I'm an active listener and I'm an active speaker and I thought that the associate member position was a bit easier to ease in," Sibilias said.

Selectman Donald Davenport commented that no one on the Selectmen should be on the Planning Board, prefacing his comments with "this is nothing directed at" Flynn, his good friend.

"The reason being that we're the Board of Health and at times the Planning Board asks the Board of Health the recommendations and particulars that I think require special permits," Davenport said. "If the Selectmen made a decision or a recommendation, then it may be reflected as biased if this Selectman had a vote on the permit."

Davenport said the Selectmen are also responsible for permitting stormwater permits.

"(A) special permit can't go into effect until you get a stormwater

permit, and if the Selectmen decide one way, then, you know, our Planning Board members stuck in the middle might give the developer or the abutters the reason to think that there's conflict," Davenport said.

Flynn said Davenport made some good points, adding the position has been vacant for almost a year and he was willing to volunteer.

As a liaison, he's been able to "interject some historical perspective with different things," with permission from the board.

"I did have 16 years on the Planning Board before. I did serve with the approval of the Ethics Office as Planning Board and Selectman at the same time back in 2005, 2006, so there was not a conflict then," Flynn said.

Referring to earlier points about bringing in new people, Rivest acknowledged the struggles of getting new volunteers to serve the town.

"It's not often when people come out of the woodwork to help out, so we have new faces come out I think it's a good thing to see different people step up and lend their hand in public service," Rivest said.

Sibilias was appointed 4-2, with Flynn recusing himself from the vote.

The term will be until June 2024.

Flynn said later that if a town has a seven-member planning board, state law says two associate members can be appointed. Hampden's board, however, consists of six members, and only one associate member can be appointed.

Select Board approves additional signage request for academic trust

Also, amended Sunday liquor sale hours for business

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The Select Board approved a consent agenda item on Oct. 19 for additional signage for an event from the Wilbraham-Hampden Academic Trust.

The board met remotely on GoTo Meeting after a last-minute meeting cancellation on Oct. 16.

The sign request goes from Oct. 19 to Nov. 4 on the intersection of Springfield Street and Inwood Drive to promote a fall fundraiser.

During the approval of the consent agenda, Town Administrator Nick Breault pointed out the item to the board, explaining the application for placement of signs has all regular locations identified, but this particular sign would be exclusive to Springfield Street and Inwood Drive.

"So, this is a piece of town property that the board would need to give approval to

specifically," Breault said.

After agreeing to a separate discussion and then approving the consent agenda without this item, Sue Bunnell said she was okay with the additional placement and added this thought.

"I will just mention the fact that it does rather open up the question of whether any future requester would have the opportunity to make the same additional request," Bunnell said. "Depending on oth-

Please see **BOARD**, page 8

GUNS WANTED

"I come to you" & "buy your guns" right on the spot
I buy all types of firearms and firearm related items

- Pistols • Rifles • Shotguns • Revolvers •

Any age or condition
Fully Licensed to engage in the gun trade

VERMONT GUNBROKER
Licensed Gun Dealer in All New England States

James Cook **802-558-9363**
vtgunbroker.com

ROBERTS ROOFS

SPECIALIZING IN
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing
Snow Removal
Snow/Ice Damage Repair

Tel. 413-283-4395
Cell 413-237-9434
www.RobertsRoofsInc.com Trusted Name Since 1982

LOCAL KETONE PROMOTER

Call For Information
413-813-2391
Leave Message

Check Out Facebook at
Denise Dubowski
Save Up To 25% OFF
Retail Prices

OBITUARIES

Death Notices

Robert L. Page Jr.
Died Oct. 13, 2023
Services Nov. 3
Wilbraham Funeral Home

Jane E. Dowling
Died Oct. 14, 2023
Service are private
Wilbraham Funeral Home

Robert L. Page Jr.

WILBRAHAM — Robert L. Page Jr., 91, died peacefully on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, at home in Scottsdale, AZ. Born in Indiana Harbor, IN, he was a proud Army veteran of the Korean War, serving two years of active duty, during which he was awarded the Korean Service Medal with Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Bob was very actively involved in his community of Wilbraham, where he lived for more than 45 years. He participated in community groups involved in many aspects of the town, including the library and high school. He was most proud of his work on the building of the Wilbraham Senior Center.

His treasured memories were times spent with family and friends. Bob was predeceased by his beloved wife, Elaine (Champoux) Page, in 2007, and his younger sister, Nola (Page) Mauch, in 2018. Bob is survived by his two devoted sons, Brian Page and his wife, Jennifer, of Scottsdale, AZ; and Eric Page and his wife, Deirdre O'Shea, of San Diego, CA, and four cherished grandchildren, Jeremy, Kyle, Corey and Clara.

Robert's Funeral Service will be held on Friday, Nov. 3 at 1 p.m. at the Wilbraham Funeral Home, 2551 Boston Road, Wilbraham. An hour of visitation will precede the Service from noon until 1 p.m. Burial with Military Honors will follow in Adams Cemetery, Tinkham Road, Wilbraham. Memorial contributions may be made to the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, P.O. Box 747, Wilbraham MA 01095.



NOTICE

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

Jane E. Dowling 1944 – 2023

WILBRAHAM — Jane E. Dowling passed away quietly on Oct. 14, 2023, with her children Doug and Joy by her side. Jane was born in St. Louis, MO. She was predeceased by her mother Martha Dickinson and her father Earl Dickinson. She leaves her loving husband



and best friend of 60 years, Ronald, her children; son Douglas and his wife Lisa, daughter Joy and her husband Roland Gelin, cherished grandchildren; Zackary and Hailey, brother-in-law Richard Dowling and his wife Mary. Jane worked at Friendly Ice Cream, Springfield Shopping Plaza for 30 years before becoming a partner in Dowling Advertising. Services for our beloved Jane will be private. Wilbraham Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Rick's Place honors Children's Grief Awareness Month with art exhibit

WILBRAHAM -- Rick's Place, a beacon of support for children, teens and families navigating grief, is proud to present a special gallery exhibit and opening reception in commemoration of Children's Grief Awareness Month in November.

Titled "Reflections: A Grief Awareness Exhibit", this event will take place at Rick's Place on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 6 p.m.

The exhibit will showcase poignant artwork created by both youth and adult participants from Rick's Place. Art and creative expression offer a profound channel for individuals to convey thoughts and emotions that words may struggle to capture. Participants were encouraged to reflect on their unique grief journeys and how these experiences have left an indelible mark. Each piece presented will encapsulate an intimate, heartfelt narrative of personal journeys through grief.

Rick's Place aims to have this event serve a dual purpose: raising greater awareness about the profound impact of death, grief and loss on youth and families, and providing a platform for individuals to tell their stories through art. With

over 5,000 children in Hampden County experiencing loss of a parent or sibling, Rick's Place, a non-profit organization, extends its helping hand to youth between the ages of 5 and 18, along with their caregivers, who have confronted death. The peer support programs, both on-site and in local schools, help youth feel supported, understood and less alone in their grief.

We cordially invite you to join us in celebrating these courageous artists as they generously share their personal grief stories. By participating in this event, you will contribute to a broader awareness of the profound impact that grief has on the lives of our youth and their families.

Event Details:
Title: "Reflections: A Grief Awareness Exhibit"
Date: Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023
Location: Rick's Place, 85 Post Office Park #8521, Wilbraham, MA 01095
Time: 6-7 p.m.

Please contact bflores@ricksplacema.org for more information or to attend.

School Comm. to begin discussing potentially bargainable issues in district reorganization

Voted on soliciting quotes to assess capital needs Oct. 19

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The School Committee voted on Oct. 19 to begin a discussion around potentially bargainable issues in relation to district reorganization.

After Chair Michal Boudreau reviewed the issues discussed during the recent Planning Committee meeting, including overcrowding, creating modular classrooms and more, Sherrill Caruana asked about the library at Wilbraham Middle School.

"What are the plans going forward over the next few years? Are we going to have a library back again in a robust fashion?" Caruana said.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost explained he hopes the library will help rebrand the middle school, adding that "there really isn't a place where students can go and seek out any type of literature or do any type of research."

