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NOVEMBER 14, 2024

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WILBRAHAM HONORS VETERANS

Sasen also honored on his
final Veterans Day ceremony



The community places their hands over their hearts as they recite the Pledge of Allegiance, with Elliot Sylvester, a member of Scout Troop 359, leading the charge.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The community gathered at Crane Park Veteran Memorial on Nov. 11 to celebrate Veterans Day.

The ceremony included remarks from Jered Sasen, director

of Veterans Services, State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) and Select Board Chair Sue Bunnell, the Pledge of Allegiance led by Elliot Sylvester, a member of Scout Troop 359, the National Anthem performed by the Minnechaug Regional High School Choir and the "Veterans Salute" and "God Bless Amer-

ica" performed by the Minnechaug Regional High School Band.

Also, recognizing local veterans with Army Veteran George Reich, Marine Corp. Veteran Lawrence Murray, Navy Veteran John Tousignant, Air Force Veteran Donna Gregory and Coast Guard Veteran David Kopsa

placing an American flag for each military branch.

Later, after recognizing U.S. Army Sgt. Robert Kelliher, Jr., a Vietnam War Veteran, for his service as the 2023 Veteran of the Year, Sasen announced Air Force Veteran Kathleen Kennedy as the 2024 Veteran of the Year.

Sasen said, "Veterans Day is

not for veterans alone."

"When we served our country, we did not serve to fulfill personal interest. We served the national interest of the United States of America, and that's why this day isn't just for veterans. It's a day for the entire

Please see **WILBRAHAM**, page 12



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

Vets, spouses, and friends enjoy their breakfast at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

Veterans enjoy breakfast at Wilbraham Senior Center

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM — Just before Veterans Day, veterans from Wilbraham were treated to a hearty breakfast at the senior center on Nov. 7.

Volunteers from the Wilbraham Junior Women's Club purchased, prepared and served breakfast to about 50 veterans, spouses and guests.

Jered Sasen, Veteran Services director, kicked off the event at 8 a.m. with open-

ing remarks.

"Our veterans are the heart and soul of this position," Sasen said. "I listen to what they need and I put every aspect of my being to giving them what they need."

After six years in Wilbraham, Sasen is leaving to work as Western Massachusetts National Service Officer for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services. He will be working to improve the quality of veteran's services offices throughout the state.

Please see **BREAKFAST**, page 19

Hampden Senior Center honors veterans with homemade dinner

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

HAMPDEN- The senior center opened its doors to veterans, families and guests who came for a delicious meal, good company and recognition of service on Nov. 7.

In past years, the senior center would hold their veterans services earlier in the day, but this year Hampden wanted to

switch things up, resulting in over 100 people in attendance at the veterans event.

Held in the senior center's Community Room, the Veterans Dinner had chicken parmesan with pasta and the crowd favorite, the dessert tiramisu.

The dinner was sponsored by Veteran Services Officer Jason Burgener,

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Turley photos by Amanda Munson

From the left, Clare and Joseph Ashe, who served in the Marine Corp, have been married for 64 years and were excited to celebrate Veterans Day at the Hampden Senior Center along with Mike, a retired active duty in the Army who served in Vietnam and Joyce Zimmerman, retired Air Force who served for 34 years.

Shop Til You Drop Fundraiser kicks off



Bobbi Grant shows off the children's toys up for grabs during this year's Shop Til You Drop Fundraiser at the Hampden Senior Center.



Hampden residents will find many interesting finds during this year's Shop Til You Drop Fundraiser.



Varying pieces of jewelry are also on display.



Handwoven half mitts for the winter on display, part of the many donations for the Shop Til You Drop Fundraiser.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

A close-up of Christmas ornaments available for purchase.

Runs through Dec. 27

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Shop Til You Drop Fundraiser is back and bigger than ever after kicking off on Nov. 5.

The annual holiday fundraiser, which runs through Dec. 27, has expanded into the senior center's Great Room this year with just as many gifts up for grabs from books and diamond dots to children's toys and jewelry and other hidden treasures.

The shopping hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and

Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Payment is by cash or check only, with all proceeds to benefit the Senior Center Building Expansion Fund.

Bobbi Grant oversees the holiday fundraiser every year and shared this year marks 15 years, expressing excitement during the fundraiser's kickoff day.

"I've already restocked and we've only been in existence an hour and a half," Grant said.

On why it was moved into the Great Room, Grant explained it was a staff decision.

"I had talked to Becky--our director--about it and she said that

it would be a little less crowded than the lobby. You got a lot of people coming in for a variety of classes and signing up for lunch and coming in for lunch," Grant said. "It works for me because I get a chance to put out so many more items!"

Reflecting on the 15 years the fundraiser has gone on, Grant was humbled.

"Because it's a good fundraiser for the senior center. Very good fundraiser," Grant said. "It's easy to do. You take the tags, you add up the prices, they pay for the items, you give them their change and they walk away happy and that's what counts. Happy customers!"

On pricing, Grant focuses on

reasonable bargain deals. "Like an electric wax warmer. I looked these up online and they go anywhere from \$30 to \$40 depending on what they have," Grant said. "They have the little scented pieces that you put in there and warm it up and you get a fragrance in the room. So, if this goes for about \$40, I look for either a third or 25% of the retail price. So, it's a decent-priced. \$10 for this."

Grant expressed her gratitude to everyone who donated items to the fundraiser, with donations having opened up in September and more still coming in.

"We got tons and tons of donations this year," Grant said.

Grant explained how the fundraiser supports the expansion fund for the senior center.

"We're trying to expand the building. We don't have room enough to do what we want to do," Grant said. "We need storage so badly and if we turn one of the rooms into a storage closet, that means much less room that we have to do a program or to exercise or

to have a class of sorts. So, we do need renovations. The building is 25 years old...if we do expand we're going to need a sprinkler system, so we're looking to do major renovations plus an expansion."

Grant loves how the fundraiser offers many unique items for people to check out and enjoy.

"The donations have been incredible. People come up with things that I had never seen before. They tell me, 'Well, this came from such and such and it was given to me by this person. As much as I love it, I don't use it, so can use it?' And I think, 'Yes I can!'" Grant said. "The people that come forward with donations are amazing, really are amazing. That makes me feel so good and to know that they're contributing. They know the need, so they figure they can help out and I think (it's) great. Absolutely great."

Grant encourages the community to stop by and shop around.

"It has a lot of variety and a lot of very reasonable prices and some things that I couldn't even find online," Grant said.

Also, this message for the donors.

"A big thank you," Grant said.

To learn more, check out the senior center newsletter or stop by the Great Room.



THANKSGIVING REVIEW

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

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MRHS to host Holiday Craft Fair Nov. 23

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Saturday, Nov. 23, the Fine Arts Department of Minnechaug Regional High School will host a Holiday Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

At the fair, there will be various local vendors who create a variety of products ranging from handmade soaps and salves, woodworking, 2D art, jewelry, holiday decorations, stationary and local artisan food to maple syrup and teas.

For families, they will be offering face painting and two food trucks: the Thai Chili Food Truck and Pour Something Coffee Truck.

The fair is chaired by Jennifer Zera, a fine arts teacher and also the Fine Arts and Applied Arts department chair at the school. Zera is, also, one of the advisors for Minnechaug's Art and Clay Club as well as the school's National Honor Society.

She's looking forward to the craft fair.

"It is important to celebrate and support local artists and makers and provide the community space for

them to showcase their products," Zera said. "The money raised by vendor fees allows us to support art students and our program to provide field trips, guest artists and other opportunities to enrich our curriculum."

Zera hopes attendees gain a new perspective on art and an appreciation for local talent.

"We would like those participating to walk away (with this): From our students' perspective we hope they can see that artists can make a viable living and career and how to market themselves," Zera said. "From our community perspective we hope they take away an appreciation for the talent in our community."

Minnechaug's Fine Arts Department has been working tirelessly to prepare for this event, who have been very excited to host all of the vendors at the school, and all of the vendors who will be participating in the event are from local businesses in the area.

The Fine Arts Department will also be collaborating with Minnechaug's National Honor Society, who will be helping set up all of the vendors stands and relieving the workers for breaks.

Once people enter the gymnasium, they can be able to expect to see a wide variety of local vendors who will be selling their items and it will also be a fun, family event for all those who attend with crafts and activities for the whole family to enjoy.

This will be a great way for people to come together and celebrate people's creative talents which they have given to show the rest of the community. It will be a great day for people to share what they have created and give what they have to the rest of the town.

The Minnechaug Holiday Craft Fair will celebrate everyone's creative achievements this season. It will be a way to show the community the wonderful local artists and crafts that are showcased locally in Wilbraham, Hampden and its neighboring towns.

The Holiday Craft Fair will be held in the gymnasium at Minnechaug by the community entrance located in the back parking lot of the school.

To learn more, contact Zera at 413-569-9011 or jzera@hwrsd.org.

Babes for a Cause: Shop for a Reason Nov. 30

HAMPDEN - The Babes for a Cause: Shop for a Reason event takes place on Saturday, Nov. 30 from 4 to 8 p.m. at The Starting Gate at GreatHorse.

The Holiday Tour event supports Shriners Children's New England and will feature 35+ women-owned businesses, acoustic music featuring Project 267, a cash bar, snacks and small plates for purchase and complimentary spa services and mediumship readings.

10% of sales from vendors will be donated back to SCNE and 50% of ticket sales will be donated back SCNE.

Community Chorus to Present Concerts

WILBRAHAM - The nearly seventy-voice Wilbraham Community Chorus, accompanied by Marcia Jackson and conducted by Ray Drury, will present two concerts in early December. The first concert will take place on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. at Saint Cecilia's Church, Wilbraham, and the second on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. at First Church of Christ, Longmeadow.

Drury has chosen a varied and compelling program including music of Haydn,

Mozart, Vaughan Williams, Forrest and Whitacre as well as varied arrangements of folk tunes, pop songs and seasonal music. Of particular interest will be performances by both Jackson and well-known local pianist Todd Rovelli offering selections of four-hand piano music, and additionally a chamber choir comprised of members of the larger group will also perform.

While admission to each concert is free, a free-will offering will be taken.



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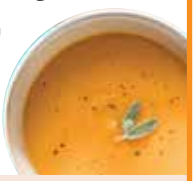
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Hand-Sewing Event held at WPL

By Hannah Yeasley
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The library held its first hand-sewing workshop in the Brooks Room on Saturday, Nov. 9.

A volunteer for the library, Tamara Shattuck, hosted the event.

Shattuck is an Associate Professor of Education at Western New England University, but started learning how to sew during the pandemic.

"When everyone was doing their sourdough starters, I was learning how to sew," Shattuck said. "I wanted to host this workshop to show that anyone can do it, and hand sewing is an affordable and mindful way to make sure that what you make fits you perfectly."

