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## Wilbraham Children's Museum hosts TRUNK OR TREAT

By Angelina Acevedo  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - With Halloween just around the corner, it's no surprise that events have already begun.

On Sunday, Oct. 19, families had the opportunity to attend the Wilbraham Children's Museum Trunk or Treat at Fern Valley Farms to experience spooky fall fun.

Trunk Or Treat is a popular Halloween event that involves children trick or treating from car trunk to car trunk, rather than house to house. It provides a safer opportunity for families to experience the festivities of Halloween, and to come together as a community to create an exciting day out.

Amanda Docherty, president of the Wilbraham Children's Museum, explained the event.

"Trunk Or Treat is an event that the Children's Museum has done in the past, this year being our fourth time at Fern Valley. We choose to do the event here because Fern Valley is so beautiful during



Turley photo by Angelina Acevedo  
Girl Scout Troop 65441 with their K-Pop Demon Hunters themed booth.

fall, and we always try to support local businesses as well," Docherty said. "Along with the Children's Museum, two other businesses are up at Fern Valley with us. There's Fieldcrest Brewing, who are up here during most weekends in fall, and Batch Ice Cream. Our event coor-

inator, Jacqui Falardeau, contacts Fern Valley and they make sure the two businesses are able to be here too."

Trunk Or Treat was from 2 to 6 p.m., and tickets were required for each child who was trick or treating from car to car. Tickets had to be purchased in advance, due to the

sheer popularity of the event. Six different ticket time slots were available throughout the event to help ensure everyone could have a safe and enjoyable time.

After checking in with

Please see **TRUNK OR TREAT**, page 4

## Historical and spooky story presented at WPL

By Natalie Proulx  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Monday, Oct. 20, the library hosted the "Mysterious Massachusetts, A History of the Unknown in the Bay State" presentation and spooky story telling.

The lecturer, Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe, is a librarian at Springfield Public Library. Although, her passion project for the last 25 years during her career has been sharing her fascinations for things like comics, manga, and most importantly, mys-

teries of the world around us.

Even as a kid, she grew up with the shows, "Unsolved Mysteries" and "The X Files", talking with her father about all sorts of spooky stories and paranormal mysteries.

"My dad was a story teller," Hodge-Wetherbe said.

Her father, her biggest inspiration, would go and do things that might seem boring to the average person but knew how to tell a story compellingly.

Please see **SPOOKY STORY**, page 4



Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe, the presenter of "Mysterious Massachusetts."

Turley photo by Natalie Proulx

## Wilbraham Building Utilization Committee launches four surveys

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Building Utilization Committee is investing its time in gathering public opinions regarding the future of multiple town properties.

Chair Jim Rooney made a virtual appearance during the Select Board meeting on Oct. 20 and offered an update as to the progress that is being made.

"We've put together a-

tal of four surveys. One is the general public. I believe that's the one you looked at with the QR reader," Rooney said, noting that can be viewed in the latest editions of the Wilbraham-Hampden Times.

Rooney said that another survey is being sent to the staff at the Wilbraham Public Library. He requested that Town Administrator Nick Breault deliver the message to new Library Director Melissa Harter.

"I asked Nick if he would

forward it to the new library director. She doesn't know us. If this unknown name comes up and says, 'Here is a survey, send it to everybody,' she might balk at it," Rooney explained.

He also said that another survey is going out to members of the fire department. It specifically concerns Station 2 on Woodland Dell Road.

Rooney added that Fire Chief Michael Andrews sent that survey out to his staff.

"Then, we have one for

Town Hall to go out to all the departments that work in Town Hall," Rooney said.

Rooney emphasized that the project goes further than the one survey that is accessible by the QR code.

"It's not just the general survey that you're seeing there with the QR reader," Rooney said. "It's for three other surveys that we've deemed we wanted more information and more input from the stakeholders and people who work in the building."

According to Rooney, the purpose of the surveys is "self-evident."

"We know we don't know everything, so we want the town's opinion on as much as we can get before we formulate an opinion and get back to [the Select Board]," Rooney said.

Select Board Vice Chair Marc Ducey asked Rooney if the surveys extended to the police department and dispatch. Rooney said that they don't, but did acknowledge

that he wants to work with both entities in the future.

"We were not so much concerned with the police or the dispatch, although we do want to meet with Anthony [Gentile] at some time to talk about his department," Rooney said. "We haven't done that yet. The schedules just didn't work out, but we don't see a lot of motion with the police department or the senior center. It was just ba-

Please see **SURVEY**, page 4

## Knights' Community Survival Center Benefit Dinner sells out

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Knights of Columbus 10195 held their Annual Community Survival Center Benefit Dinner in the St. Cecilia Parish

Center on Oct. 18 to a sold-out crowd.

The event supports the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard, a nonprofit organization helping families struggling to provide the basics of food, clothing and household items, with their

emergency food pantry supporting the towns of Ludlow, Wilbraham, Hampden and the 16 Acres, Pine Point and Indian Orchard neighborhoods in Springfield.

The dinner comprised a traditional Italian meal of chicken parmesan with pasta, salads and cannolis served by the Knights of Columbus Council 10195 members and youth volunteers from St. Cecilia Parish.

Also, attendees enjoyed Italian music performed by George Flanagan, vice president of the Community Survival Center's Board of Directors and the Knights of Columbus Council 10195 at St. Cecilia Parish, and Carol Adamski-Maggi, with Music Director Todd Rovelli at the piano, and bidding on raffle prizes donated by Randall's Farm and Greenhouse, Gio's, Frontera Grill, Lenox Tools, Route 20 Bar & Grille, Rondeau's Dairy Bar, The Cutting Crew, Theme Cakes by Joelene, the Scantic Valley YMCA, LUSO Federal Credit Union, Pafumi's on Main, The Daily Pint, The Home Depot, Sixteen Acres Garden



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The process for moving town offices to the new town hall, which will be the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School, continues.

## New town hall move moving along

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Updates on moving the town offices and more to the new town hall at the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School continue to be a topic with the Select-board.

During the Selectboard's Oct. 20 meeting, Town Administrator Brian Domina shared the town is "moving fast and furiously towards the middle of November" for the move-in.

"The asbestos abatement of the five rooms plus the other two rooms for the library, the five rooms were completed last week, and I believe the last two should have been completed today," Domina said. "They might need to take down the con-

tainment tomorrow—I'm not sure—they've got right in on the heels of the abatement to do the flooring starting in those five rooms and that started today I believe."

Chair John Flynn asked about the other rooms.

"So, the other rooms that we have are purposed right now, which is Park & Rec, the other library rooms that are physically in the library module—if you will—they're not being redone?" Flynn said.

Domina said, "those are the two that the library is using their own funds" for.

"Were they done at the same time as this?" Flynn said.

"Yeah, those are the two that they were wrapping up now," Domina said. "Okay, so the five in the front—yours, Lauren and the

three library's are all done?" Flynn said.

Domina replied yes.

"Those are all abated and then they'll be working on the flooring now," Domina said.

"And it's rug and library ones and we get tile?" Flynn said.

"Yeah, it's tile in the office space," Domina said.

After Domina noted how things were "moving forward," Flynn next brought up the doors.

"Big thing would be the doors and the door controls and stuff," Flynn said.

Domina agreed.

"So, the door controls, Valley Communications is going to be the one who does the door controls. We're able to go through the statewide

Please see **MOVE**, page 4



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Knights of Columbus 10195 Members Matt Villamaino and Dennis Coite pose for a fun photo in between serving attendees.

Please see **DINNER**, page 5

# School Committee reviews e-bike safety

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com



WILBRAHAM - The School Committee reviewed e-bike safety during their Oct. 23 meeting.

Vice Chair Dr. Michael Tirabassi, who presented the topic, explained how there was a "remarkable increase" in injuries this summer for those riding e-bikes and noted concerns of an increase in cost and power used, along with questions of policy.

"I kind of wanted to bring it up for discussion to kind of increase awareness in the community for what's been happening with these e-bikes. The only laws that seem to be applicable are that if any of these devices are capable of going over 20 miles an hour, they're actually supposed to be registered as a motor bike," Tirabassi said. "Which means the operator is less than 17 (years old) is also required to have some form of driving permit for it to register, and many of the bikes do go over 20 miles an hour, but they're not clearly labeled right by that way."

Tirabassi added e-bikes are also supposed to follow the traffic laws, including not being on the sidewalks.

Chair Michal Boudreau noted both town police departments "have been more diligent about stopping riders and making sure that they're obeying the law."

"They've just been cracking down in general," Boudreau said.

School Committee Member Sean Kennedy remembered when he was growing up how kids drove mopeds—especially with no helmet on—and how whenever his son saw the e-bikes, his first comment was "Oh my gosh, that person's not wearing a helmet. Why aren't they wearing a hel-

met?"

"At least, I think, education is in order. I think kids pretty much understand a lot more than we can give them credit for, but if we want to support some education, that would be great," Kennedy said.

When Kennedy asked Tirabassi if his proposal was about banning them, he replied no and his intent was to raise awareness.

He also agreed on Kennedy's point on wearing helmets.

"Anyone under 17 is required to wear a helmet on a bicycle or any bicycle any time by law. I think it's also important to acknowledge that if the vehicle is able to go over 20 miles an hour, unfortunately, a standard bike helmet may be quite insufficient to protect against impact and actually helmets (that) were rated for motorcycles are recommended," Tirabassi said. "But, you also have to remember a lot of children are not wearing helmets at all on these bikes. Our police work very hard and it puts them in a very difficult position because current laws are only based off of what the velocity of the vehicle is capable of, which is difficult to tell by just looking at the bike or just looking at the name brand of the bike. As they come out of the box, they're very easily modified to have a significant increase in the initial velocity that they're built to go."

School Committee Member Timothy Collins asked if the Department of Motor Vehicles includes questions on their written tests about these vehicles.

"And does the DMW require a road test for students who have to have a licensed e-bike and ride it on the streets?" Collins said.

Tirabassi replied if the bike goes over 20 mph, riders are under 18 and don't already have a driver's license, they are, again, required to get a permit to operate them.

"What I don't know the answer to is if that permit requires a physical driving test for e-bikes like a motorcycle test would. I presume that it does, but I don't know the answer to that question," Tirabassi said.