"One of the things that we should think about in the whole reorganization is funding for the re-establishment of the middle school library," Provost said. "I mentioned to (Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations and HR Aaron Osborne) after we had presented the financial analysis that I think one of the things we made as a mistake in our haste to get things done was not put funds in for the creation of a library."

Provost said he's been part of three library remodeling projects before and understands how "it can really be a way for district and parent groups to work together to really build school pride."

"My hope would be that we reopen that library not to the state it was before but as a new modern 21st-century library media center," Provost said.

Regarding contract negotiations, another item of discussion, Provost said the Hampden-Wilbraham Education Association approached him on beginning negotiations.

"The desire would be to try to conclude any negotiations of issues that need to be

incorporated into an agreement before the beginning of next year because next year is contract negotiation year," Provost said.

Vice Chair Sean Kennedy said previous negotiations "went swimmingly" and offered this suggestion.

"If we could start this much earlier, get everything out on the table, I think that would be brilliant," Kennedy said.

The motion carried 5-0.

Next, soliciting quotes for consultants in assessing the capital needs of Minnechaug Regional High School's physical plant and technology was discussed.

After Kennedy provided an overview of where things stood, Osborne presented his recommendation.

"We had one person estimate for us somewhere in the neighborhood of \$30,000 to do the building envelope and physical plan. That's the HVAC, the roof, all the doors and windows," Osborne said. "So, for that, I would suggest the committee consider the not to exceed amount of \$35,000."

For technology, the not-to-exceed amount would be about \$22,000.

Osborne also stressed the importance of having a source of funds identified.

"If we go out and we don't have a source of funds and we later have to pull the bids, it looks bad with our vendors. We develop relationships with vendors, so it's important we have the credibility of at least having amounts out," Osborne said.

When William Bontempi asked if the Finance Committee weighed in, Kennedy said yes and explained how a consultant needed to be considered.

"They wouldn't be able to support it without someone professional looking at the information that we already have and probably, you know, adding things that we (haven't even) thought about to those lists," Kennedy said.

"They specifically mentioned an outside consultant," Boudreau added.

Bontempi was satisfied with this answer and the idea of the money coming from the capitalization fund.

"I just want to make sure it doesn't come back to bite us where they turn around and then, you know, we're facing headwinds for this year's budget, which we know is going to be tight," Bontempi said.

The motion carried 6-0.

Dec. 9 New York City bus trip is full

Wait list is being kept in case of cancellations.

All aboard! The Dec. 9 New York City bus trip is full, and a wait list is now being kept in case of cancellations. Roundtrip fare is \$77/person and in-

cludes a gratuity for the driver. If you wish to be placed on the Wait List, contact grfort127@yahoo.com and when space(s) open you will be contacted with further instructions. Thank you for choosing to travel with us.

BOARD from page 7

er members' feelings, it was a previous board that identified the locations for signs that are in the document as it stands presently. I would think we would want to have a considered review if we want to change that."

Chairman Theresa Goodrich did not have an issue with the sign placement either but cautioned that additional requests should be done "on a case-by-case basis."

"I don't want to see downtown get littered with signs over and over and people get a little bit, you know, annoyed, perhaps, by all the signs," Goodrich said.

After Selectman Michael Squindo asked if others had asked for additional placements in the past, Breault said yes but "it is a rare occurrence."

"I think that the board has both allowed for and denied," Breault said.

When Squindo added a consideration of looking at tangible examples of approvals and denials for additional requests and exclusions, Bunnell said this.

"I don't have an objection to allowing it as long as we send a clear message that it's a one-off," Bunnell said.

The consent agenda item was approved 3-0 on a one-time basis.

Additionally, there was a discussion on selling liquor on Sundays, with amending Sunday hours for Dominic John Inc. on Boston Road.

Breault explained a provision at a 2011 Town Meeting allowing on-premises liquor services beginning as early as 10 a.m. Sundays was brought to the town office's attention.

He added how the board recently approved a license with hours allowing for opening at noon for that service, not realizing this provision had been passed.

"We've looked at other licensees and not all but several do have that ability as approved," Breault said. "If there are any other license holders that do not have that ability, we will be contacting them as part of the renewal process and ask the board to make amendments as requested."

The motion was approved 3-0.

LUDLOW MEMORIAL COMPANY INC.

Celebrating over 60 Years in Business ~ The Trusz Family

❖ Benches ❖ Statues ❖ Monuments ❖ Custom Design Work
❖ Plot Maintenance ❖ Bronze Plaques ❖ Cleaning ❖ Markers ❖ Vases
❖ On-Site Lettering ❖ Restorations ❖ Cemetery Signage ❖ Granite Signs
201 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 ❖ www.ludlowmemorialcompany.com
413-589-7564 Office ❖ 413-589-7588 Fax ❖ 413-531-5360



LET'S GO OUT!

Your Local Favorite Restaurants

gios PIZZERIA & LOUNGE

DINE WITH US!
DINE IN OR TAKE OUT
Gourmet Pizzas • Grinders
Pasta • Calzones • Seafood
Salads • Wings & More

IN OUR LOUNGE
Beer - Wine - Spirits - Cocktails
Try Our New Fall Cocktails!
Extended Hours for Lounge
Keno & Lottery Available
WATCH A GAME WITH US!

Call Today!
413-566-8015
9 Allen Street
Hampden Mini Mall
www.giospizzeria.com
Wed.-Sun. • Closed Mon. & Tues.

Fall Sports, Schedules & School Activities can make life hectic!
Make life easier, ORDER FROM GIOS!

Via Appia 2133 Boston Road, Wilbraham
413.271.1208
Open Mon.-Thurs. 11am-9pm
Fri. & Sat. 11am-10pm • Sun. 12-8pm

LUTHER Friday, Oct. 27th Saturday, Nov. 11th Friday Nov. 24th	CHARLIE BONGIOVI Saturday, Oct. 28th Friday, Nov. 3rd Saturday, Nov. 25th
PETER NEWLAND (of FAT) Saturday, Nov. 4th	FRANK SERAFINO Saturday, Nov. 18th
BRAD SHEPARD Friday, Nov. 10th	

Great Food! **Live Music!**

KENO • RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

LaCucina di Hampden House
1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA
413-566-8324

THE HOLIDAYS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
We have catering trays available for your holiday entertaining. Visit our website for details.

See Our Website For Our BANQUET & CATERING MENU

BOOK YOUR NEXT FUNCTION WITH US!
Holiday Parties, Showers, Christenings, Rehearsal Dinners, Weddings, etc.
OUR PRIVATE GREENHOUSE BANQUET FACILITY CAN ACCOMODATE UP TO 100 PEOPLE
For More Information
Contact Lori Atkinson at 413-566-8324 or by email at lacucinagreenhouse@gmail.com

LIVE MUSIC! EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY!
lacucinahampden.com
Mon.-Thurs. 3-9pm, Fri. & Sat. 11:30am-10pm & Sun. 11:30am-9pm
LOUNGE OPEN & PIZZA 7 DAYS
BAR OPEN LATE!

ROUTE 20 Bar & Grille EST. 2016

Ask About Our NEW customer loyalty program!

LIVE MUSIC!
Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday!
Thursday, October 26: Al McCormack
Friday, October 27: Floyd Patterson
Saturday, October 28: John Cantalini

HAPPY HOUR THURSDAYS 4-7:30PM!
Specially Priced Apps & Live Music
Fall Cocktails & Martinis!

SUNDAY BRUNCH
Sundays 11:30-2:30
(Plus Our Regular Menu Until 8pm)
Featuring Our Build Your Own Bloody Mary & Mimosa Bar!

