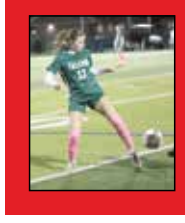
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# 'MUSIC FOR THE SOUL'
## Supports St. Cecilia Church music ministry

**By Harold Anderson**
*Correspondent*




Photo courtesy of Sandy Polom

**From the left we have Sergei Novikov, Sandy Polom (Wilbraham) and Fran Polom (Wilbraham). The Poloms are also parishioners at St. Cecilia Church.**

WILBRAHAM – Music was in the air at St. Cecilia's Church in Wilbraham on Thursday, Oct. 22 as over 150 people came together for an evening entitled "Music for the Soul" with concert pianist Sergei Novikov as a fundraiser for the church's music ministry.

One attendee, Gail Manning of Wilbraham, herself a member of the St. Cecilia's Choir for over 30 years, said she was there to support the music program (at the church) and encouraged others to do so as well.

"This is St. Cecilia's Church, after all, the Patron Saint of Music," Manning said.

Fran and Sandy Polom hosted the event in honor of Fran's late parents Dr. Anthony and Mary Polom and explained the reason for the fundraiser.

"We're parishioners of St. Cecilia's and we wanted to be able to do something to give back to the music ministry," Sandy Polom said.

She hoped that the audience that night would experience Sergei's "beautiful music, his talent, his repertoire of all different types of music."

Please see **MUSIC**, page 10

# Regional agreement changes, amendments pass at Hampden STM

**By Kristin Rivers**
*Editor*
*krivers@turley.com*

HAMPDEN - Changes and amendments to the regional agreementwere passed by majority vote in Hampden on Oct. 26.

The town of Wilbraham will also need to vote on the changes and amendments, which will take place at their Special Town Meeting on Nov. 9. If passed there, the regional agreement will then head to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the finalization signature by the commissioner.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost explained he's worked with members of Hampden and Wilbraham's town government, the School Committee and DESE for the past four years to update the regional agreement. Last spring, it was noted by DESE "that our outdated agreement needed to be updated."

The regional agreement has been in place since 1956, with previous amendments done in 1994 and 2015; it is between the two towns, School Committee and DESE.

"It was really significantly negatively impacting the students," Provost said. "Some of you have been very faithfully attending our meetings, so you know what's been going on and tonight we have an update to bring you that I think protects the interests of all, most importantly our students moving forward."

### The Changes

Sections One, Two and Three, Provost said, "really are not substantive" but reflect changes in laws and regulations.

"Some of it is language cleanup. One part of our current agreement talks about an interim committee that was supposed to exist between January of 1994 and then expire in June of 1994. So, we obviously no longer need that language, so we're cleaning that up," Provost said.

Please see **STM**, page 5

# KOC presents donation to WPD Ofc. Alberici

**By Harold Anderon**
*Correspondent*

WILBRAHAM – The monthly meeting of Knights of Columbus Council 10195 on Tuesday, Oct. 20 featured a special guest, Officer Jack Alberici of the Wilbraham Police Department, who was present to receive a donation from the Knights to assist with medical expenses as he continues his efforts to get a kidney transplant.

Alberici has a condition called Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), a rare kidney disease that involves scarring of the kidney and he has been raising money to help with the costs involved in his treatment.

Jack's father, Peter Alberici, came with his son and explained about his son's condition.

"In his case, it's a genetic kidney disease that runs on my wife's side of the family. He's 27 years old….We found out about it back in March of this year," he said, adding, "it was quite a shock to us. We had no idea that it was coming."

Explaining the need for a new kidney, Alberici said, "His kidneys, the function was less than 10%, so he's on dialysis. He needs to find a kidney donor."

As for where they go from here, Alberici noted that, while his son is on the deceased donor list, it's not the perfect choice.

"The right choice would be a living donor," he said, explaining that "It's a long process to be evaluated. We have two people that are very close to the finish line. We have two or three others that are just behind them."

The hope for the family is to find a suitable kidney donor soon.

"We're hoping by the end of this year to have three, four or five donors to choose from," Alberici said.

Jack Alberici expressed his gratitude to all those who have come together to sup-

Please see **KNIGHTS**, page 9



Turley photo by Selena Nguyen

**Maria Puppolo, her cousin, and Library Director Melissa Harter posing for a photo.**

# WPL recognizes Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Author Talk

**By Selena Nguyen**
*Correspondent*

WILBRAHAM – On Oct. 14, the Wilbraham Public Library hosted an author talk for the recently published "If You've Been There, Then You Know: My Breast Cancer Journey of Self-Discovery," showcasing local author Maria Puppolo.

After Puppolo, who is a frequent visitor of the WPL, attended the Library's monthly Book Club, she met and began talking with Library Director Melissa Harter. The two were thrilled to host the event, just in time for October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

In her inspiring talk, she shared her personal experience of being diagnosed with Breast Cancer and her battle with it. Puppolo underwent many hardships over the past year, including having to fight COVID-19, her mother being diagnosed with Stage 4 Breast Cancer, a complicated hospital jour-

Please see **BREAST CANCER**, page 15

# A Toast to Memories to take place Nov. 6

**By Kristin Rivers**
*Editor*
*krivers@turley.com*

WILBRAHAM - Age & Dementia Friendly Wilbraham will host A Toast to Memories wine-tasting fundraiser event on Friday, Nov. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the senior center.

The event will also feature raffle prizes, musical entertainment and two speakers, a local caregiver who is part of the Memory Cafe and a local man, Sean Terwilliger, who currently battles dementia and wrote a book about his experience.

Tickets are $25 for seniors 55 and older and $40 for everyone else who would like to attend. Residents can call the senior center at 413-596-8379 to reserve their seat or pay for tickets at the door.

Ticket purchases are cash or check only.

Please see **MEMORIES**, page 3




**Best-selling author Howard Odentz and illustrator Karen Burke debuted a new book at the show.**

*Fall into Art*

# Scantic River Artisans show off their wares

**By Patricia Sullivan**
*Correspondent*

HAMPDEN — Crafting jewelry is great fun, says Nan Hurlburt, one of the artists showing their work at the Scantic River Artisans art show and sale held in the Community Room of the Hampden Senior Center on Oct. 24 and 25.

That spirit of fun was evident in many of the works at the show—from Hurlburt's creative jewelry to paintings, photography, pottery, metal work and books.

Scantic River Artisans are inclusive, says President Laura Salerno.

"We have artists from a wide variety of media and we have members ranging from those who are just begin-

Please see **FALL ART**, page 12




Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

**Nan Hurlburt with her wine-inspired jewelry.**

# The waste nature can't digest

## Local students, creating big impact

**By Tia M. Assaf**

WILBRAHAM - "The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion." -Paulo Coelho

Dear Wilbraham, think with me. How much plastic have you used today?

How about this week? I'm thinking quite a number.

When living our everyday lives, it's easy to consume mindlessly. We use plastic when cooking, cleaning, working, you name it!

Whilst many of this seems unavoidable, it remains a priority to hold yourself accountable. Follow along as we discuss terrifying worldly facts, and the plastic superheroes coming after them. This is your sign to waste less, and read on.

### The Terrifying Reality of Plastic

In order to make a change, you must understand what's happening. Let's look at the facts.

Say you have a nice chocolate bar you just finished. You are now left with the wrapper.



Here's a student hard at work on his project.

You don't see any trash cans nearby, so you toss it to the side of the street and forget about it. We call this mismanaged plastic. And, believe it or not, mismanaged plastic STILL COUNTS! According to National Geographic Magazine, "Rainwater ushers mismanaged waste from land into local waterways, which feed into larger tributaries and rivers, which in turn empty into oceans. In this way, plastic from far inland can travel many miles to the coastline."

This is terrible. Now let's think.

Your chocolate wrapper made it all the way to the ocean, now what? Well, it's important to note that plastic never really degrades.

Your chocolate wrapper isn't going to dissolve into thin air. Some plastic gets washed up on coastlines, whereas others sink deep into the world's oceans.

Sometimes, your waste can even end up directly into the mouth of a sea creature! Hundreds of sea creatures are constantly being affected by plastic waste, every single day.

According to Fauna and Flora International, a wildlife conservation organization, "marine plastics are contributing to more than 100,000 marine mammals every year."



Giving the peace sign while working on a project.

This is one insane statistic. It is amazing to consider just how many lives we might be able to save, with just a few new lifestyle changes.

### Let Project STOMP Inspire You!

Now that we've got the record straight, let's take action! There are so many different ways you can contribute to the recovery of our planet.

Some common ways people enjoy supporting our oceans are things like carrying a reusable water bottle, bringing around travel mugs, and skipping things like plastic straws and plastic silverware. However, this year, Wilbraham Middle School, took things a step further.



Submitted photos Tia Assaf

Wilbraham Middle School students hard at work on their STOMP projects.

Let me introduce you to Project STOMP (Students Taking On Minimizing Plastic). Here, dozens of students designed a variety of projects to help convince you to cut the waste.

Do you have any plastic food packages? Maybe from last night's taco dinner, or your student's lunchbox essentials?

You can do something! Some Project STOMP participants have chosen to take little everyday single use plastic items and make them into something meaningful.

Take the students Taishla Rowe Singleton and Preston Hebert. They took everyday items like plastic water bottles, plastic straws, bottle caps, and lots of paint!

With these items, they were able to create something out of oceanic litter. The two chose to make an impressive looking plastic shark, to help motivate others to cut the excess plastic.

This is just one of the many incredible STOMP projects designed by students. Other ideas include inspiring posters, stunning murals and even real tools used to help extract plastic from different bodies of water.

It's amazing to look at the work of young generations choosing to make a big impact. Whether you decide to make plastic awareness crafts or use this article as a reminder to minimize plastic in your own daily life, I hope you come to realize just how beneficial your aid can be.

Together, we can transform this earth.

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# Locks of Love Nov. 25

HAMPDEN – The VFW Post 9397 will be hosting a Locks of Love event on Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m.

Tickets are currently on sale at $1 each or buy six for $5.

The winner will get to cut George's hair.

All proceeds raised will be donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Get your tickets and support a great cause!

*The first in an occasional series from Jason & Kent Pecoy on building and maintaining your home*

# The Remodel-or-Rebuild Question Confronting New England Homeowners

*With housing inventory tight and the region's housing stock aging, Jason and Kent Pecoy work with homeowners to address the remodel-or-rebuild question.*

***By Jason & Kent Pecoy***

New England has some of the oldest housing stock in the country, and for most of the past decade it has also had some of the tightest inventory. The combination has pushed a growing number of homeowners toward a question that used to belong mostly to developers: is it smarter to renovate the house you have, or to take it down and start over?

The answer is less obvious than either camp claims, and few people sit closer to the decision than the contractors who execute both sides of it.