The workshop required pre-registration, with hopes that a good turnout would lead to more events like this in the future.

Library Trustee and event attendee Christine Goonan

was pleased with the amount of people in attendance.

"There's quite a few people here," Goonan said. "I bet if we did something like this one Saturday a month, there would be so many people who enjoy it."

The workshop was split into two parts, with the first being a step-by-step guide on cutting a pattern out of craft paper to be used as many times as desired. The second part was a drawstring bag, which Shattuck used to explain two different kinds of French seams.

The pattern for the "Morning Glory Top" came from Sarah Kirsten, who has a series of patterns available online.

Shattuck chose this pattern because it's a good starting pattern.

"It makes a reversible top that can be short- or long-sleeved. You can add a strip of cloth to tie it for more coverage, you can add a rectangle to the bottom to make it a dress, you can do all kinds of things with this as the base," Shattuck said.



Tamara Shattuck, the volunteer facilitating the workshop, begins by explaining her experience with sewing. She is shown wearing the top the pattern makes.



Christine Goonan measures her arm with a tape measure.

Everyone in attendance received a to-go hand-sewing kit that included a tape measure, which was used to take their own measurements for their personalized pattern. The kit also included collapsible scissors, thread, pins, a needle and beeswax.

"Running the thread through the beeswax before sewing will help it not catch on the fabric, but it's not always necessary to do so," Shattuck said.

The packet with the instructions was also theirs to keep.

Shattuck recommended using woven fabric like cotton, linen, or polyester because they are not too stretchy and are mid-weight. However, she also encouraged experimenting with different fabrics in order to get more comfortable.

The pattern was cut on craft paper, but virtually anything will do according to Shattuck.

"I just reuse that brown packaging paper that comes in boxes, that works too," Shattuck said.

Once everyone was done with each step from the packet and had a completed pattern, Shattuck demonstrated how to use the paper to cut fabric out. Bias tape could also be used to finish the raw edges of the fabric or folding it over and sewing the edges down could give the top a completed look.

The second part of the workshop was a drawstring bag, which could be used for anything, but was intended by Shattuck to be used for all the to-go hand sewing supplies.

Attendees could choose from several fabric patterns, and then were walked through the steps by Shattuck.

"For hand-sewing something like this, there are only two types of French seam stitches I think you need," Shattuck said.

The French seam is essentially sewing the fabric twice, so they both end up enclosed once the work is completed. Starting with the fabric right-side-out, attendees could choose between a running stitch and a back stitch.

Once the needle is threaded, attendees were instructed to double up on the thread and knot the end by wrapping it twice around a finger, rolling it out, and pulling down.

The running stitch is pulling the needle in and out either side.

The back stitch is similar to the running stitch, but it involves going behind the previous stitch and pulling forward instead, so the needle always enters the fabric on the same side. This stitch takes more time, according to Shattuck, but is more sturdy; if one seam is cut or ripped the whole thing won't unravel.

Once one side is completed, the fabrics are flipped around to be inside-out and then sewn again, encasing the first seams.

"You want to be careful to feel where the first seams are, so you're sewing outside of them instead of right on




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Green Meadows Wreath Fundraiser and Holiday Honors Project

HAMPDEN - The Hampden PTO is happy to announce we will be offering an opportunity to purchase holiday wreaths through Squire Farm in East Longmeadow as a fundraiser to support Green Meadows students.

This fundraiser will be available online during the first two weeks of November and is open to the community; anyone can place an order through our Squire Farm online store. Twenty percent of all proceeds will go towards funding enrichment

programs for students at Green Meadows. This year, we will be including a civic component called the 'Holiday Honors Project'. In addition to the ability to buy wreaths for your family, we also offer the option of purchasing a special 'Veteran Wreath' that will be placed at one of Hampden's Veteran gravestones.

In Hampden, we have 500 Veteran gravesites, some dating back to the Revolutionary War and Boston Tea Party. The Hampden VFW has graciously offered to help volunteers

identify Veteran gravestones for wreath placement at the two Hampden cemeteries.

Students will be working with local community groups and the VFW to place the Veterans' wreaths during our Volunteer Day in December.

Wreaths can be purchased at our store website during Nov. 2 to 15. Check our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hampdenschools.pto> for the store link on or after Dec. 2, once the sale is live. The fundraiser will offer multiple sizes of

wreaths as well as a special Veteran wreath for purchase.

The most popular wreath is the 22-inch wreath, decorated with pinecones, berries, and a red velvet bow and will be offered for \$29. The Veterans Wreath will be a standard wreath with a Red Bow, available for \$20.

All Veteran wreaths that are purchased will be set aside at Squire Farm for volunteers to place on Veteran gravesites at our Volunteer Day, Saturday Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. If you are interested in helping place wreaths

during the volunteer day or have questions about ordering, please reach out to Jenn Bagge or Melanie Joy-Cooper at hampden.ma.pto@gmail.com.

Community members and families will be able to pick up their orders during the first week of December at Squire Farm. We are excited to offer our Green Meadows students and greater Hampden community a chance to work together to celebrate the season and honor our Veterans. Thank you so much for your support.



People spread out to cut the pattern from their craft paper with their measurements.



Tamara Shattuck demonstrates how to use the paper pattern to cut fabric; if the fabric is folded when it gets cut, the paper can get lined up to the folded edge and stay folded as well.



Tamara Shattuck demonstrates to Goonan and another attendee how to carefully fold and sew the fabric over the drawstring of the bag so it still functions.

SEWING from page 4

top," Shattuck said.

One attendee agreed that the workshop was very helpful, stating, "The best part was having someone walk me through a pattern. I'm definitely signing up for the email list for future events like this."

Goonan also enjoyed the workshop.

"Learning about French seams was the best part for me," Goonan said. "It motivated me to sew a winter coat that I have a pattern for with my machine."

After the workshop was over, Shattuck also hosted the second meeting for the Seamwork Social Club she runs, which was a fabric swap this time.

Her goal for the social club is to be able to "bring creative makers together for some face-to-face connection. Sewing is more than just a hobby; it's a community."

This club meets in a range of places, at times that are most convenient for everyone involved.

For more information about the Seamwork Social Club and other sewing adventures, email Shattuck at tamaramshattuck@gmail.com.

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VIEWPOINTS

Pretty leaves make great mulch and more!

Even though we thought it was going to be a year of drab fall foliage, the colors this past weekend surprised me.

I saw so many neat plants doing their thing in response to the shorter days. When chlorophyll is broken down as a result of less daylight, lots of other colors take the place of green in the leaves.

We have our oranges and yellows from the carotenoids, the purple and red shades from the anthocyanins and the rusts and browns from tannins, and then there are plants that look ghost-like because the green color is just plain gone!

Besides enjoying great foliage, I saw the start of some very large leaf piles. I know that raking up fallen leaves are not everyone's favorite task, but gardeners should rejoice!

Read on to learn about the many uses of leaves, straight from the archives.

Consider for a moment the forest, and how stands of trees grow successfully without any input from us. Why is that so?

It is thanks to nature's own process of decomposition. Leaves, branches, and pine needles, etc., fall onto the forest floor where microbes such as fungi and bacteria break them down into humus.

Humus works between the mineral particles and air spaces in the soil, helping it to retain moisture yet drain readily. It also helps to enhance overall soil fertility by making nutrients available to plants in a form they can readily use.

Worms and other macro-organisms aerate the soil and disperse the humus around plant roots, making a self-perpetuating system. We can apply this lesson from nature to our own situation, making for more successful gardens and healthier lawns, and all by the use of leaves!

Perhaps the easiest way to deal with a small amount of leaves is to mow over them several



times with the lawn mower. Soon the tiny pieces will disappear into the soil adding valuable nutrients as they break down.

The lawn mower also comes in handy after piles have been made. Mow over low piles or chop them up with a shredder, then they can be used for a variety of purposes.

Once the soil has frozen, chopped leaves make an excellent protective winter mulch for any type of garden. They won't mat down and rot the crowns of your favorite perennials the way whole leaves might, but they will moderate soil temperatures enough to prevent them from being heaved out of the ground during normal cycles of freezing and thawing.

When spring arrives just pull back the mulch off the tops of the plants. It can stay in place covering bare soil, all the while conserving moisture, preventing weeds, and making humus!

If the "natural look" is unappealing to you apply a thin coat of bark mulch over chopped leaves to dress things up a bit. Repeat this drill every year for your own self-perpetuating garden.

You can also incorporate chopped leaves right into the vegetable garden each fall. The use of a rototiller makes this job a snap.

Most will have decomposed by spring, but

till the garden again a month or so before planting to finish the job.

Chopped leaves make a great addition to the compost pile.

Layer brown, carbon rich ingredients (such as chopped leaves) with green, nitrogen rich ingredients (such as grass clippings, vegetable scraps, non-weedy plant parts) together to get the pile cooking. Add a shovel full of garden soil or finished compost per layer to inoculate it with microbes and water well.

Let the pile sit for a year or turn it frequently for faster results. Compost is a near neutral source of humus, a well-balanced fertilizer and soil tonic, good for all types of gardens and even the lawn.

If you are too busy to layer and shredding sounds like a messy job, simply pile the leaves, moistening as you go. The resulting leaf mold is another healthy addition to the garden.

Research has proven that members of the cabbage family respond especially well to this type of humus. Keep in mind that oak leaves are more acidic than other leaves of trees native to our area.

If you use more of these in any of your gardening situations, adjust liming accordingly.

So get out the rake and improve your landscape!!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.



Worried has question about Taxation of Social Security benefits

Dear Rusty

I am past my Social Security full retirement age, and I am still working. I am married and we file our income tax jointly. My husband is 64 and is not working now, but he may or may not, be able to work in the next year or so. At what point will my Social Security benefits be taxed, if I decide to take them now?

Signed Worried About Taxes

Dear Worried

Many Social Security recipients are surprised to find that their benefits may be considered taxable by the IRS, so I welcome the opportunity to clarify this topic for you.

Whether or not your Social Security benefits are taxable depends on your overall combined taxable income for your IRS tax filing status. Taxation of Social Security benefits for a married couple (filing jointly) depends on your combined income as a couple, which is called your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income" by the IRS. Your MAGI consists of your normal Adjusted Gross Income on your IRS tax return, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had.

If your MAGI, filing jointly, exceeds \$32,000, then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes taxable, but if your MAGI as a couple exceeds \$44,000 then up to 85% of your received SS benefits becomes taxable (at your standard IRS tax rate).

Note that these tax thresholds are less for those who file their taxes as a single – e.g., for someone whose IRS filing status is "single," half of their Social Security benefits become part of their taxable income if their personal MAGI is over \$25,000 and up to 85% of their SS benefits are taxable if their individual MAGI is over \$34,000.