\$17 STEAK N' BREW EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT!
Dine in Only • While supplies last

\$15 PRIME RIB EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT
Dine In Only • While Supplies Last

\$25 THREE COURSE MEALS EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT!
Dine in Only • While supplies last

SERVING LUNCH THURSDAY - Sunday at 11:30

2341 Boston Rd., (Rt. 20), Wilbraham, MA
413.279.2020
route20barandgrille.com
SERVING: TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY 4-9PM
SERVING THURS.-SAT. 11:30AM-9:30PM • SUNDAY 11:30AM-8PM
WITH EXTENDED BAR HOURS EVERY NIGHT **KENO**

A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Life in & HAM

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

WILBRAHAM

The Trunk or Treat festival held at F Valley Farm on Oct was an especially happy reunion for Mary Elizabeth Cochran, who recently celebrated her eightieth birthday. Firefighter Patrick Farley was present for Mary's surprise birth at her home on Three Rivers Road in Wilbraham. Patrick briefly recounted the joyful event for Mary, who enjoyed hearing the story again. Photo and caption courtesy of Lynn Cochran.

The 50's returned for an evening, as the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors "danced the night away" for a great cause on Saturday Oct. 14, at the Ludlow Polish American Citizens Club. The Friends had a successful fundraiser of raffles, baked goods, dance lessons and awards for Best Moves & Best Outfit. Over 140 people came out to put their dance shoes to work! The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors thank everyone who participated. Photos and caption courtesy of Maria Cacula.



Fieldcrest Brewing Company owners Adam and Shannon Field and Polish National Credit Union and Manager Zaneta Grasakis from the Wilbraham branch pictured making a donation. Photo courtesy of Santos.

THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

WILLIAM RAVEIS
 REAL ESTATE
 264 N Main St. Unit 12, East Longmeadow, MA
 413-687-4339
 Heidi.Pafumi@raveis.com

Fall In Love
 With Your New Home

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Celebrating 50 years!

Tom and Diane Dufault, of Wilbraham, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary recently with family and friends. Submitted photo.



The Wilbraham United Church is selling pumpkins at their Pumpkin Patch daily through Oct. 31. Shoppers can pick their perfect pumpkins and take advantage of photo opportunities Monday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and on Sundays between noon and 7 p.m. Pumpkin sales benefit the Wilbraham United Church Steeple Repair fund. Cash or Credit Cards will be accepted. Donations to the Steeple Fund are also gratefully received. Photos and caption courtesy of the Wilbraham United Church.



PNC National Credit Union Assistant Branch Manager Carmen Santos making a \$500 donation on behalf of PNCU for Hops for Hope on Oct. 19.



AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:



Heidi Pafumi

Realtor®





Kathleen and Lee Duquette represented Lee's Bees at the Fall Fest Oct. 22.



(L to R) Jack Rumpalik, Darren Duah and Quinn Salerno participated in a chili cooking contest at TWB on Sunday.



(L to R) Hampden Fire Lt. Tim Evans and Capt. Scott Rumpalik made smores for youths at the Fall Fest.



(L to R) Joe Montano and Jeff Johnson represented the Recreation Association of Hampden at the Fall Fest.



The fire department and library collaborated on the S'mores Pit at TWB on Sunday.



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski
(L to R) Hairstylists Liz Boghosian and Kristen Tranter participated in the craft fair at TWB on Oct. 22.



Hundreds of people attended the Fall Fest on Sunday at TWB.



Malea Rhodes creates pottery; her work was on full display at the Fall Fest.

FALL FEST from page 1

der. Anyone who's come over, they love this stuff. It's genderless. Anyone can get any type of glitter, put feathers in their hair and have fun."

Boghosian described her day as "an adventure."

She said she is trying to network and meet new people, which she was able to do during the Fall Fest.

"We're talking to each vendor booth; all the people here are so nice. It's cool to meet new people that love to do arts and crafts and learn," she said.

Small business owner Lee Duquette came out to showcase Lee's Bees and a variety of honey products. Duquette also enjoyed networking with other vendors and learning their stories; he thanked organizers for putting the event together.

"It's a nice, fun day. They put a lot of effort into doing this, getting the community together. It shows the kids that there are nice things to do close to home," Duquette said.

Joe Montano and Jeff Johnson represented the Recreation Association of Hampden, which has been part of the community since 1969. After the association took a hiatus, Montano and Johnson are helping to build the group back up, noting that it helps fund activities for the Department of Parks & Recreation.

"Whether it's putting soccer nets up on the field, working with the Parks & Rec Department, putting basketballs on the basketball court, we hold different events throughout the year to try to get the community together," Montano said.

Johnson noted that everything the group collects goes directly to youth sports in town. He took pride in representing the association at TWB.

"It's awesome to be able to reach out to the community, trying to give back," he said. "We're trying to get some engagement with the community and kind of get our name back out there."

The Western New England Fall

Bridal Show

November 5, 2023 • 11am - 3 pm
 MassMutual Center • Springfield, MA

Don't Miss the Area's Largest One Day Bridal Event Featuring
 The Finest Wedding Service Providers in the Area!

- Surprises and Giveaways
- Food and Cake Samples
- Bridal Goodie Bags
- Live Music

First 100 Brides Through The Door Receive FREE Wedding Bands

Tickets are \$8.00 in advance, \$10.00 at the door
 Preregister Online for a CJC Events Goodie Bag

Check out all the details on the web:
www.cjcevents.com

weddingday Sourcebook CJC Events MassMutual Center

Exhibitor Opportunities Available, Call (413) 737-7555

NOTICE

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

Academic Trust creates exciting opportunities for students

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

Since 2003, the Wilbraham-Hampden Academic Trust has funded over \$200,000 in grants that have directly benefited programming for students in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District.

W.H.A.T. is a local nonprofit that provides community-funded grants to educators in the district to finance creative academic opportunities for children and teens that aren't supported by traditional school budgets.

"The trust really is a group of volunteer parents, and what we do is raise money to award grants to teachers for items that may not fall under the district budget; things that are just not covered by the district budget that teachers feel would help in their teaching and the students learning," W.H.A.T. President Michael Stachowicz said.

From playground items to a movable golf course for physical education to a 3D printer for the high school and middle school, W.H.A.T. has covered it.

In 2023, W.H.A.T. offered more than \$58,000 in grants, supporting 10 projects across five schools.

On the evening of Friday, Nov. 3, W.H.A.T. will hold its annual fundraising event at the Greenhouse by La Cucina in Hampden. Stachowicz estimated that the fundraiser raises 99% of W.H.A.T.'s yearly funds, and he encourages parents to attend.

"It's just a fun night out for parents is what it really boils down to," he said. "We have raffle items, we have silent auction items like Red Sox tickets, Celtics tickets and things of that nature where people can bid on these. You write your name down. We also have live auction items where we have a gentleman who auctioneers for us, and we try to ramp up money that way by people bidding against one another."

Every cent raised by W.H.A.T. goes directly to grants. Stachowicz explained how teachers can apply for a grant.

"The teachers have a full application that they have to fill out. They need approval from their school's principal before we even consider a grant because we want to make sure the administration knows what these teachers are asking for and approve of what their request is," Stachowicz said.

Stachowicz noted that communication with the teachers can be challenging, as it occurs through the Superintendent's Office, but W.H.A.T. works hard to educate the educators on the grant opportunities that are available. In recent years, the amount of grant applications has picked up.

"I think in the past couple of years we've awarded so many grants that now we've got teachers actually talking to one another about, 'Hey, if you need this, you can try applying for a grant with (the academic trust), maybe they'll give you the money,'" he said.

Stachowicz has been on W.H.A.T.'s board for six years and has been president for the past two. Outside of having his kids in the district, he is motivated by the fact that budgets are tight everywhere for towns and school districts.

He said every bit helps and that it is important to make sure that W.H.A.T. impacts as many district schools as possible.

"Sometimes, it's hard," Stachowicz said. "Sometimes, we don't get any grant requests from more than two schools, and it looks like we might be favoring other schools, but if we don't get the request, there's not much we can do about it. But yes, that is a key to make sure we try to spread it around so that every school in the district is touched in some way."

Wilbraham Girl Scout Troops 11714, 65269 welcome new girls

WILBRAHAM -- Girls in grades 2-12 are invited to join Girl Scout Troop 11714.

The troop meets monthly on Mondays, from 6-8 p.m. in Wilbraham.

Register now to claim her spot as troops fill fast. Annual membership cost is \$35 and financial assistance is available. You can register for a spot in the troop at <https://bit.ly/troop11714>. Girls in grades 1-3 are invited to join Girl Scout Troop 65269.