On School Committee Member Sherrill Caruana's question regarding any push from the state to do updates to policies and include what those would look like, Tirabassi said he hasn't heard anything about changes in school policy.

"I have heard that the legislators are looking at the current existing laws, but I haven't heard of anything specifically being passed as of yet," Tirabassi said.

After Kennedy asked Superintendent Dr. John Provost about having a conversation with Wilbraham Police Chief Ed Lennon and the Hampden

Police Chief when he begins—Daniel Bruno—about offering a safety program or certification, Provost suggested putting the topic on the next Safety and Wellness Emergency Action Team meeting.

"The police department does participate with us on that, so my thought would be to read up in that context and see if we can collaborate with the police department or other appropriate agencies to offer some training for kids," Provost said.

Boudreau, who lives in Hampden, shared that the town has regularly shared information since last spring.

"So they do enforce the following regarding e-bikes. They're not for legal use on public ways, operation on public property not designated for recreational vehicle use is prohibited. A DOT-approved helmet must be worn and under Mass General Law Chapter 90B—which is a recreational vehicle law enforcement—and under Mass General Law Chapter 90—enforcement of public ways—action may be taken," Boudreau said. "Parents are also subject to enforcement action for allowing their children to operate an e-dirt bike in violation of the law. So, I can speak to the fact that regular posts, regular education, is coming from the police department. They do speak to the riders, which is great because it's really important, number one for relationship purposes, but also to provide that education."

Provost added the safety team also has fire personnel to address the importance of charging batteries and monitoring them along with a nurse supervisor for injuries.

Tirabassi agreed with Provost's idea and added how work is also being started with the Injury Prevention Department at Baystate Children's Hospital to provide education too.

The committee then moved on to their next topic. More on this as it develops.

# Select Board continues conversation on naming rights and donations

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Select Board discussed a familiar topic during its meeting on Oct. 20 - rules and regulations for donations and naming rights.

Select Board Vice Chair Marc Ducey spoke after meeting with the Wilbraham Friends of Recreation.

"There is a lot of confusion with the Friends of Rec around specifically the long-term outlook for the Memorial School building. I couldn't give them any clarity to that," Ducey said.

Ducey would like a member of the Select Board to meet with the Building Utilization Committee to further the conversation.

"I think we need to really look at that in a meaningful way," Ducey said. "One of the things I was thinking about was perhaps we should have someone from this board sit with a representative from each of the Friends to try to frame it in a way that makes sense for all, if we can."

Ducey expressed concerns that the Friends of Recreation is doing one thing, while the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors is doing another.

"And we haven't really addressed the library, but I think we need to kind of bring this under an umbrella," Ducey said. "Say, 'Here's how we're going to handle this.' Then allow them to work it through their own process."

Select Board Chair Michael Squindo noted that to some degree, the library has a separate governing body.

"My presumption is we can't just enforce a policy on the library," Squindo

said. "Whatever we would try to do with that I would at least say we would have to ask if we can be part of that or if they want to be part of that conversation and to what degree."

According to Ducey, some towns base the regulations off dollar amounts, while others establish them during Annual Town Meetings.

Ducey said it "runs the gamut" and listed more possibilities.

"Maybe that Friends group has the authority to accept a gift up to a certain dollar amount, at which point it would revert to the Select Board," Ducey said. "Sometimes, a public hearing's involved. In some cases, some towns exclude certain groups saying, 'Here's our overarching instructions, but we're going to exclude your group. Do it on your own.'"

Squindo said that he does not "principally agree" with trying to come up with a "global policy" for the town, as opposed to each department choosing its own rules.

"I think part of my confusion is donations and naming rights are connected but they're not necessarily together," Squindo said. "I think that when it comes to a donation policy, I still go back to it's my understanding that there are certain ways an individual can donate to a department where it's within that department's jurisdictions to accept that donation period."

Select Board Clerk Sue Bunnell said she appreciates the Friends of Recreation looking at this but said she doesn't "see a driv-

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# Picard presents 'The Hessians' on Nov. 9

By Charles F. Bennett  
Times Editor Emeritus

WILBRAHAM – Storyteller Dennis Picard has a way of finding the connection between his early American topics and Wilbraham and its neighboring towns; always with a view backwards to earlier colonial times.

Picard will delve into the Revolutionary War and the British Army's use of "The Hessians" in battle at the Old Meetinghouse Museum presents its Sunday, Nov. 9 Open House from 2 to 4 p.m.

After Picard gives his talk, there will be refreshments on the Museum porch. The Gift Shop will be open and new merchandise includes historic childrens toys and hometown Wilbraham tee shirts. The museum is owned by the town and overseen by the history-minded Wilbraham Athenium Society.

### Bloodthirsty?

"Folklore holds that the Hessians soldiers of the Revolutionary War period were blood thirsty mercenaries purchased by King George III to fight in the rebellious colonies," says Picard. They are often associated in our mind's eye with the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow fame. "But is that a truthful depiction of these citizens of the German States? he asked.

"Even though there were no battles during the American Revolution in Western Massachusetts, there were, in fact, Hessians here. I will tell folks at the Old Meetinghouse Museum how these men got to our area, why they were here, who they really were, and in the end, why some remained in our region," said Picard.

### Feared in Battle

The Hessians were German auxiliary troops, primarily from the principality of Hesse-Kassel, who fought for the British during the American Revolutionary War. They were known for their discipline, though they were often feared by the American colonists due to their perceived ferocity in battle. The soldiers were a mix of volunteers and conscripts.

pline, though they were often feared by the American colonists due to their perceived ferocity in battle. The soldiers were a mix of volunteers and conscripts.

According to Wikipedia, the term "Hessian" broadly refers to German soldiers hired by the British, though they came from several German states, not just Hesse.

They served as professional, regular soldiers within their own units, not as individuals who enlisted as mercenaries.

While many were conscripted or even kidnapped into service, some soldiers saw military duty as a way to gain higher wages than farming, gain economic benefits like tax exemptions, and seek plunder.

But one thing that remains true throughout the years, the Hessians were known for their strict discipline and neat uniforms, which contrasted with the often less disciplined and ragged appearance of the Continental Army.

### One Peppercorn

The museum has a colorful history. In 1792 the Methodist Society began constructing the meeting house and in 1793 the ground under the structure was leased to the Methodists for one peppercorn annually. The building has a ridge pole hand-hewn from a single tree that extends the full length of the building. The ridge pole is still visible from the attic.

The building became a private home for 142 years until the last owner died in 1977 and the building was purchased by the town. The Wilbraham Historical Commission was given jurisdiction of the premises and now leases the space to the Athenium Society for one peppercorn per annum.

The Athenium Society was incorporated in 1963 as a non-profit organization by a group of concerned townspeople that include people like Charles and Llewlyn



Charlie Bennett



Photo courtesy Dennis Picard

Folklorist Dennis Picard will return to Wilbraham to speak at the Old Meetinghouse Museum on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. His topic will be The Hessians during the Revolutionary War and their connection to Western Massachusetts.



Illustration courtesy Posterazzi

The mercenary Hessians were feared by the Colonists due to their ferocity in battle. Old Meeting House Museum guest speaker Dennis Picard will talk about their connection to Western Mass.

Merrick, Jesse Rice and Peter Ablondi. Their purpose was to form a permanent local group to preserve artifacts and memorabilia relating to the people and history of Wilbraham.

The Society uses the space as a museum to preserve historical records, traditions and artifacts relating to the history of Wilbraham, its culture and its people. New historical items are constantly being added to the museum's collection. The gift shop is one of the few places to buy

merchandise with the name "Wilbraham" on it. Also, history books about the town are for sale. For more information about the museum or the Wilbraham Athenium society email president@wilbrahamatheneum.org.

Charlie Bennett is a member of the Wilbraham Historic Commission and Program Chairman of the Athenium Society.

### NAMING

from page 2

ing need for this." Bunnell acknowledged the benefits of having an umbrella document but added that nothing has occurred in the past to warrant such an action.

"I have concerns about raising anxieties with the Friends groups that any board that comes together can

change the rules on it willy nilly," Bunnell said. "That's an anxiety given the track record of those organizations in their community, and things have gone extraordinarily well. Those two entities in particular – Friends of Rec and Friends of the Seniors – have made historic contributions to the resources of this community."

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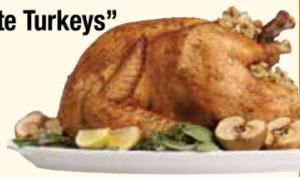
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# TRUNK OR TREAT

**TRUNK OR TREAT**  
from page 1

the Wilbraham Children's Museum staff at the start of the trail, families could walk around Fern Valley's large fields. The path had cars lined up along its side with their trunks open, decorated and ready to hand out candy to trick or treaters.

Docherty shared how the community came together to get involved in the event.

"Businesses and stand-alone volunteers can sign up to pass out candy, and we get a lot of interest in volunteering for this event. We have a running list of all our previous volunteers for Trunk Or Treat, and we email them in September to see if they're interested in taking part and helping out this year. We also have an advertisement put out during the start of the season to get interest from new volunteers," Docherty said.

Volunteers for the event included My Magic World Daycare with brightly colored decorations, David Mastay with his mad scientist themed trunk, and Girl Scout Troop



David Mastay's mad science themed trunk, with the "Grab a Ghoul 3000".



Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo  
Georgina Guerrero, owner of My Magic World Daycare, with her colorful and school-themed trunk.

65441 with their troop leader Megan Mitchell and K-Pop Demon Hunters themed booth.

"Trunk Or Treat is definitely happening next year, around the same time in October," Docherty said. "Looking ahead a few weeks, our next event is the 8th Annual

Turkey Toddle on Saturday, November 15 at Minnechaug Regional High School. It's for kids 10 or younger and races will be based on age, and the first 120 who register will get a T-Shirt."

Docherty further explained why this event is so special to her.

"I personally just love seeing the whole community together like this. I hope kids had a good time and I hope they can enjoy what their town has to offer," Docherty said.

Trunk Or Treat at Fern Valley was an absolute suc-

cess, with many families spending a beautiful autumn day together and experiencing the joys their community could bring together and make memories that will last a lifetime.

## SURVEY

from page 1

sically the library, Town Hall and Fire Station 2 that we really wanted to get some more information."