We've collectively spent more than forty years in the building trade, now as Principals of LAKAY Building and Remodeling Inc. in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, with experience leading a family construction and home building business. LAKAY handles new construction, full remodels, and home additions across Western Massachusetts and Connecticut, which means the remodel-or-rebuild calculation crosses our desk from both directions.

### The Economics of Staying Put

The case for remodeling usually begins with what the existing house already paid for: the foundation, the utility connections, the mature lot, and in many towns, a grandfathered footprint that current zoning would never permit new.



Advertisement

Demolition forfeits those assets, and replacement construction prices them at today's costs. For owners whose homes are structurally sound, a disciplined renovation frequently delivers most of the functional value of new construction at a fraction of the disruption.

The qualifier is the word disciplined. Renovation budgets fail when the scope was never honestly defined, and older homes are efficient machines for exposing undefined scope.

### What Older Homes Hide

A century-old colonial does not reveal its condition until the walls open. Undersized framing, abandoned knob-and-tube wiring, moisture damage traveling quietly behind plaster: the unexpected is not a renovation risk so much as a renovation certainty. The variable is how the contractor handles it.

LAKAY's operating practice treats the discovery process as a documentation problem. Projects begin with contracts detailed enough that the client knows precisely what is included, and anything the house reveals afterward is written into a change order describing the work and the cost before it proceeds. The approach does not make surprises free. It makes them priced, approved, and un-disputed, which is the difference between a project that strains a budget and one that ruptures a relationship.

### When Rebuilding Wins

The rebuild case strengthens when the deficiencies are systemic rather than local. A failing foundation, a floor plan fundamentally misaligned with how the owners live, or renovation costs approaching



replacement cost all tilt the math toward new construction, where modern envelope performance, current code compliance, and clean insurance underwriting enter the equation on the rebuild side.

The honest answer, in most cases, is that the decision is specific to the house, and it deserves an assessment from a contractor equally willing to execute either outcome. Owners should be wary of advice from firms that only sell one of the two answers.

New England's housing stock is not getting younger, and the region's inventory problem is not resolving quickly. The remodel-or-rebuild question is becoming a permanent feature of homeownership in the region, and the owners who navigate it well will be the ones who treated it as a diligence exercise rather than a leap of faith.

### About Jason and Kent Pecoy

Jason and Kent Pecoy are Premier Builders with Experience in California, Florida, Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut. Kent, assisted by Jason, also served as the builder for an episode of the popular TV series *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.*

# Back to basics: simple ways to live with less plastic

**By Jake Vanderleeden**

WILBRAHAM - Because microplastics have now infiltrated our food, water, and even our bloodstreams drastically reducing our plastic consumption is no longer just an environmental choice, it can be a medical necessity.

I think a lot of people just throw away plastic with just one use, it is really bad to do that. Do you want to know why?

Single-use plastic straws create massive environmental waste because millions are discarded daily. Consumers typically dispose of these items after one use, often after only a few minutes of utility. They are just thrown away after just at least a few minutes! These lightweight items are too small for most standard recycling machinery, meaning that they avoid recovery systems and end up in landfills or wash directly into oceans.

Once they are in natural habitats, they break down into tiny microplastics, rather than just decomposing. Marine animals often mistake these fragments for food which introduces toxic chemicals into the broader food chain.

Transitioning away from single use plastic starts with simple, everyday habits like asking for your drink without a straw, sipping directly from the glass, or even carrying a reusable alternative made from stainless steel, glass, or bamboo. Restaurants can also transition to a "Straws Upon Request" policy and adopt plant based, biodegradable options to drastically cut down on environmental harm.



A close-up shot of one of the projects.

Submitted photo Jake Vanderleeden

Choosing to refuse that single piece of plastic is an easy first step toward conversations with others to work together to protect natural ecosystems.

I learned this all from a life-changing project at school (Wilbraham Middle School) called "Project S.T.O.M.P". (Students Taking On Minimizing Plastic). It is really motivating for people because they want to show the world what programs like Project STOMP engage students in fighting plastic pollution through public announcements, upcycled art projects, and selling handmade recycled goods to raise awareness.

Anyway, back to explaining the harms of plastic. Once plastic reaches the bottom of the ocean, it settles onto the seafloor.

Without sunlight or high oxygen to break it down, the plastic resists natural decomposition and remains intact for decades or centuries. Over time, deep-sea currents and bottom dwelling organisms grind the debris into tiny microplastics that contaminate marine sediment and local wildlife.

Reducing plastic consumption is a critical step forward in protecting our planet's fragile ecosystems from long-lasting pollution and toxic chemical leaching. By cutting back on single use plastics, we directly prevent hazardous waste from choking marine life and disrupting our vital food chains.

This mission connects with the goals of Project S.T.O.M.P. in science class of late fall 2026, which is teaching us to actively stomp out environmental damages through eco-friendly choices. Implementing these reduction strategies shows how localized student actions can spread to create global benefits.

Ultimately, embracing a plastic free lifestyle ensures a healthier, more resilient world for future generations.

**MEMORIES** from page 1

The funds raised will support the Age & Dementia Friendly Wilbraham initiative.

Katie Krupka, a representative of Age & Dementia Friendly Wilbraham and director of Aging and Placement at Assisted Living Locators, explained that the initiative supports people living with dementia and their caregivers. The event itself also provides a community event that's fun and brings everyone together "who wants to come out and celebrate and support a great cause and support their neighbors."

November is also National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.

"We're here to educate the community, provide resources and basically share information with the community. We plan to have entertainment; we're having lots of raffles including an overnight at The Publick House with a free dinner. There's going to be lots of options," Krupka said. "It's going to be a lot of fun too, so it's not just about the education, it's also about celebrating the community and getting the word out and engaging the community in such an important topic."

Barbara Harrington, the senior center's social services coordinator, emphasized tackling the stigma around dementia.

"That's why we want to educate the people. We wanted to let them know even what the senior center offers, support groups. Katie runs one in the afternoon and then we also offer one in the evenings for family members who need that support, and also, the Memory Cafe, which is such an important program," Harrington said. "These people come in and it's two hours for them not to think of the disease and the illness. They're there to enjoy themselves and that group has become such a bond together."

Krupka said there will also be a commemorative wine glass given away with different wine tastings from Springfield Wine Exchange and sponsors including Country Bank, Hampden Post Acute, Assisted Living Locators and more.

"We're just making it fun, so hopefully people can come and join us and celebrate and get a lot of information," Krupka said.

"And reduce the stigma," Harrington said.

Krupka also stressed the community support.

"I think that's the biggest part. The Dementia Friendly initiative is about that. It's about letting the community know. Having restaurants maybe be understanding of someone who's dining at the restaurant who might have dementia who might be acting confused to have the waitstaff there be able to understand and accommodate those needs and make them feel comfortable within the community," Krupka said. "If somebody's at the grocery store and is kind of maybe looking around confused at what they want, people at the grocery store might (think), 'Okay, this person might need a little help or understanding.' So, really, that's the point. It's a community event because we want the community to be supportive of these people in the community, and again, it's erasing the stigma."

Harrington came up with the idea for the event, stressing the importance of keeping the public aware of dementia since the initiative's launch in 2023 and the town's official certification as a dementia-friendly community last year.

She and Krupka also hope to find a way to continue supporting caregivers in the community.

"It's a fun event. Something different. A lot of Alzheimer's walks, they do a lot of fundraising, but this is a little different and I thought that we maybe get more of the public out and family members to come out," Harrington said. "I feel it's very important to do this to keep this in people's attention."

"We've been talking for a long time since we've started this initiative years ago. Let's do an event, let's figure out a way to do an event. We threw a bunch of things around and we finally settled on this idea and we've been working really hard," Krupka said. "So, what we can do to give back is by educating people, erasing the stigma and supporting them through community resources, through support and that's what we're trying to do and that's why this event is important for that and hope people can come and join us."

Harrington added that attendees don't have to come to drink wine and there will be other options available too.

Krupka said the community can also continue lending their support by sponsoring a Memory Cafe, donating food or activities and connecting with Harrington about other ways to help.

The message was this.

"Dementia doesn't just affect the person diagnosed. It touches the lives of spouses, children, grandchildren, friends, anyone who loves them. Watching someone you care about experience memory loss can be heartbreaking," Harrington said. "This is why community awareness and support are so important. When people better understand dementia, we can replace fear and misunderstanding with compassion, patience and acceptance. Something as simple as a kind word or a listening ear or offering a caregiver time for themselves can make a tremendous difference."

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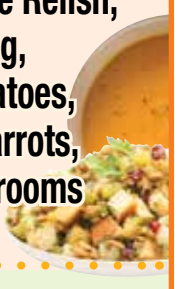
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**STM** from page 1

The first significant change is SectionThree on the reality of current student assignment to note all students are educated in a "unified middle school."

"But, that's not what our agreement says, and that leads to many problems and absurdities. For example, every student in Hampden wishing to go to the middle school needs to apply to the School Committee for special permission to attend the middle school," Provost said. "Section three is updated in this agreement to reflect that we have a unified middle school, which is in fact what we have in place."

Another change concerns modernizing middle school facilities, with Provost sharing both towns' boards and the School Committee have sought state funding to address issues at Wilbraham Middle School.

"Another piece of the district report pointed out that there were many issues with conditions at the middle school and so there's a process called MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) to whereby the towns can receive support from the state in order to do construction, in order to do refurbishment, in order to do things," Provost said. "But, for that to happen the regional agreement needs to be in order. So, reflecting the actual reality of assignments allows the towns to work together to access state funding to try to create a better situation for middle school students."

Section Four would allow cost averaging for town assessments, which is based on the percentage of enrollment from the two towns.

"This past year, there was a pretty significant shift in student population from Wilbraham to Hampden, which resulted in a large assessment increase to Hampden. It's about a five and a half percent increase…in large part driven because of that population shift," Provost said. "What the new language in section four allows is for the towns to do an average—rolling average—of the last three years. It's not a requirement, but it's an option that the two towns can implement…"

After noting sections five and six related to language cleanup and things to do with current regulations, Provost summarized Section Seven, which is about creating a Regional Agreement Advisory Committee. It would meet every five years to look through the regional agreement and if there are updates or changes or not, they would go before the School Committee and the towns with their suggestions and reports.

Sections Eight, 9 and 10 were also minor changes.

"Section Eight just aligns the budget timeline to the actual current town timelines and state timelines. What's called for in the agreement actually isn't what the towns need. Section 9 talks about the process for incurring debt. The debt language currently in there doesn't align to the current state law for debt," Provost said. "Section 10, again, includes another section about this committee that only existed for half a year and is no longer in operation. So, we'd like to clean that up."

Provost encouraged the voters to support passage of the changes and amendments, emphasizing the collaboration done, how DESE's legal review was completed and ready to sign off and the School Committee approved it.