The troop meets every other week on Thursday, from 6-7:30 p.m. in Wilbraham.

Annual membership cost is \$35 and financial assistance is available. You can register for a spot in the troop at <https://bit.ly/troop65269>. See for yourself what Girl Scouts have to offer. Girl Scouts is the premier organization for girls to learn about leadership, financial literacy, life skills, science and technology, the outdoors, and community service. Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary.

Questions? Email info@gscwm.org or call 413-584-2602.

A veteran looks at history at Museum Open House

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

Throughout Wilbraham's history it has always relied on its soldiers to help defend our town.

Wilbraham's soldiers have served in Colonial, Provincial, State and national times. Whether, fighting the French and their native-American allies at Fort Ticonderoga in the French and Indian War, King George's British troops at the Battle of Concord and Lexington, Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, Hitler's troopers at Omaha Beach on D-Day, on Pork Chop Hill in Korea or in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Wilbraham Atheneum trustees at the Old Meeting House Museum in the center of Wilbraham wanted to honor the connection of local soldiers to our town by inviting the popular Wilbraham Veterans Agent Jared Sasen, a Navy veteran, to speak at the 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5 Open House in the Wilbraham & Monson Academy Chapel. The event is in honor of the upcoming Veterans Day ceremonies at Crane Park in the center of town.

After Sasen's talk, folks are invited across the street to the Museum to enjoy refreshments and view historical military uniforms that will be on display. The open house is free and open to the public as well as the Gift Shop.

Naval Duty

Jared Sasen, a Springfield native, joined the Navy at age 19 and achieved the title of which he is very proud of, "Shipboard Firefighter" as a "damage control man". From 2006 to 2011 he served on the formidable aircraft carrier the USS Harry S. Truman, a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier named after the 33rd president of the U.S. The supercarrier can accommodate around 90 aircraft and has a flight deck 4.5 acres in size, using four elevators that are 3,880 sq ft each to move planes between the flight deck and the hangar bay. With a combat load, HST displaces almost 97,000 tons and can accommodate 6,250 crewmembers. She is homeported at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

The Truman took him to deployments in the Persian Gulf providing critical support to two operations, Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Supporting Sasen's love of history he later found himself assigned to the epitome of living Naval history, The USS Constitution.

The Constitution is a wood-



Wilbraham Veterans Agent Jared Sasen will be the guest speaker at the Old Meeting House Museum Open House in honor of Veterans Day at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5 in the Wilbraham & Monson Academy Chapel. (Charles F. Bennett photo)



A vintage Army Air Force uniform hangs on display at the Old Meeting House Museum as an homage to Veterans. (Lucy Peltier photo)

en-hulled heavy frigate of the United States Navy. She is the world's oldest commissioned naval warship still afloat. She was launched in 1797. And fought in the War of 1812 against the British. The ship is stationed in Boston and during a recent solo voyage, only the second in 131 years, was the scene of a proud contribution of Sasen's, a Naval history buff's dream job. During the voyage his contributions to "Old Ironsides" earned him the prestigious title of "USS Constitution's Sailor of the Year" for 2012, leading to his promotion to Chief Petty Officer.

In 2014 he went back out to sea on the destroyer USS Cole where he found himself off the coast of Syria in support of Operation Citadel Shield. He was discharged from the Navy in 2016, came back to Western Mass and moved to Wilbraham with his wife Heather and their two children Damien and Delilah.

Sasen became Wilbraham's Veterans Agent in 2018 and since has been working tirelessly for the veterans of the town. From honoring students who have enlisted with the "Graduate to Guardian" program, to introducing the veterans Tax Work Off program. He founded the Emergency Veterans Fund, organized the Veterans Picnic in the Park event and joined with Ludlow and Holyoke to host a weekly veterans radio show. He has earned the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal twice, the Navy Achievement Medal four times and the Navy "E" Ribbon four times. In all of these efforts Sasen aimed to help cultivate a sense of community and appreciation for veterans.

Sasen will host the town's annual celebration of Veterans Day with ceremonies in Crane Park on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 11 p.m. Veterans from all services will be recognized. A complimentary lunch will be served following the event at Parfum's Restaurant.

Save the Dates

The Old Meeting House Open Houses season is winding down. After the Nov. 5 Open House, the Christmas Tree Festival will be held over two Sundays on Dec. 3 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. prior to the Town Tree Lighting. Mulled Cider will be served and an Ice Carving Demonstration will take place in front of the museum.

The Christmas Tree Festival returns the next Sunday on Dec. 10 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. with children's activities including a scavenger hunt.

The museum has recently undergone a landscape revamping and a new accessible ramp made of bricks was added to the front of the building.

For more information about the Old Meeting House Open House, email president@wilbrahamatheneum.org.

Sources: "The History of Wilbraham" 1963 edited by Charles Merrick, Wikipedia.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society.

One Book, One Community wraps 2023 programming with author visit

On Friday, Oct. 20, elementary school students in the Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District had the opportunity to meet Jacqueline Davies, the author of "The Lemonade War".

Davies visited each of the four elementary schools in the district and delivered presentations about her published work and how she became a writer. She highlighted that ideas are like seeds and that if they are nurtured, they can become full stories. One Book, One Community offers their deep gratitude to The Friends of the Hampden and Wilbraham Libraries and the Mile Tree, Soule Road and Stony Hill PTOs for their generous financial support of this enriching event.

Davies' visit capped off four months of programming related to "The Lemonade War". Throughout the summer, families were invited to participate in community-wide events, such as a scavenger hunt, a money management

Please see **BOOK**, page 19



Jacqueline Davies, the author of "The Lemonade War", visited four elementary schools to read her book on Friday, Oct. 20.

Photos submitted by Jennifer Iverson

Events & announcements schedule

TWB Transition Program to host Food Drive

HAMPDEN – The Transition Program at Thornton W. Burgess School is hosting its Food Drive from Oct. 23 to Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 a.m.

Help donate to those in hunger! The drive is accepting unexpired goods or non-perishable food items such as peanut butter, canned soups-pop tops, water bottles, rice, pasta, canned pasta sauce, canned vegetables, canned fruits, hot and cold oatmeal, bagged snacks, granola bars or hot and cold oatmeal.

All proceeds to benefit Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry, located at 170 Pendexter Ave. in Chicopee. The drop off location is TWB at 85 Wilbraham Road.

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

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham Friends of the Library's second annual Jack-o-Lantern contest and StoryWalk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 29. Please register through the library's event calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org. Families may enter one Jack-o-Lantern for display. (LED tealights please, no real candles). Set-up begins at 4:30 p.m., and the display will run from 5-7 p.m. Prizes will be announced at 6:45 p.m. In the event of rain, we will hold the event inside. This event is free. Hot Cider will be available. Donations to the Wilbraham Friends of the Library will be gratefully accepted.

Wilbraham United Church to sell pumpkins until Oct. 31

WILBRAHAM -- The Wilbraham United Church will be selling pumpkins at their Pumpkin Patch daily from Oct. 15-31. Shoppers can pick their perfect pumpkins and take advantage of photo

opportunities Monday through Saturday between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sundays between noon and 7 p.m.

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

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

Saint Cecilia Parish Women's Club to hold RUMMAGE SALE Nov. 3

WILBRAHAM -- The Saint Cecilia Parish Women's Club is holding its annual RUMMAGE SALE in the Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham, on Friday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 4, 8:30 a.m. until noon. (Saturday is Bag Day!) Gently used clothing for men, women, and children, toys, puzzles, household items, curtains, towels, sheets, and other linens, jewelry, scarves, purses and much more will be sold at very reasonable prices.

Wilbraham Garden Club to meet Nov. 6

Meeting will occur at St. Cecilia's Parish Center

WILBRAHAM -- The Nov. 6 meeting of the Wilbraham Garden Club will take place on MONDAY at St. Cecilia's Parish Center on Main Street in Wilbraham at noon. A luncheon of sandwiches and dessert will be served. Please note the change of meeting date is on a Monday.