Select Board Chair Michael Squindo completed the QR code survey and said he has "mixed thoughts" on it.

"I think the intent behind it is good because it tries to be a very open-ended survey, it doesn't try to put out a lot of preconceived thought, I don't think. But I also wonder how much accurate or quantifiable feedback we'll get from it because it's open-ended," Squindo said.

Breault defended the survey, noting that it may be just what the town needs.

"The results could be flawed in the sense that maybe they're not going to be as quantitative, if you can call that a flaw. Maybe we're going to get a lot of other good information with how it's presented, open-ended," Breault said.

## MOVE

from page 1

contract that we needed to do for that," Domina said.

"Do you think the door things will be done in time for our move?" Flynn said.

Domina said yes.

"No sourcing problems?" Flynn said.

"No, I don't think so," Domina said. "Initially, after Herb (Foley) talked with Wendell about the door at the end of the center hallway, that's likely going to be a temporary wall to start."

"So, it's the one that's not there at this point?" Flynn said.

"Yes, so we have separation, especially on the weekend when we have kids in the back area, that kind of stuff," Domina said. "Valley was supposed to get started either today or tomorrow on that work."

Domina also had an update on the painting.

"They're going to start stripping the floors, re-waxing the floors, ceiling tiles, lights," Domina said.

"Did it work out well with the temporary help with him?" Flynn said.

"He needs to file an employment application and that's what I'm waiting for. So, I let Herb know that last week," Domina said. "I have not received an application yet."

On custodial, Domina thought Foley would be having a discussion with town council that day.

Flynn then returned to the topic of timelines.

"So, in relation to your

timeline and seeing there's going to be occupants of this building into December, you worked that out with the current company that's cleaning this building," Flynn said.

"That development was today," Domina said.

"Were they aware that they weren't going to need them after December?" Flynn said.

"He was going to have that conversation with them," Domina said.

With all this in mind, Domina emphasized the week of

Nov. 10 for the move is still the goal.

"I think there'll be a period of time, probably about a week, where we're going to be closed to the public. I think, likewise, when the library is able to move—which may be a week or two later—I think they're also likely going to be closed for a week," Domina said. "We'll have employees responding to emails and phone calls and stuff like that from remote locations."

He added that Pioneer Movers is set and he's aware staff have many questions, so a meeting will be set that Wednesday, Oct. 22 to review the logistics.

Selectboard Member Don

Davenport then offered a suggestion.

"At the Town Meeting, maybe we should have a handout notifying everyone that the town hall is going to be closed from this time to this time because of the move, the library and that kind of stuff," Davenport said.

Flynn agreed and added this.

"If you could make a nice drawing of what the office layout's going to look like on the other side," Flynn said. "Now you'll know where everything is. You're going to need some signage inside too."

More on the move as the process moves along.

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— Beth from Belchertown

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## SPOOKY STORY

from page 1

The presentation was far from formal, more casual, conversational, and informative, allowing a community of like-minded individuals from a variety of ages and interests, to form their own opinions about unsolved theories and mysteries.

Hodge-Wetherbe told stories with beautiful imagery, acting out scenes and showcasing documented sketches of different accounts. She covered a wide range of topics, connecting to different parts of her audience.

Sometimes called The Skunkape, Grassman, or Sheepsquash, one creature heard of all around the country is Bigfoot. We have some sightings in Massachusetts dating back all the way to the colonial periods.

Although, most states have their own mysterious stories, Massachusetts, for example, has the "Dover Demon." Sighted back in 1977 for only a couple days on Farm Street Dover, MA, was a creature crawling over a storm wall like a monkey, two and a half feet tall with an hourglass shaped head with skin described like shark skin, pale, with no nose but giant orange eyes.

Hodge-Wetherbe also discussed UFO sightings in Massachusetts history. These were not your typical weird lights in the sky or flying disks, but many famous "alien abduction" cases that brought in the topics of hallucination, out of body experiences, religious beings, memory loss, medical examinations and cultural exchanges.

She also discussed paranormal activity and the Salem Witch Trials, which included discussion of the Joshua War House, the Lizzie Borden House, Mount-Lenox, and also ghost cats. The final story ended with the tale of "Half Hanged Mary", a story of karma and luck.

Hodge-Wetherbe also shared some advice about

confidence in public speaking.

"Keep in mind I've done these a lot," she said, explaining how she's used the same jokes over the years, "But if I was going to advise someone I would say one of the things that helps is when you really love your topic...when you really love what you're doing, it comes across to people and they feel welcomed by it."

She describes the effect that passion has on an audience, noting little tricks like pointing people out in the audience to get them more engaged. But there are repercussions of passionless preaching.

"If you find it boring, everyone else will find it boring," Hodge-Wetherbe said.

Hodge-Wetherbe's prime focus during the presentation was simply to provide the audience with the stories and experiences.

"I like the fact that people are allowed to kind of think about these things and decide what they think about it...that's the way I present this I don't take a stance on anything, I don't tell them that this is real, I present them as these are the stories as they were told by people," Hodge-Wetherbe said.

Hodge-Wetherbe also mentioned that people are more interested in these discussions now more than ever, stating that almost everyone has their own story to tell about their curiosities.

"I also think people are more open to the idea of just thinking about it...It talks a lot more about what we're interested in as a community and if there's more out there than what we're seeing. I think that's really the charm of the story," Hodge-Wetherbe said.

Hodge-Wetherbe has been and will continue to tour all around New England to share this charm of storytelling. The presentation was also recorded and will be available to watch on Wilbraham Public Access soon.

**DINNER** from page 1

Center, Wilbraham Flowers, Mandarin Wilbraham and many more.

George Reich, who chairs the event, explained the fundraiser dinner has been held for many years.

"Many of you were at last year's dinner and at that event, your generosity enabled us to raise \$8,000 to the survival center in 2024," Reich said. "In the next couple of days, we'll know what this year's event did. We're hoping that we top that."

Reich said the Community Survival Center's primary mission is to "be an emergency food pantry."

"In 2024, they distributed 63 tons of food to over 1,600 families," Reich said. "As you imagine, this event requires many volunteer hours, of cooking, to serving you, from decorating to organizing and much more. Our Knights and their families have put in hundreds of hours into this event."

He had this message to the volunteers, supporters and donors.

"Thank you so much. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated. We also thank our youth volunteers which have been serving you and picking up this evening, along with we're grateful to the businesses and individuals that donated raffle prizes, beverages and cash," Reich said.

Reich also noted the attendees for their support.

"I want to thank all of you so much for attending tonight and being able to support this cause," Reich said.

He also invited Catholic men to get involved and join the Knights.

"Come see what we do!" Reich said.

Grand Knight Josh Mitchell was amazed by the turnout and community support.

"This year's Community Survival Center Benefit Dinner was such a huge success! This year around,



Youth Volunteers from St. Cecilia Parish pose for a group photo ahead of the fundraiser dinner.



Carol Adamski-Maggi performs an Italian song.

we switched up the menu and had Chicken Parm. The folks here couldn't have said more better things about it! They really loved the meal!" Mitchell said. "It's honestly amazing to see our parish



A shot of attendees being served by volunteers.

and our community come out and support this great cause! Knowing this year was a sold out event was something we as Knights appreciate!"

For him, the Knights supporting the Community Survival Center is important.

"Knowing that we are able to donate to such an important local food pantry is something that really hits home with me. A one point of my childhood in upstate NY, my family used our local food pantry. It got us through some

tough years. I'm just glad I'm able to give back now," Mitchell said.

Mitchell also reflected on his tenure as Grand Knight since taking over earlier this year.

"So far this year as being Grand Knight has been great! We have already had five new members join this year and potentially more to come before our next meeting in November. My focus this term as Grand Knight is a "Focus on Faith." We, as a council, are



George Flanagan, vice president of the Community Survival Center's Board of Directors and the Knights of Columbus Council 10195 at St. Cecilia Parish, and Carol Adamski-Maggi, with Music Director Todd Rovelli at the piano, perform.

doing great things, charitable wise. But I want more of a focus on why we are Knights in the first place. To do the work Jesus Christ is calling us to do. I will say, several Knights have spoken to me and have said they are fully on board with this initiative," Mitchell said.

On what's coming up for the Knights, Mitchell shared what the rest of 2025 has in store.

"For the remainder of the 2025 year, we have our Coats for Kids Drive. Soon, we will be delivering coats to kids in our area. We also have our Thanksgiving food drive. Last year, we ended up collecting \$10,000 in donations. Allowing us to give dozens of meals to those in need. The final event of the year is our Toy Drive. Last year, we set a record by donating 530+ toys! We hope to continue that great turnout in donations," Mitchell said.

Mitchell's message was this.

"I would like our community to know that we appreciate everyone who came out to this dinner. The money that was collected is going to help out a lot of folks back in our community! Your generosity is something I truly appreciate. I pray that we continue to make this event year after year a huge success!" Mitchell said.



George Reich, chair of the Knights of Columbus 10195 Community Survival Center Benefit Center, provides remarks.



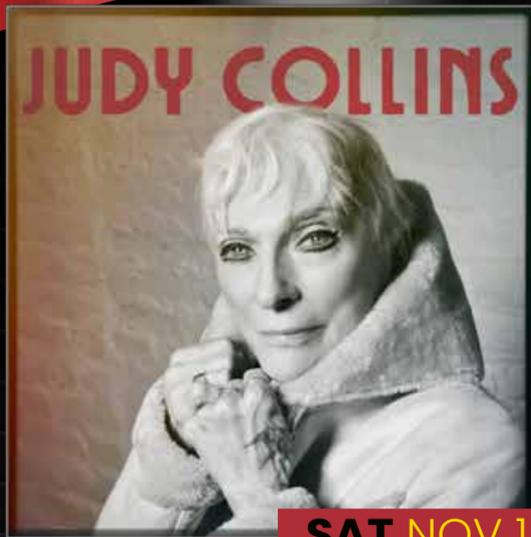
Cristal Turcotte, executive director of the Community Survival Center, waves to attendees.

To learn more about the Knights, visit [kofcwillbraham.com](http://kofcwillbraham.com).

To learn more about the Community Survival Center, visit [communitysurvivalcenter.org](http://communitysurvivalcenter.org).