**Residents Share Thoughts**

Several residents shared their thoughts, ranging from capital costs and the state of WMS to School Committee power concerns and other projects coming down the road in Hampden.

Town Treasurer Richard Patullo's questions concerned capital costs, appreciating how Provost brought up that WMS "is not in the best of shape and has its deficiencies" and the plan for state funding. However, he noted the agreement mentioning Hampden "is liable for its portion of any capital improvements to that building or capital repairs to that building."

"What happens in the event that the state doesn't come through with the money or doesn't come through with 100% of the money?" Patullo said. "It doesn't bother me to help defray future capital costs on a building that's in good shape, but this one, allegedly, is not in the best of shape and I wouldn't mind a response from you or the Selectmen."



**Superintendent Dr. John Provost led the presentation on Article 1 and later answered questions from residents during the discussion.**



**School Committee Chair Michal Boudreau reads the motion for Article 1 on the changes and amendments to the regional agreement.**



**Selectboard Member Don Davenport provided additional clarifications and thoughts during the discussion.**

Patullo's other question concerned the definition of what's a capital item or what's outside the operating budget.

"If I read that correctly, it's $5,000 and a one-year reusable life. That's, I think, a considerable change from what's a capital item now," Patullo said. "So, that change puts a lot of stuff outside of the operating budget and I was just wondering what the logic was for that."

Provost said this regional agreement "doesn't change the obligations with respect to the current middle school."

"This is something that the Select Boards have been working on as part of that process for a long time. The resolution that they came to was to address the ongoing capital costs of the middle school outside of this agreement through an MOA," Provost said. "So, this does not change anyone's obligations to the middle school. What it does say is if a new middle school were to be created through the process that I talked about—let's say a brand new construction or a substantially refurbished building—that that would be a regional middle school much like Minnechaug is. But the current Wilbraham Middle School building, nothing has changed about the capital responsibilities in this agreement."

On the definition of capital, he noted that was one of the things that was part of the regulatory change process where it was recommended to use the particular definition of capital in the updates being made.

Selectboard Chair John Flynn agreed on the wording.

"The way the wording is right now, the obligation is only for district-owned buildings and Wilbraham Middle School is not owned by the district," Flynn said.

Selectboard Member Don Davenport clarified the $5,000.

"The $5,000 is the DESE's definition of a capital thing, but the lease agreement still maintains the $35,000," Davenport said.

Gabrielle Fisk asked about types of protections for Hampden when structural and organizational changes happen in the district.

"From a staffing perspective, what type of protections are in place for Hampden, specifically knowing that we are disproportionately impacted by those staffing changes because of the nature of our two classroom grade level Green Meadows schools," Fisk said.

Provost replied how "the largest protection that the new agreement brings in is the opportunity for implementing the three-year average because the smaller your base is, the greater your possibility for variance."

"So, if you implement the three-year averaging, you have the opportunity to mitigate the impact of what happened last year," Provost said.

Rita Vail reviewed charts for capital repairs to the middle school that were needed and later read aloud Section 3B, saying this.

"This not only means that Hampden no longer has to ask—parents no long have to ask—to send their children over, but also it gives the School Committee the power to put our middle school children at Minnechaug. In 2018, both Wilbraham and Hampden voted overwhelmingly not to make that move, and this agreement—this amendment—would allow the School Committee to have more power," Vail said. "I personally recommend negative action."

After Lisa Sternberg shared similar comments on funding and noted the voting ratio between the towns of Hampden and Wilbraham on the School Committee, Maura Ryan also asked about the representation and if there was the opportunity to have a new middle school, "are we still going to be required to pay 50% of that."

"Is there going to be percentage called out in the regional agreement for that language? Because, again, I know that we've had the same regional agreement for over 30 years. We've had two separate votes on the same regional agreement; about changing it, and, at no point, has our town council or the Department of Education ever come back and said that we had to change it," Ryan said. "But now, we're being pushed and forced to do it. But then, is DESE going to go back and refund us or give us money back to fully give us transportation costs? Are they going to give us the additional cost required to fund special education? Because those costs are the burden that we bear and changing the regional agreement, if they're not going to come to the table and be willing to hold up their end of the bargain, how can we hold them accountable? Because I don't necessarily think that DESE should be able to tell us what to do. We should tell them what we want and they should meet us there."

Provost agreed with Ryan's points, adding that the current version of the regional agreement is "a weighted voting agreement."

"Currently, the regional agreement calls for weighted votes between the town of Hampden and Wilbraham. That's not actually a state law, that's a U.S. Constitutional requirement. It's the one person, one vote rule," Provost said. "The current agreement is approved because it follows a one person one vote principle and any subsequent version that DESE would approve would also have to conform to the one person one vote rule."

On Ryan's other question, he referenced the section discussing debt, with the proportion of the debt service being set by the proportion of the school populations "made up of each of the towns at the time the vote was taken," similar to the split for the Minnechaug debt.

Davenport shared how he was a member of the Planning Committee when it started in 2023 and emphasized this.

"I was very adamant to defend Hampden, but we are where we are. We need to take care of the students. We need to take care of the building and even to the last two weeks ago, I told them I wasn't going to vote for this unless the Department of Education and Secondary Education did certain things. They dropped out the emergency funding and that," Davenport said. "As much as I love Thornton Burgess and I love being here, I think it is an important thing to do. We need to act and we need to begin moving forward. It's about the future, not about the past."

Other major STM highlights included the votes on options to explore for the former Town House and a certified citizens petition pertaining to Reserve Ofc. Michael Kane.

The Times will have a recap of these votes in upcoming editions.

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PAWZAAR ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR
PAWZAAR CRAFT FAIR
Saturday, November 14th
10AM - 3 PM
Bring a pet food donation and receive a raffle ticket!
St. Catherine's Church – 1023 Parker St., Springfield
This community favorite event features over 40 vendors from around the Pioneer Valley, loads of fabulous raffles, pet merchandise, a bake sale, and an exciting special raffle. This event is FREE to the public, so come on out and enjoy the festive atmosphere, shop for unique gifts, and support a great cause.
Proceeds benefit the animals in need at Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center.
Foundation for TJO Animals

# VIEWPOINTS

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

## What happens if Social Security runs out of money to pay benefits?

**Dear Rusty:**

*What happens to seniors if the country runs out of funds to pay out monthly Social Security to beneficiaries?*

*I am 78 yrs old and Social Security is my only income.*

**Signed: Worried Senior**

**Dear Worried Senior:**

Please put your mind at ease, the government will never run out of money to pay Social Security benefits.

That's because if people are working and contributing to the program (e.g., always), Social Security will always have at least some money to pay benefits. What you are hearing about are recent media reports about Social Security having financial issues, expected to come to a head in just a few (six) years.

The primary risk for you (and everyone else) is this: if the reserves in the Social Security Trust Fund (currently about $2.5 trillion) run dry, it would result in a reduction to everyone's monthly benefits.

Right now, the Social Security Trustees are projecting a cut of about 22% starting in the fall of 2032. But that will only happen if Congress fails to act and reform the SS program before the SS reserves are fully depleted.

And that is, in our opinion, not likely to happen unless Congress is completely and totally derelict in its obligations to American seniors and their dependents. Not a pleasant scenario, but neither is it one likely to occur.

Here at the AMAC Foundation, we are working vigorously to prevent the depletion of the Social Security Trust Fund and our expectation is that Congress will, indeed, eventually take action to prevent any cuts to monthly benefits.

It would be political suicide for Congress (and any President) to allow those Social Security benefit cuts to occur. That would greatly increase the poverty level in America. As we have often reported publicly, we have already proposed a commonsense plan to restore Social Security to long term solvency and are working in Congress and with the Social Security Administration to promote the needed reform.

You can see more details of AMAC's plan here: https://amac.us/social-security-guarantee

So, while we fully understand your personal anxiety, we feel confident in assuring you that you are very unlikely to experience any cuts to your monthly Social Security income.

We are firmly committed to preventing that from happening and will continue to vigorously lobby Congress to make the SS changes needed before the SS Trust Fund is fully depleted.

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

# A place to call their own

**By Brandice J. O'Brien**
*Marketing and C ommunications Manager, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity*




**Chantal (far left) and her family celebrate her selection for Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's Homeownership Program.**

WEST SPRINGFIELD - When Chantal and her three young children immigrated to Western Massachusetts in 2012, she couldn't know everything the years ahead would bring. But she knew what she wanted for them: a better life and more opportunities. Fourteen years later, after navigating the challenges of starting over in a new country, the family is preparing for another beginning — a home Chantal will help build and purchase through Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH).

Chantal received the news on a warm, sunny Friday afternoon in late June. She and her children stepped outside to find Habitat staff and board members waiting with a sign, smiles, and congratulations.

"I did not expect it at all," she said. "I was very surprised and happy when Habitat came and told us. Being chosen by Habitat for Humanity means so much to us because it allows our family to finally have the stability we have been searching for."

When they arrived in the United States in 2012, Chantal's children were 3, 7, and 10. Before that, the family had lived as refugees in Rwanda after Chantal was forced to leave her native Democratic Republic of Congo because of war and conflict. In Western Massachusetts, she faced the challenges of adjusting to a new way of life while working to provide a stable home for her children.

"We have had to move three different times. One apartment was affected by a fire. Another became too small for our family, and at another home, the landlord decided to sell the property. We had to move again," Chantal said. "Each move meant packing our belongings, finding another place to live, and starting over again."

Chantal, who is a housekeeper at a nursing home, said she learned about Greater Springfield Habitat online and through people who have been through the program.

"I applied because I want a safe, stable, and affordable home for my family," she said. "I want my children to have a place they can call 'home.'"

Now, Chantal has begun the Habitat Homebuyer Academy as part of her sweat equity requirements, taking the first steps toward building and purchasing her family's home.

"Chantal has worked hard to create opportunities for her children through every challenge and every move," said Olga Callirgos, GSHFH Homeowner Services manager. "As she works toward purchasing her home, she's building on that commitment. We're excited to walk alongside her as her family prepares for a future with a place to call their own."




# Take notice of the subtle oak

Sometimes subtle beauty is just as eye catching as full-blown fireworks.

This fact was reinforced this past week, when oak trees took center stage as leaves worthy of peeping. No, they do not possess the pumpkin orange, lemon yellow or cherry red tones that maples do, but nonetheless they quietly beg the passerby to take notice.

Ahh, burnt umber, raw sienna and burnt sienna, mahogany and magentas. Gosh, I love them all.

It's like taking a peek inside a very good oil painting kit and seeing all your favorites.

Why don't we take a closer look at the genus called Quercus, to which our beloved oak belongs. The oak is a member of the beech or Fagaceae family.