The speaker for this meeting will be Robin Desrochers, who will give a talk on Bird Watching in Wilbraham. Welcome to Robin's nest! She will discuss the different birds in our neighborhoods, and we will view some beautiful photos.

Robin will inform us how we can help them survive, as many bird populations are becoming endangered. This is a presentation that can be enjoyed by all!

Genealogy Series at the Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM – Have you already searched Ancestry and want to know what else the Wilbraham library has to offer in your family history research? Join Assistant Library Director Mary Bell in discovering the genealogy resources available, both in-library only and at home.

Each session will cover a different product, and participants can come to one or all three. Here are the dates:

Fold 3 (military), Newspapers.com, and HeritageQuest – Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 6 p.m.

FamilySearch.org – Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6 p.m.

American Ancestors – Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 6 p.m.

The sessions are designed to give a broad overview of searching records in each database and be interactive with searches that Bell will perform based on the audience's questions as well as her own research.

"Ancestry Library Edition has by far been our most popular genealogy research database," said Bell. "I designed this series to dig into more of what we offer, whether it be a War of 1812 pension through Fold 3 or Mayflower descendant research in American Ancestors. Each product has its own unique features and records."

All of the products covered are available in-library during regular library hours; HeritageQuest and FamilySearch are accessible remotely.

This program is free and open to the public. Sign-ups are going on now.

For more information or to register, contact the Wilbraham Library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar online at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Hartsprings Bin receives extended stay at Hampden Senior Center

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

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

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

Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry

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

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

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

FISHING from page 1

excited when it went down and started screaming and hollering and it really became an addiction to me," Gag said. "And I never got rid of that bug."

Gag was driving down Interstate 95 to a beach in Rhode Island when he got the call about his election into the Hall of Fame. Since then, he's been in disbelief over the honor.

"I'm a very humble person when it comes to a lot of things, and I just couldn't wrap my head around it and I still can't," Gag said.

Gag said through his fishing lures, he gets to "manufacture happiness for people," reflecting on helping a child back in the 1980s catch Big Blue Fishes, later giving him his own lure.

Many years later, that child, now an orthopedic surgeon, and Gag reunited at a show in Providence, RI, where Gag learned that very lure now hangs on the mantle over a fireplace.

"My biggest high is when somebody comes up to me at a show or if I'm speaking somewhere or something and said, 'I caught my personal best fish on your lure' or 'You put a smile on my kid's face,'" Gag said. "And I sit there, and I go 'I've done my job.'"

Gag hopes to inspire the next generation by creating fishing clubs and encouraging people to venture outside.

"See what nature has provided for you out there. So many people miss it," Gag said.

Jim Grandt, a member of the Hall of Fame's Selection Committee and a 2018 inductee, explained they get entrants from all over the world and the vote for induction must be unanimous.

Grandt said Gag earned it for his leadership, many years in the industry and contributions to the community, adding the Hall of Fame is "the largest achievement in all of freshwater fishing."

"It's a pretty special fraternity of men and women. It's really an honor to be in the Hall of Fame and it's an

honor for me to be on the Selection Committee and see all of the different best of the best," Grandt said.

Grandt added Gag's induction is distinct as there hasn't been a hall of famer from the East Coast in three decades.

"It just doesn't happen, so it's quite the honor to get in," Grandt said.

Grandt encourages the community to visit the Hall of Fame's website, www.freshwater-fishing.org/, to view the inductees and learn "just how special this hall of fame is."

"This is quite an honor and they have a local guy that really just earned everything that he's been given," Grandt said. "It's quite an honor for the community."

As for Gag, he is honored by his upcoming induction and said "My heart is open to the community," sharing he'd love to put on a fish derby at Spec Pond for kids.



A close-up of Twitch It Eels, one of Al Gag's Lures fishing products.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

"Whatever I can do for them, I'd love to help," Gag said.

To learn more about Gag, visit www.algagsfishing-glures.com/.



Fish-themed art on display in Al Gag's studio in Indian Orchard Mills in Indian Orchard. Gag was recently elected for induction into the 2024 class of the International Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame for 45 years of dedication to fishing.

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com



Chaug girls soccer wins home finale

WILBRAHAM – In one of their final regular season games, Minnechaug girls soccer defeated Westborough 1-0 thanks to a goal from Lylah Jeannotte. With the win, Minnechaug went 11-4-1 on the regular season and is likely going to be in action in the Western Mass. tournament this week, followed by the start of the state tournament late next week.

Kylie Ray heads the ball.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



Goalie Mackenzie Pastreck rolls the ball away.



Nora Kennedy socks the ball away.



Max Baroni heads into traffic.

Falcons looks for playoff berth after rout of Colts

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM-- As the 15th ranked football team in the latest MIAA Division 3 power rankings, the Minnechaug Falcons couldn't afford to slip up against the Chicopee Comp Colts.

The Falcons, who are looking to qualify for the state playoffs for the third consecutive year, posted a 56-0 home victory over the Colts (0-7, 0-4) in an AA League contest, last Friday night.

"I thought we did a very good job of staying focused and not looking towards our next game," said Minnechaug head coach Will Nickerson. "We'll be hosting Longmeadow next week and there will be a lot at stake

Please see **FALCONS**, page 16



Giana Sakowski chases down the ball.



Zoey Cardano fights for the ball.



Lylah Jeanotte sends a shot away.

Falcons fall to Belchertown



Matthew Ryan heads up the field. Ryan Purchas makes a run.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Bryce Barlow gets the height for the header.

BELCHERTOWN – Last Wednesday afternoon, Minnechaug boys soccer was defeated 2-0. The Falcons are 5-8-2



Avery Coburn plays the ball off his chest.

on the regular season and were scheduled for a regular season finale against Pittsfield on Monday night. As of Oct. 20, Minnechaug



Luca Colon controls the ball and looks to make a pass.

was still looking to squeeze into the state tournament, holding the No. 30 ranking in the top 32.

Monadnock releases 2024 schedule

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Monadnock Speedway and JDV Productions announced this evening the full 2024 event schedule for the Winchester, New Hampshire oval.

The schedule begins with the JDV Open on Saturday, April 20, 2024 and ends with the return of the Winchester Fair event on Saturday, Sept. 21. The schedule includes 20 events spanning from April through September, including house divisions, touring series dates, special events and more.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will return to Monadnock Speedway for three dates in 2024: the third annual Granite State Derby on May 4, the third annual Duel at the Dog on July 20 and the second annual Winchester Fair on Sept. 21.

The first competition laps on the brand new track pavement will be on April 20 with Monadnock's house divisions in action. The Mad Dog Modifieds, Super Streets, Mini Stocks, Pure Stocks, Six Shooters and Mad Pups will be racing. The Mad Dog Modifieds were previously named NHSTRA Modifieds, while the Super Streets were previously NHSTRA Late Models and the Young Guns have been renamed to the Mad Pups.

The house divisions will each have special events throughout the year - headlined by a Triple Crown Series, a Monadnock Salutes Pure Stock special (May 18), 15th annual Firecracker 100 (June 29), the inaugural Six Shooters Showdown (July 13), Mini Stock Meet (August 3), Mad Dog Masters Challenge (August 10) and Super Street Summer Shootout (August 17).

A full 2024 Monadnock event schedule can be found by visiting MonadnockSpeedway.com and JDVProductions.com.

"We're excited to work with the great teams that make up the Monadnock Speedway house divisions, multiple touring series divisions and others to be sure the 2024 season at Monadnock is one to remember," Josh Vanada, owner of JDV Productions, said. "Our team will look forward to releasing more and more information as the season draws closer. The new pavement at Monadnock Speedway is going to make the racing better than it has ever been and we look forward to showcasing it to dedicated, loyal race fans in 2024."

Additional special events during the season will include the 53rd annual weekly racing opener on May 11, the second annual Winchester Open Modified 100 for the JDV Open Modifieds on June 8, the inaugural 350 Super Thunder in the Mountains on June 15 and the 53rd annual championship Saturday on September 14, where all house division champions will be crowned.

The only two-day show of the season will be the finale weekend on September 20 and 21. On Friday night, Sept. 20, a new winners night for house divisions will require drivers who enter the races to have never won a Monadnock event before in that division. The season officially concludes on Sept. 21, with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour's Winchester Fair and more.