# LIVE IN SPRINGFIELD

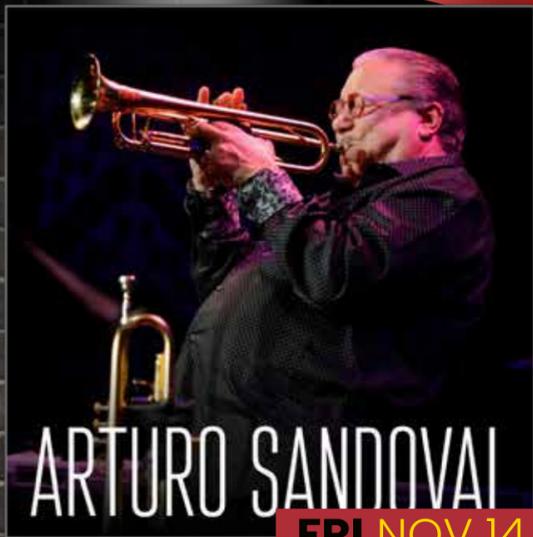
## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER EVENTS



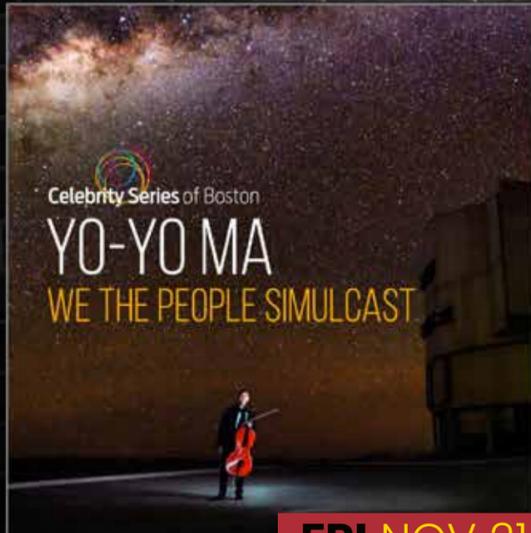
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# VIEWPOINTS

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Do I need to sign up for an online Social Security account?

Dear Rusty:

I recently heard the tail end of a radio program, which was discussing "signing up for my Social Security account."

I am now 76 years old and have been receiving my SSA monthly amount directly into a credit union account for years. Since the time when I applied to begin receiving Social Security, I have had no need to contact SSA again since everything is working fine. I do not like having to use the Internet. It seems the government is just giving me busy work and requiring me to remember usernames, passwords, etc. just when I am trying desperately to simplify my life. Can you shed any light on the need to sign up for an online SSA account by answering this:

- 1) What is the background regarding this "call" by the SSA to create an online account?
- 2) Why is the SSA wanting us to have "accounts"? Mysteriously, no one I have asked is able to give me a reason why we should have "accounts" on-line.
- 3) What happens if I do not sign-up for an "account"?
- 4) Is there a window of time during which we must "sign up"?

Thanking you in advance for any light you can shed on this issue.

**Signed:  
Concerned Senior**

Dear Concerned:

While creating an online Social Security account is recommended by the Social Security Administration, doing so is more of a convenience than a necessity.

It is mainly a way to confirm your identity to Social Security in advance, in case you need to contact them in the future to make changes to your SS account. If you don't plan to make any changes, then it is not mandatory for you to create an online "my Social Security" account. Nothing will change for you - you will continue to get your monthly benefits as you have been doing all these years.

Regarding your specific questions:

1. What is the background?  
Social Security has, for many years, been encouraging people to do business with them "online." This is, essentially, a way to improve the efficiency of a) getting your needs handled more quickly, and b) improving SSA's internal efficiency so as to handle more transactions with fewer staff.
2. Why does SSA want you to have an online account?  
SS fraud has become an issue, with nefarious individuals constantly trying to get at a person's Social Security (and other) gov-

ernment benefits. As part of its process for online access, SSA has evolved to a quite secure online identification process, which includes modern security techniques. These include things like "Two-Factor Identification" and use of certain specific identification measures through two main programs for access to government systems (known as LOGIN.gov and ID.me). These create a single pre-verified way to access multiple government systems (such as SSA, IRS, VA, etc.). It means that only one ID and password are required to access numerous government systems and ensures that those who access the account are the correct person. It is primarily a way to protect your benefits from others and prevent fraud.

3. What happens if I do not sign-up for an "account"?  
Nothing will happen, unless you have a need to change something with Social Security. For example, if you for some reason wanted to change the financial account to which your SS benefits are deposited. With a secure LOGIN.gov account you could make that change quickly using your online account. Without a secure online account, you would, instead, need to make an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to make the change and provide proof of who you are. Again, this is to reduce fraud.

4. Is there a window of time during which we must "sign up"?  
As indicated above, there is no time in which you must "sign up." If you do not sign up for online access, and don't need to change anything with respect to your SS benefits, then you do not need to create an online account.

So, while creating an online SSA account is highly recommended, it is not mandatory for those who have no need to interact directly with the Social Security Administration.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Wilbraham's broadband gamble could leave taxpayers holding the bag

To the Editor:

Wilbraham officials seem eager to dive headfirst into a broadband experiment that has failed time and again elsewhere. Government-owned networks often promise fast and affordable internet but too often deliver slow speeds, empty wallets, and frustrated taxpayers—a costly lesson Wilbraham risks repeating.

City leaders added a government network to their top priorities despite widespread coverage by Spectrum at speeds up to 2 Gbps and other options like wireless and satellite. Wilbraham is working with consultant EntryPoint

Networks on an open-access network, but many such projects struggle to attract providers, and large incumbents like Spectrum are unlikely to participate.

Officials claim the network could operate at \$60 per month per subscriber with no tax dollars, yet financial details remain vague. As the Taxpayers Protection Alliance notes, take rates often fall short, surveys overstate interest, and consultants like EntryPoint face criticism for ethically problematic dual roles. Even GON advocate Karl Bode expressed doubt that multiple providers will join a small market network.

Wilbraham already has access to fast, reliable internet. Building a redundant, government-run network isn't innovation—it's duplication and financial risk. When GONs fail, the fallout always finds its way back to taxpayers through higher costs or fewer resources for schools, roads, and public safety.

The Select Board should pause this broadband experiment and learn from the failures of other towns. Protecting taxpayers means saying no to flashy projects and yes to fiscal responsibility.

Johnny Kampis

## Michael J. Edgett Memorial Golf Tournament

To the Editor:

On Sunday Oct. 5, 2025, we held the 2nd Annual Michael J. Edgett Memorial Golf Tournament at The Country Club of Wilbraham. With the devastating loss of Michael's passing almost four years ago, a comfort has come knowing that so many friends and family continue to show up for a hug, reminiscing of a memory, or a toast in his name.

Michael sent us an 80-degree day without a cloud in the sky. 96 golfers teed off to remember a wonderful father, son, brother, uncle, nephew, and friend. To know Michael was to love him, unless of course he was on the opposing hockey team.

We cannot thank the Country Club of Wilbraham enough for their expertise as we continue to remember Michael and keep his memory alive, from Matt Kowal and the grounds crew, and that includes Mazi girl too, Geo; their banquet coordinator was professional, ready and willing to help with whatever we needed, the bartender's and kitchen staff, and of course Bobby Downs and the pro shop. What a wonderful group of people to work with at such a beautiful course.

We look forward to seeing you all on Sunday October 4, 2026.



Michael with his daughters Kylie and Lindsey.



From L to R: Bill Jackson, Al Lebel, Betty Edgett, Don Crum, and Tim Edgett.

From the bottom of our hearts, Thank you.

The Edgett and Crum Families

L to R: Matt Crum, Jack Lynch, Becky Crum, Caleb Crum, and Bill Crum.



L to R: Jeff Goff, Chris Kotowicz, Dave Parkinson, Roy Cargile, Betty Edgett, Tami Cargile, and Amy Goff.



Logo for the 2nd Annual Michael J. Edgett Memorial Golf Tournament.



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Correction Policy

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

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

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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



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# A COMMUNITY GALLERY

# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

## Morgan's Message brings mental health awareness

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*Life in &*

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



Submitted photos and caption Melissa Morrow

You may have noticed some extra activity at many of Minnechaug's athletic events this Fall! Minnechaug teams are competing for something bigger! They are shining a light on the importance of mental health!

One Minnechaug student passionate about mental health advocacy started a chapter for a nonprofit organization called Morgan's Message at Minnechaug in late 2024. She brought on three other caring and dedicated mental health ambassadors and together these four amazing student athletes continuously collaborate to build support and share resources for mental health awareness while creating opportunities for action within the 'Chaug community!

They are supported by Nicole Britt, Assistant Varsity Field Hockey Coach and Athletic Director Steve Burndrett along with several enthusiastic team representatives that help to share resources with and advocate for their specific sport.

Morgan's Message® is a non profit organization that strives to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health within the student-athlete community and equalize the treatment of physical and mental health in athletics. The organization aims to expand the dialogue on mental health by normalizing conversations,

empowering those who suffer in silence, and supporting those who feel alone.

The Minnechaug chapter for Morgan's Message was recently established understanding that student athletes experience unique pressures and circumstances on and off the field. Currently, they are building a partnership with the Minnechaug Active Minds chapter to provide wholistic mental health support and resources to our entire Chaug community!

Morgan's Message has a lot of awesome things happening this school year! They are excited to be hosting sev-

eral dedication games for different teams this Fall and will be holding regular meetings highlighting different mental health topics throughout the school year along with other meaningful events! They aim to create a community where no one feels alone and there is consistently a safe space for people to talk without stigma.

To learn more about this awesome organization, find mental health resources that support the unique needs of student athletes and to learn more about Morgan's story, I encourage you to visit <https://www.morgansmessage.org/> and our Instagram.



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	<p><b>Saturday</b> Nov. 1 DAN REED</p>	<p><b>Saturday</b> Nov. 8 PETER NEWLAND</p>	<p><b>Saturday</b> Nov. 15 FLOYD PATTERSON</p>	<p><b>Saturday</b> Nov. 22 ATOA RIPLEY</p>	<p><b>Saturday</b> Nov. 29 LIVIO</p>

# Sholi held without bail following armed standoff

WILBRAHAM - A Wilbraham man has been held without the right to bail following an armed standoff earlier this month that prompted a shelter-in-place order and a multi-agency law enforcement response.