Another factor often misunderstood is that only a portion of SS benefits are added to your income amount taxed by the IRS. The amount added, somewhere between 50% and 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year depending on your MAGI, becomes taxable income at your normal IRS tax rate.

So, in your case, if you claim your SS benefits now and your combined income your MAGI exceeds the above levels for a married couple, then a portion either 50% or up to 85% of your SS benefits received during the tax year will be included in your income taxable by the IRS. Note, too, that it is possible to

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 7

Election letters to the editor welcome

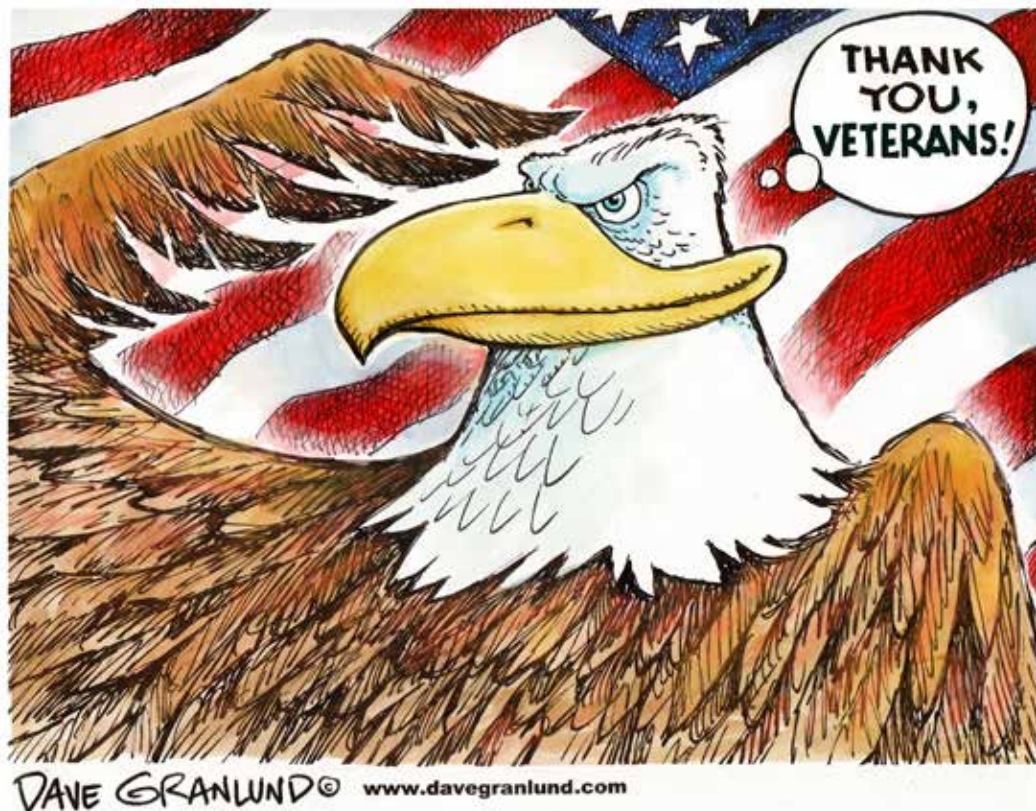
The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden 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.



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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.

Pafumi's on Main gets veteran supporting business sticker

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Pafumi's on Main received their veteran supporting sticker on Nov. 11, carrying their certification over from their old location in Post Office Park.

When the Veteran ID Card program was established in late 2018, Pafumi's was one of the first businesses in Wilbraham to volunteer for the Veteran Discount Program, which involves participating businesses and establishments offering discounts and deals for veterans when they show a specially-issued Veteran ID card.

Sarah Pafumi, an Army Veteran and the wife of Robert Pafumi, one of the owners, expressed excitement after Jered Sasen, director of Veterans Services, presented the couple with the sticker after the town's Veterans Day Ceremony held at Crane Park Veteran Memorial.

Pafumi had served in the Army for nearly a decade and was deployed to Iraq during Operation: Iraqi Freedom, reflecting on her military friends on this Veterans Day.

"A lot of them that are here or not here, passed, have served. Ones I don't get to see quite a bit, but they're still in my mind and my thoughts," Pafumi said.

Pafumi stressed the importance of supporting veterans in the community along with veteran-owned businesses.

"The veterans, I feel, are the foundation of everything. They protect our country, they support families, they support people in general. It's not often that you don't find a veteran that's not willing to stop what they're doing and help somebody or help a situation in any way, shape or form," Pafumi said. "Supporting veterans even if it's just on Veterans Day, giving them a certain

percentage off a meal or just saying thank you. Just saying thank you to a veteran can mean so much to them in such little ways that you don't even recognize it."

Pafumi explained she was telling her granddaughters about what was going on during the Veterans Day ceremony earlier that day, along with the different military branches and why the town does the ceremony.

"Because when it comes down to it, when I serve, I served myself but I also served my country and my family to give them the freedom and protection that I believe in," Pafumi said.

Pafumi was touched to receive the sticker on Veterans Day.

"We are very honored to put it on our door. Just like at our last place, we were honored to do it then too. It means a lot to us as a small business to be able to support in any way we can," Pafumi said.

During the Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies in Wilbraham, Pafumi's always gives back by providing refreshments after each ceremony, which Pafumi said "it's a huge honor to do this" and it's done every year.

"Honestly, it means so much to us to be able to give--even if it's a little bit--back to the community, back to veterans, to show our gratefulness and support and just being thankful for everything they've done and been through," Pafumi said.

Reflecting on the ceremony, Pafumi was emotional to see young people in attendance, sharing this message with them.

"I would say just thank a veteran. You don't even have to truly realize the sacrifices they've made, but just acknowledging that they have some sort of sacrifice in their life, to just thank them," Pafumi said.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

From the left, Sarah Pafumi, Jered Sasen, director of Veterans Services, and Robert Pafumi pose outside Pafumi's on Main with the sticker signifying they support veterans in Wilbraham.

Pafumi also thought about those currently serving.

"I can't thank them enough. I know the sacrifices that they are going through. I know what it entails and I know these days and being away from your family and everything else are really difficult and they're hard to go through," Pafumi said. "The sacrifices are just unbelievable and I can't thank the military that are active duty right now enough."

On this Veterans Day, Pafumi thanked the community for their support, calling them "amazing." "Wilbraham is absolutely amazing and I'm honored to

even be part of any of this and I can just say thank you. Thank you to everything they've done. Thank you to the people that come in and say thank you to military service and just being a community as a whole. It's like one big family in this whole community. It shows. It really shows," Pafumi said. "Just the service today, the amount of people that showed up to support. Even all of the different

things that this community does, the turnouts are amazing. The support for children, the support for families, it's an amazing community and I'm honored to be part of it and I feel privileged."

To learn more, contact the Veterans Services office by calling 413-596-8546.

SOCIAL SECURITY

from page 6

have income tax withheld from your Social Security benefits by submitting IRS form W-4V to your local Social Security office. You can download this IRS form at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf.

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.

Heritage "Pops" Orchestra Christmas Party Dinner & Dance

LUDLOW - Celebrate the Christmas Season with The Big Band Sounds of the 19-piece Heritage "Pops" Orchestra with vocals by Ann Maggs.

Includes Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner & Dessert . Advance Tickets are \$25 per person There will be a Giant Wood Dance Floor and 50/50 Raffle and Cash Bar Polish American Citizens Club 355 East Street, Ludlow, MA Friday, December 13, 2024 Hors d'oeuvres 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Grand Buffet Dinner by John Diotalevi at 6:30 p.m.

Music and Dancing from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets Available at the PACC bar or call Bob at 413-636-7588 or call Paul at 413-800-4164.

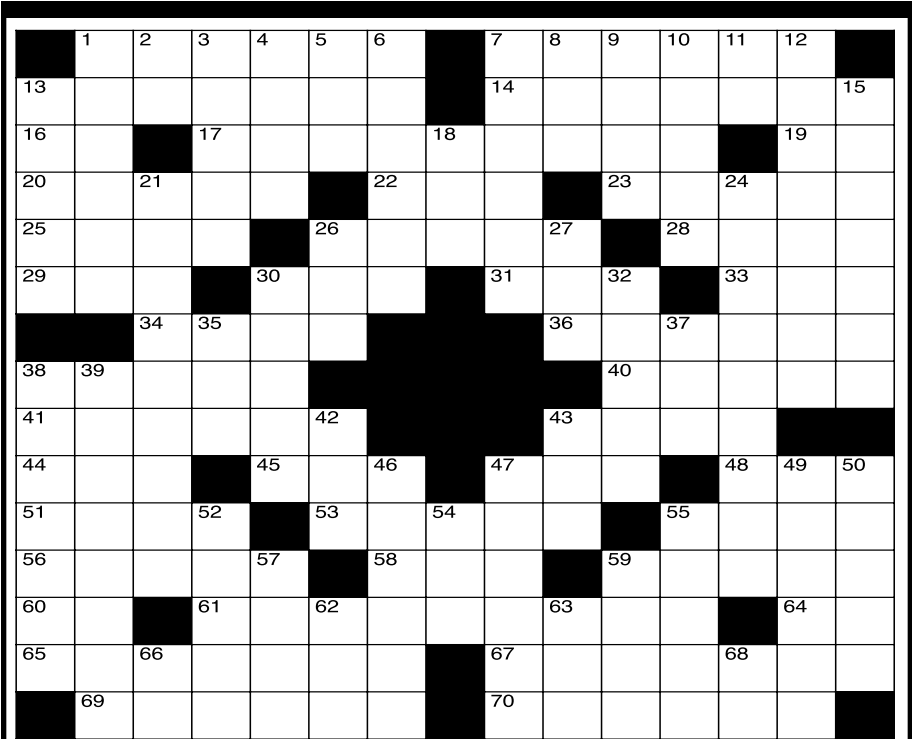
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Schoolhouse tool
7. Martens
13. Slags
14. One who scrapes
16. Centiliter
17. White wine
19. Of I
20. Former Syracuse great Warrick
22. Relating to the ear
23. Sandwich shops
25. Victories
26. White (French)
28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
29. Genus of parrots
30. Unhappy
31. Talk incessantly
33. Type of Squad
34. Unit of perceived loudness
36. Violent seizure of property
38. Agave
40. Sound units
41. Removes from record
43. Partner to Mama
44. Mythological bird
45. Dash
47. Hair product
48. Two-year-old sheep
51. Signs a deal
53. Conifer
55. Autonomous republic in NW Russia
56. Wife of Muhammed
58. British Air Aces
59. Ears or ear-like appendages
60. Not caps
61. Deep-bodied sea dweller
64. Rural delivery
65. Feeling
67. Study of relations of organisms to one another
69. Room to argue
70. Question

CLUES DOWN

1. Cream puff
2. Road open
3. Stressed syllable
4. Thailand's former name
5. Cologne
6. Recounted
7. Garment of cloth
8. Airborne (abbr.)
9. Reproduced
10. Emits coherent radiation
11. "Westworld" actor Harris
12. Smallest interval in Western music
13. Unstressed central vowel
15. Lives in
18. When you expect to get somewhere
21. Storage bags
24. One who covers with plastic
26. Cast out
27. Automobile
30. Repaired shoe
32. Belonging to the bottom layer
35. Possesses
37. Soda
38. Programs
39. In an unexpected way
42. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
43. For each
46. Unbelief
47. Seized or impaled
49. Arrive on the scene
50. Especially happy
52. Classic western film
54. Split pulses
55. Frida __: Painter
57. Start again
59. Employee stock ownership plan
62. Young women's association
63. Frozen water
66. "The First State"
68. Computers need one

HPL to launch Silent Book Club Chapter

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The library is slated to launch its own Silent Book Club Chapter, kicking off on Saturday, Nov. 16, at 12:15 p.m. after the library's monthly Adult Book Club in the Rochford Reading Room.

A Silent Book Club is a growing trend where people gather in bars, cafes, bookstores, libraries and online to read together in quiet camaraderie. The first one occurred in 2012 at a bar in San Francisco, California.

Members of these clubs are encouraged to bring their books, ranging from eBooks and audiobooks, fiction or nonfiction to comic books and more. During the chapter meetings, members will settle in the Rochford Reading Room with their book, coffee or tea or another beverage and at the sound of the bell, will read to themselves for an hour.

Afterward, the bell will sound again to give members a chance to chat with each other about what they're reading and offer their book recommendations.

Currently, there's a Silent Book Club Chapter through the Springfield Public Library and another called The Silent Book Club of Pioneer Valley Chapter in East Longmeadow.

Director Ellen Moriarty expressed excitement, explaining the chapter intends to create quiet and mindful spaces for reading and hitting pause on the fast pace of life by turning pages.

"A library patron brought in an article from a newspaper in New York City where young people were doing Silent Book Clubs in bars, which is interesting," Moriarty said. "Talking about just having a place to get together with book lovers and so it's kind of spawned out now."

Kathy Rochford of the Hampden Free Public Library Trustees was on board with the idea.

"It's just a nice way to be able to sit and read and concentrate. You don't have the hustle and bustle going on around you," Rochford said.

Moriarty agreed.

"It's important for people to take care of themselves and make time for themselves to do things that are important to them,"

Moriarty said. "I think reading is wonderful because it kind of takes you away to another world and gives your brain a break."

Moriarty added the chapter would be no-pressure with drop-ins welcome.

"Just get together and read quietly with book lovers," Moriarty said.

Reflecting on the book clubs offered by the library, including the Adult Book Club which meets every third Saturday of the month and the Social Justice Book Club which meets the fourth Thursday of every month, Moriarty stressed the importance of variety.

"We try to do a variety of options for people to come to different book clubs at different times and try out different things because that's what book clubs are all about," Moriarty said. "To try books that you haven't. Like sometimes people aren't into historical fiction and give it a try and they like it or they might not be into mysteries, but at a book club you might read something you wouldn't normally read but it opens up a whole new world for you. That's what I like about it."

Also, the value of different thoughts and perspectives.

"Because you might not like a book and then someone might mention why they liked it and you go, 'Oh!' and you see it differently," Moriarty said. "So, that opens up a whole new conversation."

Rochford agreed, sharing how she's a big mystery reader but has opened herself up to other reads.

"When I came, I got into books I would never pick off the shelf," Rochford said. "It's good to read what somebody else likes."

Rochford added a Silent Book Club can create "an hour of peace and quiet."

"The hour of downtime. Nothing, no phones, no chitchat, no television. No anything," Rochford said.

Moriarty encourages the community to come by and check it out along with future library events.

"If you're on Facebook we post a lot on Facebook. Also, our website. Also, the flyers (are) at the front desk. Also, the local newspaper," Moriarty said. "So, all those ways to find out what's happening at the library. Or, you can give us a call and we will tell you what's happening because we have a lot happening."

Finance Committee discusses update for upcoming meeting with HWRSD

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Finance Committee discussed an update for an upcoming meeting with the school district during their Oct. 30 meeting.

Chair Todd Schneider explained how the school district's Budget Subcommittee is looking "for a complete meeting sometime in December" with the Finance Committee, the Capital Planning Committee and the Select Board in town and the Board of Selectmen in Hampden.

"It's going to be in December and, full disclosure, they won't have a budget. We won't have our budgets out. They won't be done with their contract negotiations. So we won't know what number," Schneider said. "The only number we might know is free cash by then. Other than that, we won't have any of our budgets submitted back to us, so we won't know what number we can play with...In their defense, they want to get better with communicating earlier is the way that it's being presented."

Vice Chair Kevin Hanks said this.

"You kind of already answered it. Do we know what the catalyst is for the meeting that isn't already discussed in the weekly Budget Subcommittee?" Hanks said.

Schneider replied no.

"That's the other thing is that we have a Budget Subcommittee that Patrick (Kiernan) and I will be on for the reason to bring the communication back here," Schneider said. "So, when we get the invites, we'll have more conversation there and, hopefully, it comes with somewhat of an agenda."

Schneider added he had a feeling it regards capital projects that Minnechaug Regional High School will be thinking about for this year.

"Because we do recognize that the first 12 years of Minnechaug being open, the funds to do their capital projects is now underfunded since it's now considered 12, 15 years and it's starting to break," Schneider said. "I don't know if that's the overall catalyst

to this kind of a meeting. But, I'm always in the mood for putting people in a room to get something done."

Joe Lawless asked this.

"Relayed, but unrelayed, somewhat, have we made any headway with developing a fund for putting money aside for Minnechaug for refurbishment?" Lawless said. "Again, I know we've talked about it, so we need to start looking at or doing it. Is there a board looking at it?"

Schneider said he knows there's a subcommittee.

"I know that we're working on the regional agreement right now. There's a subcommittee working on a regional agreement to make the middle school a regional school, to help get some funding for the needs of the middle school since almost every child from Hampden that is in that grade goes to our middle school," Schneider said. "That opens up a little bit of a problem with regards to the current regional agreement and who pays for--since it's our building--who pays for upkeep and all that kind of stuff since we pay for upkeeps for the last x amount of years. So, which part of the new upkeep would be our responsibility, their responsibility, shared responsibility and so forth. So in other words, like, we wouldn't put any money into it this year if they signed an agreement, then next year, also, we need for windows and doors."

"So, today, if we need to put money into the school, Hampden doesn't pay any of that today?" Lawless said.

"No," Schneider said.

The committee then moved on to discussing the draft budget memo, with the takeaways being about 0% increases in expenses--with some expenses that will still need to be changed, particularly for energy and electrical--and a request to find out from the town departments what their non-budget revenues amounts were and where it comes from for a clearer picture of things.

Schneider clarified it's to review the town's exposure when it comes to costs and grants, which can help understand what to cover for possible gaps.

WFD restricting outdoor fires

WILBRAHAM - Given the current and expected weather conditions, the Wilbraham Fire Department is restricting any outdoor fires. This includes fires associated with fire pits, chimineas and outdoor fireplaces.

Improper disposal of fire materials, such as ashes and cigarette butts, can lead to brush fires. Always ensure these materials are completely extinguished and disposed of properly to prevent accidental fires.

The Wilbraham Fire Department has responded to several brush fires and illegal burns over the past week.

Hampden Outdoor Fire Ban Extended Through Nov. 15

Any Outdoor Fire Will Spread and Threaten People and Property

HAMPDEN -As drought conditions spread across Massachusetts and the wildfire risk continues to grow, Hampden Fire Chief Edward Poulin and municipal leaders are prohibiting any outdoor fires at least until Friday, Nov. 15.

"Historically low rainfall, bright and breezy weather, and bone-dry fuel sources mean that any outdoor fire will quickly grow out of control," said Chief Poulin. "Every firefighter battling a preventable wildfire is one who can't respond to a house fire, car crash, or medical emergency. Help us help you. Please use caution and common sense and refrain from any outdoor activity that could spark a fire."

Burning yard waste is already prohibited across Massachusetts through January 15 and year-round in some communities under 310 CMR 7.07, the Open Burning reg-

ulation. Today's order additionally restricts the outdoor use of fire pits, chimineas, candles, cooking/heating equipment, and other ignition sources under Section 10.10.2 of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code. The Code grants fire officials the authority to prohibit any and all open flames and other ignition sources under certain hazardous conditions, including extreme drought.

Any requests for permits for outdoor fires, hot work such as cutting/grinding, and other activity will be decided in light of the ongoing fire risk.

All of Massachusetts, including Hampden, is facing an unprecedented fall wildfire season. Statewide, fires in October rose 1,200% above the historical average, and the 133 fires reported in the first week of November represent more than six times the average for the entire month. Many have damaged homes and other properties. According to Chief Poulin, the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, and the Department of Conservation & Rec-

reation's Bureau of Forest Fire Control & Forestry, almost all of these fires start with human activity and can be prevented by limiting outdoor activity that involves open flames, sparks and embers, hot engines or gasoline from power equipment, and other ignition sources.

Months without meaningful rainfall, abundant dead leaves and vegetation, bright sunshine, and gusty winds make the current and expected weather conditions ripe for a wildfire in every city and town in Massachusetts. At the same time, static water sources like lakes and ponds are supplying less water and water pressure to extinguish these fires. Because about 45% of Massachusetts homes are in or near wooded areas, almost any significant wildfire will threaten residential areas.

"The faster we hear about a fire, the better chance we have of safely extinguishing it," said Chief Poulin. "If you see smoke or flames, please call 9-1-1 right away so we can protect you, your neighbors, and our community."

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'One Slight Hitch' transports audience to different world

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Players are hard at work performing their fall production "One Slight Hitch."

The show centers around the Coleman family, where it is their eldest daughter Courtney's wedding day and her mother, Delia, is trying to make sure that everything goes perfectly on her special day. Then, the door opens, and all Hell breaks loose as Courtney's ex-boyfriend Ryan enters the Coleman building.

It's become a mad rush to hide the ex-boyfriend before anything gets worse.

The production stars Shaun Barry as Doc Coleman, Shannon Martin as Delia Coleman, Jay Lee as Ryan, Emma Cervasio as P.B., Kiernan Cone as Melanie, Carolyn Averill as Courtney and Jim Martin as Harper.

The chemistry between each of the actors seemed so realistic that the audience became immersed in Coleman's story. It was like they were in their house watching their shenanigans unfold.

The set and scenery of a 1980s home in Cincinnati, Ohio was built perfectly to the touch and every single detail of the home made it even more lively.

The show was so lively, the audience was at the edge of their seats the whole time wondering what would happen next in the Coleman's wedding adventure.

And they wouldn't stop laughing with the cast's immaculate comedic timing and true family chemistry.

Barry as Doc Coleman was the definition of the classic father of the 80s. His chill nature in contrast to his wife made him the usual laid-back father, but also his quick wit made him hilarious to watch anytime he needed to think something up and be quick on his feet.

Shannon Martin as Delia Coleman was the exact opposite of Doc, her drive to make sure everything was perfect for her daughter made her exciting to watch, especially since she was always moving around ensuring the perfect day.

The Coleman daughters were both equally different from each other. But when together, they are always able to share a good laugh.

Carolyn Averill as Courtney was the true eldest daughter, always prepared and looking forward to her future, but also unsure of what she wants for herself. Kiernan Cone as Melanie was casual and laid-back, always ready to offer someone a drink when another person was stressed.

Emma Cervasio as the youngest daughter P.B. brought light into the room with her energetic personality and quick wit while also serving as the narrator of the story for the audience, comedically stopping time to break the fourth wall.



Submitted photo Deb Trimble

From the left, Shannon Martin as Delia, shares a moment with Kiernan Cone as Melanie, Carolyn Averill as Courtney and Emma Cervasio as P.B in "One Slight Hitch," the fall production from the Wilbraham United Players.

Jay Lee as Ryan and Jim Martin as Harper took the stage by storm with their impeccable comedic timing. With Ryan as the hilarious ex-boyfriend who can't seem to figure out why the wedding is so important to the Colemans, and Harper as the perfect husband character naturally fall into place with the perfect wedding that is being placed.

With all of them together, it

created a perfect mix of comedy of chaos on the stage as they tried to make the perfect wedding day happen.

Under the direction of Deb Trimble, the cast and crew of "One Slight Hitch" are able to pull off a fantastic show, where the audience cannot stop laughing for the entirety of it. It is a wonderful play with a hilarious cast, and it is something that

people will continue to remember, look back on and have a good laugh about it.

"One Slight Hitch" continues to perform for three more shows, with evening performances on Nov. 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. and a Matinee Sunday show at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 17. Performances are held at the Wilbraham United Church in Fellowship Hall.

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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Talking politics?...

Submitted photo Lucy Peltier

After political memorabilia collector Glen Clark's presentation for the Old Meeting House Museum Nov. 2 at the Wilbraham Library, it sparked a conversation with (from left) Atheneum Society Program Chairman Charlie Bennett, Clark and Atheneum Trustee Bradley Gregory. Clark said his collection spans from before the Civil War to present-day.

Life in WILBRAHAM

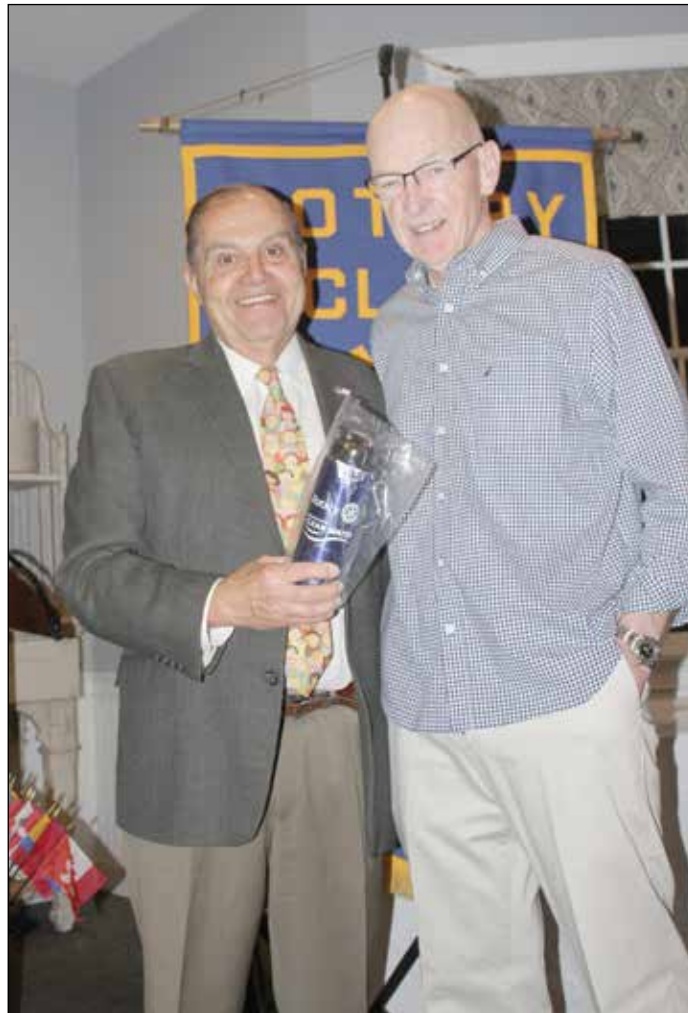
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Explaining the roles...

Turley photo by Charlie Bennett

Retired Probation officer Bob Ryan (right) receives a gift from Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club President Peter Salerno at the Oct. 23 meeting of the club at the Country Club of Wilbraham for being the guest speaker. Ryan explained the roles of state and federal jurisdiction in recent, well-publicized murder trials, including the Karen Read case.



WMS says thank you to community for donations



Wilbraham Middle School would like to thank our community for all of the donations and support at the outbreak at WMS. Parents of Wilbraham and Hampden were extremely generous with their donations.

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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

WFD, HFD respond to brush fires



HFD assists Monson Fire Department in brush fire responses

On Oct. 31, Squad-1, Tanker-1 and Engine-2 assisted the Monson Fire Department with a large brush fire on Bradway Rd in their town. Numerous other mutual aid resources also responded.

Photos and captions courtesy of Hampden Fire Department



On Oct. 31, the Hampden Fire Department assisted Monson Fire Department at a very large wildfire on Bradway Rd that was threatening homes. The fire department assisted with fire containment and water supply for multiple hours. The following day on Nov. 1, the crews returned to offer assistance at this major incident. Residents were warned smoke from this fire may linger in the area of Stafford Rd in Hampden. Photos courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department



Submitted photo and caption Kristen VanDerBeken

the start of this school year! Many of our classroom libraries were destroyed during the mold



The Wilbraham Fire Department responded to several brush fires—and illegal burns—in the past week. The fire department later announced a restriction on outdoor fires in Wilbraham on Nov. 4. Photos courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department

HFD responds to brush fire threatening shed



On Nov. 4 at 3 p.m., Hampden Fire Department were dispatched to Wilbraham Rd for a brush fire threatening a shed. Upon arrival of the 1st engine an active shed fire was found with the surrounding brush burning. Crews quickly knocked down the brush fire and then extinguished the shed. Mutual aid was provided by Wilbraham Fire Department, Somers Fire Department and East Longmeadow Fire Department. The fire is not suspicious in nature.

Photos courtesy of Hampden Fire Department

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Select Board Chair Sue Bunnell reflects on Veterans Day and thanking those who protect and serve.



State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) talks about how the state will continue to support veterans and their families.



Members of the Minnechaug Regional High School Band perform the "Veterans Salute."

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers



U.S. Coast Guard Veteran David Kopsa salutes after placing an American Flag to honor the Coast Guard during the Veterans Day ceremony at Crane Park Veteran Memorial.



Members of Scout Troop 359 pose for a group photo with Jered Sasen, director of Veterans Services, after the Veterans Day ceremony.



Air Force Veteran Kathleen Kennedy addresses attendees after being selected as the 2024 Veteran of the Year.



U.S. Marine Corp. Veteran Lawrence Murray salutes after placing an American Flag to honor those who have served in the Marine Corp.

WILBRAHAM from page 1

country to celebrate its freedom and honor all those who have served," Sasen said. "As a veteran, I stand before you with (a) profound sense of pride, humility and gratitude. I've been where many of our service members have been, serving our great country with unwavering dedication, yet facing the many challenges that come with it today."

Noting how it was his final Veterans Day as he heads for a new role with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services, Sasen said serving Wilbraham "has been one of the greatest honors of my life," and reflected on the "privilege of standing alongside you, sharing your stories and working to ensure our veterans receive the recognition and support they deserve."

"Though I am excited to move to a new position where I have the opportunity to assist even more veterans across our Commonwealth, it is difficult for me to leave a position in a com-

munity that has meant so much to me," Sasen said. "I want you to know that while my role may be changing, my dedication to you and to all veterans remains steadfast. As I carry forward, I will take the lessons I've learned here--inspired by each of you--and will continue the work we began together."

Puppolo said Veterans Day "is a promise that our nation does not take their sacrifices for granted."

"Veterans are examples for all of us. They do not take freedom for granted. They know freedom's true cost, they know the names and faces of the men and women who've paid for it," Puppolo said. "We must, also, always remember the men and women who are still serving here and across the globe. We must make sure we're ready for their return and to do all that we can to help them and their families."

Puppolo added the state will continue supporting legislative and funding initiatives for veterans, noting the recent passage of the HERO Act.

"As communities, we have a responsibility to embrace our veterans and families and to ensure they receive the benefits and services that they so valiantly earned. We owe our veterans and service members nothing less," Puppolo said.

Puppolo later presented a citation from the State House of Representatives to Sasen for his work in Veterans Services in Wilbraham and ended his remarks with the poem "I Want to Take a Moment to Thank a Veteran."

After encouraging attendees to take time to reflect and thank those who protect and serve, Bunnell honored Sasen for his dedication to the town and its veterans.

"I will tell you it's been an absolute joy to see the grace with which he has assumed the mantle of public speaking and organizing events and, most importantly, really ensuring that the veterans with whom he has interacted have received all the benefits that they might be entitled to, including many of which they

were completely unaware," Bunnell said. "It has been remarkable and has made a significant impact on the ground with those individuals and their families. We will miss him terribly."

Bunnell ended her remarks with a note from President Dwight D. Eisenhower where, in 1954, the word "Armistice" was replaced with "Veterans" for Veterans Day.

"His proclamation included the words 'Let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly on the seas, in the air and on foreign shores to preserve our heritage and freedom and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain,'" Bunnell said.

Kennedy, who received a citation from the State House of Representatives presented by Puppolo, a citation from the State Senate signed by State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and a plaque from Sasen on behalf of the town and Department of Veterans Services, was humbled.

"It is an honor because I firmly believe there are others who were just as much--if not more than me--to help the town out," Kennedy said. "Still surprised at this. Looking forward to the coming year and I'll do my best to help out where I can."

Kennedy, who served for 12 years, was elated with the turnout for the ceremony.

"I think it reflects change in our country. People are beginning to realize the importance of veterans and what they did," Kennedy said. "They're striving now to prove and to show it, which is a good thing."

Kennedy's message was this. "Wilbraham respects its veterans, openly," Kennedy said. "They're very open about their appreciation and I think they displayed it today by coming out."

Sasen's parting words to the community were this, a symbol of best wishes until we meet again said in the Navy. "Fair winds and following seas," Sasen said.

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Events & announcements schedule

Shop Til U Drop kicks off Nov. 5

HAMPDEN - It's time to Shop Til U Drop at the Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen St, Hampden. Our annual holiday shopping spree opens on Tues, Nov. 5 at 9 a.m. You'll find a huge selection of giftable items for everyone on your shopping list. Senior Center shopping hours are Mon - Wed, and Fri, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thurs til Noon. We accept cash or checks payable to Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens. All proceeds will benefit the Senior Center Building Fund. See you there!

Wilbraham Hiking Club November Hikes

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Hiking Club has six hikes set for November, ranging from easy to very challenging:
Nov. 14- Mount Warner - Hadley
Nov. 17 - Scouting Hike at Teawaddle Trail in Leverett
Nov. 21 - MCRT - Church Street Section - Ware
Nov. 29 - 7th Annual Black Friday Hike at the Quabbin Reservoir
More information about these hikes can be found on the club's TeamReach pages, or write to wilbrahamhiking@gmail.com.

Cordage Workshop at HPL

HAMPDEN - The library will be presenting a Cordage Workshop on Saturday, Nov. 16, at Noon.
Join us for a guided Cordage Workshop in recognition of Native American History Month. Learn how to make cordage—string or rope—out of natural mate-

rials and then craft that cordage with jutte into your own little bag.
Free event. Registration is required.
Frank Grindrod, the instructor, is an author, wilderness guide, survival instructor and the founder of Earthwork Programs in Conway, MA. A trained Wilderness First Responder, he leads wildlife education programs across America.
Find him online at earthworkprograms.com.

St. Cecilia's Women's Club sponsoring Calendar Raffle Fundraiser

WILBRAHAM - Feeling lucky?? The Saint Cecilia Women's Club is sponsoring a Calendar Raffle Fundraiser for the month of November. Each day a winner will be drawn for a cash prize.
\$3,500 has been donated by generous businesses in our area each sponsoring an amount for a particular day from \$50 to \$250. The profit is used for the club's scholarships and donations to various charitable and needy organizations.
Raffle tickets may be found in the rotunda of St. Cecilia Church, on the Saint Cecilia website under downloadable forms, or call Sue Agnew, 413-596-9480, for information or tickets.
Thank you for your support!!

Minnechaug Holiday Craft Fair

WILBRAHAM - The Minnechaug Holiday Craft Fair, taking place at Minnechaug Regional High School takes place on Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
To learn more, contact Jennifer Zera at 413-569-9011 or jzera@hwrsd.org.

VFW Post 9397 Turkey Shoots

HAMPDEN - The VFW Post 9397 kicked off Turkey Shoots on Sept. 8 and they will continue to run through Nov. 24. They take place every Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m., with presale tickets at 12:30 p.m.
Prizes include cash, quality meats and a 50/50 raffle.
The kitchen will also be open for the shoot.
The VFW Post 9397 is located at 190 Main St. in Hampden.

Knitters and Crocheters at Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN - Barbara Dunwoody teaches knitting at the Hampden Senior Center on Mondays from 9 to 11 a.m. This class uses yarn that is donated.
Everyone is invited to join in. This past summer when school was out, we had a young girl participate that was taught previously by her grandmother. As Barbara says, "If you don't know how to knit, we'll teach you."
Because of all the generous donations the senior center received, these ladies went to work making lap robes (crocheted or quilted), and hats (knitted or crocheted). Over one year, this group made 49 lap robes and delivered them to Vantage at Hampden, a nursing and rehab facility. They also made 216 hats that will be distributed amongst eight local elementary schools.
We are very proud of our members at the Hampden Senior Center and their contributions to giving back to our community.

A reminder about signs from the Town of Wilbraham

WILBRAHAM - The Zoning Enforcement Officer would like to remind residents and businesses that signs are not allowed on any telephone pole, street corner or public property within the Town limits unless it is approved through the Select Board or the Planning Board. This includes any free-standing signs on tree belts and street corners.
Please review the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaws posted on the Town website pertaining to signs under Section 12 - Sign Regulations. As shown in this photo, signs are confiscated and recycled.
Unauthorized signs not only violate these rules but can also result in fines. We appreciate your cooperation as we strive to maintain the aesthetics and safety of our community.
If you have any questions please contact the Building Department at 596-2800, Extension 204.

Drop-In Tech Help at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM - Need help setting up an email account, updating your phone, or figuring out a new device? Starting September 6, students from Wilbraham & Monson Academy (WMA) will be at the Wilbraham Public Library on Fridays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Technology assistance will be available on a first come, first served basis. Please bring any relevant devices and/or log-in and password information. Contact the library at 413-596-6141 with any questions.

Christmas Holiday Craft Fair takes place Dec. 7

HAMPDEN - The Federated Community Church of Hampden will be hosting a Christmas Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
There will also be a pancake breakfast from 9 to 10:30 a.m.
A variety of items made by local crafters! Lunch available for purchase!
The Federated Community Church of Hampden is located at 590 Main Street, Hampden, MA 01036.

Get Ready for Fall Fun with Hampden Parks & Recreation!

HAMPDEN - Join us this November at Hampden Town Hall for exciting and educational opportunities at Hampden Parks & Recreation! We are thrilled to announce two upcoming classes that are perfect for enhancing your skills and enjoying the beauty of nature.
Succulent Garden Planting Workshop
Date: Nov. 14
Unleash your creativity and learn the art of succulent gardening! This hands-on class will guide you through the process of planting and caring for your own succulent garden. Perfect for beginners and experienced gardeners alike, participants will leave with a beautiful arrangement to brighten their homes.

Stay Connected!
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates on these classes and more upcoming programs, including our CPR certification class! You can find us at Hampden MA Parks & Rec on Facebook and @hampdenparksma on Instagram. Don't miss out on the chance to enhance your skills and engage with our community!
We can't wait to see you at our classes! For more information or to register, please visit <https://hampdenma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

Political writer to address Democratic Committee

WILBRAHAM - Local political writer and commentator Matt Szafranski will discuss the recent election at the regular meeting of the Wilbraham Democratic Town Committee on Tuesday, November 19, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Wilbraham Police Department, 2780 Boston Road, Wilbraham.
Szafranski, an attorney, will share his thoughts on the election results, but focus primarily on what Democrats can do now moving forward.
Szafranski is editor-in-chief of Western Mass Politics and Insight (wmasspi.com) which provides news, commentary and analysis on politics and civic life in the Greater Springfield area.

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Big Y Community Bag Program to benefit WFOL

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL) has been selected as a beneficiary of the Big Y Community Bag Program for the month of November 2024.

The Big Y Community Bag Program, which launched in January 2019, is a reusable bag program that facilitates community support with the goal to make a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work. The program features the reusable Community Bag with a special tag attached to it that allows customers to direct a donation to a non-profit of their choice upon purchase.

Wilbraham Friends of the Library was selected as the November beneficiary of the program by store leadership at the Big Y located at Boston Road, Wilbraham. Wilbraham Friends of the Library will receive a \$1 donation ev-

ery time the reusable Community Bag is purchased at this

location during November, unless otherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag attached to the bag.

Our goal is to sell 200 bags, equivalent to \$200 raised. We are confident that with the help of our dedicated supporters, we can reach this goal.

The Community Bags are located on displays around the store and at the checkout. For more information about the program, please visit bigy.bags4my-cause.com.

We strongly encourage you to share this news with family and friends as well!

For more information, contact the WFOL at friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.



Submitted photos

Members of Team Monaghan stand united before the race.



Over 700 runners and walkers took part in the 5K held at Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke.

Sheriff's Office Hosts Record-breaking shuffle to combat domestic violence

HOLYOKE – The Hampden County Sheriff's Office's hosted the 2024 Sheriff's Shuffle 5K and 1.5-mile on Sunday, Sept. 29, at Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke, with a record turnout of more than 700 runners and walkers setting the largest participation in the event's 25-year history.

Sheriff Nick Cocchi spearheaded this year's initiative, aimed at addressing the epidemic of domestic violence in Western Massachusetts. The event successfully raised crucial funds to support victims, with this year's proceeds benefiting the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, an organization dedicated to empowering and assisting individuals affected by domestic violence.

"I'm beyond grateful for the more than 700 people who supported this year's Sheriff's Shuffle 5K. Together, we raised much-needed funds and awareness for the fight against domestic violence, a cause that touches far too many lives in our community," said Sheriff Nick Cocchi. "Events like this remind us that when we stand united, we can bring about real change. The strength and generosity of our community are powerful, and I'm proud to see so many people come together to say, 'Enough is enough.' Let's continue this momentum and keep working to protect survivors and break the cycle of violence." The YWCA of Western Massachusetts, based in Springfield, has experienced a significant increase in demand for its services, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023 alone, the organization provided vital support to nearly 12,000 men, women, and children

through its various programs.

"The Sheriff's Shuffle 5K was an incredible event that united our community in the fight against domestic violence. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support from everyone who participated. Together, we are raising funds and awareness that will help protect and empower survivors. The partnership with the Hampden County Sheriff's Office is vital in ensuring that resources and support are available for those in need. This fundraiser sends a strong message: we will not stand by in silence; we will act and make a difference," said YWCA CEO Elizabeth Dineen.

Joseph Harris, of South Hadley, a Hampden County Sheriff's Office employee, was the 5K race winner with a time of 18 minutes, 12 seconds. Lee Belisle, of Belchertown, was second in 19:03, and Pete Syper, of Three Rivers, was third in 20:39. Jennifer Murray, of Westfield, was the first place female runner, finishing the 3.1-mile race course in 22:53. Lydia Pacheco, of Springfield, was the top Sheriff's Office female staff finisher and second female overall with a time of 23:18. Victoria Stone, of Chester, was the third female across the finish line in 23:22.

The Sheriff's Shuffle has long fostered community involvement and collaboration with local agencies, bringing together participants from all walks of life to unite for this important cause. The day included camaraderie, refreshments, food, awards, a raffle with exciting prizes, and live entertainment, creating an atmosphere of community spirit and engagement.

Spinning for a Cause

Local Survivor and eCycle Studio Team Up for Breast Cancer Fundraiser

WILBRAHAM - Four years ago, East Longmeadow resident Lucia Manzi Basile received a life-changing diagnosis of breast cancer.

Today, her journey has taken a much more uplifting turn. In celebration of her remission, Lucia, along with over 20 riders, gathered at eCycle in Wilbraham for a special fundraising event benefiting Rays of Hope, an organization dedicated to breast cancer research and support.

Manzi-Basile, reflecting on her battle and her triumph, shared, "When I was diagnosed, I felt like my world was spinning out of control. This event today was about taking control of that spin—turning it into something powerful and positive, for myself and for others still fighting."

The event was hosted at Wilbraham's eCycle, a local spin studio owned by Erica Gonzalez, who has consistently leveraged her studio as a platform to support a variety of worthwhile causes.

Gonzalez has previously organized events supporting heart disease, as well as mental health awareness, donating both her time and financial resources. When approached about hosting this Ride for Rays of Hope, Erica was more than eager and excited to participate. "It was a no-brainer," said Gonzalez. "As a community, we support one another, and



this was the perfect opportunity to open my studio and my heart. I'm proud to be a part of something that brings people together for such a meaningful cause."

Participants were decked out in pink as they took to the bikes for the Ride for Rays of Hope. In addition to the ride, attendees had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for themed baskets, with proceeds going directly to the charity. The best part? Erica donated the space and equipment for the event, ensuring that everyone could join without cost.

Lucia was joined by friends, family, and supporters, all pedaling in unison to celebrate her remission and the impact Rays of Hope has on the breast cancer community.

Wilb. Women's Club Wreaths with a Reason

WILBRAHAM - Please come and join the Wilbraham Women's Club on Thursday November 14, 2024 Mary Ann Dietschler will speak about the growing problem of sex trafficking and what she is doing to help bring this to the attention to all. We are located at St. Cecilia's Parish Hall, on Main Street in Wilbraham.. Lunch served at 12 o'clock noon. Our soup and sandwich luncheon will be catered by the Village Store in Wilbraham.

Cost is \$12.00

For reservations please call Natalie 413-596 8794. Deadline is November 8, 2024 .

Our presentation, will begin at approximately 1:15. Mary Ann will have wreaths available for sale.

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

Toys for Tots coming to Has Been Collectible Toys & Comics

WILBRAHAM - Has Been Collectible Toys & Comics on Boston Road in Wilbraham is gearing up for a Toys for Tots event on Dec. 8.

More information to come very soon.

To learn more, contact Rik Alvarez at 413-279-4389.

Cookbook Club at WPL

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library Cookbook Club is meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m.

This month's selection is "The Tucci Cookbook" by Stanley Tucci.

Sign up is required; please let the library know what you're bringing so we do not duplicate recipes. Cooking is encouraged but not required for attendance. Copies of the book are available now at the Service Desk.

The Cookbook Club meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public, and registration is required. For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

Hampden Winter Parking Ban Information

HAMPDEN – The Town of Hampden Winter Parking Ban will run from November 15, 2024, through April 15, 2025.

Any vehicles left on town roads may be towed at the owner's expense. All vehicles that impede snow removal shall be towed at the request of the Highway Department.

SPORTS

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Chaug football takes second straight game

WILBRAHAM – After winning just one game in its first seven games, Minnechaug Regional High School football has won two straight, defeating Chicopee Comprehensive in its final regular season game, then picked up a win 56-14 over Pittsfield in Week 9 in nonplayoff action. The Brownies final game of the year will be against Agawam High School on Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. Minnechaug does not have a Thanksgiving game.



Jon Bermudez blocks on the line.



Josh Disa takes the ball on a carry.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Jack Lucarelle attempts a pass.



Max Baroni heads toward the left side on a run.



Mason Jones makes a reception and looks for more yards.

Falcons moving forward in tournament



Gavin Coughlin tries to navigate through traffic.



Thomas O'Toole attempts to settle the ball.



Ryan Purchas passes toward the sideline.



Robert Bustamante watches his pass head up the field.

WILBRAHAM – With wins last Wednesday and Friday evenings, Minnechaug Regional High School boys soccer is moving into the quarterfinals of the Division 2 State Tournament. Last Friday, the Falcons defeated Reading Memorial High School. Bryce Barlow scored a pair of goals, with Brady Suomala and Paul Diehl also tallying scores in the matchup. Chase Henderson had seven saves in the shutout. The Falcons were scheduled to face Hingham in the quarterfinals on Nov. 14.



Tyler Supczak advances deep into the opposing end of the field.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Falcons field hockey season ends in second round

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School field hockey team's season ended last week with a second round loss in the Division 2 State Tournament. Minnechaug was defeated by Notre Dame Academy of Hingham last Wednesday evening.

The Falcons would open the tournament with a Round of 32 win over Westborough on the road. The Falcons would defeat Westborough 4-3 to advance. Overall, the Falcons finished 7-9-3 for the season. Minnechaug also lost to East Longmeadow in the Western Mass. Class A semifinals.

Boys soccer alumni game to take place Nov. 29

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug varsity boys annual alumni game will be played on Nov. 29, 10:30 a.m., at the Wilbraham Soccer Club fields. Former and current players as well as friends and family are encouraged to attend. Players should be in proper soccer gear. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the game.

T-Birds pick up point in OT defeat

HERSHEY, PA - The Springfield Thunderbirds (4-8-1-0) incredibly erased a two-goal deficit in the final minute of the third, but the Hershey Bears (9-3-1-0) survived to pick up a 3-2 overtime win at the Giant Center on Sunday.

Like the opening 20 minutes on Saturday, the homestanding Bears were ferocious in getting shots at the Springfield net, this time on Colten Ellis. However, like the night before, the T-Birds got a sensational first period from their goaltender, as Ellis had a response to all 20 shots the Hershey attack unleashed, including chances that came from two power plays. The 20 stops were the most in a single period this season by a Springfield netminder.

At the other end, Clay Stevenson was starting his first start in nearly a month after missing six games with an upper-body injury, and the Hershey goaltender had a distinctly quieter workload, turning aside seven Springfield offerings and helping the Bears' penalty kill

fend off one T-Birds power play.

Shots on goal did not come as easily for Hershey in the middle period. Still, the fourth line did get the Bears on the board first at the 10:14 mark when Matt Strome retrieved a loose puck below the goal line and fired a pass into the blue paint to a crashing Riley Sutter, who chipped it over Ellis on the glove side to make it 1-0.

The Bears' defense proved to be an impenetrable force in the second, as Springfield managed just four shots on goal in the entire period, and the Hershey penalty kill dispatched two more Thunderbirds man-advantage opportunities.

Stevenson and the Hershey defense corps showed no signs of relenting anything to the T-Birds, and when Spencer Smallman tucked a puck into an empty net with 2:06 remaining, the Bears' 2-0 lead seemed secure.

However, the never-say-die T-Birds refused to go down. Samuel Johannesson scored his first AHL goal with 40.5 seconds remaining,

squeezing a wrist shot between Stevenson's legs to end the shutout bid.

Just 27 seconds later, with Ellis at the bench for an extra skater, Nikita Alexandrov beared in on the right wing side and backhanded the puck into the paint. With Matthew Peca crashing the net, the shot attempt slipped under Stevenson's legs, and the game was tied 2-2 heading into overtime.

With momentum on their side, the T-Birds could not quite complete the miraculous comeback attempt. Ellis denied his 40th shot of the night to stop Pierrick Dube in the opening minute of overtime. Unfortunately for the T-Birds netminder, the loose rebound went right on the stick of Mike Vecchione, who pushed it across the line to give Hershey the 3-2 victory.

The T-Birds return to home ice for five of the next six games, beginning on Friday, Nov. 15 when they host the Lehigh Valley Phantoms.

Owls field hockey wins conference title

WESTFIELD – Westfield State junior forward Kaleigh Murphy (Pembroke, Mass.) scored the game winning goal with 4:20 left in regulation to lift the Owls to the 2024 Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference title with a 2-1 win over Bridgewater State on Saturday afternoon at Alumni Field.

With the win, the Owls improve to 13-8 and set a school record for wins, and earn the MASCAC's automatic bid to the 2024 NCAA Division III Tournament.

Tied 1-1 throughout the second half, Murphy had several golden-opportunity chances in front of the net before eventually tallying the game winner.

Murphy found the back of the net, stepping in to ball from Sadie Stauffer (Suffield, Conn.) about three yards in front of the goal as the ball was batted around the critical scoring area.

"We've been a team that's been resilient and been able to change the narrative of a game throughout the season," said Westfield State second-year head coach Carden Brown. "Going into the third and fourth quarter we were really focused on staying tough and knowing we'd get another goal if we just kept shooting."

Second-seeded Westfield survived one final flurry from the fifth-seeded Bears, as Bridgewater mustered a pair of

penalty corners in the final four minutes, and Owls goalkeeper Emma Gnaidek (Worcester, Mass.) came up with the save on Kallie Rose's (Dartmouth, Mass.) shot with 1:52 left that represented the Bears best chance to equalize.

Westfield finished the game with a 25-7 advantage in total shots and a 13-3 margin in shots on goal, but the game was tightly played throughout as the Bears made the most of their opportunities and penalty corners were even at 8 each.

Westfield State jumped out to a 1-0 lead 2:20 into the contest, with Erin Lane (Canton, Mass.) pushing a shot through traffic about 10 yards out, from the left side to the back post. The goal came off of a penalty corner, as Lane's initial foray was parried by a Bridgewater defender. Murphy gathered the loose ball and fed it back out to Lane, and her shot worked its way through several players and past BSU goalkeeper Brianna Gagnon (Tewksbury, Mass.) for the 1-0 lead.

"It was really even, I thought Bridgewater played really well," said Brown. "We knew they were going to be a tough opponent. We wanted to have a fast start and sustain it throughout the game."

Bridgewater tied the game late in the first half, capitalizing on a penalty corner, with give and go passing at the top of

the circle before Abbie Zuber's (Westport, Mass./Dartmouth) shot from the top of the circle was tipped in at the right post by Lexi James (Ipswich, Mass.).

Westfield State midfielder Abby Clark (Uxbridge, Mass.) was named the Tournament MVP.

"She's been a key player for us, she gets things done, and above all else elevates the energy level of the team, said Brown of Clark's performance. "When she's out there she's our biggest hustler, she works really hard. It was a very fitting award for her."

Gagnon finished with 11 saves for the Bears, while Gnaidek made two saves for the Owls.

Bridgewater finishes its season at 10-9.

Westfield will make its first NCAA Tournament appearance since the Owls hosted the inaugural NCAA Division III Tournament final four in 1981. The Owls will learn their destination and opponent on Sunday night at 9:30 p.m. on a livestream shot on NCAA.com.

"We want to be a team that's not only just strong in the MASCAC but strong in the region," said Brown. "And I think in order to do that you have to compete in the NCAA tournament and keep improving each and every season. I'm really excited and excited to see how we'll do."

Railers score big overtime win

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers HC (5-3-0-0 10pts) beat the Norfolk Admirals (6-2-3-0, 15pts), on Sunday by a final score of 4-3 in front of a crowd of 2,539 at the DCU Center.

It was Norfolk who scored first tonight when Carson Musser (1-2-3) scored just under three minutes into the game. The Railers then scored back-to-back goals, coming from Ryan Verrier (1-0-1) and Griffin Loughran (1-0-1). Norfolk finished the first period scoring when Connor Fedorek (1-0-1) tied the game at 2-2. Norfolk retook the lead in the second with a goal from Josh McDougall (1-1-2). The Railers tied it back up less than a minute later when Anthony Repaci (2-0-2) cashed in. The third period was scoreless ending regulation tied up at 3-3. It was Repaci who scored the game winner 38 seconds into overtime sealing the 4-3 win for Worcester.

Norfolk jumped out to an early 1-0 lead tonight. Carson Musser (3rd) squared up and ripped one by the glove of Worcester's John Muse just 2:43 into the first. Later in the first Ryan Verrier (1st) found the back of the net to tie the game 1-1 7:30 into the first. Griffin Loughran (2nd) later made it 2-1 Worcester when

he scored just after their power play expired. Norfolk tied it up at 2-2 with just under three minutes left in the first with a goal from Connor Fedorek (2nd). Worcester outshot Norfolk 15-12.

Norfolk took back the lead to start the scoring in the second period. They made the score 3-2 in the second when Josh McDougall (2nd) scored on the powerplay 8:09 into the period. Not even a minute later Anthony Repaci (6th) got free on a

breakaway and cashed in to tie the game back up at 3-3. Shots favored Worcester 11-8.

The Admirals had a chance to regain the lead midway through the third when they had a 5-on-3 powerplay, but the Railers penalty kill held strong. The Railers killed 35 seconds of 5-on-3, and then successfully killed the remaining 1:25 of Norfolk power play time. Neither team would find the back of the net before the end of regulation. Worcester outshot Norfolk 10-7.

It took less than a minute for Anthony Repaci (7th) to seal this one in overtime. As he skated in on the net and buried the overtime winner just 38 seconds into overtime. Shots were even 1-1 in overtime and favored Worcester 37-28 overall.

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The Wilbraham-Hampden
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Annual Minnechaug Flag Football Game takes place Nov. 15

WILBRAHAM – The Annual Minnechaug Flag Football Game with the teams of the Class of 2026 vs. Class of 2025 will take place on Friday, Nov. 15.

Kick off at 6:30 p.m. on the Turf!



From the left, waiting for their delicious dessert was Ralph, Richard, Deanna, Bobbi, Delores and Joy who all were pleased with the Veterans event.



A group photo of the staff and volunteers of the Hampden Senior Center during the Veterans Dinner on Nov. 7.



Turley photos by Amanda Munson
Jerry Bennet was interested in the various upcoming events the center has to offer.



From the left, Diane Abdow, Louise Boissy and Sylvia Joseph grouped together and spoke about the importance of holding events like these.



Volunteers and staff of the Hampden Senior Center are pictured preparing meals and cleaning up.



Veteran Services Officer Jason Burgener was one of the sponsors of the Veterans Dinner event, who spoke highly of the veterans in his life.



From the left, Sandra Miesel, Carolyn Santaniello, Jane Bilodeau and Aileen Clark group together for a lovely photo.

HAMPDEN from page 1

Rick Green from Richard Green Insurance Agency and Peppa's Pizza.

Talking with Executive Director Rebecca Moriarty, she emphasized the need to honor veterans every day and reflected on her own connections with veterans in her personal life.

"It is so important to recognize and honor Veterans every year because of their dedication and service to our country. It is a time for everyone to say thank you and to remember the sacrifices that were made to protect our freedom. The staff at the senior center is honored to host a Veterans event every year. My grandfather, my father and my uncle all proudly served in the U.S. Navy," Moriarty said.

As stated in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website, Veterans Day is a celebration to

honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Moriarty stressed the importance of including everyone.

"The event was changed to an evening program this year to try to incorporate more of the community. With so many people still working, we wanted to be sure that the Veterans event was accessible to everyone. We did have a larger turnout this year than we have ever had in previous years, so we feel it was a very good decision to host the event in the evening," Moriarty said. "The senior center is bustling on a daily basis with so many programs and activities. There are also several programs going on behind the

scenes that not everyone may know about like assistance with SNAP benefits and Fuel Assistance and SHINE counseling for people who have questions about their insurance. Everyone is welcome to participate in programs at the senior center and we welcome suggestions for new programs and activities."

The evening continued with Moriarty's speech, asking those willing to stand up when their branch was called out like the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force,

Coast Guard and the National Guard. When the speech ended, Moriarty went right back to helping out her amazing team that went right back to dining service, but never failed to mention the team that supports her daily.

"We are blessed to have amazing staff and volunteers that help in putting together an event like this one. Many thanks to those who helped to make this such a success, we could not have done it without you. We are also grateful to Jason Burgener, VSO and Rick Green for their sponsorship of this event," Moriarty said.

When asked what motivates her to continue to serve the town of Hampden and senior center members, Moriarty said this.

"I have been in this position for almost 22 years and the best part is seeing the smiles on people's faces when they have enjoyed a program, received insurance benefits or fuel assistance, picked up a brown bag of groceries or a personal needs bag or had a great lunch. This job is all about helping people, and that is why we do the work that we do," Moriarty said.

To learn more about upcoming events, check out the senior center newsletter.

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The Town of Huntington is seeking a **FULL-TIME HIGHWAY TRUCK DRIVER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/LABORER.** Applicants must possess a Massachusetts Class B CDL with Air Brake Endorsement and possess or be able to obtain 2B or higher & 4G Hoisting Engineer's licenses within 6 months of hire. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us.** Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **PART-TIME ASSISTANT TREASURER.** Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us.** Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Jeffrey James Soja for a Special Permit as required under Section 4.4.8.C of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the construction a 320 square foot accessory building (garage) exceeding the maximum allowable 300 square foot area on lots of 40,000 square feet or less at 11 Pineywoods Avenue as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/314394469> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 314-394-469).

James Rooney
Chair

11/14, 11/21/2024

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 5:30 PM** on the application of Bianca Syriac for a special permit (ZBA24-09) under the provisions of Section 3.9.2.14 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the operation of a Family Day Care Home on property owned by Chi Chun Wong located at 12 Stonegate Circle as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/263600277> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 263-600-277).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman
11/07, 11/14/2024

TOWN OF HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, (MGL CH 131, S 40), it's implementing regulations (310 CMP 10.00) and the Town of Hampden's Wetlands Protection Bylaws, the Hampden Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 6 PM** at the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, for a Request for Determination of Applicability, (RDA), submitted by Mohammed Mawla for the construction of a two-car addition/barn on assessor's parcel 03-019-009, also known as 23 South Ridge Road. Additional information relating to this request is on file in the Conservation Commission office and available for review by the public by contacting

the Commission. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard on the request may appear at the time and place designated.

On Behalf of the
Conservation Commission,
Bonnie Geromini, Admin
11/17/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD24P2284EA

Estate of:

Beatrice A. Moriarty
Date of Death:
March 15, 2024

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE

G.L. c. 190B, § 3-306

To all persons who have or may have some interest in the above-captioned estate and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Veterans Affairs, notice is hereby given on 9/12/24, **John R. Moriarty of Hampden, MA** intends to file with the above-named Probate and Family Court, not sooner than seven (7) days after this notice, a

Petition for informal Probate of a Will

Petition for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative, to serve without surety on the bond

John R. Moriarty of Hampden, MA

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. .
11/14/2024

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

BREAKFAST from page 1

"What you have accomplished in six years here is beyond the beyond," Vietnam Veteran Robert Kelliher told Sasen. The breakfast crowd applauded in agreement.

Kelliher says he and other Wilbraham veterans have a "plethora of ailments due to exposure to Agent Orange." Sasen, he said, has spent "an inordinate amount of time with us."

"His empathy is amazing," Kelliher said. "We are blessed that we have had him and we are blessed that the town of Wilbraham supports vets as they do."

Sasen pointed out that Wilbraham has a large population of veterans, with between 750 and 850 living in town.

"In Western Massachusetts we have 33 percent of the state's vets due to the presence of Barnes and Westover," Sasen said.

Cate Duquette of Wilbraham led a volunteer crew of nine, five members of the Junior Women's Club and four others, in preparing the breakfast. Her husband, Tom Duquette, pitched in with planning and kitchen duties.

Duquette said that this was the first time the club hosted a veterans breakfast, but she hopes it will become a tradition.

Volunteer Jen Nowak, president of the Greater Federation of Women's Clubs Massachusetts Executive Committee, pointed out that Junior Women's has a long history of supporting veterans.

"We've been around since the 1800s and veterans have always been special to this organization," Nowak said. "Junior Women's supports a broad, diverse group of people. We support many veterans events because we share their values of service."

The volunteers served up an egg and sausage strata as well as potatoes and fruit. Each table was



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

Volunteers organized by Wilbraham's Junior Women's Club purchased, prepared and served the food at the breakfast.

graced with a large platter of freshly made cider doughnuts, donated by Rice Fruit Farm.

The tables were decorated with hand-drawn cards thanking veterans for their service from the youth group of Saint Cecilia Parish.

Alice Cyr of Wilbraham, widow of U.S. Air Force Veteran Ronald Cyr, attended the breakfast.

"I've been looking forward to this," Cyr said. "It's nice to have

meals offered; it shows appreciation to veterans and their families."

At the end of the meal, Kelliher declared the event spectacular.

"It's phenomenal what they've done for us," Kelliher said.

Sasen, a U.S. Navy Veteran, closed his remarks at the breakfast with a traditional nautical phrase of good luck and farewell: "I wish you fair winds and following seas."

HAMPDEN SEPTIC

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THANKSGIVING DINNER


STUFFED TURKEY - SIDES - DESSERT



DINNER FEEDS 10 PEOPLE \$69⁹⁹

<p>USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC \$1³⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN \$2²² lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 SPIRAL HAM \$1²⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH KAYEM BUDABALL WHOLE SMOKED PIT HAM..... \$3⁶⁶ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH SKINLESS & SHANKLESS HATFIELD OLDTIME WHOLE HAM \$2⁸⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH LEG LAMB..... \$5⁹⁹ lb</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN \$9⁹⁹ CUT FREE</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST \$5⁹⁹ lb</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS WHOLE EYE ROUND \$3⁹⁹ lb</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px;"> <p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF \$4⁹⁹ 5 LB BAG</p> </div>	<p>USDA INSP. FROZEN TURKEY BREAST \$1⁶⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG \$1⁸⁸ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH CHICOPEE PROVISIONS BLUE SEAL KIELBASA \$4⁹⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN SWEET POTATO PIE \$2⁹⁹ ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BACON WRAPPED SHRIMP 15 COUNT \$8⁹⁹ ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 31/40 COUNT 2 LB BAG \$14⁹⁹ ea</p>
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