For touring series classes, on top of the Whelen Modified Tour in town three times, the NEMA Midgets will visit once, the NEMA Lites three times, the Evolve Pro Truck Challenge twice and the Pro 4 Modifieds five times. Additional touring series divisions include the R&R Street Stock Open, Little Webb's Super Series and the Senior Tour Auto Racers.

Open Late Models, Open Mini Stock, Big Wheel events and more are also on the calendar. JDV Productions and Monadnock Speedway will release additional information throughout the winter months about the 2024 racing season.

Cambridge half-marathon registration open

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

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

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

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



Josh Disa heads for the end zone.

FALCONS from page 15

in that game."

The twenty one seniors listed on the Falcons football roster will be honored prior to the start of Friday night's home game against the Longmeadow Lancers (3-4), who are ranked 23rd in the Division 4 power rankings. The top 16 football teams in each of the eight Divisions qualify for the playoffs.

Minnechaug enters the final game of the regular season with a 4-2 overall record and a 2-2 league record. All four of the victories came at home.

The Falcons lost back-to-back road games against Westfield High School and Springfield Central.

A year ago, Minnechaug was the 16th-seeded team in the Division 3 playoffs. They lost to top-seeded Milton, 46-21, in a road contest.

The Falcons have now won the last six meetings on the gridiron against the Colts.

On September 30, 2016, the Colts defeated the Falcons 32-8 on their home field. Former Comp QB Trevor Johnson threw four touchdown passes in that game.

Any thoughts that the current Colts players might've had of celebrating another road victory against the Falcons didn't last very long.

After receiving the opening kickoff, the Falcons marched down the field in the rain under the direction of sophomore quarterback Jack Lucarelle, who's a returning starter.

Sophomore running back Max Baroni carried the ball four times before Lucarelle completed the 63 yard six play drive by throwing a 15-yard swing pass to senior wide receiver Davis Nelson, who scored the first of the Falcons six touchdowns.

Senior Nic Patrakis made the first of his five extra point attempts. He also made a pair of field goals in the second quarter. Most of his kickoffs sailed into the end zone.

"Nic is a valuable weapon for us as a kicker and punter," Nickerson said. "He had played soccer his whole life before joining the football team as a sophomore. He's hoping to be a kicker for a college football team next year. We're very excited for him."

After the Colts were forced to punt on their first offensive series, the Falcons took a 14-0 lead when Lucarelle flipped the ball to junior wide receiver Noah Brathwaite, who sprinted 43 yards into the endzone, with 4:40 left in the first quarter.

A little more than a minute later, senior linebacker Sean Murphy returned an interception 20 yards for the Falcons third touchdown.

Minnechaug junior linebacker Ryan Oldread recovered a fumble at the Colts 23 yard line with 1:50 left in the opening quarter.

It looked like senior tight-end Dajuan Johnson had scored the Falcons fourth TD on a fourth and goal running play, but it was nullified due to a blocking in the back penalty.

Instead of going for it a second time, Patrakis ran onto the field and made a 29-yard field goal with 10:38 left in the first half.

On the ensuing series, the Colts offense picked up a first down for the first time in the game on a 12-yard run up the middle by sophomore running back Francis Jordan.

A couple of plays later, Brathwaite recovered another fumble for the home team leading to a 25-yard field goal by Patrakis. It increased the Falcons lead to 27-0 with 5:43 left in the first half.

With a little more than a minute remaining on the scoreboard clock, Lucarelle called his own number and scored a touchdown on a five yard draw play.

Then Johnson, who has made a verbal commitment to play college football at the University of Maine,



CJ Socha heads up the field field.



Zach Kozub holds the ball for kicker Nick Patrakis.

wrapped up the Falcons' first half scoring spree by returning a fumble for a touchdown.

Johnson took a direct snap on the two-point conversion play before scoring another touchdown, which gave Minnechaug a commanding 42-0 halftime lead.

Because the Falcons were leading by 42 points, the scoreboard clock was kept running during the entire second half.

Baroni and junior running back Josh Disa scored the Falcons final two rushing touchdowns during the third quarter.

The Colts offense finally moved the ball into Minnechaug territory in the fourth quarter, but the Falcons defense posted its first shutout of the season.

"We played very well on both sides of the ball tonight, which was great to see," Nickerson said. "We'll need to continue playing well against Longmeadow, who beat us last year."

While the Falcons are preparing to host Longmeadow on Friday night, the Colts will be looking to get into the win column for the first time this season when they face Westfield at Bullens Field.



Alex Barthelette looks for a seam to run through.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

T-Birds drop decision to Penguins

WILKES-BARRE, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-3-0-0) put forth a strong effort, but could not come away victorious, falling to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (2-2-0-0) by a score of 3-1 at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza.

Vadim Zherenko got the start between the pipes for Springfield and had a terrific game, stopping 33 shots on 35 Penguin attempts. On the other end, Joel Blomqvist got the start for the Penguins and picked up his first AHL win with 31 stops.

It was a special night even before the onset of the game for the Bitten family, as Sam Bitten took the ice for his AHL debut alongside his older brother Will, marking the first time in T-Birds history that a pair of brothers skated as Springfield teammates.

Unlike the other games the Thunderbirds have had this season, the first period did not bring any goals and the two teams remained scoreless heading to their dressing rooms. Zherenko was the much busier goaltender during the first period, as he denied all 14 Penguins shots sent his way.

At the 1:35 mark of the second frame, Wilkes-Barre got on the board first. Forward Vinnie Hinostroza broke behind the T-Birds defense, took a stretch feed from Rem Pitlick, and scored on a backhand deke that snuck past Zherenko.

The score did not remain 1-0 for long, as Adam Gaudette continued his red-hot start to the season with a stroke of luck. An innocent clearing attempt around the boards instead saw the puck skitter to the edge of the crease. After linemate Nathan Walker spotted the loose puck, he was stopped by Blomqvist on the initial chance, but the hulking Gaudette slammed the rebound home to tie the game up at 1-1 at the 3:18 mark of the period.

As the game hit its midpoint, Wilkes-Barre forward Jansen Harkins broke away from the pack and went in on a breakaway with a chance to restore the Penguin lead, but Zherenko was up to the challenge and made the stop with the left leg. Later on in the period, T-Birds had a great chance to go up a goal with Zachary Bolduc stripping a Penguins defenseman before making it a 2-on-1 with Will Bitten. Unfortunately for the rookie winger, Blomqvist made the stop, knocking away the shot with his blocker, and keeping the score at 1-1. The second period would not bring any scoring for both teams, as the score remained the same at 1-1 going into the third and final period.

The two teams traded chances to start the third period, but neither team could convert. It was not until the 9:03 mark that one of the teams would take the lead. The Penguins power play finally cracked its dry spell, as Pitlick jabbed a power play goal home after a scramble in front of Zherenko's crease, giving his team the 2-1 lead.

With 3:01 to go in the game, the T-Birds were given a power play thanks to a Wilkes-Barre bench minor for too many men on the ice. Walker nearly deadlocked the score, but his deflection on a point shot deflected off the crossbar and stayed out. Shortly after the power play ended, Harkins put the game out of reach with an empty-netter, his first goal as a Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguin.

Springfield's three-game weekend continues as the team travels to play Lehigh Valley on Sunday afternoon for a 3:05 p.m. matchup against the Phantoms. The T-Birds will look to avenge their home loss on Friday night against the Phantoms and pick up their second win of the season.

The T-Birds return home to the MassMutual Center next Saturday, Oct. 28 for our Ok-T-Bird-Fest game to face off against the Providence Bruins for the second time this season. The puck will drop at 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

FUREVER from page 6

cused on the little kitten I was holding. "Now put it back and come home."

I truly did try to put her back; she woke, squirming and letting out a shrill meow as she was placed into a small cat carrier. From inside the carrier, I heard another muffled meow—apparently, Rosie had a twin sister named Mayra who'd been inside the carrier the entire event because she was shy.

As I packed up my books, watching as all the adoptable pets were brought out of the store, I turned to Kathy.