On October 3, 2025, at approximately 7:12 a.m., the Wilbraham Police Department received a 911 call from a victim in the area of Crane Hill Road who reported being physically assaulted. The victim attempted to leave the residence, but as they entered their vehicle, the defendant, Nidal "Adam" Sholi, 34, of Wilbraham, allegedly pointed a gray handgun at them while they were attempting to flee.

Officers from the Wilbraham Police Department responded to the home and attempted to make contact with Sholi. Longmeadow Police located and remained with the victim.

A short time later, officers on scene heard several gunshots coming from the area of the residence. A shelter-in-place order was issued for the surrounding neighborhood. A perimeter was established, and assistance was requested from the Massachusetts State Police STOP Team and Crisis Negotiation Unit.

The victim advised police that Sholi was intoxicated and owned several firearms, noting that he had an active License to Carry (LTC). An arrest warrant was subsequently granted. Sholi was located inside his bedroom and taken into custody by members of the State Police STOP Team without further incident.

Wilbraham Police obtained and executed a search warrant for the residence, locating numerous bullet holes and shell casings throughout the home. Investigators found that several bullets had passed through interior

and exterior walls, windows, furniture, and appliances, with some rounds exiting the structure.

A total of 11 firearms were recovered, including three rifles meeting the statutory definition of an assault weapon. Police also secured 57 rifle and pistol magazines, 36 of which were high-capacity, capable of holding more than 10 rounds. In addition, approximately 5,000 rounds of ammunition were seized pending inventory.

Sholi has been charged with:

Assault and Battery by Strangulation or Suffocation  
Discharge of a Firearm within 500 feet of a Building  
Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order

Improper Storage of a Large Capacity Weapon

Unlicensed Possession of an Assault Weapon

Assault and Battery on a Family/Household Member

Assault with a Dangerous Weapon

Threat to Commit a Crime

On October 10, 2025, the defendant stipulated to dangerousness in Palmer District Court and was ordered held without the right to bail for 120 days.

That same day, the defendant's mother filed a Section 35 petition, which was allowed for 90 days. A Section 35 allows the court to involuntarily commit an individual to a treatment facility for substance use when their behavior poses a risk to themselves or others. His next scheduled court date is Dec. 16, 2025. Sholi is presumed innocent of all allegations until proven guilty.

The investigation was conducted by the Wilbraham Police Department, Massachusetts State Police STOP Team and Crisis Negotiation Unit, and the Hampden District Attorney's Office.

# Senior & Veteran Tax Work-Off Abatement Program seeks applicants for 2026

WILBRAHAM - The Town of Wilbraham is accepting applications for 43 positions under the Senior Citizen & Veterans Tax Abatement Program. Senior Citizens and Veterans selected under this program will work during calendar year 2026 to receive an abatement on their property tax bill for fiscal year 2027 (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027).

Basic requirements are that taxpayers must be an assessed owner of property in Wilbraham, and must have owned and occupied a home in Wilbraham for at least five years. To be eligible for the Senior Citizens program the resident must be over 60 years of age. To be eligible for the Veterans program the resident must be a Veteran defined by MGL (a copy of your DD 214 is required).

The current compensation is calculated at \$15.00 per hour, and the maximum allow-

able abatement is \$1,500.00 per property. Abatement workers will need to work 100 hours to receive the full abatement of \$1,500.00 (less federal income tax and Medicare deductions).

The 43 positions being offered are:

- Clerk's Office: 4 Office Assistants
- Treasurer/Collector's Office: 2 Office Assistants
- Public Access Television: 5 Production Producers
- Library: 4 Library Pages
- Library: 1 Local History Assistant
- Senior Center: 15 Office Assistants
- Select Board Office: 1 Office Assistant
- Parks & Recreation: 3 Assistant Gym Supervisors
- Facilities: 2 Facilities Laborer/Helpers
- Facilities: 4 Gardeners
- Engineering: 1 Engineering Assistant
- Veterans: 1 U.S. Flag Custodian & Veteran Event Support

Hours are flexible and will be worked out on an individual basis between the department director and the abatement worker, but must be completed by November 30, 2026.

This program is beneficial for both senior and veteran residents and Wilbraham taxpayers. Seniors and Veterans have an opportunity to lower their property tax bill, and taxpayers are benefitting from the superior talent and work experience these individuals bring to the job at a very low cost to the town.

Interested residents can pick up applications and information packets at the senior center, library, or Select Board Office, or print it from our website: [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). Applications should be submitted to the Select Board Office no later than December 12, 2025.

# Theatre Guild of Hampden presents 'Lost in Yonkers' for two weekends in November

HAMPDEN - The Theatre Guild of Hampden is proud to present Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play "Lost in Yonkers," directed by Rick Rubin, stage manager Steven Weber.

The year is 1942, and Eddie Kurnitz (played by David Martin) needs to take a job as a traveling salesman to pay off the medical bills incurred after his wife died. He decides to ask his stern mother, Grandma Kurnitz (played by Trish Neil Barry) from whom he is estranged, if his two young sons can live with her

and their Aunt Bella (played by Khara Hoyer) in Yonkers. She reluctantly agrees.

Jay (played by Josh Barry) and Arty (played by Aiden Quin) don't like their new living situation as they're afraid of their Grandma and find it difficult to relate to their crazy Aunt Bella, who has two other siblings: Louie Kurnitz (played by Nathan Alvarez) a henchman for some gangsters, and Aunt Gert (played by Gail Weber) who struggles with speaking due to her mother's harsh parenting style.

Over the course of the play, the boys learn about love, responsibility, and the importance of family that will carry them into adulthood.

Location: Thornton W. Burgess School, 85 Wilbraham Rd., Hampden.

Show dates and time: Friday and Saturday, Nov. 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m.; Friday and Saturday Nov. 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at [theatreguildofhampden.org](http://theatreguildofhampden.org) or at the door.

# Wilbraham Veterans Day Ceremony

WILBRAHAM - The town's Veterans Day Ceremony, hosted by the Wilbraham Department of Veterans Services, takes place at

Crane Park on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m.

Join us in honoring all who have served and all who continue to serve our nation.

The ceremony will include remarks from local officials, a flag tribute and recognition of Wilbraham's Veterans.

All community members are encouraged to attend and show support for our Veterans.

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## Falcons fall in WMass quarter finals

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School girls soccer team will have to wait for the state tournament look for a title. The Falcons were ousted from the Western Mass. tournament last Thursday night. The Falcons were shut out 1-0 against Northampton. Just a single goal in the first half made the difference in the matchup and Minnechaug fell to 5-7-5 on the season. The Falcons are ranked No. 19 in Division 2 and should have no issue making states. They had a nonplayoff game against West Springfield earlier this week.



Tyler Jaslanek is pursued by the defense.

## Falcons draw with Belchertown to close regular season



Nicholas Cianflone makes a long throw-in.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Gavin Coughlin navigates through the middle of the field.



Nathan Wesloski looks to send the ball into the opposing end.



Tyler Supczak makes a quick pass.

WILBRAHAM – Last weekend, Minnechaug Regional High School boys soccer closed out its regular season with a 1-1 draw against league rival Belchertown. Nathan Weloski had the lone goal for the Falcons as they improved to 6-4-6 for the season. The Falcons will make the state tournament this year, despite the large number of draws.

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## Girls volleyball advances in tournament



Cora Pace sets the ball near the net.

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School girls volleyball team has a great team this season and is looking to win at both the sectional and state level. The Falcons got tournament season started with a 3-0 sweep of Chicopee Comprehensive in the quarterfinals

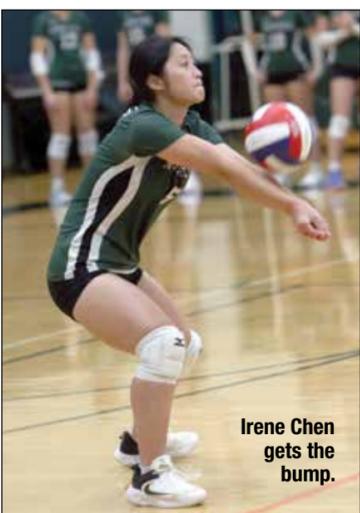
of the Western Mass. tournament. The Falcons would end up making it to the finals to face Longmeadow in the championship game last weekend. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition. The Falcons now head for the state tournament.



Jordan Miller leaps to make contact.



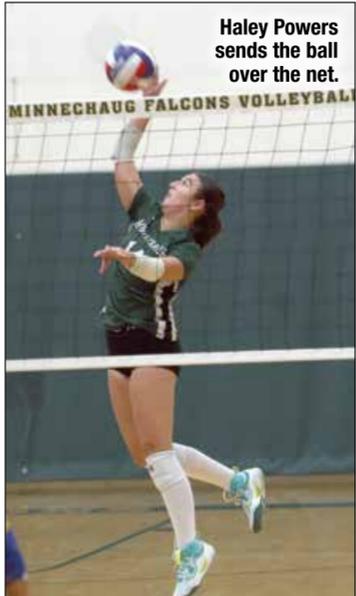
Anna O'Toole goes for the spike.



Irene Chen gets the bump.



Nehir Elcin tries to send the ball past a Comp blocker.



Haley Powers sends the ball over the net.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Thunderbirds fall at home to Wolf Pack

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-5-0-0) could not hold off a hungry Hartford Wolf Pack (2-4-0-0) squad in a 6-3 defeat on Saturday at the MassMutual Center in the second battle of the Braman Pest Control I-91 Rivalry Series.



Perreault deflected a Justin Dowling shot home at 2:26, and in the blink of an eye, the Hartford lead grew to 5-1.

From the onset of the game, the Wolf Pack, a night after getting shut out on home ice, peppered pucks on Georgi Romanov, with the T-Birds goalie standing tall to stop the first 13 tries that came his way. The netminder's strong opening minutes allowed Springfield to get to the lead at 13:36 when Corey Schueneman squeezed a wristler through traffic and past Dylan Garand to make it a 1-0 game.

After a goaltending switch and a timeout, Springfield replied with Leo Loof potting his first career AHL goal at 3:39 to make it 5-2. Dalibor Dvorsky and Juraj Pekarcik each assisted on Loof's goal, their second assists of the night.

A Wolf Pack power play quickly tipped the game on its head, though, as Brett Berard cashed in Hartford's first man-up goal in 15 tries at 16:15 to tie the game, 1-1. Blake Hillman followed 2:15 later with a back-post tap-in after a beautiful move by Bryce McConnell-Barker set up the chance. Hartford carried the 2-1 lead into the intermission after outshooting Springfield 17-4 in the opening period.

The T-Birds could not pull any closer, though, as McConnell-Barker found the net after a fortuitous bounce on an odd-man rush ended up on his tape at point-blank range. His second goal in two games against Springfield pushed the score to 6-2, but would prove to be the only goal Hartford put behind Vadim Zherenko on 13 shots.

Unfortunately for Romanov and the T-Birds, things did not improve as the second period began, as Brendan Brisson crashed the net front and cashed in his own rebound at the 44-second mark of the period to extend the lead to 3-1. Carey Ter-

Dvorsky added his third point of the night with his second power play goal in as many nights at 14:55 of the third to make it 6-3, rounding out the game's scoring. Despite only stopping 12 shots on the night, Garand picked up his second win over the T-Birds in four nights.

The T-Birds continue their three-game homestand next Friday with a Halloween night matchup against the Hershey Bears. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. inside the Thunderdome.

**SPORTS**

**COLLEGE:**

# Plymouth State spoils Westfield State University's homecoming

WESTFIELD – Plymouth State QB Braden Lynn ran for two touchdowns and threw for one to offset a three touch-down-pass performance from Westfield's Miles Foerster, as the Panthers

left for the TD and a 35-28 Panthers lead.

Westfield was forced to punt after a third-down sack, and Plymouth again put together a long drive this time 8 2 yards in 10 plays, this one capped by a 9-yard TD scramble from Lynn for a 42-28 lead with 7:48 left in the game

Westfield wasn't done, and after a 24-yard Brandon Paquette kickoff return set the Owls drive up at their own 40-yard line. Two plays later Foerster rolled left, then threw all the way back across the field to Aidan Patterson, who caught the ball at the 34-yard line and scampered through traffic, all the way from the right side of the field back to the left, where Foerster, hustling on the play, threw the final block for Patterson to skip into the endzone untouched for a 66-yard completion and trimmed the lead to 42-35 after Andrew Carrier's extra point with 6:03 left in the game.

But Plymouth was able to grind out the final six minutes

of the game with a methodical 11-play, 62-yard drive with 10 straight running plays before the final kneel down.

Foerster finished 8-11 passing for 163 yards with three TD's. Patterson ran for 58 yards, and caught two passes for 71 yards. Westfield's Casey Tang caught four passes for 77 yards including a pair of touchdown catches.

Andrew Lovell and Josh Marino led the Owls defense with 13 tackles each, and Marino added an interception with a 10 yard return.

For Plymouth, Lynn completed 10 of 16 throws for 144 yards with one touchdown and one interception. The Panthers rushed for 238 yards as a team, led by 129 yards from Reece David and 87 from Gregory Walker. Mitchell Cripps caught two passes for 84 yards. Taveras and Hunter Burke each made nine stops for the Panthers.

Westfield will be back in action at home next Saturday, hosting Mass Maritime at noon, which will also be the Owls senior day game before they close the year with two straight games on the road.



Plymouth State improves to 6-1 overall and 5-1 in the MASCAC. Westfield is now 2-5 and 2-4 in the conference.

Westfield led 28-21 after a 10-yard TD run from Curtis Dion with 7:54 left in the third quarter.

Plymouth marched 65 yards on eight plays on the ensuing drive, capping the series with an 8-yard off tackle TD run from Reece Davis to tie the game at 28-all after Seamus Ross' extra point.

The Panthers caught a break on the next series, as the Owls fumbled and TJ Taveras recovered the ball at the Westfield 21-yard line, setting up a short field. Four plays later Lynn scrambled six yards on a bootleg to the

# Railers get first win in overtime

NORFOLK, VA — The Worcester Railers HC (1-3-0-0) beat the Norfolk Admirals (2-1-1-0) in their second matchup of the weekend on Saturday, October 25th with a final score of 3-2 in front of a crowd of 7,645 at the Norfolk Scope Arena. The Railer are back on the ice at the DCU Center on Friday, October 31st against the Reading Royals at 7:05 p.m.

The Admirals scored the first goal of the game at 0:56 into the second with an unassisted shot from Brady Fleurent (1-0-1). Worcester retaliated with a goal from Cole Donhauser (1-0-1) at 12:59, assisted by captain Anthony Repaci (0-1-1) to even the score. Norfolk closed the second period with a final goal from Justin Young (1-0-1) at 18:17 to give Norfolk a lead heading into the third. Ryan Miotto (1-0-1) evened the score 2-2 for Worcester with a goal at 2:20 into the third, assisted by Riley Piercy (0-1-1). A final goal to break the tie in overtime came from Matt DeMelis (1-0-1), assisted by Michael Ferrandino (0-1-1) to win the game for Worcester.

Both teams came out swinging for their second matchup in Norfolk. Lincoln Hatten got into an early brawl with Admirals' Brayden Nicholetts, each earning five minutes in the penalty box

for fighting just three minutes into the first. Teammate Justin Young served Nicholetts' penalty as he headed into the tunnel for a checkup from Norfolk medical staff. Worcester went on their first power play of the game at 4:52, Norfolk's Marko Reifenberger took a turn in the box for holding a stick. No score for Worcester on the power play, but the Railers managed to gather up a bit of offensive zone time and apply some pressure on Worthington and the Norfolk net. No score from either side for the first. The Admirals went on their first power play of the game in the second half of the period, a slashing call on Max Dorrington at 11:26. Worcester managed to execute another successful penalty kill, their first of two of the period. The Railers went into the tunnel with a 0-0 score to close out the first. Worcester outshot Norfolk by one with a shot count of 10-9 for the first period. Both teams had two power play opportunities for the period.

The Admirals didn't wait long to score to start the second as Brady Fleurent (3rd) sank the first goal of the game for Norfolk at 0:56 unassisted. Fleurent stole the puck from a Railers forward and potted the shot past Henrik Tikkanen to make it 1-0. Worcester worked for a stretch of the second to even

the score. Cole Donhauser (2nd) finally broke through Alex Worthington with a goal at 12:59, as he sent a backhanded shot off the stick of Admirals' Brehdan Engum and over the shoulder of Worthington. The Admirals' Justin Young (1st) snuck a shot under the pads of Tikkanen from the left circle to give Norfolk a one-goal lead to finish the second (1-2). Worcester outshot Norfolk 15-10 in the frame. Neither team had any power plays or penalties for the second period.

A quick setup pass from Riley Piercy at just under two and a half minutes into the third allowed Ryan Miotto (1st) to even the game 2-2, adding another goal to Worcester's tally. The rest of the third showed end-to-end action from both teams, but the score stayed locked 2-2 as the Railers headed into their first overtime of the season. The game-winning goal for Worcester came from Matt DeMelis (1st), set up with a pass from Michael Ferrandino, who nabbed the first win for Worcester at 4:34 into overtime. Worcester and Norfolk tied for shots 8-8 in the third. Worcester outshot Norfolk 6-1 in overtime. Worcester had one power play and Norfolk had one penalty in the third, a call against German Yavash for cross-checking.



# Gencarelli attends Substance Use Prevention Month Kickoff Event

BOSTON - On Thursday Oct. 2, Minnechaug student, Nicholas Gencarelli, attended Substance Use Prevention Month Kickoff Event in the City of Boston at Department of Public Health. Nicholas is one of 12 students selected throughout the state of Massachusetts to be a "Mass Youth Advocate in Prevention (Mass YAP)."

Since July 2025, Nicholas has met with his fellow interns and advisors to cover important topics such as prevention strategies, community engagement, how to improve local coalitions and preparing for the kick-off event on October 2, 2025. These meetings give Nick and his fellow interns the opportunities to plan, collaborate, and learn from each other which can help them make a real impact in their own communities.

Mass YAP strives to be youth-led to enhance leadership skills and raise awareness on the importance of youth voices.

During the past month, the Mass YAP interns have been working on projects for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Substance Use Prevention Month (October) which aims to elevate the national conversation, and showcase prevention's positive effects on communities across the country. Their individual projects reflect



these values and showcase how youth advocates can make an impact in their communities.

Nicholas states, "This internship means a lot to me because, in my community, I've seen how important it is to have resources available for students. It gives everyone an opportunity to access help when they are in need, creating a more positive lifestyle for youth. There are already many positive things happening in my town. We have substance-free activities, safe spaces where people can go for help, and supportive adults who care about youth's health. These protective factors play a critical role in keeping my peers' substance-free and

reinforcing positive, healthy environments. Mass Yap has given me the chance to find my voice and advocate for prevention in a way that can make a difference."

Also, at the event there were remarks from Dee Calvert, director of the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services and Dr. Robbie Goldstein, commissioner of the Department of Public Health.

Gencarelli is a sophomore at Minnechaug where he is also involved in the Above the Influence Club, Key Club, MRHS Band, Chess Club, MRHS Tennis Team, Class Council Representative, HWP4Y Coalition Student Ambassador, as well as a mathlete.

# WJWC to host Community Fleece Blanket Making Event

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is hosting a community Fleece Blanket Making Event. All are invited to attend and help out.

This community get-together will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025 from 10 a.m. to Noon at The Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield St., Wilbraham.

It's an opportunity to meet new people and come together to create warmth

for those in need. No sewing experience is required and all supplies will be provided.

Bring a friend (or two!), lend a hand and make a difference! Every blanket made will be donated to local shelters, nursing homes and The Ronald McDonald House.

Contact Kathy (413) 478-1185 for questions or more information.

Let's wrap our community in kindness - one blanket at a time.

# St Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle

LUDLOW - The St Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle will take place at Christ the King Church at 41 Warsaw Avenue, Ludlow on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We have many talented crafters along with our Gift Raffles and of course the 50/50. This year we will be offering a new menu.

So won't you please come and join us for a fun-filled day.

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# November art show at Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Art League will be showcasing original artwork in the Brooks Room of the Wilbraham Library, 25 Crane Park Drive, from Nov. 6 through the 27. The library is open Monday through Wednesday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a reception from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 8.

On display will be paintings in a range of styles and sizes. The League has members from various towns in the area, who work in watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel, graphite, photography, and other media. They have held shows in numerous local venues with many of their members winning awards for their work. Two of the artists who will have their work in show are Trish Pilon from Springfield and Joanne from Wilbraham.

Trish Pilon, a newer

member of the WAL, lives in Springfield. Even as a small child she was interested in art. She says, "A painted picture to me has always been like a snapshot in time. I like all works of art and I am inspired by it." She creates her art with a mix of mediums from oil pastels, watercolors, aquarelle crayons, acrylics, embossed inks, distressed, gel pens, and colored pencils. "I used to only paint realistic paintings. Now I enjoy painting abstract art that represents a variety of objects. It took a while to trust myself to be free to create art using a variety of colors, textures, whimsy and so much more." Some of her inspiration comes from Monet, Picasso, Rembrandt, and Matisse. She says, "I love the use of colors and the vividness of their paintings." Trish has a studio in her house and spends at least 20 hours a week creating art. You will see her work at the

upcoming Library show.

Joanne Bell from Wilbraham uses photography as an art form. Her parents gave her a Polaroid camera when she was 11 years old. Her interest in photography as an art form was rekindled when she took a course at the Palmer Library over 20 years ago that introduced her to DSLR cameras. She bought a Canon Rebel and got out in the field as much as she could. Joanne joined the Wilbraham Art League. She says, "I was greatly encouraged by many of the artists that are still members now. For continued education in photography, I read a great deal and participate in webinars and workshops." Her favorite subject is nature photography. In 2023 she was awarded best color photograph at the Big E in the adult age group. Since then, she has won a number of other awards. She gets out to photograph regularly. "My

go-to photography spots are Shelburne Falls, Quabbin Reservoir, and Old Sturbridge Village. It seems that whenever I go out to shoot a particular subject, something entirely different presents itself, and it becomes the "shot of the day."

The group was founded in 2007 and continues to meet the second Tuesday of the month, except for July and August, at the Wilbraham Senior Center at 250 Springfield Street. It is an opportunity to meet other artists, exchange ideas and encourage one another. Meetings begin at 6:30 and most include an art-oriented program. Any interested non-member is welcome to attend. In addition to supporting each other the group seeks to bring art to their local communities.

For more information about the Wilbraham Art League visit their website at <https://wilbrahamartleague.org/> or their Facebook page.

## Wilbraham Building Utilization Committee seeks community input

WILBRAHAM - The Town of Wilbraham announces the ongoing work of the Building Utilization Committee and invites community participation through a public survey on municipal building usage.

The Wilbraham Select Board formed the Building Utilization Committee in early 2025 in response to the need to optimize the town's facilities amid growing demands for efficiency and cost savings. Comprising nine members, including six community residents and one representative each from the Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, and Planning Board, the committee's primary purpose is to assess current town-owned buildings and properties, identify opportunities for improvement, and recommend cost-effective solutions to enhance functionality, repurpose underutilized spaces, and improve overall operational efficiency.

As part of its mandate, the committee is required to report its findings, analyses, and rec-

ommendations directly back to the Select Board, providing actionable insights to inform future town planning and budgeting decisions.

To ensure the committee's recommendations reflect the needs and perspectives of Wilbraham residents, a municipal building usage survey has been developed to gather community feedback on how town facilities are currently used and potential improvements. The survey is quick and anonymous, covering topics such as building accessibility, usage frequency, and ideas for optimization.

Community input is vital to shaping a more efficient and responsive town infrastructure. Residents are encouraged to complete the survey by Dec. 1 to help guide the committee's work.

Contact: Jeffrey Smith, Chairman Wilbraham Building Utilization Committee Phone: (413) 596-2800 Email: [townhall@wilbraham-ma.gov](mailto:townhall@wilbraham-ma.gov) or [Wbuc@Wilbraham-ma.gov](mailto:Wbuc@Wilbraham-ma.gov).



## Wilbraham United Players to present 'Five Golden Rings'

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Players are staging a holiday production of "Five Golden Rings - A Greeting Card Channel Holiday Musical".

Performance dates are Nov. 28 through Dec. 7. Performances on Fridays and Saturdays are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday performances are at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available through the Player's website [wilbrahamunited-players.org](http://wilbrahamunited-players.org)

In Five Golden Rings, Holly, a business exec from "the big city" gets snowed in at a quaint Vermont B&B for Christmas and begins to fall for its non-threateningly rugged owner, Lance. The issue: it's the very B&B her company is supposed to take over! Everything you want (and expect) in a cable-TV Christmas movie, from flannel shirts to flirtatious snowball fights

to overt product-placement, mixed with fun songs and a lot of holiday cheer! Add a towns person who "could" be a visitor from the North Pole, overly exuberant residents of the town, Lance's adorable daughter Grace, Holly's best friend Trish and "current" fiancé, Bradley and you've got the usual characters all covered.

The musical is directed by Deborah Trimble with musical direction by Graham Christian and choreography by Jacqui Panasian.

The cast includes Ava D'Agostino as Holly and Nick Adams as Lance, with Rylee Santiago as Grace, Kiernan Cone as Trish, Joe Lessard as "Nick", and Casey Dion as Bradley. Also included are Shannon Martin, Amanda Emet, Jeff Erb and Jim Martin.

## Wilbraham Womens Club November meeting

WILBRAHAM - Sip N Paint: A Holiday Painting Workshop with Donna Boucher and Michele Axtmann.

Please come and join the Wilbraham Womens Club on Thursday Nov. 13. Get ready to unleash your creativity! Donna and Michele will guide us step by step as we paint a festive holiday scene on canvas using vibrant acrylics. No need to bring a thing. ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED There is a \$19 guest fee for lunch and workshop.

Members \$13 for the luncheon. Soup and Sandwiches provided by the Village Store Cafe.

We are located at St. Cecilia's Parish Hall, on Main Street in Wilbraham.

Lunch served at Noon. Our presentation, which will begin at approximately 1:15 p.m. Limited space available.

Call Bobbi-Lee with your reservations by Nov. 7.

We will also be collecting miscellaneous items and cash donations for our Veterans at this meeting.

## Town of Wilbraham Veterans Day Breakfast, Nov. 6

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

This event is open to all Wilbraham Veterans or Surviving Spouses and one guest.

When: Thursday, Nov. 6

at 8 a.m. Where: Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield Street

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

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

## Heritage Pops Orchestra

LUDLOW - The Heritage Pops Orchestra presents a Luncheon Ballroom Dance featuring Big Band Sounds of the 20-piece Heritage Pops Orchestra.

The event takes place on Sunday, Nov. 2, with a meat-

ball grinder luncheon at 1 p.m. and music and dancing from 1:30 to 4 p.m. \$20 admission at the door.

Polish American Citizens Club, 355 East Street, Ludlow. Tickets available at the door.

## Wilbraham Junior Women's Club thanks sponsors, guests

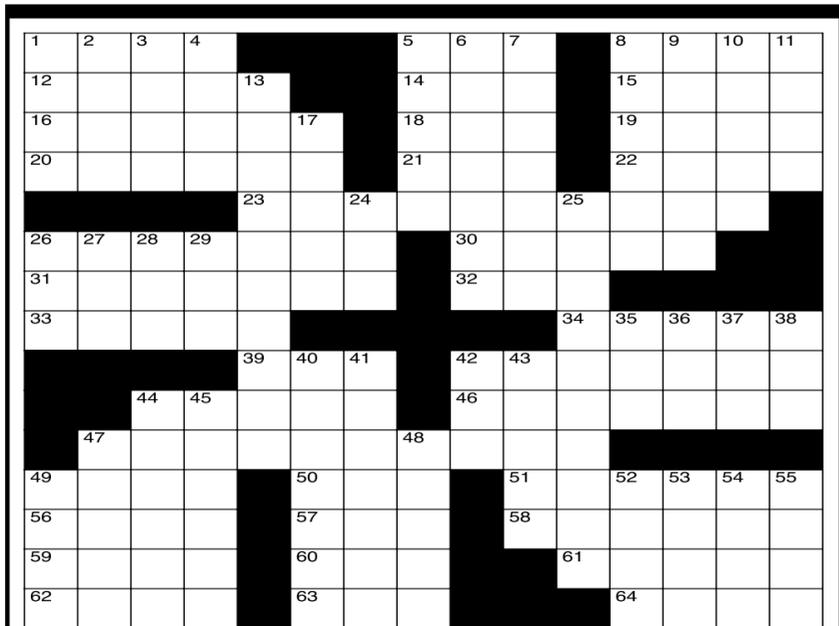
WILBRAHAM - The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club extends heartfelt thanks to the generous sponsors who helped make this year's Designer Bag Bingo fundraiser an unforgettable evening.

The event combined fun, friendship, and philanthropy, drawing over 250 guests to raise funds for local, national and international community projects.

From compassionate care by Chanda Care, to the inspired home designs of Kitchen Encounters, the steady support from Louis & Clark Medical Supply, financial guidance from Wil-

lard Financial Group, and community commitment from LUSO Federal Credit Union — these partners helped turn Bingo fun into funding for programs that touch lives. They not only invest in their clients, but also in their community.

100% of the proceeds from the event support the Club's ongoing work; including scholarships, local outreach, and service projects. The Club is proud to live its motto of "Living the Volunteer Spirit" and is deeply thankful to the support of sponsors and guests who make its mission possible.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. El \_\_, Texas town
5. Rocker's tool
8. A lot
12. Traveling by ground
14. Spelling competition
15. Two-toed sloth
16. Small perfumed bag
18. "Much \_\_ about nothing"
19. Tough-skinned mollusk
20. Removes from record
21. It warms the planet
22. Leafy green
23. Quality of arriving favorably
26. Living thing
30. "Six of Crows" author Bardugo
31. Got around a rule
32. Resin from burned substance
33. Iraq seaport

34. Religious leaders
39. Fugitives are on it
42. Samson's influencer
44. Italian city
46. A quality of lacking interest
47. Predatory tropical fishes
49. Nobel physician
50. Luck
51. Stationary part of a motor or generator
56. Orthopedic professional group (abbr.)
57. One point south of due east
58. It follows 79
59. Paper currency
60. Anger
61. Spanish seaport
62. Sleep in a rough place

63. Famous museum
64. Selfs

### CLUES DOWN

1. Bullfighting maneuver
2. From a distance
3. Soul and calypso song
4. Expressions of delight
5. Lower in esteem
6. Inner region of an organ
7. Flowers
8. A bog
9. Remove a fastening
10. Membranes
11. Enormous
13. One who abstains from drink
17. Malayan wild ox
24. Type of student
25. Rejecting all moral principles
26. Sino-Soviet block
27. Egyptian unit of weight
28. Wrong
29. Make a mistake
35. Indicates location
36. Boxing's "GOAT"
37. Where wrestlers compete
38. Timid
40. Disney town
41. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
42. Male parent
43. Remove for good
44. Simple shoes
45. Flowers
47. Hindi courtesy title for a man
48. Not pleased
49. "Atlas Shrugged" author
52. CIA officer and writer
53. Hoodlum
54. \_\_ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor
55. Woolen rugs



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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# Rick's Place announces Community Art Exhibit honoring Children's Grief Awareness Month; opening Nov. 3

WILBRAHAM - Rick's Place invites the community to join in honoring Children's Grief Awareness Month through "Colors of Grief: Shades of Love and Loss," an inspiring art exhibit featuring original works created by youth and adult participants of Rick's Place.

The exhibit opens with a community reception on Monday, Nov. 3, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the William Blizzard Art Gallery at Springfield College and will remain on display throughout the month of November.

This meaningful collection of artwork explores how grief, love, and memory shape our lives after loss. Each piece offers a personal reflection—an intimate expression of what it means to remember, to miss, and

to move forward. The title, "Shades of Love and Loss," reflects the many ways grief can be uniquely experienced, with each artwork revealing the individual journey and creative expression of its artist.

Guests are invited to a "Meet the Artists" gathering at 6:00 p.m. and encouraged to bring a small photograph of their loved one who has died to contribute to the exhibit's Memory Wall Installation.

Rick's Place, a nonprofit organization based in Wilbraham, provides free peer grief support programs to children, teens, and families across Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut. With over 5,000 children in Hampden County having experienced the death of

a parent or sibling, Rick's Place continues to be a compassionate space where families find understanding, connection, and hope

### Event Details

Title: Colors of Grief: Shades of Love and Loss  
Opening Reception: Monday, Nov. 3, 5 to 7:30 p.m.  
Location: William Blizzard Art Gallery, Springfield College Visual Arts Center, Blake Hall, 2nd Floor, 316 Wilbraham Ave., Springfield, MA 01109.

Gallery Hours: Open daily, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., throughout November

For more information, contact: Betsy Flores, bflores@ricksplacema.org, www.ricksplacema.org

## Donald J. Flannery

Donald J. Flannery, a Wilbraham resident since 1968, died in his home on Friday, Oct. 10, 2025. He was born in Springfield, MA on January 28, 1940.



Don was a loving son, brother, cousin, brother-in-law, uncle and friend. He believed that sticking to principles and contributing to a cause greater than oneself should guide one's life. He epitomized "service above self" in every aspect of his life.

Don was a Past Grand Knight and a 4th degree Knight of Columbus at St. Cecilia's Parish in Wilbraham. He was one of four founding members of KofC Council 10195.

Don was a very loyal and active member of the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary for more than twenty years, serving two terms as President of the club. He donated as much of his time and resources to Rotary as he possibly could.

Don was a devoted member of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, donating as much of his time and resources as he could.

Don loved Wilbraham and he genuinely cared about the Town's welfare.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Natalie and Joseph Flannery of Springfield, MA.; brother John (Jack) Flannery of Colorado Springs, CO; and brother-

## OBITUARY

### Death Notice

**Donald J. Flannery**  
Died Oct. 10, 2025

in-law Alfred Laude, Jr. of Wells, ME. He is survived by his two sisters, Mary Ann Lewis of Sunnyvale, CA and Joan Laude of Wells, ME; and cousin, Elizabeth Flannery-Wallace of Framingham, MA and many nieces, nephews.

A memorial mass was held at St. Cecilia Catholic Church; 42 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025 at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Wilbraham Rotary Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 682; Wilbraham, MA 01095 or St. Cecilia Catholic Church; 42 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 5:30 PM** on the application of Daniil Gerasimchuk (contractor) for a special permit (ZBA25-10) under the provisions of Section 3.3.2 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the expansion of a pre-existing non-conforming structure on property owned by Michael and Laura Barcome at 579 Main Street as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at [www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals).

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/389799037> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 389-799-037).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman  
10/30, 11/06/2025

### WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Daniil Gerasimchuk (contractor) for Site Plan Approval (SPA25-04) under Sections 3.4.2.8 and 4.10 of the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaw to allow construction of a 672 square foot detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) on property owned by Michael and Laura Barcome located at 579 Main Street as shown on plans 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](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board). Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/593817805> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 593-817-805).

10/23, 10/30/2025

### LEGAL NOTICE

**Sale of Motor Vehicle**  
Under G.L. c. 255 Sec. 39A  
Bach Towing Inc., 165 Benton Drive, East Longmeadow, MA is holding a private sale of the following vehicle on **11/21/2025 at**

**2:00 p.m.** to satisfy our garage keepers lien thereon for storage and towing charges and expenses of Notices of Sale.

Priscilla Texidor  
128 Wood Lawn St.  
Springfield, MA 01108  
2008 Nissan Sentra SE-R  
VIN# 3N1BB61E78L666287

York Tree Service  
210 Thayer Rd.  
Higganum, CT 06441  
2012 Ford F450 Super Duty  
VIN# 1FD0X4HTXCEB81726

Kevin Leblanc  
687 Frank Smith Rd.  
Longmeadow, MA 01106  
2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee  
VIN: 1J4GR48K26C200963  
10/30, 11/06, 11/13/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield MA, 01103 Docket No. HD21P2070PM In the matter of: Josephine Carabello Of: Wilbraham, MA Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Third and Final** account(s) of Alison Bartlett-O'Donaldof Holyoke, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

**You have the right to object to the account(s).** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **11/19/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return date (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which

each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

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

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 15, 2025  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
10/30/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P2170EA Estate of: Jean Dianne Footit Also known as: Jean D Footit Date of Death: 09/24/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Orchard Valley at Wilbraham of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Karen Lavoie of Nashua, NH** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this**

**proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/24/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 20, 2025  
Rosemary A Saccomani,  
Register of Probate  
10/30/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P1774EA Estate of: Doris K. Johnson Date of Death: 02/28/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **North Brookfield Savings Bank of North Brookfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in

the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **North Brookfield Savings Bank of North Brookfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/11/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 14, 2025  
Rosemary A Saccomani,  
Register of Probate  
10/30/2025

**TOWN OF WILBRAHAM PUBLIC HEARING: TAX CLASSIFICATION** (Posted October 14, 2025)  
**The hearing will begin at 7:10 PM, November 3, 2025**

The Wilbraham Select Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 3, 2025, at 7:10 P.M.** in the Town Office Building, Select Board's Meeting Room, 240 Springfield Street, for the purpose of explaining, and

soliciting comments relevant to, the establishment of the property tax rate for fiscal year 2026. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Sections 18-25. Residents may comment relative to the adoption of the tax levy percentages required by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 56, as amended. Anyone wishing to testify or comment should participate, virtually or in person, at the hearing at the time and date noted above.

Wilbraham Select Board  
10/23, 10/30/2025



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

**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.

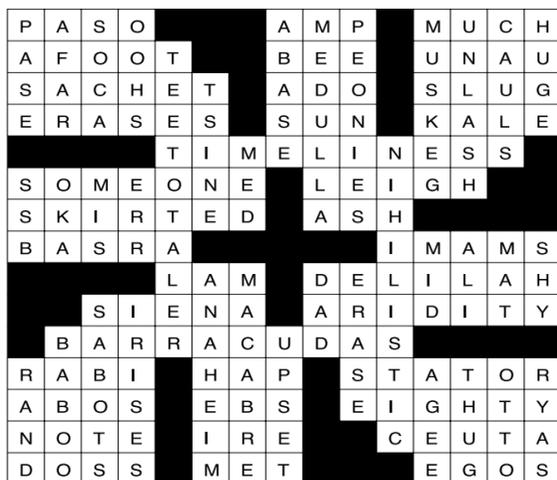
## Wilbraham-Hampden Times OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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



## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

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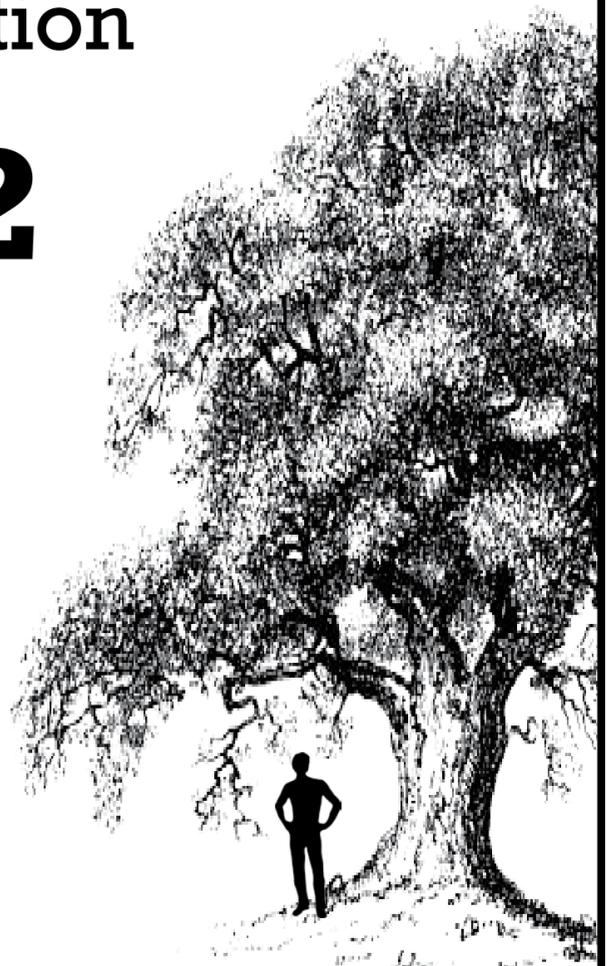
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