One unique feature that the oak has and other members of the family do not is that its nut is carried in a cap. The nut and cap together are called an acorn.




Acorns are a valuable food source for wildlife. Wild turkey, deer, larger songbirds and squirrels among others depend on the nut for surviving the winter.

One way to tell the difference between species of oak tree is by their acorns. Examine how they wear their "cap."

The cap of the white oak is about one-quarter the size of the oblong shaped nut. The red oak, on the other hand, has a squatty, saucer-like cap covering a more globose shaped nut.

The pin oak has an obtuse nut and a more diminutive cap- a big belly so to speak!

There are some 500 species of oak throughout the world. Some of them are evergreen, holding onto their leaves throughout the winter months.

These oaks are located in the more southern, warmer regions of our country. Even though our oaks are deciduous, it takes a long time for them to completely defoliate.

Sometimes it is the next season's emerging leaves that finally push the old ones off! This is often problematic for the homeowner who likes to keep his lawn leaf-free.

At work I once saw a young groundskeeper attempt to shake the leaves off of a young pin oak tree – just to be done with his weekly task!

Most oaks tolerate transplanting the best when they are young and small in size. The pin oak is one exception; its shallow, fibrous root system allows it to be transplanted as a larger specimen.

For this reason, the pin oak is widely used for home landscaping. It is also highly sought after because of its unique, pyramidal shape: the lowest branches are pendulous, the middle are horizontal and the top are upright.

Did you know that cork is harvested from the bark of a species of oak tree? Yes, the cork oak grows in Spain, Portugal and parts of Northern Africa.

Another interesting fact: oaks get struck by lightning more than any other tree. This is likely due to their height, some topping over 80 feet at maturity.

The oak tree can grow to be very old. Reportedly, the oldest oak tree in the United States is in Temula, California.

This Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia) named the Pechanga Great Oak, is estimated at 2000 years old!

In nearby Maryland, the Wye Oak lived to be about 460 years old before its demise in 2002. It topped off at 95 feet tall, 165 feet wide and 8 feet in diameter.

In 2006, a clone of the tree was planted in the remains of the trunk in a special ceremony.

All the trivia aside, I hope that you take notice of the subtle colors that line our hills and vales now that the fireworks have subsided. If you are forced to look at them "up close and personal" by way of a rake, don't forget they make great mulch – just chop them up with the lawnmower first. Your plants will benefit from your labor.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

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The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES

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**Correction Policy**

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

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

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

**Campaign news**

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

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

# Life in WILBRAHAM & HAMPDEN

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



The Grassetti Family came to the event all decked out in Halloween costumes.



Submitted photos Dan Blanchard

Second place went to Rapunzel, with this trunk inspired by the movie "Tangled."

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT *a smashing success*

The Hampden Parks & Recreation's Second Annual Trunk or Treat event on Oct. 24 was a huge success! This year's winners were 1st Place - Willy Wonka, 2nd Place – Rapunzel and 3rd Place - Super Mario.



This year's third place winner was Mario with this Super Smash Bros-themed trunk.



Here are some kiddos enjoying some Halloween fun.




The first place winner was Willy Wonka, with this trunk covered in a lot of purple and chocolate.

## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

**Send us in your announcements!**

**Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.**

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



The Butova Family poses for a photo at the event.



This farm-themed trunk was another popular spot during the event.



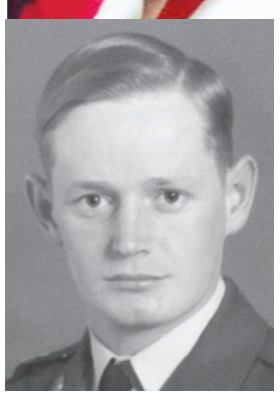
It was a huge crowd for this year's Trunk or Treat event.

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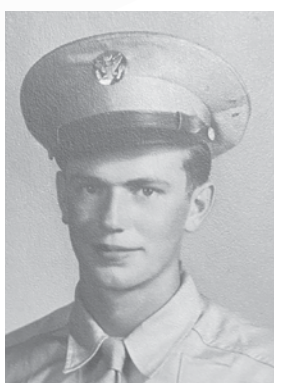



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# Honoring Our TROOPS & VETERANS



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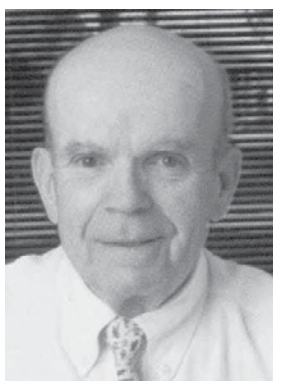
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Wilbraham

## Town of Wilbraham Veterans Day Breakfast

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

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

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

Where: Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield Street

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

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

## Wilbraham Veterans Day Ceremony set for Nov. 11

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

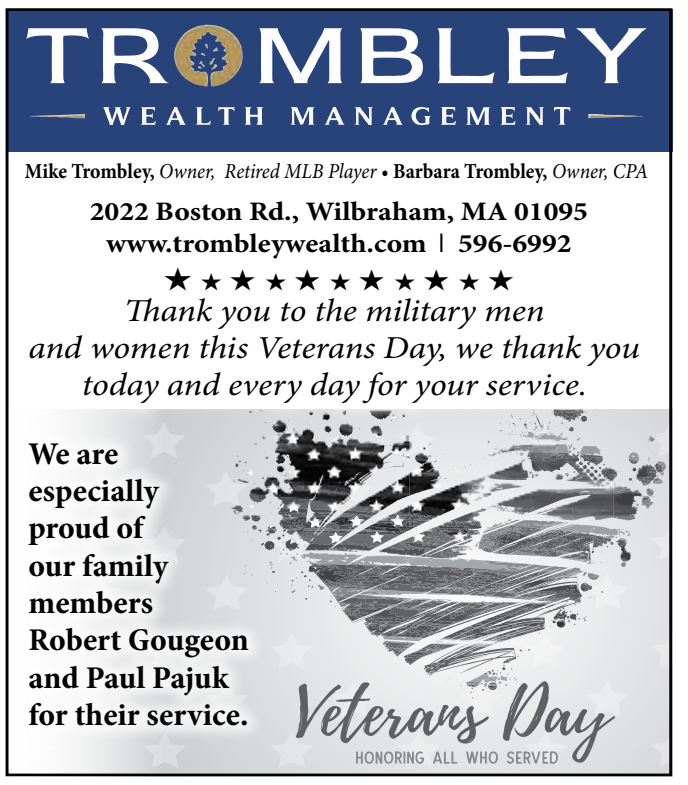
In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved indoors to the Wilbraham Senior Center.

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

WE ♥ OUR VETERANS













# Committee kicking off the project proposal cycle

WILBRAHAM - The Community Preservation Committee has started the Fiscal Year 2028 project proposal cycle.

What types of community projects are eligible for funding? The original purpose of CPA was to preserve land for conservation and recreation, preserve historical assets, and build and preserve community housing. A change in 2012 also allowed for an expanded qualification of outdoor recreation projects. The eligibility guidelines are very specific and the committee is available to discuss ideas and guide residents through the process. For more information available online regarding project eligibility you can refer to community preservation.org/allowable-uses.

The Community Preservation Committee, is comprised of 9 members where six are required from the following committees; Planning Board, Open Space and Recreation Committee, Conservation Commission, Historic Commission, Housing Authority and Recreation. In addition three at large members round out the committee. The required representation from these committees match the categories of CPA eligible projects. These representatives contribute to ensure there is an understanding of Wilbraham's needs and priorities. All of us are happy to hear about residents ideas for priority community needs.

The Community Preservation Committee is responsible for accepting project proposals, vetting those proposals for adherence to CPA requirements, discussing the value to the town and finally voting on each proposal to move forward to Annual Town Meeting. At Annual Town Meeting each voting resident attending the meeting has a chance to determine if they also value this project, supporting it with their vote.

You can find the project proposal application on the Wilbraham Town website on the Community Preservation page. Project proposals are due on Friday, January 22, 2027 by 4 p.m.

How can you participate in Community Preservation process? Take a first step and attend a meeting. We would love to hear from you and what you believe are priorities for Wilbraham. If you can't attend a meeting, reach out to our committee representatives found on the towns website at https://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/477/Community-Preservation-Committee.

For more information the Massachusetts Community Preservation Coalition website can be found at communitypreservation.org.

Residents are welcome at any of our meetings to learn more. Our next meeting is a public hearing to hear formally from residents on their ideas for projects. This will be held, Thursday, Nov. 5 at 6 p.m. in the Wilbraham Town Hall. Please join us.

# Built by Hand, Built to Last:

## The OMH Museum to host free talk on New England's Historic Barns




WILBRAHAM — The Old Meeting House Museum invites the community to discover the craftsmanship behind New England's historic barns on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. Conservation timber framer Nevan Carling will give a presentation at Wilbraham & Monson Academy beginning at 2:30 p.m. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Many of the old barns still standing in New England were largely built by hand. Craftsmen shaped wooden beams with axes, then fit them together like puzzle pieces, held in place with wooden pegs instead of nails. These barns, along with piggeries and other farm buildings, show how farming shaped life in early New England. Carling, who still builds and restores timber frames this way using traditional tools, will share how these structures were made and why they are worth preserving.

Afterward, guests are invited back to the Museum for light refreshments and a hands-on look at traditional timber framing tools.

"Farming is part of Wilbraham's roots, and seeing an old timber-framed barn is the best reminder of that history," said Lindsey Bourcier, Director of Marketing. "We hope everyone leaves with a new appreciation for these buildings and for the people keeping the craft alive today."

More information is available at: www.theomh.org.

# A 'thank you' to all for their help

HAMPDEN – Mark Giza, the director of the Theatre Guild of Hampden, would like to thank everyone who was involved with the fall production of "Gypsy."

A thank you to everyone at the Hampden Town Hall, the Selectboard, Lauren McCormick, administrative assistant for the Town of Hampden, and the cast and crew for their time and effort in bringing the production to life and making it possible for the community.

# Evangel Assembly hosts Open Door Open Mic Night in Wilbraham

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

This event is open to all, inviting guests to enjoy a night of diverse performances or take the stage themselves for a five-minute performance of their choice.

Whether you're a singer, poet, comedian, or storyteller, this is your chance to shine! Open Mic participants can sign up to perform by visiting https://evangelassembly.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1329029.

Spectators are welcome to come, relax, and enjoy an evening of local talent and entertainment in a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

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

Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with laughter, music, and inspiration. Admission is free, there will be coffee and treats for donations, and all are welcome. For more information or to register for a performance slot, visit https://evangelassembly.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1329029.

**KNIGHTS** from page 1

port him. "I'm just really happy to be here. It's an honor to get a donation from them (the Knights)," he said, adding, "I can't thank them enough."

The donation, Alberici said, would be used for "medical bills and any other expenses that come from this medical illness."

"We keep getting a lot of support….I'm really happy for that…. My family, friends and everyone's been by my side. I can't ask for anything else. I'm just fortunate and very grateful for that," Alberici said.

Knight Tom Garvey said he is a two-time kidney donation recipient himself.

"The first one, I received from my younger brother Glen…. The second transplant I received (25 years later) from my younger sister Carrie," Garvey said.

Garvey was on hand to offer Jack his support and spoke of the advice that he's given him about the transplant experience.

"My advice to Jack is to really stay positive because something like this can kinda drag you down, especially as a young person….I was encouraged to see that he's still working….It's just a matter of taking your mind off of what's going on with you….He seems very optimistic….I'm really hopeful for the best for him," Garvey said.

Knight Jim Rooney, Financial Director for the Knights of Columbus Council 10195, said that he heard about Jack Alberici's need through a personal connection.

"Pete (Jack's father) and I went to school together; we both grew up in Wilbraham…. I've known Peter since probably fifth grade," Rooney said.

The meeting portion of the night began with Rooney briefly noting about how this donation came to be.

"Last month,…. Tom Garvey and I talked about Jack Alberici, a police officer here in in town who needs a kidney….. so, we took a motion to donate," Rooney said.

Afterwards, Jack Alberici took to the mic and recounted the day that he found out about his condition and how things have been going for him since then. He closed his comments by expressing his gratitude to the Knights.

"Thank you guys again for being here to support me," he said.

A check presentation ceremony was held where the donation was officially given to Jack.

Recently, another fundraising event for "I Stand With Jack" was held at the Elks Club in Springfield where over 400 people came together to raise money for the cause.

"The idea was 'let's raise awareness and see if we can get more donors in the mix' and the thing just exploded…. We went from maybe six donors to at one point 15," Peter Alberici said, although he noted that many get ruled out in the evaluation process.




Turley photo by Harold Anderson

**A group photo with the Knights of Columbus banner. Here we have from left to right Peter Alberici (Wilbraham) - Jack's father, Ofc. Jack Alberici (Wilbraham), Knight Jim Rooney, financial director of the Knights of Columbus Council 10195, Grand Knight Josh Mitchell and Knight Tom Garvey (Wilbraham) - 2x kidney transplant recipient.**

"But it really lifted our spirits up," he said, adding, "Wilbraham has been fantastic. They've really stood by Jack…. We're grateful for that."

For more information about the effort to help Officer Jack Alberici's transplant journey, visit www.istandwithjack.com.

"It's a place where you can go to learn more about Jack's story, how he got here (and) who he is. You can make a donation and you can also register to become a kidney donor," Alberici explained.

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# Wilbraham residents invited to hear Building Utilization Committee findings

## Important public presentation to the Wilbraham Select Board

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

The Wilbraham Building Utilization Committee was formed in April 2025 to conduct a comprehensive review of all municipal buildings in Wilbraham. Its work is important to the entire community because these public facilities support town services, programs, employees, and residents—and decisions about their use will have lasting operational and financial effects.

After examining the condition, current use, capacity, and future needs of the town's full municipal building portfolio, the committee will present its findings and key considerations to the Select Board. This presentation gives residents an important opportunity to understand the committee's work firsthand and stay informed about choices that may shape Wilbraham for years to come.

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

**Your community.**
**Your buildings.**

Residents are strongly encouraged to attend this important community conversation.

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

# HSC November Events

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Senior Center wants to let the community know about the following upcoming events.

**VETERANS DINNER, TUESDAY, NOV. 10 at 5:30 p.m.**

Join us for an evening of gratitude as we honor Veterans for their dedicated service. Enjoy a dinner of Chicken Parmigiana, Baked Ziti, Salad and Rolls generously donated by Nathan Bill's Bar & Restaurant followed by a delicious dessert generously donated by JGS Lifecare. To attend the Veterans dinner, please call 566.5588 to RSVP. Veterans are FREE; non-Veterans $5

In preparation for our annual Veterans dinner, we are collecting photographs of Veterans in uniform that will be displayed at the event. If you have a photograph of yourself or a family member to share, please drop it off at the front desk. Please include your name and phone number on the back of the photograph so it can be returned to you.

**REGISTRY OF DEEDS FRIDAY, NOV. 6; Lunch at Noon, program at 12:30**

Representatives from Cheryl Coakley-Rivera, Esq. The Register of Deeds office invites homeowners to an Informational Seminar. You will learn who they are and what they do, about the Homestead Act, Consumer Notification System and Title Fraud. All attendees are eligible to receive a free certified copy of their deed! Dessert provided by Quail Run Estates.

There is a $3 suggested donation for lunch provided by Greater Springfield Senior Services.

**MEN'S HEALTH, MO-VEMBER FRIDAY, NOV. 20; Lunch at Noon, program at 12:30**

Join us this November for a special men's health presentation led by Ed Walters-Zucco, RN. In honor of "Mo-vember," we will cut through the noise and discuss practical, everyday tips for staying healthy, active, and energized as you age. From heart health to preventative screenings, come get your questions answered in a relaxed, friendly setting.

Don't miss this chance to take charge of your wellness journey—bring a friend and join the conversation! There is a $3 suggested donation for lunch provided by Greater Springfield Senior Services.

CHECK OUT ALL THE
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**MUSIC** from page 1

How does Novikov select what to play on a given night?

"I decide on the fly.… I sense the crowd…. (I'm) thinking about the way I feel…. Basically, there's no set (music) set before the concert…. It's always different," Novikov said. "The first couple of things, they're usually the standard things to get friendly with the audience…. Two or three tunes in, you actually get a feel out of the room…. This is when the real performance starts."

The music set began with the first and second Études by Frédéric Chopin, followed by a Jazz composition entitled "Felt Like Writing the Blues" that Novikov wrote himself, with each performance followed by strong applause from the audience.

Afterwards, the piano music set continued with "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" from the musical, "Evita" followed by the bossa nova classic "Girl from Ipanema." His next selection was another piano composition he wrote entitled "Ups and Downs."

Novikov noted that the piece was "a song about my life," as well as for many in the audience. In life, he reflected, "there are always challenges."

Next was a piano rendition of a song made famous by Billy Joel entitled, "New York State of Mind" which came with an amusing true story. Novikov recounted how he was once playing in an establishment in Kennebunkport, ME when he was told that Billy Joel himself was present.

Novikov spoke of how he met Joel that night and "played Billy Joel's music for Billy Joel for an hour and a half" on the piano before Joel left that evening.

The music set ended with a piano medley from the Broadway musical "Phantom of the Opera," much to the delight of the audience which responded to the evening's entertainment with a standing ovation.



Sergei Novikov plays at the piano in front of the crowd.

As an encore, Novikov treated those in attendance to another medley of Broadway music, this time from the musical "Mamma Mia" followed by a second standing ovation for the pianist.

As the crowd departed from the church, they were offered the chance to purchase from a wide variety of greeting cards, each one specially designed and produced by Novikov himself. In the card was a special QR code that, once scanned, he explained, "the album is on your phone…. which is a new way of selling music. It's like selling a CD, but without a CD."

When asked afterwards about the performance, attendees expressed great satisfaction with their experience that evening.

Host Sandy Polom reacted to the performance saying, "It was amazing, as I expected. Sergei is just phenomenal. A concert that was like no other," and noted that the event raised over $3,000 for the music ministry.

Bill and Nancy Bickley from Wilbraham were equally impressed with the performance.

"Spectacular, just amazing. What a gifted pianist," said Bill Bickley, adding that their experience was, "better than expected. Just a beautiful repertoire."

When asked for their reaction, Stacey Duquette, who was at the concert with Ginny McGovern and Gerry Schmidt, all of them from Wilbraham, commented this.



From left to right we have Stacey Duquette (Wilbraham), Ginny McGovern (Wilbraham) and Gerry Schmidt (Wilbraham).

"It was excellent. He was very entertaining and played a wide variety of music, which was nice," Duquette said.

McGovern enjoyed the performance as well.

"I love piano music and he did a wonderful job. He's a very talented man," McGovern said.

Schmidt described Novikov's performance as "Beautiful. Very sensitive when he had to be and forceful when he had to be. It was great."

Lou Calabrese and his wife Sandy of West Springfield had previously heard Novikov's music after downloading it from a greeting card that she received for her birthday last year and enjoyed seeing him perform live.

"We were actually front row…. To see him and observe what he was doing…. It was exceptional. Really enjoyed it," Calabrese said.



From the left, we have Sandy Calabrese (Wilbraham) and her husband Lou Calabrese (Wilbraham).




Turley photo by Harold Anderson




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# SPORTS

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# Single goal hurts Falcons in tournament



Keira Horne heads up the field after making a play on defense.



Taylor Bartosz makes a throw-in.

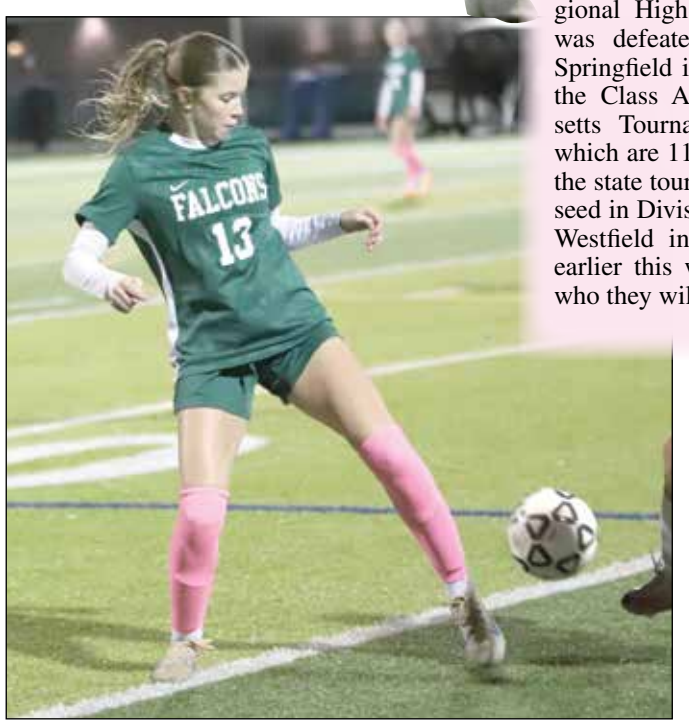


Ainsley Holden tries to overcome a defender.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Brooklyn Manning heads up the field.



Carson Humphries tries to make a play on a 50/50 ball.



Makenna Sacco tries to pass ahead of a defender.

WILBRAHAM – Last Tuesday evening, Minnechaug Regional High School girls soccer was defeated 1-0 against West Springfield in the quarterfinals of the Class A Western Massachusetts Tournament. The Falcons, which are 11-2-4 and will head to the state tournament with a higher seed in Division 2, was set to face Westfield in a nonplayoff game earlier this week before learning who they will face first in states.

# Girls volleyball falls in semifinals

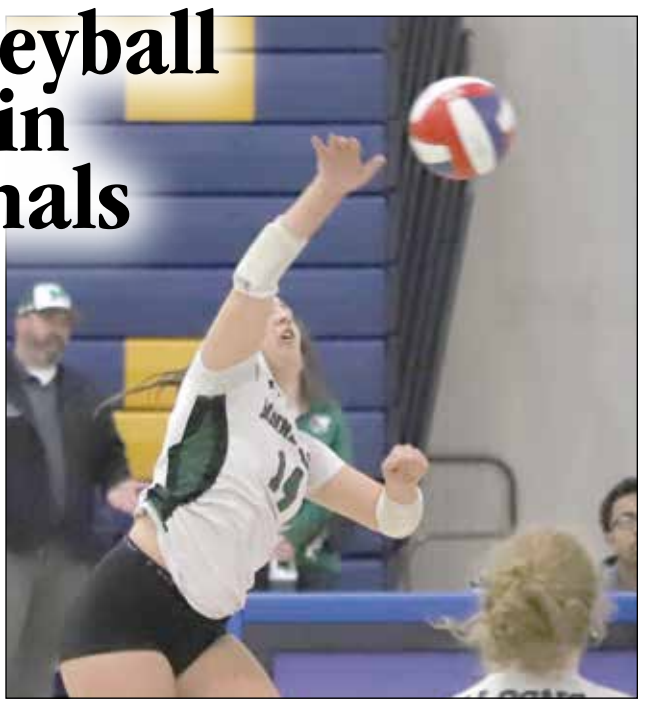


Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Nehir Elcin goes for a bump to her side.



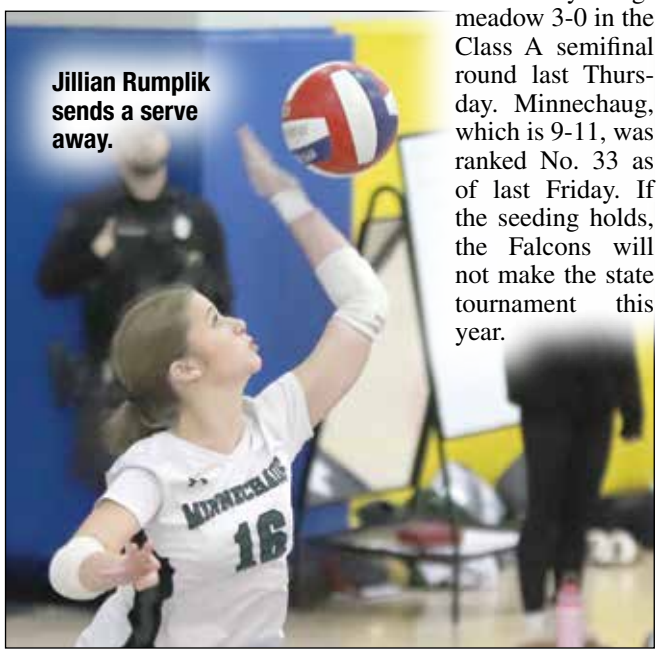
Leah Croteau takes a backwards bump over the net.



Haley Powers goes for the spike.



The Falcons attempts a block.



Jillian Rumplik sends a serve away.

WILBRAHAM – After a win over Chicopee Comprehensive 3-1 in the quarterfinals, the Minnechaug Regional High School girls volleyball team was defeated by Longmeadow 3-0 in the Class A semifinal round last Thursday. Minnechaug, which is 9-11, was ranked No. 33 as of last Friday. If the seeding holds, the Falcons will not make the state tournament this year.



Jenahia Monet sends a hit toward the front line.

# Falcons head for state tourney

WILBRAHAM – Once again, a strong schedule and four wins are sending the Minnechaug Regional High School football team to the state tournament this year.

The Falcons, last week, defeated Longmeadow in AA Conference action 26-6. The Falcons improved to 4-4 on the season and earned a state tournament berth in Division 3 with the win.

Minnechaug will be on the road for the matchup, which is currently scheduled on Friday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. at Barnstable High School in Eastern Mass.



# Power play leads Hartford past T-Birds

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (3-4-2-1) fell victim to a red-hot power play as the Hartford Wolf Pack (6-6-1-0) doubled up the T-Birds for a 4-2 win on Sunday afternoon inside the MassMutual Center.

The Wolf Pack leaned on their biggest weapon of the early season, the league's fourth-ranked power play, to take the 1-0 lead at 9:37 of the first as Anton Blidh pushed a point-blank rebound past a sprawling Georgii Romanov.

However, that lead would prove to be fleeting, as just six seconds later, T-Birds captain Chris Wagner crashed the net to nudge a backhand rebound from Justin Carbonneau in behind Spencer Martin at 9:43, tying the game.

With neither team generating much at even strength into the midpoint of the second, the Wolf Pack's scorching power play fired the next punch as Liam Greentree connected from the right circle at 12:01 of the middle period to restore the Hartford lead, 2-1.

After surviving three other Hartford power-play chances, the T-Birds got a man-up opportunity of their own and quickly evened the slate as Nathan Walker took a T.J. Tynan pass at the goal crease, turned to his forehand, and shuffled it past Martin at 8:31 of the third to make it 2-2.

Unfortunately, much like Springfield's quick response to the Blidh power-play goal in the first, Hartford had a similar response in the third as Glenn Gawdin got a puck on his backhand in the low slot and flipped it through Romanov's blocker side, giving the Wolf Pack the 3-2 advantage at 9:55.

Gawdin's second point of the night proved to be enough, as Martin came up with a huge save from the net front on Dylan Peterson in the closing minutes, and Hartford then got insurance on an empty-net finish from Juuso Parssinen to wrap up the scoring late.

The T-Birds' homestand continues on Friday and Saturday as they take on the Hershey Bears in back-to-back contests at 7:05 and 6:05 p.m., respectively.

# Railers comeback falls short against Adirondack

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers HC (1-4-0-0, 2 pts) visited the Adirondack Thunder (2-1-0-0, 4 pts) on Friday evening at Harding Mazzotti Arena in Glens Falls, NY, falling 3-2 in regulation. This matchup marked the first of eight meetings between the two teams during the 2026-27 regular season. The Railers are back in action at the DCU Center at 10:05 a.m. against Adirondack in their annual School Day game.

The Railers and Thunder played a scoreless first period, with both teams looking to create opportunities offensively. Worcester recorded 11 shots on goal, while Adirondack finished the period with 12. At 11:46, Jacob Graves was called for hooking, sending Worcester to the power play. Adirondack successfully killed the penalty and both goaltenders kept the puck out of the net to send the teams into the first intermission tied 0-0. It was the first game for the Railers where both teams entered the intermission scoreless.

Adirondack broke through at 7:09 into the second period when Jordan Klimek (1st) scored off assists from Tanner Edwards and Jarret Lee to give the Thunder a 1-0 lead. Edwards was called for unsportsmanlike conduct during the goal celebration, giving Worcester a power-play opportunity. Just 1:36 after the game's first goal, Tristan Ashbrook (3rd) scored a shorthanded goal at 8:45 left in the 2nd, assisted by Patrick Grasso, to extend Adirondack's lead to 2-0. At 10:13, Caige Sterzer and Jacob Graves dropped the gloves and received fighting majors.

Adirondack added to its lead at 9:38 of the third period when Jack Hanzel (2nd) scored, assisted by Shane Harper and Tristan Ashbrook, making it 3-0. Worcester continued to battle in a physical game that featured several penalties and fights. With time winding down, the Railers pulled Parker Gahagen for an extra attacker, hoping to find a goal and keep a glimmer of hope alive. The move paid off at 18:25, when S. Moses (1st) scored his first ECHL goal on the power play, assisted by Micheal Suda and Matt DeMelis, cutting the deficit to 3-1. Amid the ensuing flow of play, the railers pulled the goalie and scored again. DeMelis (3rd) scored for the Railers on a one-timer to turn what was once a 3-0 game into a 3-2 game. Icing was called against Adirondack with four seconds remaining in the game, but Worcester failed to score on the ensuing faceoff and fell by a 3-2 final on Friday night.

FALL ART from page 1

ning to explore art to those who are well-established," Salerno said.

The group holds art shows and sales on four weekends annually. The fall show also featured a community art project, in which Scantic River Artisans and community members, including students from Minnechaug Regional High School, each worked on a five-by-seven-inch canvas on the theme "Reflective Musings." The resulting small paintings, drawings, photos and collages were sold for $20 each to benefit Scantic River Artisans scholarship fund and programming.

Salerno enjoyed discussing her pottery with visitors to the show. She pushes the limits of clay in her work, which is mostly hand-built rather than thrown on a pottery wheel.

Her love of texture—both visual and tactile—makes each of her nature-inspired pieces unique.

Fellow potter Joe St. John, retired from the Wilbraham Post Office, is similarly inspired by nature. He displayed a wide variety of functional, earth-toned pieces, some with unusual touches such as a bowl with a handle made from thick vines.

Local writer Howard Odentz, author of best-selling young adult thrillers and chillers with a little bit of humor, brought his just published book, "The Mouse Who Broke the Sky," to the show.

Odentz's book, an epic novel for all ages inspired by the war in Ukraine, is a departure from his previous six novels.

"I saw a photo of a young Ukrainian girl in a broken window, holding a rifle and it stayed with me," Odentz said.

Odentz's friend, Karen Burke, photographed handcrafted dolls from his extensive international collection to serve as the book's artwork.





"Metal Man," Nan Hurlburt's portrait of fellow artist Brian McQuillan won first place in the art show. McQuillan crafted the metal frame.



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

Scantic River Artisans President Laura Salerno sold her pottery at the show and won second place for her painting of a moose. At right: Two of Laura Salerno's highly textured pieces.

"Writing the book and creating the images was a four-year process," Odentz said. "The hardcover was delivered by UPS to my house yesterday morning."

Another member of Scantic River Artisans, metal artist Brian McQuillan, has found success since taking up the craft about 15 years ago. His large sculpture of the goddess Athena is outside the Forbes Library in Northampton; others are in private collections around the country.

"I'm doing well and having a blast," McQuillan said.

McQuillan finds his inspiration in scrap metal that he welds into intricate works ranging from tabletop size to monumental and ranging in concept from realistic to fantastic. He's currently working on a swimming dragon.

He has a mini junkyard behind his Hampden home filled with metal flea market finds and donations.

"People raid their grandfather's garage and leave me shoeboxes full of old tools," McQuillan said. "I might walk by something for years when suddenly it looks like a horse's head. Then I'm off to the races."

Nan Hurlburt finds inspiration for her Tangled Vine jewelry in wine.

"I love wine and going to vineyards," Hurlburt said.

Her earrings, bracelets and necklaces reflect the vibrant colors and sparkle of wine and are named for wines such as Dragonfly Reserve, Sauternes and Angel's Pour.

Scantic River Artisans awarded peer-judged prizes at the close of the show on Oct. 25. Hurlburt won first place for "Metal Man," her portrait of fellow artist Brian McQuillan. Laura Salerno won second place for her painting of a moose, "Matilda." Susan Superson's painting, "Almost Home," took third place.

The next art show and sale will be held in February at Hampden's new Town Hall on Wilbraham Road.

"It's a huge space!" Salerno said. "We're excited to have more room for exhibitions."

For information on Scantic River Artisans, including a schedule of upcoming workshops, go to www.scanticriverartisans.com.



Joe St. John displays his pottery.



Small works made by community members sold for $20 each.

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# Rummage Sale this Friday

WILBRAHAM - The annual Rummage Sale sponsored by the St. Cecilia Women's Club will be held Friday, Nov. 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 7, 8:30 a.m. - Noon in the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. Gently used adult and children's clothing, household items, linens, jewelry, toys, puzzles, pictures. and seasonal items, etc. will be sold at very reasonable prices. Saturday is bag day and a bag will be provided to fill for a minimal price. Looking forward to seeing you there. A great opportunity for some early holiday shopping as well!

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# Ludbrook completes Youth Leadership Kokoda Trek

WILBRAHAM – In October, Cooper Ludbrook, formerly of Wilbraham, has successfully achieved the Youth Leadership Kokoda Trek in Papua New Guinea.

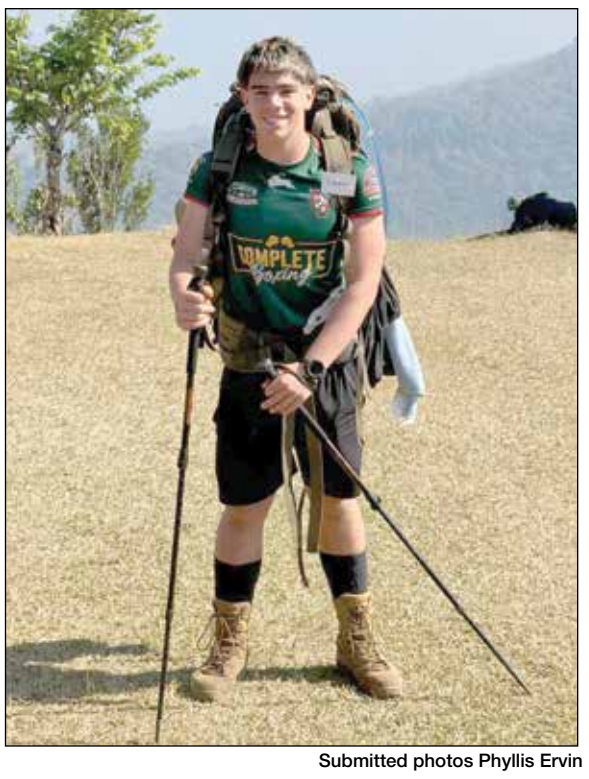
The Kokoda Track is a 92-mile journey accomplished in 10 days. Sponsored by the RSL, which are the Australian Veterans Club, the hikers retrace the footpath of Australian soldiers who fought the Japanese in 1942 in the World War II Kokoda Campaign.

The terrain consists of steep mountain ridges, dense rain forest and multiple river crossings. Along the track, hikers pass through villages where they are welcomed by the local residents. Several war memorials are also along the path.

This trek had special meaning to Cooper as his great-grandfather and great-uncle both fought in the Kokoda Campaign as young soldiers. His great-uncle did not return.

11 high school juniors along with their sponsors from the state of New South Wales, Australia were chosen to participate.

Among his support were Cooper's parents, Carly and Sean, along with his brothers, Dylan and Travis. Cheering him from this side of the pond were his grandparents Dave and Phyllis Ervin from Wilbraham. Well done Cooper!



Submitted photos Phyllis Ervin

# PET PAGE



## PET OF THE MONTH

### Meet Cassie!

She is an 8-year-old Lab mix rescued from Texas through Dakin. She loves daily hikes up Peaked Mountain and swimming at Lunden Pond in Monson. This picture is in the White Mountains, one her favorite places to hike with Karen and Paul Fitzgerald



**ATTENTION READERS!**

Send in your pet picture for our "Pet of the Month" and receive a FREE weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care. Email your photos to: jconrad@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet's name.


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## Transitioning Your Pets to Winter

Winter means cold temperatures, freezing rain, and snow! As winter approaches, there are some things you should do to ensure your pet is fully prepared for the cold weather.

**Ensure your pet gets plenty of exercise**

Winter still offers plenty of opportunities for you and your pet to enjoy the outdoors. Take him out for a run or a hike, visit the local park together, or toss a Frisbee or ball. Increased exercise helps prevent injury. And just like us winter means adding extra layers like sweaters and coats. Small dogs and short haired dogs may need one during the colder weather.

**Feed your pet more to keep him warm**

As it gets colder, pets need more energy to stay warm. Food generates body heat. During winter, feed your pet more food to ensure he doesn't get cold. But also make sure he gets enough exercise, so he doesn't become overweight. You should also provide clean, fresh water for him.

**Keep him away from outdoor pests and snakes**

As the temperatures turn colder, some snakes prepare for hibernation. They can be very grumpy and bite any pets they come across. Learn about the snakes in your region and know where they are likely to be found so you can keep your pets from those areas. Pests like fleas and ticks can still be around even in the winter months. Continue flea and tick prevention year-round and each time your pet comes indoors, check him to ensure he isn't carrying any undesirable guests.



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**FIREWOOD**
Fresh cut & split $240.00
Seasoned cut & split $375.00
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Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products
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**ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.**

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Donald Roy
**(860) 874-8396**

**ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:**

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**FAST REMOVAL**
**Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.**
We load it & take it.
**413-531-1936**
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

## SERVICES




**2*******A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. **OIL TANK REMOVAL.** Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.**

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I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small, free estimates, service upgrades, pools, budget friendly, committed to satisfaction, dependable & insured. Master Lic. #20773-A, Business Lic. #9310-A1. Text or call Daniel at **413-218-3301** or visit my website at **dannyselectricllc.com** to fill an online work request.

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Call **413-283-8393**



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**HANDYMAN SERVICES**. 30 years experience, replacement windows, painting, patching, laminate flooring, carpet installation/repair, and storage solutions. Call/text **413-777-3376.**

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INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
**Remodeling & Deck Specialists**
Residential/Commercial
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****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob **(413)537-5789.**

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES**
**FRIDAY AT NOON**

### HOME IMPROVEMENT




## SERVICES

### LAND CLEARING

**HENRY'S LAND CLEARING INC.**
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1-5+ acres & stumping.
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Call today for free estimate
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Tree Removal-Tree Trimming
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Grinding stumps of all sizes,
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**HENRY'S TREE SERVICE LLC**
We do what others don't.
We grind stumps of any size, provide cleanup and add loam and seed.
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Free Estimates
Over 30 Years Experience
Offering Senior Citizen
& Military Discounts
**Call 413-279-1050**

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**SKILLED RELIABLE WORKER for Home Improvement.** $18 to $35 per hour depending on skills. Full or part-time, must be local and have reliable transportation to Belchertown.
Call/text
**Todd "Hoot the Handyman LLC" 413-636-9181.**

**The TOWN OF HARDWICK is seeking applicants for the following positions:**

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator**
- **Truck Driver/ Laborer**
- **Youth Center Support Person**
- **Van Driver**

Please go to
**https://www.hardwick-ma.gov**
for more details.

Read your local newspaper online at
**www.newspapers.turley.com**

## HELP WANTED

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **PART-TIME BUILDING INSPECTOR.**
$16.50 to $17.34 per hour based on qualifications.
Application and complete job description are available online at
**www.huntingtonma.us**
or by emailing
**admin@huntingtonma.us.**
Applications are due by 11/19/2026.
*Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

We seek an energetic, enthusiastic, and well-organized person for the position of **OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR/ CLERICAL PART-TIME**.
This is a part-time position of 20 to 25 hours per week at $680, depending on Workload. Need to be detail-oriented, possess good customer service skills, some cash & items handling skills.
*Apply Email:*
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## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT

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

**QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE** by babbling brook, l-shaped 2bdrm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch, beach rights. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. Bernice Stone **774-262-6667.**

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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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.

# FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

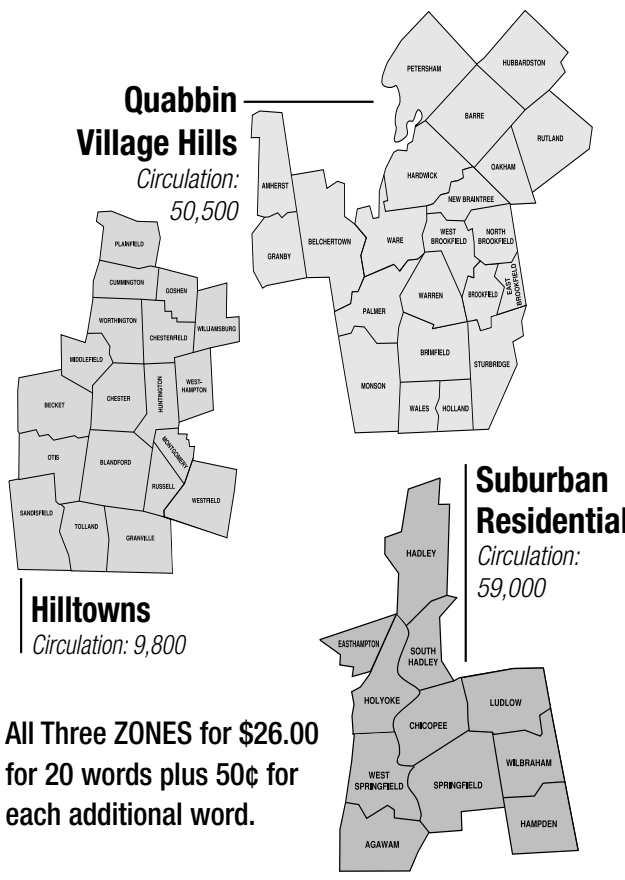
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or call: 413-283-8393

**DEADLINES:** ***FRIDAY AT NOON***

**CATEGORY:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Base Price $26.00 |
| 21 Base Price $26.50 | 22 Base Price $27.00 | 23 Base Price $27.50 | 24 Base Price $28.00 |
| 25 Base Price $28.50 | 26 Base Price $29.00 | 27 Base Price $29.50 | 28 Base Price $30.00 |
| 29 Base Price $30.50 | 30 Base Price $31.00 | 31 Base Price $31.50 | 32 Base Price $32.00 |
| 33 Base Price $32.50 | 34 Base Price $33.00 | 35 Base Price $33.50 | 36 Base Price $34.00 |
| 37 Base Price $34.50 | 38 Base Price $35.00 | 39 Base Price $35.50 | 40 Base Price $36.00 |

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State:_____ Zip:_____
Number of Weeks:_____ X per week rate = $_____
Credit Card: ❑ MasterCard ❑ VISA ❑ Discover ❑ Cash ❑ Check# _____
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## BREAST CANCER
from page 1

ney, and more.

"I endured. I'm strong, I relied on my faith and my friends, but there were times I was crying. When I was asking, why me? When life wasn't great," Puppolo said.

However, Puppolo did not let this tear her down and led her to begin her journey of soul-searching. Since her diagnosis, she has attended multiple Breast Cancer Retreats.

There, she was able to have fun while making lifelong friends that she referred to as her "Pink Sisters," even going as far as walking a Runway Show in New York alongside them.

Puppolo described letting loose and dancing across the runway in a beautiful pink dress, carrying a sense of pride.

"I did it for my ancestors. I did it for my mom, I did it for my aunts who passed away from Breast Cancer. I did it for all my relatives, friends, everybody. I just let loose," Puppolo said.

Puppolo credited these retreat experiences as highly supportive and healing for her.

"For someone like myself that needs community, I need the support. I need to talk about what I'm going through. Yes, it sucks to have Breast Cancer – it's a nightmare. But there is a community," Puppolo said.

Along the way, inspiration to write the memoir sparked. When asked why Puppolo wanted to share her self-discovery story with the world, she said writing the book was healing for her and she wanted to help others going through the same experience.

One piece of advice Puppolo had for the community was this.

"Get tested, make a phone call for a mammogram appointment. Don't hesitate. You know, one in eight women in their lifetime are diagnosed with Breast Cancer. One in eight, that's a pretty significant number. So just be proactive, be your own best advocate, keep fighting," Puppolo said.

Outside of advocating for Breast Cancer Awareness, Puppolo currently works at the Hampden County's Sheriff's Office. Her free time is spent writing children's books, dancing and at the library. Puppolo truly brings an empowering story to share to the community.

For more information, please contact mariapup@yahoo.com. Events like these highlight the importance of

spreading awareness and resources within the community. Harter expressed this.

"Libraries are the center of a town and community. It's so important that we represent everybody in our town. We have programs for all ages and everybody is welcome with no cost," Harter said.

Other upcoming events hosted by the WPL can be found on their website or in their newsletters.

# OBITUARY

## Jeffrey P. Green, Sr.

*1944 – 2026*



MONSON – Jeffrey P. Green, Sr., 82, died peacefully on Tuesday, October 21, 2026, surrounded by his loved ones at Baystate Medical Center. Jeff was born in New Bedford, MA to the late Robert and Jeannette "Ginger" Sullivan. At 1 year old, his father was killed in Normandy, during World War II and buried overseas in Holland. When Jeff was four, his mom married Harold Green, who adopted Jeff. His love of horses started at 9 years old, when his parents got him a pony for the summer and he rode on the beaches of Misquamicut.

Jeff retired from Hampden Engineering after many years of service. He was prominent in the horse world, earning a "Register of Merit" with his palomino Leotion. Jeff was always ready to help "horse people" or kids get started in horsemanship and 4H. Like Terry Ferrara, who he helped start showing horses. Also, his younger cousin Maureen (Flynn) Strycharz got a pony from Jeff every summer and he would take her trail riding and to horse sales.

Jeff had a quick wit and "Irishy" humor that always made everyone laugh. He was a dog lover and had many over the years; Pete, Weaze, Kit and Frankie, to name a few. An avid NASCAR fan, Jeff also loved Stafford Motor Speedway, friendships and family.

Jeff was predeceased by his first wife Laura Paul and his son Jeffrey P. Green, Jr. He will be sadly missed by his beloved wife of over 30 years Terry Worthley, son Rick and his wife Marcia of Hampden, brother Buddy Green of Hampden, sister Carole Carey and her husband Jim, six grandchildren; Lindsay, Kelsey, Kylee, Anthony Michael and Allie and four great grandchildren; Rayna Helen, Ella Mae, Wyatt Michael and Zaden. Jeff also leaves dear friends April and Pete Laviolette of NC, Becky Schofield of Monson, Larry Keyes of Wales, Lee Hylton of Springfield, the entire Flynn family of Hampden and his cousins Maureen Strycharz and Colleen Westberg and her husband Paul.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, November 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Wilbraham Funeral Home, 2551 Boston Rd., Wilbraham. Jeff will be interred, next to his wife Lori, on Friday at 12:00 Noon in Old Cemetery, Chapin Rd. in Hampden.

Jeff's family would like to sincerely thank the staff at Baystate Medical Center ICU for the exceptional care they provided to Jeff.

*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 (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Town of Hampden**
**Zoning Board of Appeals**
**Notice of Public Hearing**

The Hampden Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 24, 2026 at 6 PM** in the Town Hall, 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, MA, for those interested in the petition of the Town of Hampden for a Special Permit or Variance for setback requirements under Section 7, Table 7.2 of the Zoning Bylaw for the construction of the proposed four-bay garage addition to the Fire Station located at 19 North Road. The petition and related materials are on file in the Town Clerk's office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

For the Board,
L. Jed Berliner, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals.
11/05, 11/12/2026

**TOWN OF WILBRAHAM**
**PUBLIC HEARING:**
**TAX CLASSIFICATION**
(Posted October 20, 2026)
**The hearing will begin at 6:30 PM, November 10, 2026**

The Wilbraham Select Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 6:30 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 2027. 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
10/29, 11/05/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to 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

wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

### NOTICE

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

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www.ludlowmemorialcompany.com ❖ 413-589-7564

BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS
Turley Publications, Inc.



**Kelsie Smith**
**January 11, 2026**
**Parents:** John & Carolyn Smith, Palmer
**Grandparents:** Theodore & Susan Smith, Ware
Joseph & Audrey Jones, South Hadley

***Turley Publications would like to help you show off the newest member of your family this Christmas...***

**FOR FREE!**

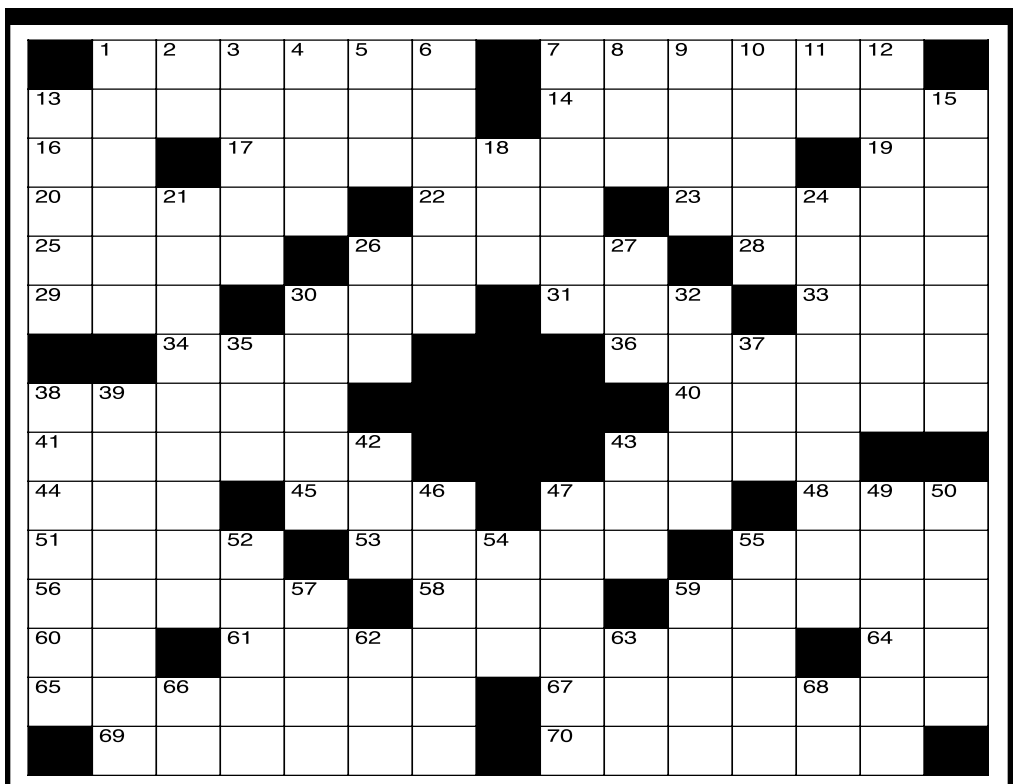
Mail to:
Turley Publications
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Attn: Jamie Joslyn
Include a self addressed/ stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: jamie@turley.com with subject line: BABY'S FIRST.
This offer is available to all babies born in 2026. Pictures will be published the week of December 23-25, 2026.

Baby's Name: _____
Birthdate: _____
Parents' Names: _____
_____
Parents' Town of Residence: _____
Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

*Please check the newspaper you would like your announcement to appear.*

❏ Agawam Advertiser News
❏ Barre Gazzette
❏ Chicopee Register
❏ Country Journal
❏ The Holyoke Sun
❏ Journal Register
❏ Quaboag Current
❏ The Register
❏ Sentinel
❏ Town Reminder
❏ Ware River News
❏ The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

**Deadline for photos and forms is Thursday, December 4, 2026**



**CLUES ACROSS**
1. Spiritual leaders
7. Containing salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. Blood type
17. Make a comparison
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. New Zealand mountain
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company higher-up
36. Villains
38. Cricket frog genus
40. Influential early psychologist
41. Endured
43. Servant
44. You can get stuck in one
45. __ and feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Forming a bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankees slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. "The Mount Rushmore State"
61. Sarcastic and critical
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Atlanta Braves pitcher
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

**CLUES DOWN**
1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Craft supplies
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your golden years
6. Common Arabic greeting
7. Bulged downward
8. Acquired brain injury
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. In a way, pleased
13. Messianic figure in Islam
15. Resulting from intense conviction
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language (abbr.)
30. Start anew
32. Wild flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Facing the same way
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Moth genus
57. Central Japan city
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. A male
68. Powerful government lawyer

HOMETOWN
EXTERIORS

# Let's Replace That Old Bulkhead.

A rusted, damaged, or leaking bulkhead door can lead to water intrusion, security concerns, and diminished curb appeal. Upgrade to a new Bilco® basement door and enjoy reliable protection, smooth operation, and a clean, finished look that complements your home.

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