"Am I going to regret not bringing that kitten home with me?" I asked, hoping Kathy could somehow supply an answer that would make it feel better. "Is it a mistake to let her go?"

"I don't know," she replied, having witnessed the bond Rosie and I had shared. "How do you feel right now?"

My lip started quivering. *Quivering*. Tears welled in my eyes, and I stood there in the middle of this pet store like a lost child. In that moment, I realized, having Rosie in my arms had been a peace and connection I'd only known twice before, with my other two cats, so, my husband was surely not surprised at all when I rolled up to our house that afternoon with two new foster kittens who we adopted the following day.

These two black cats have now wrapped their paws around my heart—and purr-haps a black cat awaits the love of your family, too!

Or any adoptable pet, for that matter, as *all* pets are worthy of love.

This Week in Rec

Erin Carroll
Assistant Director

As I write this, we are coming to an end for fall sports and on the cusp of being fully immersed in winter sports. There have been times this fall, and there will be many times this winter, when there is controversy within youth sport games. A win is now a loss, success is now viewed as failure and the truth is life is not fair, it just isn't. As the quote says, "Sometimes you're the windshield; sometimes you're the bug". Times like this remind us that there are many life lessons to be learned by participating in youth sports, it isn't just about winning or losing.

There are so many important lessons in sports that translate in real life. In both life and sports

we have to understand that we will make mistakes and that we won't always win and that is okay. We need to learn how to fail with dignity and win with class. Sports also teach dedication, time man-



agement, respect, how to work together, sportsmanship, that you have to work hard to get to where you want to be as well as being proud of your achievements without putting anyone down.

This fall I have seen some of our coaches teach many of these life/sport lessons. We are very fortunate to have dedicated coaches who keep life lessons in mind and just not make it about the outcome of the game. It is always hard in the heat of the moment, but it is exciting to see our coaches stay positive and teach their team about proper character and life skills.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all our fall coaches who understand the value of youth sports and teaching their team that what they experience in sports will translate in their real life. We are excited to continue to see this continue this winter!

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

SENIORS

Monthly highlights for November at the Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN – The following programs will occur in the coming weeks at the Hampden Center, located on Allen Street.

Meet your Veteran Service Officer, Jason Burgener

Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 9:30 a.m. at the Hampden Senior Center.

Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

Jason is available on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hampden Town Hall auditorium.

Please call Jason directly at 413-640-0540 to schedule an appointment.

African drumming with Jason!

New six-week session

Fridays at 2:15 p.m., starting Nov. 3 through Dec. 22.

No classes on Nov. 10 and Nov. 24.

\$25 for the session if paid in full and get one class free, or \$5 per class.

Create your own Greeting Card with Ellie!

Monday, Nov. 6, 1-3 p.m.

The cost is \$3 per person; all materials are provided. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat.

"Shop till you drop" Annual Holiday Fundraiser is back in our lobby!

The sale starts Monday, Nov. 6 and will remain available through Friday, Dec. 30.

Cash or check only. All proceeds benefit activities at the Hampden Senior Center.

Veterans Breakfast

Thursday, Nov. 9 at 9 a.m.

Come and join us in thanking our Veterans for their service.

Jason Burgener, VSO for Hampden, will be there as well.

Enjoy a delicious breakfast of Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Home Fries, Coffee and Juice

made by Becky and Wendy.

All are welcome to attend.

The cost is \$3 per person. FREE for Veterans.

Please call 566-5588 to sign up.

Get in the Holiday spirit and decorate a Diamond Dotz project with Sheree!

Come see what the "Diamond Dotz Craze" is all about, while enjoying a fun gathering with great conversation, and lots of laughs, complete with treats and a beverage!

The cost is \$8 per person (all materials are included)

Thanksgiving Grab and Go Dinner

Wednesday, Nov. 22 - pick up is 2-2:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings and dessert.

Compliments of the Hampden Senior Center, and our generous sponsors:

Bethlehem Church, Bluebird Estates, Brodeur Campbell Fence Co., GreatHorse,

Hampden Senior Center Quilt Group, Monson Savings Bank, Polish National Credit Union,

Saint Mary's Parish and The Reserve.

Delivery in Hampden is available. Please let us know when ordering your meal if you need your meal delivered. Please call 566-5588 starting Nov. 1 to order your dinner.

D & R Farm Share

Winter Farm Share will be back in January.

D & R Farm will again offer fresh produce twice per month starting in January and run through June.

FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify.

If you do not qualify for SNAP/Hip, you may purchase a share for \$40 per month.

New applications are required.

If interested, please contact Wendy to get your application in.

FREE Technology

Help Sessions are back!

The Wilbraham & Monson Academy Service Team will be at the Hampden Senior Center

Thursday, Nov. 9 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Students will meet with you, one-on-one and assist you with all your technology questions.

Bring your phone, laptop computer, iPad, or tablet and your questions! Please call 566-5588 to sign up.

Hampden Resident Emergency Fuel Fund

The Fuel Fund is available to any Hampden resident who is in a heating crisis. A resident must have received a shut-off notice from the electric company, have less than a quarter of a tank of oil or be in another emergency heating situation.

Please call Wendy at 566-5588 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

All information provided is confidential.

The Hampden Emergency Fuel Fund is made available through private donations throughout the year. We are so grateful for the support of this valuable program.

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with *Disinfecting Wipes!*

Thank you to those who donated liquid dish soap last month. Every month we will target a different item to fill our shelves to provide non-food items to SNAP recipients.

Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens 2024 Fundraiser

Back by popular demand, the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens, are selling one-month lottery calendars for \$10 each to support the Hampden Senior Center Building Expansion Fund.

Calendar Sales will begin on Nov. 6 and end on Dec. 30.

You have a chance to win a cash prize or gift card to a local business and you can win more than once! You have a chance to win *EVERY* day for the month of January. One name will be drawn daily during the month of January. Winners will be notified and can pick up their prize or we will mail it to them.

This is a great gift idea for all those people you want to give a thank you to for their services throughout the year. The calendars also make great stocking stuffers!

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD

Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.

Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

TAG SALE

TOOL & GARDEN SALE.

October 27th & 28th, 9am to 4pm each day. 359 Stafford Rd., Wintergarden Farm, Monson, Mass. Chain saws, weed whackers, mechanics and carpenter tools, garden tools, yard tools, fishing equipment, old fruit & vegetable baskets, milk crates and more. We have lots to dig through.

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer-cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy (860)874-8396

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.

413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

SERVICES

BILODEAU AND SON ROOFING. Established 1976. New re-roofs and repairs. Gutter cleanings and repairs. Licensed/ insured. Call (413)967-6679

CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at (413)289-6670 for estimate.

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging, Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

ELECTRICIAN

CHAMPAGNE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS. Residential electrical service, mini splits, EV chargers, smoke detection. Fully insured. Licensed #22882A. Mike 413-210-9140.

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST Decks, Porches, Doors, Windows, Repairs, Cement repairs, asphalt repairs, stone and BBB approved Vinyl Fence Tim (413)563-2229

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

HOME REPAIR & REMODELING for all your interior & exterior needs. Carpentry, woodworking, porches, patios, windows, doors, painting, drywall, siding, landscaping, clean-outs. Competitive pricing. References. Please call Brendan (413)687-5552

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

DAVE MAZ LANDSCAPING Lawn mowing, Spring thru Fall clean-ups, mulching, pruning. Holyoke, South Hadley, Chicopee, Hadley and Amherst. Call 413-536-3697.

SERVICES

S&S LANDSCAPING LLC

Residential and Commercial
Fall clean ups.
Commercial properties
snow and ice removal.
Free estimates,
Fully licensed
and insured.
You'll like us mower
413-240-1992

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PAINTING

WE DO LLC Painting interior, exterior and drywall repair. Resident epoxy flooring. We treat your home like our own homes. Fully licensed and insured. Call WE DO today for a free estimate ask for Mac (413)344-6883

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

Board of Health Coordinator Position

The Town of Hampden seeks qualified applicants for the position of Health Coordinator, providing a wide variety of administrative services to the Regional Health Department and Hampden Board of Health. The successful candidate will possess effective communication skills, computer literacy, and the ability to operate office equipment.

Full job description and compensation information at the town of Hampden website: <https://www.hampdenma.gov>.

Submit cover letter and resume electronically to Robert T. Markel, Town Administrator, at townadmin@hampdenma.gov.

SERVICES

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

SNOWPLOWING

RESIDENTIAL Snowplowing Service. Wilbraham residential only Call or Text now. Limited space available. 413-519-5439

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212



SAW STUMP GRINDING
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
413-213-5470

TREE WORK

DL & G TREE SERVICE- Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212.

TUNE-UPS

SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A & M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

PETS

AKC REGISTERED MINIATURE SCHNAUZER. Salt & pepper, 2 males. Vet checked, first shot. Ready now \$1200. 413-596-8190.

HELP WANTED

NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a house-keeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today (413)267-4297.

SEWING MACHINE OPERATORS

Experience preferred: basic math skills a plus. Immediate openings, first shift, flexible hours. Inquire at **The Nixon Company, 161 Main St., Indian Orchard.** Contact: 413-543-3701 or info@NixonAwards.com

\$12.50 Each Digital Photos
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

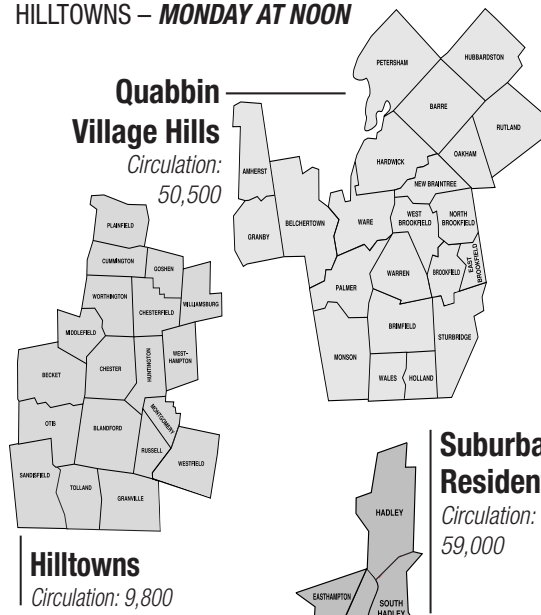
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES:

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$26.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00



Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**
Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**
Subtotal _____
x Number of Weeks _____
TOTAL Enclosed _____

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):
 Quabbin
 Suburban
 Hilltowns

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

BUSINESS

BOOK from page 13

bingo game, a story walk, rock painting, crafts and raffles at the local libraries and “Kid-preneur Day” at the Main Street Farmer’s Market. Additionally, One Book, One Community sponsored lemonade stands on various Main Street Farmer’s Market dates, as well as at the Bushels of Fun Fest at Fern Valley Farm in August. Local children were invited to run the lemonade stands and all proceeds benefited the Hampden and Wilbraham Libraries and the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors.

The continued success of One Book, One Community of Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District is dependent upon the benevolence of the following groups and businesses: LUSO Federal Credit Union, which funds the purchase of the books for all district elementary school students as well as the raffle prizes for the scavenger hunt; Rice Fruit Farm, for offering free ice cream to children who complete the bingo game; the Wilbraham Open Space Committee, for hosting the rock painting event and inviting story walks to be installed on local trails; the Hampden and Wilbraham Libraries, for hosting events related



to the book throughout the summer; Main Street Farmer’s Market, for inviting One Book to sell lemonade and further promote the program to market attendees; and countless community volunteers for ensuring a smooth roll out of the book reveal.

As the 2023 programming comes to a close, One Book, One Community looks ahead to 2024, which marks its tenth year in the Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District. Planning for next year’s programming will commence in January, and those interested in contributing to the group should email onebook.hwrsd@gmail.com for more information on how to get involved.

Fitzgerald Law names Wilbraham resident Andrea O’Connor as a shareholder

EAST LONGMEADOW -- Fitzgerald Law has named attorney Andrea M. O’Connor as a shareholder.

“Andrea’s depth of experience and teamwork has really helped our firm grow, so she was very deserving of appointment,” Seth Stratton, a shareholder with the firm, said. “Through her volunteer activities in the profession, Andrea has not only elevated her representation of clients but has also improved the practice of law in her specialty as well.”

O’Connor counsels corporate and consumer clients in all aspects of insolvency law, primarily including bankruptcy, asset protection, taxation, real estate, and commercial matters. Her experience representing debtors and creditors in all types of matters, from complex Chapter 11 cases to adversary proceeding litigation, as well as serving as a Chapter 7 Trustee for the District of Connecticut, allows her to analyze problems from all angles and develop creative solutions.

A resident of Wilbraham, O’Connor has 13 years of legal experience, including a clerkship for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts. She graduated cum laude from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT,

where she earned a Bachelor of Arts. She graduated magna cum laude from the Western New England University School of Law, Springfield.

O’Connor is an active member of several bar associations, where she has served in various leadership roles; she also serves on the Massachusetts Bankruptcy Court’s Pro Bono Committee and Diversity Task Force. Her admissions include the State of Connecticut, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States District Court for the Districts of Connecticut and Massachusetts and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

O’Connor is routinely called upon by professional organizations to author materials and present on insolvency related topics. She recently presented on the intersection of real estate and bankruptcy law, the new Subchapter V of Chapter 11, and complex bankruptcy sales for various Massachusetts and Connecticut bar associations. She presented this summer at the ABI Northeast Conference & Consumer Forum. Additionally, she currently co-chairs two annual bankruptcy conferences, one targeting western and central Massachusetts and one serving New England.

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

FREE TOWING
FAST SERVICE
CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT
413-219-6839

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN
FRIDAY AT NOON

HILLTOWNS
MONDAY AT NOON

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise “any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.” We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



the **best** around

CLASSIFIEDS

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Reaching readers in 50 local communities every week.

- Check Out Our For Sale, Services, Pets and Other Classifieds
- Real Estate: For Sale, For Rent & Vacation Rentals
- Help Wanted: Part Time & Full Time Career Opportunities

Call toll free to place your classified ad:
413.283.8393

www.turley.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD
The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Diana McIntyre, for a Special Permit as required under sections 3.9.2.15 and 4.10 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow construction of an addition to the existing McIntyre residence located at 7 Oldwood Road to be used as an accessory apartment as shown on information on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/387039565> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 387-039-565).

John McCloskey
Chair
10/19, 10/26/2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
HAMPDEN, Division
Docket No.
HD23P2041EA
To all persons interested in the estate of CAMILLE C. BIENVENUE, of Daytona Beach, in the State of Florida. A petition has been presented to said Court by Brenda Farnsworth and Connie R. Burke, Co Personal Representatives of said decedent, appointed by the State of Florida in the Circuit Court for Volusia County, Florida, for license to sell at private

sale certain real estate of said Decedent, situated in Hampden, MA. If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at **Springfield** before ten o’clock in the forenoon on the **twenty-first day of November 2023**, the return date of this citation. Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire. First Justice of said court, this fourth day of October 2023.
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register
10/26, 11/02, 11/09/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD23P2067EA
Estate of:
Neal Gregory Fusco

Also Known As:
Neal G. Fusco, Jr.
Date of Death:
August 29, 2023
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
G.L. c. 190B, § 3-306
To all persons who have or may have some interest in the above-captioned estate and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Veterans Affairs, notice is hereby given on September 25, 2023 that the Petitioner **Gina M. Fusco of Amherst, MA** intends to file with the above-named Probate and Family Court, not sooner than seven (7) days after this notice, a Petition for Informal Probate of a Will. Petition for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative, to servewithout surety on the bond.
Gina M. Fusco of Amherst, MA.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

10/26/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **November 3, 2023** the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
Vehicle: 2007 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM66597A063675
COLOR: White
LKO: Jason Barrios
3041 Hellerman St
Philadelphia PA
R & S Assoc. Inc.
Wilbraham MA
413-596-4374
10/19, 10/26, 11/02/2023

INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Tree Removal



Structural Pruning



Crane Service



Storm Damage



Stump Grinding



Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE

