

**TOWN**  
Rotary  
lottery  
calendars  
Page 4

**SPORTS**  
Football  
season finishes  
with win  
Page 15

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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

## Wilbraham holds Veterans Day ceremony at Crane Veteran Memorial Park

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- A large gathering of residents, community members, veterans and their families came together on Veterans Day for a ceremony at Crane Veteran Memorial Park.

The Nov. 11 ceremony, presided over by Director of Veterans Services Jered Sasen, included Boy Scout Troop 359 member Elliot Sylvester leading the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minnechaug Regional High School Choir performing the National Anthem and the high school's band performing the "Veterans Salute."

Additionally, local veterans were recognized, including U.S. Army Veteran David Manning, Marine Corps Veteran John Cortese, U.S. Navy Veteran retired Navy Chief, Boatswain's Mate Ronald Hale, Air Force Veteran Jeff Hurley and U.S. Coast Guard Veteran Jerry Ladue, who placed an American flag for each U.S. military branch.

U.S. Army Sgt. Robert Kellher, Jr., a Vietnam War Veteran, was recognized as the 2023 Veteran of the Year. He received a plaque from Sasen on behalf of the town and Department of Veterans Services and certificates of recognition from State Rep. An-



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

U.S. Coast Guard Veteran Jerry Ladue salutes Director of Veteran Services Jered Sasen before he takes the American flag to honor veterans of the U.S. Coast Guard during the Veterans Day Ceremony at Crane Veteran Memorial Park in Wilbraham. The ceremony also honored veterans from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, the Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard.

gelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) and Jennifer Pickering, MSM, district director, on behalf of State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow).

Sasen said commemorating Veterans Day is "a shared responsibility and effort which ties all Americans, veterans and non-vet-

erans alike, together." "As a veteran, I'm here to help ensure that the importance of Veterans Day is understood by all

and I encourage everyone here to engage in the tough conversations Please see **VETERANS**, page 5



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski

Cemetery Commissioner Tim Collins removes a tree limb from Old Cemetery.

## Hampden Cemetery Commission maintains historic Old Cemetery

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- Just as its name would suggest, Hampden's Old Cemetery is one of the town's most historic sites,

and the Cemetery Commission is hard at work keeping it well-maintained.

The Cemetery Commission is responsible for the upkeep and management of Hampden's two municipal cemeteries, Prospect

Please see **CEMETERY**, page 7

## ERC5 Senior Care Alliance panel discusses senior care, veteran's benefits

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The East of the River Five Town Chamber of Commerce presented a panel discussion on Nov. 13 around senior care options and veteran's benefits.

The program took place in the senior center's library, with a light breakfast provided.

The panelists were Director of Veterans Services Jered Sasen, Attorney David Carlson, Liz Davila, owner of Kind Hands Care at Home, Katie Krupka, certified senior advisor at Assisted Living Locators, Mary-Anne Schelb, director of business development, Western MA Market, at JGS Lifecare, Kimberly O'Connor, community liaison at Brookhaven Hospice, and Maura Lessard, RN, BSN, CCM, CDP of Nurse Advocates LLC.

Grace Barone, executive director for ERC5, explained the program's purpose is "to just bring everyone in the community as much information as possible about how you plan for your golden years."



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Maura Lessard, RN, BSN, CCM, CDP of Nurse Advocates LLC shares what her organization does to connect people and senior care organizations during the Senior Care Options Panel, VA Benefits & Breakfast at Wilbraham Senior Center.

With the recent Veterans Day holiday, Barone also stressed veteran's benefits.

"So many of our veterans don't realize that there is help out there," Barone said.

Sasen, a veteran himself, broke down the different ways the Department of Veterans Affairs supports veterans and the importance of utilizing those resources and benefits.

When meeting with veterans and their family members,

he asks if someone is in VA Healthcare.

"This is very, very important because VA Healthcare is the quickest, fastest and most emergent way to get the veteran any type of help they need," Sasen said.

Sasen also stressed how veterans need to stay up to date, as the VA purges their records every five years of non-use.

Please see **SENIORS**, page 4

# Hampden Building Committee recommends EDM for senior center expansion design

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor  
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN -- Per the recommendation of the Senior Center Building Committee, the Board of Selectmen chose Connecticut-based architecture/engineering firm EDM to complete the design of the senior center expansion project.

The board made the decision during its meeting on Nov. 6 after \$60,000 was approved by voters to fund the design during the Special Town Meeting on Oct. 30. The town will pay EDM approximately \$57,000 for the design and hope it is completed by the spring town meeting next May.

The building committee recommended EDM over Palmer-based firm Architectural Insights, Inc. by a narrow vote of five to four. The committee joined the Selectmen on Nov. 6 to explain and debate its recommendation.

"EDM has extensive experience with senior centers," said Don Collins, who is chairing the committee as it overlooks the expansion project. "AI, which was the other firm that we interviewed, has had extensive interaction with the town on other projects but very little experience with senior centers. The principle was, 'Has your firm

ever designed a senior center?' Really, the answer (for AI) was no, they had not."

Collins noted that the group didn't "vote against anybody" but instead "voted for somebody."

EDM's original price estimate was \$93,200, but the price was lowered after it became clear the firm misinterpreted the town's original request.

"The request was misinterpreted, and they were going over work that was already done," Building Committee Member John Matthews said.

Collins said that AI is more involved with warehousing and housing projects as well as upgrading buildings to ADA compliance.

Building Committee Member Rita Vail favored AI. She said whereas AI did not have experience building a senior center from the ground up, the firm is familiar with adding on to buildings or working on senior housing.

"And their specialty is renovations," she said. "When we interviewed them and they presented, they said they would look at all the operations, the existing boiler, and lights and all that stuff and all those considerations. And that's their specialty. And their cost was nearly half of the other (before EDM decreased their price). I personally

liked Architectural Insights better."

Building Committee Member Bobbi Grant also favored AI. She was bothered by the fact EDM is in Connecticut and would have to fly an employee in from Ohio to contribute to the project.

"AI is in Palmer. They're close by. It's easier to get to us, and they have been doing some work with the Gardens of Wilbraham, a complex that is 95% seniors," Grant said.

Grant also said that EDM accidentally listed in its portfolio a project it wasn't really involved in.

"In the back of my mind, I'm wondering how many others were in there they weren't actually involved with. It's misleading; very misleading," she said.

Board of Selectman Chair John Flynn noted that AI was hired for the expansion of the Highway Department's headquarters and has "extensive background with municipal buildings of all kinds."

However, he pointed out that the expansion of the senior center is a different kind of project.

"It really felt by the proposal that EDM, their

repertoire was senior centers. That's really where their expertise was. That really resonated with me," Flynn said. "When we go out for projects with my business, same thing; we're looking for people who have a close relationship with what we want to do. We're not there to train them in doing something we need done."

Gary Weiner, a member of the building committee, favored EDM, noting that the committee's job is to look 25 years or more into the future. He said that EDM has a gerontologist that is tasked with studying the mental, physical and social changes in the aging population.

"You have the building itself, but you also have space for future programming," Weiner said. (EDM) has a nuts-and-bolts (knowledge) of the building itself... those kinds of things that need to be done or may be done under an addition. But there's also programming needs that have to be thought about for the

future."

Weiner has worked with AI and considers them to be "excellent people" but noted that there would be a learning curve if the Palmer firm was to be brought onboard.

"Plus, (AI) didn't have that background in programming, that they made us aware of at least, that again I think is necessary if we're looking 25 years out there," Weiner said.

Ultimately, Selectman Craig Rivest pushed the discussion to a vote, where the Selectmen voted unanimously to hire EDM as the firm that will create the senior center expansion design. Rivest explained his decision to move to vote.

"My opinion is if you were all tasked with a job and had your time to debate and counterpoint everybody's decisions, the board came out with a recommendation. I think it would be wrong for us to undermine the integrity of the board there that came up with the opinion," Rivest said.

## NOTICE

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

## Wilbraham-Hampden Times OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

**Still Time To Order!**

**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

**HOLIDAY TURKEY**  
PASTURE-RAISED  
IN LUDLOW

Call 413-426-6636  
More Sizes,  
More Turkeys

**HAND FED, PASTURE RAISED**

On a Ludlow farm, turkeys run freely, hand fed on healthful grains and extra vegetables. Minimally processed, they have more meat, less water and extra taste found only in tradition. No antibiotics, animal by-products, hormones or additive are used.

Prices and sizes posted on the web site:  
[LibertyFamilyFarms.com](http://LibertyFamilyFarms.com)



OLD POST ROAD  
ORCHESTRA

**HOLIDAY Pops**

Conductor - Lexie Black  
With special guests: DEAD FICTION

Friday  
**DECEMBER 1, 2023 • 7:30 pm**  
St. Cecilia's Church, 42 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA  
*Sponsored by Berkshire Facial Surgery, Inc. and a grant from the Wilbraham Community Association*

Sunday  
**DECEMBER 3, 2023 • 2:00 pm**  
Mary, Mother of Hope Church, 840 Page Blvd, Springfield, MA  
*Sponsored by RMG Wealth Management Group and a grant from the Springfield Cultural Council*

 This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Springfield Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

[oprowilb@gmail.com](mailto:oprowilb@gmail.com)  
[facebook.com/Old-Post-Road-Orchestra](https://facebook.com/Old-Post-Road-Orchestra)

P.O. BOX 683, WILBRAHAM, MA 01095 • [WWW.OPRO.ORG](http://WWW.OPRO.ORG)

MY BANK MAKES A DIFFERENCE  
BY KEEPING MY MONEY

**100% SECURE.**

**CAN YOUR BANK SAY THAT?**



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

Open your account today at [CountryBank.com](http://CountryBank.com)!

  
Member FDIC | Member DIF  
Made to make a difference.

# Wilbraham Select Board appoints three new members to Broadband Committee

Also, collective bargaining agreement signed

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The Select Board voted on Nov. 13 to appoint three new members to the Broadband Committee.

The three candidates were Nick Rau, Michael Bell and Austin Reed.

Rau grew up in Wilbraham and returned to town almost four years ago, his interest in fiber forming after Whip City first rolled out.

"I want to bring Wilbraham up to par with that and exceed it. I think we got a great plan and now it's just putting it into action and getting the town on board and getting people to sign up," Rau said.

Select Board member Sue Bunell was absent this week.

Select Board member Michael Squindo noted Rau's combined relationship with technology and sales stood out to him, asking him this question.

"What would you say is the num-

ber one asset you would bring to the committee as far as your experience and knowledge?" Squindo asked.

Rau explained he's seen and used the technology firsthand to understand the benefits, adding the importance of considering fiber's role in bringing future businesses into town.

"I mean, sooner or later, it's going to be something businesses consider a necessity, and we want to be able to attract businesses and not scare the businesses that we have away," Rau said.

Michael Bell, meanwhile, started looking into fiber after his wife suggested switching and his best friend looked into Hampden by getting fiber from Whip City.

"I just dug a little bit deeper and found the committee had an opening and thought what better way to bring it to not only my house, truly, but also to our community," Bell said.

Bell said he's also community-driven and has "grown to appreciate more and more over the years the small-town community feel" of Wilbraham.

"I think what I'm going to bring to the table is the enthusiasm of the neighbor," Bell said.

Reed had fiber optic before when he lived out east and likes the

open-access model that Wilbraham wants to develop, including multiple service providers.

"I think that would add a lot of competition and I think it could bring the town into the next century," Reed said.

After Chairman Theresa Godrich asked him about the time commitment, Reed had no issues and explained how outreach is the next step, which he looks forward to.

"It'll be interesting because we moved here a year and a half ago and just being able to meet more people will all be nice," Reed said.

Rau, Bell and Reed were appointed 2-0 to the Broadband Committee for a term beginning Nov. 13, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2024.

Another item of note was the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 120 meeting with the board to sign the 2023-2026 collective bargaining agreement.

Town Administrator Nick Breault said the agreement is for three years and began on July 1, 2023, and runs through June 30, 2026, with him and the NEPBA agreeing the process went well between both parties.

"I think both sides came away feeling pretty good about the process and the results," Breault said.

# DPW updates Select Board on Route 20 flooding

Also, DPW grant updates discussed

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The Board received updates from the Department of Public Works on Nov. 13 addressing flooding on Route 20.

DPW Director Tonya Capparello explained she, Police Chief Ed Lennon and Town Administrator Nick Breault have reached out to MassDOT about their concerns.

"Our plan - Nick and I spoke about this - we're

hoping that we can get you guys to send a letter to the state to let them know how important this area is for us and how frequent it floods. It's been getting worse," Capparello said.

Capparello added Lennon has talked to a state-level colleague about how frequently the state and police put out cones and cars drive on one side of the road due to drain-

age not working.

"So, we're just working really hard to either get their maintenance division or their design team to put this area on the priority list and we're looking for the board's support in sending the letter," Capparello said.

Breault said the board has indi-

Please see DPW, page 9

**3 EASY WAYS TO REACH US**

**PHONE**

413.283.8393

Fax: 413.289.1977

Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

**EMAIL**

Advertising Sales

Jocelyn Walker  
jwalker@turley.com

**Editor**

Dalton Zbierski  
dzbierski@turley.com

**Subscriptions**

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

**WEB**

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.  
turley.com

@Wilbraham-Hampden Times

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

**New Owners**



**Units & Sizes Available:**  
Climate Controlled 5x10/10x10  
Regular Units 5x10/10x10/10x15/10x20/10x30

**Climate Controlled Units Available**

**COMPLETE STORAGE**  
COMPLETESTORAGEDBA.COM  
413-308-6904  
148 Carmelinas Circle Ludlow, MA

**Outside Parking Spaces Also Available for Boats, RVs, Trailers, Etc.**

**COUNTRY CASUALS**  
*Fine Women's Clothing*

**Celebrating Over 50 Years**

**Thank You**

**Enjoy a \$100 Gift Certificate**  
and a complimentary pair of socks

Slacks • Blouses • Sweaters • Jackets • Coats • Dresses • Italian Leather & more

**581 Main Street, Somers, CT | 860-749-0014**

Bring in this ad to receive a \$100 Gift Certificate towards your purchase of \$200, plus a complimentary pair of socks. Offer valid thru December 30, 2023.

**WE COOK EVERYTHING BUT THE TURKEY!**

**Randall's Fresh Baked Pies**  
Order Early for Best Availability



Apple, Pumpkin, Blueberry, Fruits of the Forest, Maple Rum Pecan, & MORE!

**Ready to Heat & Serve**

FROM RANDALL'S KITCHEN

Butternut Cider Bisque Soup, Roasted Butternut Squash, Turkey Gravy, Cranberry Orange Relish, Sausage & Apple Stuffing, Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Mashed Turnips & Carrots, Sunset Stuffed Mushrooms



**Last Day to Order Your Favorite Fresh Baked Pies, Thanksgiving Side Dishes & Catering**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

**For Your Thanksgiving Tablescape**  
**Fresh Flower Bouquets & Arrangements**  
**Ceramic Pumpkins & Wicker Cornucopias Filled With Colorful Fall Blooms**



**Specials**  
November 15th - 21st

Locally Grown Butternut Squash ... 69¢ lb

Fresh Brussels Sprouts ... \$2.99 lb

Locally Grown Yukon Gold Potatoes... 5lb Bag \$2.99

Mass Grown Cranberries 12oz Bags ... 2 for \$5.00

Golden Ripe Pineapples... \$2.99 each

Locally Grown Mac or Cortland Apples... 5lb Tote Bags \$5.99

Boar's Head FireSmith Chicken... \$11.99 lb

Boar's Head American Cheese... \$5.99 lb



**Great Selection Of Wines For Your Holiday Dinner**

Local Hardwick Vineyards Cranberry Wine

Great Selection of Pinot Noirs, Chardonnays & Rosés



**ALWAYS FRESH AT**

**RANDALL'S FARM & GREENHOUSE**



631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54 LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net  
**OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM - 8PM**  
Find us on [facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

# Rotary Club to sell lucky raffle calendars



Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary member Tim Tracey of LUSO Federal Credit Union in Wilbraham displays a sample of the club's December Calendar Fundraiser. Calendars are available at LUSO at 1 Crane Park Drive or any club member. (Charles F. Bennett photo)

WILBRAHAM – December could be a lucky month for 31 winners of the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club's Lottery Calendar fundraiser. The club is selling its popular winter version of the Calendar Raffle throughout November for a chance to win a daily prize each day in December. See any club member for a chance to win gift cards or cash.

Raffle calendars are also on sale at the LUSO Federal Credit Union branch at 1 Crane Park in Wilbraham. There will be a winner every day and after the daily drawing, your ticket goes back into the mix for another chance to win.

Samples of gift cards to be drawn include those to Rice's Fruit Farm, Home Depot, Amazon and Staples, plus many more. There will be three cash winners of \$100 each, according to the chairman of the fundraiser Tim Tracey of LUSO.

The fundraiser will benefit local community projects and scholarships. Calendars will be on sale now through the end of November for \$10 each and are available from any club member.

"There will be a winner every day. That gives every entry 31 chances to win and they make good Christmas presents," commented Tracey. To purchase a calendar call Tracey at 413-279-3002 or email TTracey@LUSOFederal.com.

For more information about joining the Rotary Club, call 413-537-4171.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
Attendees ask questions and share their thoughts during the Senior Care Options Panel, VA Benefits & Breakfast at Wilbraham Senior Center.



Mary-Anne Schelb, director of business development, Western MA Market at JGS Lifecare, shares what her organization does and how they support seniors during the Senior Care Options Panel, VA Benefits & Breakfast at Wilbraham Senior Center.

## SENIORS from page 1

"The reason that they do this is because they're required to report to Congress every year how many active veterans are in the VA system," Sassen said.

Carlson highlighted the importance of having healthcare proxies, how living wills are not legal documents by state law, and he spoke about having an alternate for power of attorney.

"If you appoint one person, you should also have an alternate, maybe even a second alternate and this would protect you if you're ever unable to sign documents, close bank accounts, sell your home, you would have someone designated to make that decision for you," Carlson said.

O'Connor stressed the importance of seniors knowing hospice care is available and a Medicare benefit; he also spoke on what end-of-life truly means.

"It doesn't mean final hours,

days or weeks. You can receive the benefit for six months and for subsequently longer. A home health aide is included, durable medical equipment is included, respite services are also included, and it's all covered under the Medicare hospice benefit," O'Connor said.

For veterans, O'Connor said they should check to see if a hospice program is partnered with the "We Honor Veterans" program.

"It's recognizing that the staff is all trained to support our veterans," O'Connor said.

Lessard explained how "everybody in this room is a resource that we network together" to connect seniors and organizations for information.

Additionally, Lessard's work helps provide clarity for making informed decisions.

"We all work really hard in taking all this vast, vast information within



Jered Sassen, director of Veterans Services for the Town of Wilbraham, shares his insights during the Senior Care Options Panel, VA Benefits & Breakfast at Wilbraham Senior Center.



Attorney David Carlson speaks about important legal affairs as Liz Davila, owner of Kind Hands Care at Home, Katie Krupka, certified senior advisor at Assisted Living Locators, Mary-Anne Schelb, director of business development, Western MA Market at JGS Lifecare, Kimberly O'Connor, community liaison at Brookhaven Hospice, and Maura Lessard, RN, BSN, CCM, CDP or Nurse Advocates LLC listen during the Senior Care Options Panel.

healthcare that can be burdensome, very, very confusing and how do we break it down? We each have a role," Lessard said.

Krupka summed it up best on the impact of these panel discussions on the community and attendees: they provide information you might not have known about before.

"It's why panels like this and information sharing like this and sharing this information with people that you know and throughout the senior center, your friends, your family is so important," Krupka said. "You just spread the word because you didn't know to know to ask, so advocating for yourself and for your loved ones and advocating for our clients is so important."

**LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!**

USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC ..... **\$1.49** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH GROUND PORK..... **\$2.99** lb

USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE ALL VARIETIES ..... **\$2.77** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 SPIRAL HAM ..... **\$1.49** lb

USDA INSP. SMOKED BONELESS BUDABELL WHOLE PIT HAM..... **\$3.49** ea

USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LEG LAMB..... **\$3.99** lb

**PRICE BUSTERS**

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE **\$8.88** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST **\$5.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BLUE SEAL KIELBASA **\$4.99** lb

USDA INSP. SKINLESS & SHANKLESS HATFIELD WHOLE SMOKED HAM **\$2.44** lb

**PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. FROZEN 20-24 LB WHOLE TURKEY ..... **99c** lb

BUTTERBALL ..... **\$1.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH HOTEL TURKEY BREAST ..... **\$2.49** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOIN..... **\$1.44** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN 10" PUMPKIN or SWEET POTATO PIE .. **\$4.99** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN OCEAN GOURMET STUFFED CLAMS 20 OZ **\$6.99** lb

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP 16/20 CT 2 LB BAG ..... **\$11.99** ea

**90 Meat Outlet**

**HOURS:** Mon. - Wed. 8-4  
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

90 Avocado St. Springfield  
**413-737-1288**  
www.90meat.com

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

**Liberty**

**HOLIDAY TURKEY**  
HAND-FED, PASTURE-RAISED IN LUDLOW  
ORDER NOW  
**413-426-6636**

**Still Time To Order!**

*Adventure tours of Warren*  
Share the Adventure with us!

**12-NIGHT CARIBBEAN CRUISE - April 7-19, 2024**

Call now - December 1 deadline!

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

Nov. 18	..... Vermont Country Store .....	\$79
Dec. 30	..... Moulin Rouge! .....	\$125
Jan. 27	..... Ain't Too Proud - Temptations .....	\$99
March 16	..... Frozen at P.P.A.C. ....	\$130
May 24	..... 7-night Bermuda Cruise ...	from \$1599

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

**HAPPY Thanksgiving**

**SALE DATES: 11/16/23-11/22/23**  
**CLOSED 11/24-11/25**



**U.S. Army Sgt. Robert Kelliher, Jr., a Vietnam War Veteran, listens as Director of Veterans Services Jered Sasen reads the 2023 Veteran of the Year citation from the Town of Wilbraham and Department of Veterans Services during the Veterans Day Ceremony at Crane Veteran Memorial Park in Wilbraham. Kelliher was also honored with certificates of recognition from the State House and Senate.**



**Elliot Sylvester of Boy Scout Troop 359 leads the Pledge of Allegiance during the Veterans Day Ceremony at Crane Veteran Memorial Park in Wilbraham on Veteran's Day.**



**Select Board Chairman Theresa Goodrich reflects on Veterans Day during the Veteran's Day Ceremony at Crane Veteran Memorial Park in Wilbraham on Nov. 11.**

"They're my heroes, and I think of them every day," Kelliher said.

He also spoke on those who are actively serving. "Whatever you did, whatever your job was in the service, you did it with honor and distinction. They're just great human beings," Kelliher said.

Kelliher had this simple message for the community on this Veterans Day.

"We're a family. The world is a family, and we need to act like one," he said.



**State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) provides remarks on how state legislators are supporting veterans across Massachusetts during the Veterans Day Ceremony at Crane Veteran Memorial Park in Wilbraham.**



**U.S. Army Sgt. Robert Kelliher, Jr., a Vietnam War Veteran and the 2023 Veteran of the Year for Town of Wilbraham, shares his reflections on service, honor and remembering veterans during the Veterans Day Ceremony at Crane Veteran Memorial Park in Wilbraham on Nov. 11.**

**VETERANS** from page 1

to share your experiences and participate in community events that raise awareness and honor our military and veteran community," Sasen said.

Puppolo said Veterans Day "is a promise that a nation does not take their sacrifices for granted" while renewing honor to soldiers and their families.

"On this day and every day, we must pledge to provide for them as they have so willingly provided for us," Puppolo said.

Reflecting on the state's support to veterans, Puppolo mentioned the proposed HERO Act, which will further enhance veterans' benefits.

"I'm proud to say that I will continue to do all that I can to help support veterans and their families," Puppolo said.

Select Board Chairman Theresa Goodrich thanked the veterans for their service and sacrifice, explaining how they "represent the very best of America" and they "deserve our never-ending gratitude."

Goodrich also stressed how important it is to say "thank you" to veterans.

"Oftentimes, our veterans don't hear that enough and they need to hear that and feel that every day," Goodrich said. "We need to encourage our children and ourselves to do that and express our gratitude."

Sasen said this year's ceremony honored Bob Page, an Army Veteran who served in the Korean War.

Page, who passed away on Oct. 13, 2023, was heavily involved in the community, including the building of the Wilbraham Senior Center.

"He was just a really great friend and an ally of the Veterans Service Department here in Wilbraham," Sasen said. "I didn't really know many of the town veterans as well as he did, so he made sure that he would rally the troops, so to speak, to come to my events and he was just such a great guy and a true friend."

Kelliher was humbled to be honored as Veteran of the Year, saying "Everybody that's a veteran deserves these types of awards."

He also reflected on "my own boys that I served with who were my brothers."

# Village FOOD MART

Catering • Deli • In-Store Bakery • Fresh Produce • Meat & Dairy

**WE NOW CARRY BEER AND WINE**

---

**FRESH TURKEYS**  
ORDER EARLY - SIZING WILL BE LIMITED  
Call or go online at [armatasmarket.com](http://armatasmarket.com) to order yours!

Waybest 10-24 lbs. Fresh All-Natural **TURKEYS \$1.88 LB.**

Murray's Family Farm Raised 10-30 lbs. Antibiotic & Hormone FREE **TURKEYS \$3.69 LB.**

---

<p>USDA Gov't Insp. Whole Peeled Beef <b>TENDERLOIN \$9.99 LB.</b> <small>Custom Cut for FREE</small></p>	<p>USDA CHOICE Certified Angus Beef <b>TOP SIRLOIN STEAK \$7.99 LB.</b></p>	<p><b>OUR OWN HOMEMADE PIES</b> CALL OR ORDER ONLINE AT <a href="http://ARMATASMART.COM">ARMATASMART.COM</a></p>
<p>Store Made Fresh DAILY 85% Lean <b>GROUND BEEF \$5.49 LB.</b></p>	<p>Armata's Own Store Made Hot, Sweet, or Garlic &amp; Cheese <b>ITALIAN SAUSAGE \$3.99 LB.</b></p>	<p>Armata's Own Made From Scratch 9" <b>PUMPKIN or APPLE PIE \$16.99 EA.</b></p>
<p>USDA CHOICE Certified Angus Beef Top Sirloin <b>SPOON ROAST \$7.49 LB.</b></p>	<p>Fresh Wild Caught Canadian <b>SALMON FILLETS \$11.69 LB.</b></p>	<p>Armata's Own Made From Scratch 9" <b>PECAN PIE \$19.99 EA.</b></p>
<p>Store Made DAILY <b>FRESH GROUND PORK \$3.49 LB.</b></p>	<p>Store Made DAILY <b>FRESH GROUND PORK \$3.49 LB.</b></p>	<p>Armata's Own Made From Scratch 8" <b>DOUBLE LAYER CARROT CAKE \$21.99 EA.</b></p>

---

**Fresh PRODUCE**

Native from Hatfield, MA <b>BUTTERNUT SQUASH 88¢ LB.</b>	Native from Warren, MA <b>APPLES 5 lb. Tote \$4.49 EA.</b>	Sweet <b>POTATOES 99¢ LB.</b>
Massachusetts Grown Blue Water 12 oz. bag <b>CRANBERRIES \$1.99 EA.</b>	Red Seedless <b>GRAPES \$2.99 LB.</b>	2 lb. bag <b>ONIONS \$1.49 EA.</b>

**BAKERY Treats**

Store Baked 8 pk. <b>SNOWFLAKE or Mini TWISTS \$2.99 EA.</b>	Leonard's 12 oz. <b>ITALIAN COOKIES \$4.99 EA.</b>
Armata's Own 4 pk. Maple Donuts or <b>APPLE FRITTERS \$2.99 EA.</b>	Store Baked <b>FRENCH BREAD \$2.49 EA.</b>

**DAIRY Specials**

Hood 16 oz. <b>SOUR CREAM \$1.88 EA.</b>	Pillsbury 14.5 oz. <b>PIE CRUST 2 FOR \$7</b>
Land O Lakes 16 oz. Salted <b>BUTTER QUARTERS \$3.88 EA.</b>	Turkey Hill 48 oz. <b>ICE CREAM 2 FOR \$7</b>

---

**GROCERY Bargains**

Polar 1 Liter <b>SELTZERS 88¢ EA.</b>	Pepperidge Farm 12 oz. box <b>STUFFING 2 FOR \$7</b>	Gold Medal 5 lbs. OR LifeGoods 4 lbs. <b>FLOUR or SUGAR 2 FOR \$7</b>
College Inn 14.5 Oz. <b>CHICKEN BROTH 2 FOR \$3</b>	Green Giant 14.5 oz. Cans <b>VEGETABLES 88¢ EA.</b> <small>Corn, Sweet Peas or Cut Green Beans</small>	One Pie 15 oz. <b>PUMPKIN Pie Filling \$1.99 EA.</b>

---

**DELI Deals**

Store Made Port Wine or Horseradish <b>CHEESE BALLS \$5.99 LB.</b>	Grab N Go <b>OLIVE BAR \$8.49 LB.</b>	Beligioso 8 oz. Italian <b>CHEESE WEDGES \$4.99 EA.</b>
Smithfield <b>VIRGINIA HAM \$5.99 LB.</b>	Land O Lakes Sharp Cheddar <b>AMERICAN CHEESE \$5.99 LB.</b>	Boar's Head <b>AMERICAN CHEESE \$5.99 LB.</b>

---

**Armata's Own Individual Turkey Dinners GRAB N GO**

**FIRST COME FIRST SERVE!**

**INCLUDES Turkey w/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Butternut Squash, & Stuffing**

**starting at \$6.99 LB.**

---

**GRINDER OF THE WEEK NOVEMBER 20-25**

**8" Ham & Cheese \$5.99 EA.**

---

43 SOMERS ROAD, HAMPDEN, MA 413.566.8717 MON-SAT 8AM-6PM

VILLAGE FOOD MART VILLAGEFOODHAMPDEN.COM ARMATASMART.COM

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES.

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

MasterCard VISA Discover PAYCASH

PRICES VALID 11/16-11/22/23

**VIEWPOINTS**



I received an email from a reader, who had a Cooper's hawk in his yard for two days. He said, "The barred tail was distinctive flying through the yard ... and looked like a dart with the tail straight out. Many people don't realize they, like the Peregrine Falcon, were decimated by DDT and pesticides."

The Cooper's hawk is 16 inches long and as the reader said in his email they have a long tail with barring. They also have fine streaking on the breast. They are gray above with reddish brown barring. Their crown is darker than the back. The immature Cooper's hawk is dark brown above and light below with thin streaking. Immature plumage is kept for one year.

During the breeding season, these hawks



Cooper's hawk

have a regular feeding route where it hunts for common medium sized birds such as mourning doves, blue jays and starlings.

The female lays three to six pale blue green eggs with dark marks in a platform nest of sticks place in a tree ten to 70 feet high.

Cooper's hawks may show up at bird feeders especially during the winter months, when it roams a wider area for food. Cooper's hawks inhabit mixed forests and open woodlands. They make a loud repeated "kek kek kek kek" call given during alarm or during pair interaction. As mentioned in the email above, the Cooper's hawks were decimated in the 1950s and 1960s due to the use of DDT.

**Other birds by the lake**

He lives on a lake and said, "There is an old pine the Bald Eagles love to fish from. There are two Red Shouldered Hawks' nests within three or four hundred feet of each other and when the young start yelling for food the other nest invariably starts and I have them in stereo. Last year a pair of Blue Heron nested, but this year there is only one who patrols the cove shoreline alone. The eagles seem to ignore the adult." He also sees Golden eagles as well.

**Bird tally**

I received an email from a reader, who visits ponds in Warren. He sent a tally of bird observed on Nov. 2, 3 and 4. They included on Nov. 2 46 Canada geese and again the same number on Nov. 3 and six on Nov. 4; one pied-billed grebe on Nov. 3, four great blue herons on Nov. 2, two on Nov. 3 and 3 on Nov. 4; a red-tailed hawk on Nov. 2 and one bald eagle on Nov. 3.

He also reported seeing two American crows on Nov. 2, a yellow-bellied sapsucker on Nov. 2, two blue jays on Nov. 2, a titmouse on Nov. 2, one bluebird on Nov. 2 and two on Nov. 3, six robins on Nov. 2, two yellow-dumped warblers on Nov. 2 and again on Nov. 3 and three song sparrows on Nov. 2. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers, yellow-rumped warblers and bluebirds were eating poison ivy berries.

**Canada geese**

This weekend my granddaughter and I saw about two dozen Canada geese fly over her house. They were honking as they flew overhead. They headed for a beaver pond across the street.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

**Nov. 22, 1963**

It was a warm autumn day in Dallas, The Kennedys were accepted by the Texans with no apparent malice.

As the motorcade passed the Texas Book Depository and turned onto Elm, Our country stood proudly with JFK at the helm.

Jack sat on the left and Jackie on the right, Men on the grassy knoll had our President in their sight.

How many shots were fired? Three? Four? or Five?

The outcome was the same because John F. Kennedy would not escape alive.

Was it Oswald, the Mafia, or the CIA? America lost its innocence that very day. Many theories abound concerning this assassination plot,

But the United States had lost its leader, its integrity, and Camelot.

Images of that long weekend in November still seem very clear,

The Caisson on Pennsylvania Avenue, John Junior's salute,

Jackie with a tear.

How do I explain to my children when they ask me who's to blame?

I can take them to Arlington National Cemetery

to see the Eternal Flame.

Still I try to put into perspective November 22, 1963,

Do I keep searching for the truth or let JFK's legacy inspire me?

- Michael S. O'Rourke, Ludlow



**Social Security Disability vs. Spouse Benefits vs. Survivor Benefits and COLA**

**Dear Rusty**

I retired from working in June but will not sign up for Social Security until age 70 and, to do that, I plan to draw from my IRA for the next three years. My wife is receiving Social Security disability benefits and will reach her full retirement age in March of next year.

I know that my wife simply reaching her full retirement age will not mean an increase to her benefit except for Cost Of Living Allowance. What I'm wondering is, can my wife get spousal benefits of any sort based on my Social Security benefits either before I draw or after I am drawing apart from her benefits at my death? Her Social Security disability amount is only a fraction of my maximum benefit. Signed

**Baffled Husband**

**Dear Baffled**

Looks like you're confused about your wife's Social Security disability benefits, retirement benefits, spousal benefits, and survivor benefits. Here's what you need to know:

When your wife reaches her Full Retirement Age next year, her current Social Security Disability Insurance benefit will automatically convert to become her regular SS retirement benefit at the same amount she was receiving on SSDI (disability). The amount stays the same because your wife's SSDI amount is based on her FRA entitlement.

Your wife cannot get any spousal benefits from you until you claim your own Social Security retirement benefit. Since you plan to delay claiming until you are 70 several years from now, after your wife's SSDI converts to become her regular retirement benefit at her FRA next year, she will continue to receive her own SS retirement benefit until you claim. At that point your wife will get a "spousal boost" added to her own SS retirement benefit. The amount of her spousal boost will be the difference between her FRA entitlement (same as her SSDI amount) and 50% of your FRA entitlement (not half of your age 70 amount - spouse benefits are always calculated using FRA amounts, regardless of when Social Security is actually claimed).

Your wife cannot get a spousal benefit from you until you start your Social Security, but after you claim she will receive her higher spousal benefit, her own SS retirement benefit plus a spousal boost, for the rest of her life or

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 7



©DAVEGRANLUND.COM

**The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM**

**EDITOR**  
Dalton Zbierski  
dzbierski@turley.com

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Jocelyn Walker  
jwalker@turley.com

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
sports@turley.com

**STAFF WRITER**  
Kristin Rivers  
krivers@turley.com

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



@Wilbraham-Hampden Times

**WEB**

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President

**DEANNA SLOAT**  
Graphics Manager



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

**Editorial Policy**

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

**Correction Policy**

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

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

**Our advertisers make this publication possible.**

Let them know you saw their ad in the

**Wilbraham Hampden Times**



Countless visitors have entered the mausoleum at Old Cemetery over the years.



Cemetery Commissioner Tim Collins looks into the mausoleum at Old Cemetery in Hampden.



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski

Many of the graves at Old Cemetery date back several hundred years.

**CEMETERY**  
from page 1

Hill Cemetery on Scantic Road and Old Cemetery on Chapin Road.

As was evidenced by the commemoration of the grave of Boston Tea Party participant Robert Sessions in June, some of the graves at Old Cemetery date back several centuries. Cemetery Commission Chair Tim Connors takes great pride in maintaining the town's historical cemeteries; he explained what goes into the job of a cemetery commissioner.

"We oversee any of the projects that need to get done. We do the fences, flagpoles, different things like that," Connors said. "When people need to be buried, we go out and mark the graves. We attend the funeral, we get the paperwork and then if there's any stonework, we make sure that gets marked in the right place."

Collins is joined on the commission by commissioners Cindi Connors and Ed Salerno. With the burial season at both town cemeteries set to end on Dec. 15, or if a significant snowfall occurs first, the volunteer commissioners are preparing them for the winter.

When the season ends, there will be no new burials until April 1, 2024, but the public is still welcome to visit the cemeteries, as they are plowed during the winter.

Old Cemetery has numerous landmarks that have been visited by countless residents over the generations. One is the mausoleum in the back of the property.

Connors explained why the door to the mausoleum remains open, as if it was locked, unwanted visitors might break in. "You can close it. We leave it open. It's



Veterans from a variety of American military conflicts lie in Old Cemetery.

been unsecured since I was a kid," he said. "We have kids who go in here at night. We leave it open because if it's closed, they might break it in. Then, when the cops come up to look around, they don't have to worry about it. They can just shine the light in there."

One major responsibility of the commissioners is removing fallen tree limbs, especially in the back of the cemetery along the eroding property line. Connors said that fallen tree limbs are typically removed quickly, as landscapers alert the commission of their presence.

"There's not a written plan. If something falls, we pick it up," Connors said.

Locating grave sites at Old Cemetery can be a difficult task, as many of the stones are heavily eroded. Fortunately, local historians such as Historical Commission Chair Connie Witt have published books mapping out the plots and who they belong to.

Connors gave Witt credit for doing a phenomenal job keeping records of who lies where.

"We have the books, and Connie's

pretty good about having the historical information or being able to find it," Connors said.

When a new plot is filled, the death certificate is logged into the Cemetery Information Management System, and copies are kept for record and reference.

Connors noted that the commission inherited paper copies of records in a shoebox. The group is currently working to modernize the system.

"So, they went to one cemetery management system, and we started implementing all the graves in there. It basically tells us where all the graves are and where all the people are so we know and can find them," Connors said.

If someone wants to purchase a plot, it is important to know if that site was sold to someone else in the years prior. Modernizing the system has made it more efficient.

"We're trying to get the old information into that and are trying to convert everything from paper to electronics so we can sort it easier. As we're doing it, we're finding we only go back so far. We're missing some so that's kind of the fight

we're fighting now just to do daily business," Connors said.

At Old Cemetery, one coming improvement includes a new \$1,500 flagpole that Connors hopes arrives before the ground begins to freeze. If not, the installation will have to wait until next spring.

When it comes to the upkeep of Old Cemetery's Scatter Garden, Connors said the responsibility typically falls on the commission.

Regarding historic stones that are too eroded to read, or others that have cracked or fallen, the commission works to secure Community Preservation Commission funds to enhance their condition.

"On the newer ones, we work with the monument companies. They'll come out and reset them," Connors said. "With the old ones, we could do the same thing, but because they're historical stones, there's different rules on what we can do to historically restore them. There are a couple places that do it."

For more information on the Cemetery Commission, or to get in contact with the commissioners, one can visit <https://www.hampdenma.gov/cemetery-commission>.

**SOCIAL SECURITY** from page 6

until you predecease her. If you die first, your wife will get 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death (e.g., your age 70 amount), instead of the smaller amount she was receiving as your spouse while you are both living.

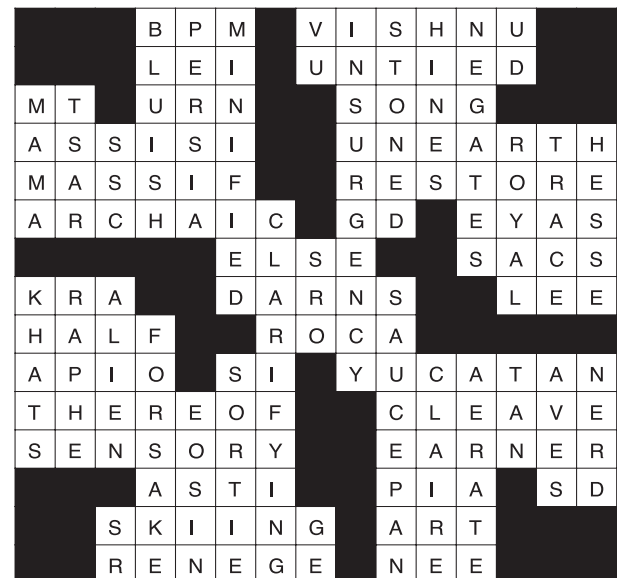
Regarding COLA, after becoming eligible for benefits, everyone gets the annually awarded COLA increase whether they are already collecting SS benefits or not. The next annual COLA increase will be added to your wife's SSDI at the

end of this year and added to her SS retirement amount each year thereafter, and then to her higher amount as your spouse after you claim.

And even though you are waiting until age 70 to claim, the annual COLA will still be added to your Primary Insurance Amount each year, and you will receive that past COLA in your monthly payments after you later claim.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental

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



# OBITUARIES

## Death Notices

**Barbara Anne Dyson, 62**  
 of Harwich Port, MA  
 Died on Oct. 31, 2023  
 Boardman-Smith  
 Funeral Home

## Barbara Anne Dyson, 62

Barbara Anne Dyson, 62, of Harwich Port, MA, died on Oct. 31, 2023, at Tenacre Foundation in Princeton, NJ.

She was born on July 13, 1961 in Kewanee, IL, the daughter of Charles Edwin and Kathleen Phylliss Kennedy Westphal.

Barbara started her education at Florida Atlantic University and earned her master's degree from the University of Massachusetts. She was a teacher and taught in both Florida and Massachusetts schools. Barbara loved animals and to be outside in the sunshine. She also enjoyed arts and crafts as she was always creating something new.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents; and husband, William MacDonald Dyson.

She is survived by her sons, Robert (Sarah) Marti of Watkinsville, GA, and Daniel Marti of Springfield, MA; granddaughter, Maddie Marti; and siblings, Chuck, Stanley, and Linda.

Visitation and Funeral Ceremony: Family will receive friends from 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, at Boardman-Smith Funeral Home, 800 S. Grand Ave. West, Springfield, IL. A funeral ceremony will follow at 11:00 a.m.

Burial will be held following the funeral ceremony at Farmers Point Cemetery, Menard County, IL. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your favorite animal shelter.

The family is being served by Boardman-Smith Funeral Home- 800 S. Grand Avenue West, Springfield, IL.



Wilbraham-Hampden Times  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries**

should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## Action Ambulance marks three-year partnership with Town of Hampden

### \$50,469 rebated to Hampden



HAMPDEN -- Michael Woronka, President and CEO of Action Ambulance Service, Inc. is pleased to announce the successful completion of a three-year partnership between Action and the Town of Hampden providing 24/7/365 in-town paramedic level emergency ambulance services to the Hampden community.

Appearing before the Hampden Ambulance Oversight Committee, Woronka reported that Action responded to 693 medical emergencies in Hampden in fiscal year 2023 resulting in 449 transports to local hospitals. Action's average response time to the scene was five minutes and 52 seconds.

Action's partnership with Hampden continues today through an optional contract extension which expires in June 2024.

"The Town's partnership with Action has been a win-win," said Donna Hatch, chair of the Ambulance Oversight Committee. "Action has quickly responded to the town's requested improvements and has provided the highest quality service to patients. In addition, Action has become an important and reliable mutual aid asset to our neighbors in East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, Monson and others."

Woronka continued, "The success of the partnership is due in large part to the professionalism and commitment of the public safety leadership both in Hampden and the surrounding Towns. We all have one focus when we are called to a medical emergency and that is on the patient."

Woronka also had high praise for the Wilbraham Regional Emergency Communications Center who answer the local 911 phone calls and dispatch Action and other first responders to where they are needed.

"The WRECC's dispatchers are on the frontline with us. They get the call and immediately get the teams rolling. The WRECC team's professionalism, expertise, and commitment to service is second to none," Woronka said.

**Action Ambulance and the Town of Hampden are celebrating a three-year partnership and hoping for many more successful years to come. Photo courtesy of Action Ambulance.**

Hampden Town Administrator Bob Markel also commented.

"Action's service has been a significant upgrade over the Town's previous provider," he said. "They also provide a great value to the community. As a provision of their contract with the town, Action was able to provide a subsidy rebate of \$50,469 back to Hampden for fiscal year 2023."

Action's value to the community does not stop there, however. Through its Dr. Harry Portman Scholarship program, Action recently awarded scholarships to several local graduating seniors including Minnechaug Regional senior, Justin Lewis. Action has also begun working with the Hampden Senior Center and other local senior services to help prevent injuries through its Slip, Trip and Fall program.

Action Ambulance Service, Inc. was established in 1977. Headquartered in Wilmington, Action provides both emergent and non-emergent medical transportation from Boston to the Berkshires and throughout New Hampshire. Action also provides paratransit and special education student transportation throughout Eastern Massachusetts. Action employs approximately 350 paramedics, EMTs, drivers, and support personnel while completing over 35,000 patient and student transports annually.

## Great Decisions Discussion Group returns in 2024

WILBRAHAM — Registration has begun for the 2024 Great Decisions Discussion Group, to be held at the Wilbraham Public Library beginning Feb. 7. Sessions will be held in the Brooks Room on Wednesdays from 4-5:30 p.m. on Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28, and March 6, 13, 20 and 27. If any sessions are canceled for snow or other bad weather, April 3 and 10 will be used as make-up dates.

The topics from the upcoming series are Mideast Realignment, Climate Technology and Competition, Science Across Borders, U.S. - China Trade Rivalry, NATO's Future, Understanding Indonesia, High Seas Treaty and Pandemic Preparedness.

Great Decisions Groups meet all over the country – in private homes, libraries, and other venues to discuss selected topics in the area of current affairs. Participants can have their opinions tallied in a National Opinion Poll, which then gets sent to the White House, members of Congress and the national media. This is a wonderful program to learn more about what is happening in the world and to have your voice heard by people who make the decisions.

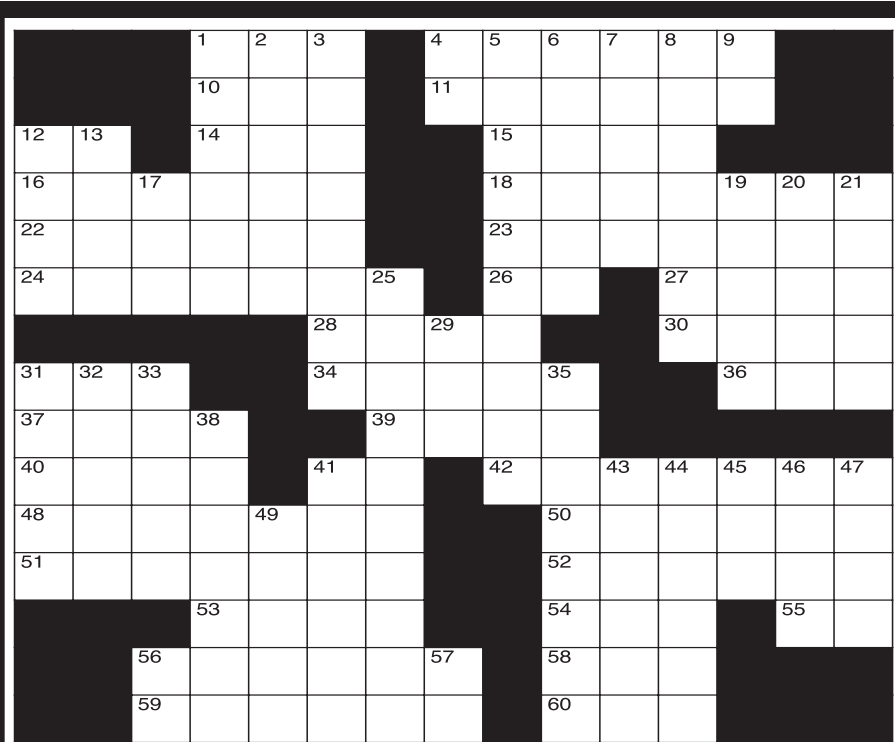
The Foreign Policy Association, which selects the key issues for discussion, publishes a briefing book for participants to read in advance so they can be informed and ready to engage. Participants can order the book from the FPA website at [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org), or by calling 1-800-477-5836. A copy of the book will also be available at the library Service Desk for in-library reading.

Please register through the Events Calendar at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org) or call the library at 413-596-6141.

## Teens Who Code to meet in Wilbraham

WILBRAHAM -- Teens Who Code will have their first meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Wilbraham Public Library. Facilitated by Mrs. Christine Goonan, this club is looking for new members. Grades 6-12 can explore project-based coding in a fun and friendly environment. Meetings

are once a month in the Teen Loft at the library, and all attendees need a laptop to join in. Online registration is required at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org) or call 413-596-6141. After registering, teens will receive more info by email. This is a free program hosted by the Wilbraham Public Library.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Beats per minute
- 4. Hindu deity
- 10. Polynesian garland of flowers
- 11. Not chained to
- 12. Metric ton
- 14. Tall, rounded vase
- 15. Musical composition
- 16. St. Francis of
- 18. Discover the location of
- 22. Compact group of mountains
- 23. Mend
- 24. Not current
- 26. Atomic #64
- 27. Young hawk
- 28. Or
- 30. Pouches
- 31. Southern Thailand isthmus
- 34. Mends with yarn

- 36. Downwinds
- 37. One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
- 39. Italian archaeological site
- 40. Cold appetizer
- 41. Yes
- 42. Peninsula
- 48. Of that
- 50. A way to divide
- 51. Relating to the physical senses
- 52. One who makes money
- 53. Spumante (Italian wine)
- 54. Inconvenience (abbr.)
- 55. South Dakota
- 56. Snow sport
- 58. The products of human creativity
- 59. Change mind
- 60. Born of

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Similar to the color of a clear unclouded sky
- 2. Former name of Iran
- 3. Made smaller
- 4. Type of meter
- 5. Revolt
- 6. Killed with rocks
- 7. Gregory \_\_, US dancer
- 8. Nullifies
- 9. Home to the Flyers
- 12. Female parent
- 13. Pre-1917 Russian emperor
- 17. Outsourcing (abbr.)
- 19. Regal
- 20. Line
- 21. Hermann \_\_, author of "Siddhartha"

- 25. Clearing up
- 29. No seats available
- 31. Leaves of an Arabian shrub
- 32. Groove in organ or tissue
- 33. Not of this world
- 35. Cooking device
- 38. Forget
- 41. Operational flight
- 43. Actress Danes
- 44. Poke holes in
- 45. A way to discolor
- 46. Shouts of welcome or farewell
- 47. Pharrell's group
- 49. Red fluorescent dye
- 56. Jr.'s dad
- 57. Electronics firm



# Schools Superintendent to speak at a public forum Nov. 29

WILBRAHAM – Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District Superintendent John Provost will appear at a public forum about recently announced consoli-

dating the eighth-grade classes at the high school on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Country Club of Wilbraham.

The meeting, sponsored by the Wil-

braham-Hampden Rotary Club, is free and open to the public.

Provost Ed.D., will talk about his thoughts and plans on what direction he believes is critical to students attending local schools. He will outline recently announced advantages of consolidating the eighth-grade classes into Minnechaug Regional High School and how this will

benefit education in the school district. Provost will take questions on the topic and other queries that relate to educational matters important to all Wilbraham-Hampden citizens.

For more information contact Brad Sperry, secretary of the Rotary Club at 413-537-4171.

**DPW** from page 1

dated support, adding the draft letter explains the issues and implores MassDOT to act.

“What I would suggest is if the board could review it at the next meeting. Any changes, edits, thoughts that the individual members might have, I’ll try to incorporate those and have something for the board to actually sign on the 27th,” Breault said.

Capparelo agreed on the timeline, with the final version of the letter to be presented at the Nov. 27 meeting.

Next, Capparelo said the DPW has been working on grants, receiving a \$100,000 grant last week to do a design on the Springfield Street bridge or covert.

“Basically, it’s a box covert that qualifies under the Small Bridge Program so it’s 100% design to be paid for directly by the state, and we’re just waiting to get information on that,” Capparelo said.

Another grant being worked on is a lead-service line grant for an inventory program for water services.

“So, there’s a whole program that we’re working on and this \$200,000 that

we have is essentially to implement this program, do inspections, create a database, do public participation and education,” Capparelo said. “We’re working with Tighe & Bond on this and it’s basically to meet EPA requirements as of October 2024 to make sure we’ve completed a full lead-service inventory in town as well as come up with a plan to replace any of the lines if we find any.”

Chairman Theresa Goodrich asked about residents who are unaware of possibly having lead service lines.

“Is there going to be funds available to take care of the cost for the citizens to not have to pay for that replacement?” Goodrich asked.

Capparelo said the long-term plan she foresees is this as step one, with a sampling program following if there’s any lead in drinking water.

Additionally, the DPW will pursue round two of funding if needed.

“Again, we don’t feel like that’s going to happen as most of our lines are copper,” Capparelo said.

Read more on the Nov. 14 Select Board meeting in next week’s edition.

*Give the Gift of Relaxation*



*Facials • Massage • Waxing • Nails*  
*Infrared Sauna • Spray Tan*  
*Makeup Application*

485 Holyoke St., Ludlow • 413-610-0650  
[www.auradayspaludlow.com](http://www.auradayspaludlow.com)







## RICHARD R. GREEN

*Insurance Agency, Inc.*

• AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE

- Great Locations • Registry Service
- Quotes Gladly Given • We Make Housecalls

Please Visit Our Website For an  
Auto, Homeowners, or Life Insurance Quotes

Two Locations:



128 Main St.  
Monson, MA  
267-3495



32 Somers Rd.  
Hampden, MA  
566-0028

Fax: 413-267-3496  
 Email: [richardgreenins@gmail.com](mailto:richardgreenins@gmail.com)  
[www.richardgreeninsurance.com](http://www.richardgreeninsurance.com)





Liberty

HOLIDAY TURKEY

HAND-FED,  
PASTURE-RAISED  
IN LUDLOW

ORDER NOW  
413-426-6636

Still Time To Order!



CENTER STREET  
AUTO PARTS OF  
CHICOPEE, INC.

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

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

“Serving all of Western Mass.”

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

centerstreetautoparts.com

651 Center St., Chicopee **413-733-2778**

PUBLIC FORUM

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT SPEAKS TO RESIDENTS

November 29, 2023 at 7PM

at the Country Club of Wilbraham

The future plans for educational excellence are important to all Hampden and Wilbraham residents and their families.

We are pleased to invite you to attend a public forum with our Superintendent of Schools, John Provost, Ed. D. to hear some of his thoughts and plans on what direction he believes is critical to our children attending our schools. He will outline recently announced advantages of consolidating the eighth-grade classes into the high school and how this will benefit education in our district. He will also be pleased to answer other questions that relate to educational matters important to all of our citizens.

For information about this meeting, please contact  
 Brad Sperry, Secretary of the  
 Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden at (413) 537-4171.

# A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Teens in grades 6-12 had fun learning about candles and waxes and making a scented candle at the Teen Spooky Candle Workshop on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at Wilbraham Public Library. This workshop, taught by Kulina Folk Art, was sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library. Photo courtesy of Rachel Hapgood, teen services/young adult librarian at Wilbraham Public Library.

# Life in & WILBRAHAM

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

Members of the Wilbraham Public Library's Teen Advisory Board make no-sew fleece blankets to donate to the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield. Photo courtesy of Rachel Hapgood, teen services/young adult librarian at Wilbraham Public Library.

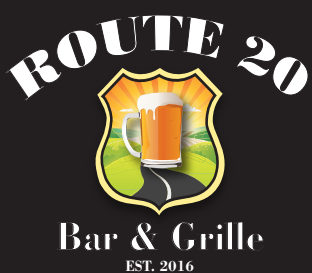


Enjoying guest speaker at Open House...

In the first photo, new Wilbraham resident and U.S. Navy veteran Truong M speaker and Wilbraham Veterans Agent Jered Sasen (left) at the Open House serving on the U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) still afloat in Boston Harbor. Shirt donated by the Gift Shop and presented to him by Atheneum Society

THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

## THE WILBRAHAM SHOPS • 2341 BO



**SERVING LUNCH**  
Thursday-Sunday  
at 11:30pm

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

**\$17 STEAK N' BREW**  
EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT  
Dine In Only  
While Supplies Last



**\$17 PRIME**  
EVERY T  
NIG  
Dine In  
While Supp

# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



**Community Bulletin Board**

*Happy 13th Birthday Lauren!*

**We love you!**  
Love, Mom, Dad, Katelyn, Gavin & Clover

**Send us in your announcements!**  
Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.  
We will pick one each week to run here free of charge, please keep it to less than 50 words. Please send to [dzberski@turley.com](mailto:dzberski@turley.com)



Richard Scott of Wilbraham submitted these images of the old Eastfield Mall being torn down in Springfield.



Nguyen (right) enjoyed listening to Old Meeting House Museum guest use Nov. 5. Sasen related tales of his Navy career which included door. In the second photo, Truong won the raffle for a Wilbraham Tee Program Chairman Charlie Bennett. (Photos by Stanley Kowalski)



Jennifer Bilodeau, from Pathways for Parents, conducted a STEAM story time with kids and their parents on Friday, Nov. 3. Look for more programs like this @ the WPL website. Photo courtesy of Children's Librarian Heidi Kane.

Here's another photo from the Wilbraham Public Library's Halloween Story Yoga at with instructor Lisa Katz. This four-week session was made possible by donations to the Wilbraham Friends of the Library. Photo courtesy of Children's Librarian Heidi Kane.



## AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:

BOSTON ROAD, WILBRAHAM, MA

**15**  
E RIB  
UESDAY  
HT  
n Only  
plies Last

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

**LIVE MUSIC!**  
Thursday 11/16: AL MCCORMACK  
Friday 11/17: THE STORYTELLERS  
Saturday 11/18: ANDY CAVANAUGH  
Thanksgiving Eve  
Wednesday 11/22: FRANK SERAFINO



2341 Boston Rd., (Rt. 20)  
Wilbraham, MA

**413.279.2020**  
[route20barandgrille.com](http://route20barandgrille.com)

SERVING: TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY 4-9PM  
SERVING THURS.-SAT. 11:30AM-9:30PM • SUNDAY 11:30AM-8PM  
WITH EXTENDED BAR HOURS EVERY NIGHT

## Frozen Polish Food Sale to occur Nov. 18

INDIAN ORCHARD – A Frozen Polish Food Sale (Pierogi, Golabki, Kapusta) will be held at Immaculate Conception Church Hall at 25 Parker St., Indian Orchard, on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are welcome to come and purchase.

## Heritage ‘Pops’ Orchestra Christmas Party Dinner and Dance

LUDLOW – Celebrate the Christmas season with the big band sounds of the 19-piece Heritage “Pops” Orchestra with vocals by Ann Maggs on Dec. 15 at the Polish American Citizens Club on 355 East St.

The event includes hors d’oeuvres from 5:30-6:30 p.m., a grand buffet dinner by John Diotalevi at 6:30 p.m. and dessert. Music and dancing will occur from 7-10 p.m.

Advance tickets cost \$25 per per-

son and are available at the PACC bar or by calling Bob at 413-636-7588 or calling Paul at 413-800-4164.

There will be a giant wood dance floor, a cash bar and a 50/50 raffle.

**CALL YOUR TURLEY REP TODAY! 283-8393**



**YOUR LOCAL  
TRUSTED  
RELIABLE  
DEPENDABLE**

# HOMIE PROs

### HOME ENTERTAINMENT

THE MOST DEPENDABLE STREAMING SYSTEM FOR MOVIES AND TV SHOWS

Unlimited TV, movies and sports!



Cut the cord and tell Cable you got a better offer

Watch what you want, when you want!  
Call Jim at 413-391-2345

### SEPTIC SYSTEMS

## Hampden Septic

Pumping • Installation • Title 5 Inspections • Perc Tests  
566-2916

Evening & Weekend Appointments Available!  
Billy Bond - The Area's #1 "Go To" Septic Guy!  
Fully Insured • Family Owned

### ROOFING



Think you need a new roof? Think again!

**ASK ABOUT ROOFMAXX**  
Shingle Rejuvenating Treatment  
536-5955 • www.1800newroof.net

### HOME REMODELING



- Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
- Windows, Decks, Flooring & More

Call for An Appointment

413-783-1101 • www.CummingsFloor.com

### JUNK REMOVAL

## Magnet P.I.

**Your Junk Collecting Man!**  
Get Rid of ALL your junk at a reasonable price.  
Even the Tough Stuff!

Boilers, hot Water Tanks, Oil Tanks, T.V.'s, Monitors, Mattresses, Pools, Hot Tubs, Tires... We take it all!

**Call Doug at 413-455-4397**

### HEATING & COOLING



439 Main St., Suite 4,  
Indian Orchard

413-306-5916

HEATING & COOLING  
Licensed & Insured

24 Hour Emergency Service

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING SERVICES

### LUMBER & FEED



CABINETRY  
DOORS • WINDOWS  
DECKING  
ROOFING  
AND MORE ...

For Your Interior And Exterior Living Spaces!  
84 Hubbard St., Ludlow • 413-583-3472  
Mon- Fri 7:30am -5:00pm;  
Sat 7:30am – noon; closed Sunday

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE ON YOUR

# Local HOME PROs

Contact Maureen: jwalker@turley.com • 413-283-8393

# The Local Table-n-Tap provides lively dining experience



Staff work on orders during a busy lunch hour at The Local Table-n-Tap on Boston Road in Wilbraham.



An exterior shot of The Local Table-n-Tap, a new local restaurant that opened its doors on Boston Road in Wilbraham.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM -- The Local Table-n-Tap has opened its doors on Boston Road to huge fanfare.

The restaurant offers lunch and dinner Sunday through Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., with the bar open late.

The menu offers a variety of options, including burgers, entrees, steaks, salads, pasta, soup, tuna, chicken and shrimp bowls and many more.

Additionally, a smokers' section for rack rib, pulled pork and brisket options.

Christopher Arillotta, owner of The Local Table-n-Tap, has been in the industry for 27 years and owns Christopher's in Springfield.

He explained how the Wilbraham property, formerly a Red Robin, became available.

"The leasing agent kind of found us, kind of found me," Arillotta said. "So, I wanted to open up some kind of an elevated casual dining restaurant and this is what we did. We took about a year to get it going and open, and it's been great."

Reflecting on the many people in the restaurant during the lunch hour, Arillotta said, "The response has been overwhelming... It's been great. People love it."

Arillotta shared The Local Table-n-Tap is part of a vision he has.

"I'm trying to open up like a restaurant group, and this is kind of the vision I was thinking of, kind of the concept," Arillotta said. "Like an elevated casual kind of tavern bar side and dining side and semi-private parties and different things like that for semi-private functions. Different things like that."

Arillotta stressed the importance of serving local food in the restaurant. "Local is always the concept. We have 24 beers and the majority of our beers on tap are all local. We are trying to incorporate local. When food is in season, we're going to be buying from all over," Arillotta said. "We're going to be buying from all local farmers and anything locally sourced. That's always been our concept."



A close-up shot of televisions on display in the bar section of The Local Table-n-Tap on Boston Road in Wilbraham. The restaurant has a tavern bar section and dining section with semi-private space for parties and other functions.

Reflecting on what fulfills his work, Arillotta said it's building and creating teams and seeing people work together while providing a lively vibe and atmosphere to restaurant patrons.

"It's not just food," Arillotta said. "It's also the atmosphere. It's an experience when you go out to eat. It's an experience, and we're trying to create that experience."

Arillotta has several goals for the next six months heading into 2024, including solidifying his team, offering Sunday brunches and to-go food options, getting involved in school functions and having local musicians perform.



Patrons enjoy food and socialize at The Local Table-n-Tap on Boston Road in Wilbraham.

The restaurant is working on and, recently, secured an entertainment license.

"We want to iron down the kitchen and staff and the team together to take care of the in-house guests and then we're going to branch out that way. There may be more in the future," Arillotta said.

Arillotta thanked the community for the support he and his staff have received so far, adding he loves Wilbraham and enjoys seeing so many people, including families, come through the doors.

"It means a lot," Arillotta said. "The response has been more than we thought it would be. I mean, I didn't project this, so this is really good."

Arillotta also wants the community to know the restaurant looks forward to serving more residents and holding community-related events, such as a recent cancer benefit called "Real Men Wear Pink."

"We're here with them and for them too," Arillotta said. "We're about the community and helping as much as we can."

Arillotta encourages residents to stop by, check out their menu and enjoy.

"Just please come try us out. Everybody seems to love it, so if you haven't been here yet please come in," Arillotta said.

To learn more, visit [www.thelocaltapentap.com](http://www.thelocaltapentap.com) or call 413-279-1198.

# The Gardens of Wilbraham hosts Veteran's Breakfast



Courtesy of Rich Moore

WILBRAHAM -- The Gardens of Wilbraham hosted a veteran's breakfast on Thursday, Nov. 9 in appreciation of residents who served their country in the military and their spouses.

The annual event was held in the great room of the clubhouse, and the feast was prepared and served by The Garden Staff.

Some 30 plus homeowners were delivered a full morning meal including eggs, home fries, pancakes, bacon, fruits, beverages and more. The affair included a raffle where patriotic brick-a-brac was distributed. Also in attendance was honored guest Heather McMahon; an Army veteran who served in Iraq and is currently working with the Massachusetts Veterans Administration. Heather is the Outreach Coordinator for SAVE Team & Women Veterans' Network and a member of the Massa-



Photos courtesy of Rich Moore

chusetts Executive Office of Veterans' Services.

Along with other civilities was a tribute to three resident veterans who have recently passed away. Henry G. Clay, Jr. piloted F4 Phantoms during the Korean War in the U.S. Navy. He retired in 1975 with the rank of Commander and was the recipient of the United Nations Medal of Honor. Richard A. Coffey was a WWII veteran who joined the U.S. Navy in a program for radar training and served until July 1946. Richard (Dick), after his military service, attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and in 1951 he graduated with distinction with a BS degree in Chemical Engineering. John A. Ferreira served in the Korean War and was a longtime resident of The Gardens of Wilbraham Community. John patriotically answered his country's call to action in 1951, enlisting into the U.S. Navy. He served four years during wartime as a radioman third class aboard a Destroyer Escort, The USS J. Douglas Blackwood.

The grateful community thanked The Gardens Developers/Management/ Staff and the Gardens Vet Chat organization for a wonderful event. All were in agreement that it was a fitting way to pay tribute to those who served our country so we can enjoy the freedom we have today.

**ROBERTS ROOFS**  
SPECIALIZING IN  
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters  
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing  
**Snow Removal**  
**Snow/Ice Damage Repair**  
Tel. 413-283-4395  
Cell 413-237-9434  
[www.RobertsRoofsInc.com](http://www.RobertsRoofsInc.com) Trusted Name Since 1982

**LOCAL KETONE PROMOTER**  
Call For Information  
**413-813-2391**  
Leave Message  
Check Out Facebook at  
**Denise Dubowski**  
Save Up To 25% OFF  
Retail Prices

## HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

# Wilbraham was bustling in November 1963

But things came to a screeching halt Nov. 22

By Charles F. Bennett  
Times Editor Emeritus

November of 1963 was a busy time 60 years ago when the town was bustling with events like the Firemen's Ball, a photo show at the Lions Club meeting, and the announcement in the Morning Union of the Halloween Parade winners that took place at Memorial Field with over 1,500 costumed kids taking part. Each child received a bag which contained candy, an apple, State Line Potato Chips and several toys.

## Change of Seasons

The change of seasons was signaled Nov. 5 when Bicentennial Celebration (200 years since the incorporation of Wilbraham in 1763) organizers Robert Edwards and Frank Shannis met with the Selectmen to officially close out the Bicentennial Year on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 21. (The town held festivities all during 1963 including a ball, parade and much more.) For a detailed report on all the Bicentennial events, see the "History of Wilbraham" Bicentennial edition edited by Charles Merrick, available at the Wilbraham Library and for sale at the Old Meeting House Museum Gift Shop.

Here are a few typical November events: The winners of the Military Whist Party held at the Wilbraham Grange Nov. 2 was Mr. and Mrs. Holton Pease. Conrad Boilard, past president of the Springfield Photograph Society, will be the speaker at a meeting of the Lions Club on Thursday, Nov. 7 in Belli's Restaurant.

Fr. John Scanlon of St. Cecilia's Church handed out achievement award pins at the annual Communion Supper of the Junior Catholic Daughters Nov. 7 and Fire Chief Ralph Tupper was asking for people to submit slogans for the theme of the upcoming Firemen's Ball to be held in the Minnechaug Gym. "The suggestions are starting to pour in and after looking them over, the judges will have a hard time making a selection," Tupper told my mother, Ethel Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent of the Morning Union back then.

## Christmas Bazaar

In the Nov. 9 daily newspaper, organizers of St. Cecilia's Christmas Bazaar, to take place Dec. 9, were announced as Mrs. Joseph Mell, bazaar chairman and Joseph Mell, project chairman. They were excited to introduce a new feature at this year's bazaar: a woodworking project being carried out by the men of the parish. "They have been busy for several months preparing early-American reproductions such as wall racks, spice shelves, spoon racks, cranberry scoops, salt boxes and many other items,"

wrote my mother.

Meanwhile, up the mountain at Glendale Methodist Church Community House, they were planning their "Jingle Bell" Bazaar offering home-baked foods, holiday items and novelties. From 11 to 1 there was a Tuna Casserole Luncheon served. Children from the Church School were in charge of the candy table. Committee members included Mrs. John Nordin, Mrs. Donald Collins and Mrs. William R. Richmond.

There were some big doings planned for Nov. 23 by the Democratic Town Committee. They had scheduled a dinner-dance to honor U. S. Rep Edward P. Boland at the Polish-American Veterans Club on Stony Hill Road. Word came from Boston on Nov. 9 that Lt. Gov. Francis X. Belotti would attend the event. Then the next day Peter G. Ellis, publicity director for the Democrats said, "The event is attracting much



Charlie Bennett



In this Times file photo taken by the late photographer Dave Miles in 2013 at the digging up of the 1963 Time Capsule in front of the Civil War Monument, 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration co-chair Patti Diotalevi holds up a copy of the Springfield Daily News from Nov. 23, 1963. (Times file photo)



"President John F. Kennedy was to all a true representative of the people," said Wilbraham Democratic Town Committee chairman Francis Scott-Smith. (Photo courtesy Thought Co.)

interest, and the advance sale of tickets is excellent."

Among those expected to attend and sit at the head table were State Auditor Thomas J. Buckley, Governor's Counselor Raymond F. Sullivan, State Senators Maurice A. Donahue, Paul Benoit and Stanley J. Zarod.

Another major town social event was announced in November. Over 300 townspeople were expected at the Firemen's Ball Nov. 23 in the Minnechaug Gym said Roger Whitehill, the chairman. "A fine program has been mapped out for the ball by the emcee Charles "Red" Dorey," said Whitehill. Since it is the Bicentennial Year many attendees will be wearing colonial costumes, but that is optional. A Grand March will be one of the highlights of the widely anticipated ball prior to the Christmas season, said Whitehill.

## Walt and Beverly

Just before Thanksgiving on Nov. 22, an important wedding engagement was announced. Miss Beverly Ann Trombley of Boston Road accepted the hand

in marriage from Walter Michael Presz Jr., of Manchonis Road. Both the future bride and groom were graduates of Minnechaug Regional High School. Beverly was employed by Mr. Henry Hair Stylist in E. Longmeadow. Walter was still attending Lowell

to graduate from Minnechaug. The book tells the stories of the Presz family and of their three sons and Walt's Manchonis Road neighborhood and how he rose from being a farmer's son in North Wilbraham to a Doctor of Engineering who consorted with the likes of Bill Gates, Al Gore and Gen. Colin Powell. Walt holds several patents in jet engineering and became a well-known professor at Western New England University.

The Presz's still live and do gardening on Grove Street in town and Walt served on our 60<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Committee that held a get-together in September of the Classes of in 1961, 62 and 63.)

As the town headed towards Thanksgiving an announcement was made that a second Driver's Education car from Valley Buick was added to the program according to Minnechaug chairman of physical education William M. Kober, who taught many Wilbraham kids over the years how to drive.

Reservations were being taken for the annual Grace Union Church Fair with the deadline of Nov. 15. The theme of the Fair is "Magic Fanfare" with two magic shows scheduled and youngsters could have their picture taken with Santa Claus.

## Screeching Halt

On November 22, 1963, the town of Wilbraham came to a screeching halt.

It was announced by Walter Cronkite on CBS that John F. Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, was assassinated while riding in a presidential motorcade through Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas.

Kennedy was in the vehicle with his wife, Jacqueline, Texas Governor John Connally, and Connally's wife, Nellie, when he was fatally shot from the nearby Texas School Book Deposito-

ry by former U.S. Marine Lee Harvey Oswald. The motorcade rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where Kennedy was pronounced dead about 30 minutes after the shooting; Connally was also wounded in the attack but recovered. Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson assumed the presidency upon Kennedy's death.

The next day, Nov. 23, 1963, while those of us who were glued to the television to learn the latest on the assassination, Mrs. Bennett wrote, "Two major social functions scheduled for tonight have been called off in respect to the late President John F. Kennedy who was assassinated in Dallas, Tex. The Firemen's Ball has been postponed until a week from tonight and a dinner-dance which the Democratic Town Committee was sponsoring in honor of U. S. Rep. Edward P. Boland of Springfield has been postponed indefinitely."

Francis H. Scott-Smith, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee and Mrs. Eileen Connor, president of Democratic Women's Club said in a joint announcement, "It is with great sorrow for the President's family and the people of the free world that we in Wilbraham share together in this time of crises.

"Certainly, President Kennedy's dedication and courage of conviction during his public life has earned him the respect shown few men so early in years.

"Regardless of race, creed or religion, the President was to all a true representative of the people and indeed his sacrifice for a cause will not be forgotten but instead remain a symbol of what we as Americans believe in and stand for."

Springfield Morning Union, Wilbraham News Dateline Nov. 23, 1963: "The tragic death of President John F. Kennedy is a shock to residents of this community who are expressing their feelings in a manner similar to that of people in all parts of the world.

People crowded St. Cecilia's Church last night to offer prayers and at noon today an interdenominational community prayer service was held in United Church. Flags on local public buildings were at half-staff today."

## Help for the Steeple

Just a reminder that Wilbraham United Church is holding a campaign to repair its iconic steeple, which sits high above Main Street. That steeple was installed by the late building contractor and Wilbraham war hero Bill Garvey, beloved by all. For information on how to donate to restore the steeple, go to WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org.

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; Chauncey Peck who wrote "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913. Wikipedia.

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

# SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com



Audrey Izzo makes the play on the run.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

## Falcons get through Leominster in second round

By **Tim Peterson**  
*Sports Correspondent*

WILBRAHAM—When the Minnechaug field hockey team lost in overtime to Westwood at home in the 2022 Division 2 round of 16, Kayleigh Kinsman watched the match from the bleachers.

When the fifth-seeded Lady Falcons defeated the 12<sup>th</sup>-seeded Leominster Blue Devils, 3-1, in the same round at home last Tuesday, Kinsman was in the spotlight as the starting goalie.

Prior to the start of the regular season, Kinsman, who's a senior, decided to join the Minnechaug field hockey team.

"This is my first year playing field hockey and making it this far in the post-season tournament feels really good," Kinsman said. "I had always played soccer, but I decided to switch things up this year. I love the girls on the field hockey team, and I wanted to try something new for my senior year. I was a goalie in soccer when I was younger, and it has been a great experience being the starting goalie for the field hockey team."

Kinsman made a total of six saves against the Blue Devils.

Junior captain Audrey Izzo was the person who convinced Kinsman to join the field hockey team this fall.

"Audrey is one of my friends and she talked me into joining the team. She has helped me out a lot," Kinsman said. "Audrey is a very good field hockey player, and it has been cool being teammates with her."

Izzo gave her thoughts about becoming teammates with Kinsman.

"We needed a goalie this year, and I knew that Kayleigh would be an amazing addition to our field hockey team," Izzo said. "I convinced her to play, and it has been a wonderful decision on her part. She just loves being a member of this team. She has done an amazing job. Nobody can tell that she's a first-year goalie."

Minnechaug head coach Maggie Kennedy is very glad that Kinsman decided to play field hockey because she needed a starting goalie. Kinsman replaced Shea Rice, who graduated last June.

Please see **FALCONS**, page 16

## Falcons prevail over Terriers



Jack Lucarelle makes a quick throw on the run.



Dajuan Johnson heads into the crowd on a carry.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Vinh Nguyen makes the reception for the Falcons.



Max Baroni tries to avoid a pair of tacklers.

WEST SPRINGFIELD – In a matchup that was supposed to take place in Week 1, Minnechaug football defeated West Springfield 21-18 last Friday evening at Clark Field. The two teams were supposed to match up in independent action at the beginning of the season, but thunder and lightning forced the game to be postponed, and subsequent scheduling issues led to the game being cancelled completely. Both squads made the Division 3 State Tournament and were ousted in the first round. West Springfield was previously undefeated before the tournament and the Falcons handed West Springfield its second loss of the season. Minnechaug's season finishes at 6-3. The Falcons do not have a game scheduled on Thanksgiving.

## Volleyball All-Star Showcase set for next Tuesday

HOLYOKE – The 11th IVHF All-Star Showcase will feature the top players in Western Massachusetts in two showcase matches. The event will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the Holyoke Com-

Please see **VOLLEYBALL**, page 16

## Sign up for the Wilbraham Turkey Trot

WILBRAHAM – Please join us on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 23 for the Wilbraham Turkey Trot - a five-mile road race up Monson Road now in its 44th year. The annual tradition, started in 1980, has grown in recent years selling out at 500 runners the past several years. This year, the maximum has been increased to 550 participants.

The race returned successfully returned last Thanksgiving morning for the annual tradition benefiting the Community Survival Center.

There is no vaccination requirement this year. The course starts in Woodland Dell Cemetery just up from race headquarters at the Wilbraham United Church. Runners then make a left onto Main St. and head up Monson Road. Once summited, runners turn left and enjoy scenic views of the valley from atop Ridge Road and enjoy the downhill along Mountain Road before turning back on Main Street to the church. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. with bib pick-up beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the church.

The race focuses on providing a classic New England Turkey Trot with chip timing, race swag, and one big hill. Awards will be given

for the first male and female runners to the top of Monson Road.

Registration is only \$20 and available online at [www.RunReg.com/wilbrahamturkeytrot](http://www.RunReg.com/wilbrahamturkeytrot)

Residents are asked not to park on Woodland Dell or Main Street on Thanksgiving morning and to avoid driving on the route until after the race has concluded at 10 a.m. Any traffic will be detoured downhill from Monson Road to Main along Ridge and Mountain Roads.

Expected road closures are as follows:

Main Street: From Monson to Woodland Dell: 8:30-8:35 a.m.

Monson Road: Closed to downhill traffic from Ridge Road to Main Street: 8:30-8:50 a.m. (Traffic detoured down ridge road)

Ridge Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Mountain to Monson: 8:35-9:10 a.m.

(Traffic detoured down Mountain Road)

Mountain Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Main to Ridge: 8:40-9:25 a.m.

(Traffic can travel uphill via Monson Road)

## T-Birds fall in overtime

BRIDGEPORT, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (7-6-1-0) got a terrific netminding performance, but the offense went cold in a 2-1 overtime loss to the Bridgeport Islanders (4-6-1-0) on Saturday night at Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport.

The starting goaltenders were the best performers in the opening period. Malcolm Subban got the nod for the T-Birds after a strong relief effort in Providence on Friday and helped Springfield kill off a pair of Islander power plays in the first, denying nine shots in the period. At the other end, Ken Appleby was far busier than he was last Sunday when he needed to make just 17 saves in 60 minutes against the T-Birds. He had an answer for all 11 Springfield shots in the first frame.

The scoreless affair was broken at the 5:54 mark in the second period. After Springfield failed to generate a chance on an odd-man rush, it sprung the Islanders into the T-Birds

zone on a 3-on-1, and Ruslan Iskhakov elected to take the shot himself from the right circle, slipping it between Subban's legs to give Bridgeport the 1-0 advantage and snap a streak of more than 75 minutes without a goal for the Isles.

Despite some shaky moments in the stanza, the T-Birds fought back to even the score at 15:28. Near the end of a shift, Will Bitten entered the offensive zone on the left wing, dropping a pass at the top of the left circle for Joey Duszak. After stumbling slightly, Duszak regathered his footing and surprised Appleby with a low shot along the ice that sneaked home, equaling things at 1-1. Bitten picked up his first assist of the year, while Duszak's tally was his first goal as a Thunderbird.

Subban remained stout in between the pipes, as he shut down each of the other 13 shots he faced in the period, allowing just the Iskhakov wrister to beat him, taking the 1-1 tie into the final 20 minutes.

Shots and chances heavily favored the Islanders in the third period, as Springfield just a single shot on goal in the final 20 minutes. Subban, though, maintained his poise and nearly singlehandedly earned a standings point for the T-Birds, forcing the 1-1 tie into overtime.

After winning their first two overtime games of the season, Springfield could not make it three straight, as Iskhakov stormed up the ice to create a 2-on-1 with Sam Asselin with under a minute left in overtime. Asselin hit Iskhakov in stride, and the skilled winger made no mistake in beating Subban on the stick side to seal the victory at 4:08 of extra time.

The T-Birds come back home next Friday, Nov. 17 for another Deuces Wild Friday at the Thunderdome, where the T-Birds will take on the Utica Comets for their first of four matchups on the season, with puck drop at 7:05 p.m.



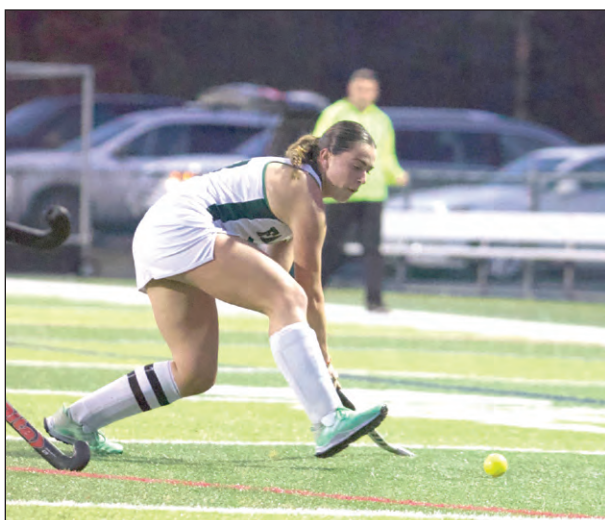
Norah Dumala brings in a pass.



Ainsley Sheehan gets ready to send the ball forward.



Mary Woytowicz sweeps a shot on goal.



Kate O'Connor socks a backhand pass into the circle.



Alayna Lucas waits for the ball to reach her.

### FALCONS from page 15

"Kayleigh has been an amazing edition to our team this year," Kennedy said. "We didn't have a starting goalie before the start of the season. She's just a good kid and is a very hard worker. I knew that she could handle the goalie position."

Kinsman received a lot of help and support from sophomore Nina Semanie, who's the Lady Falcons back-up goalie.

"Nina and I always work together at practice. She has really helped me a lot this year," Kinsman said. "She's a very good goalie and she'll be replacing me as a starter next year."

The regular season did get off to a little bit of a rocky start for the Lady Falcons following a 2-0 non-league home loss to Algonquin Regional. They then went 10-0-1 in their next eleven matches.

Minnechaug's unbeaten streak came to an end following a 2-0 home loss to East Longmeadow on October 18. The Lady Falcons then reeled off five more victories, including a 3-2 win against Longmeadow in the Western Mass. Class A finals. They also shut out 28<sup>th</sup>-seeded Northampton, 3-0, in the round of 32 in the Division 2 state tournament.

The Lady Falcons (16-3-1) took a 1-0 lead against the Blue Devils following a penalty goal by senior Norah Dumala with 16.8 seconds remaining in the first quarter. Junior Alayna Lucas was credited with the assist.

Izzo, who comes from an athletic family, also banged home a penalty corner goal past Leominster junior goalie Kailyn Cuddahy with 8:29 remaining in the second quarter. The unassisted goal gave the home team a 2-0 lead.

"It's always a lot of fun watching my teammates score goals," Kinsman said. "Having a 2-0 lead to protect was huge for me."

The Blue Devils did get on the scoreboard following an unassisted goal by Taylor Boulay with 2:32 left in the first half.

"I just stepped to the ball a little bit slowly on their goal," Kinsman said. "It was a good learning experience for me."

The Lady Falcons retook a two goal lead again when Izzo put a tomahawk shot into the cage with 3:11 left in the third quarter.

"They had a very good press defense, and it was hard to get past them," Izzo said. "Once I did get past their line of players, I just took the best shot that I could. Luckily, it went in."

Kinsman, who's also a member of the outdoor track & field team, made a couple of key saves during the final 15 minutes, which helped the Lady Falcons keep the lead.

It wound up being the final home game for Kinsman and Dumala, along with classmates Kate O'Connor, Mary Woytowicz, Rose Caltabiano, Serina Chan, and Emily Esteves.

"This was the seniors final home game and I think they'll always remember this win," Kennedy said. "It's a special group of players to coach. They've been great leaders."

Minnechaug's season came to an end following a 3-0 quarterfinal loss at fourth-seeded Hingham, last Friday afternoon.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



# Alumni game at Chicopee Comp

CHICOPEE – All Chicopee Comprehensive High School football alumni are invited to participate in the 6th annual CCHS Alumni Football Game. The game will be taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. at Chicopee Comp High School, 617 Montgomery Street, Chicopee. All proceeds will benefit the Chicopee Comprehensive football team.

For more information, please contact Tammy Martin-Griffin at [tmg811@yahoo.com](mailto:tmg811@yahoo.com).

# UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST – The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today. The PVTO is held each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike. This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at [www.pioneervalleytip-off.com](http://www.pioneervalleytip-off.com). All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

## VOLLEYBALL from page 15

munity College Bartley Center located at 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke.

The event will start with a 3-set Second team all-star match at 6 p.m. followed by the award presentation and a 3-set First team match at 7:30 p.m. Adult tickets are \$10, Seniors 65-and-over are \$5 and Students/Children are free of charge. Admission to the All-Star Game also includes a free of charge future admission pass to the International Volleyball Hall of Fame Museum.

"The IVHF is very proud to have its home in Western Massachusetts and we are very excited to again recognize the top players in our area," said IVHF Executive Director George Mulry.

Selected players are chosen by vote of the Western Massachusetts girls high school coaches.

For more information on the Hall of Fame Girls All-Star Volleyball Showcase, contact [events@volleyhall.org](mailto:events@volleyhall.org).

# Armitage named peer advisor for 2023-2024 academic year

SPRINGFIELD -- Wilbraham resident, Alexander Armitage, has been named a peer advisor for the 2023-2024 academic year at Western New England University.

Peer advisors are a group of highly selected and comprehensively trained students dedicated to helping first-year and transfer students throughout their transition to Western New England University. Peer Advisors undergo more than 150 hours of training to better support first-year and transfer students.

# Wilbraham students named resident advisors at WNEU

SPRINGFIELD – The following Wilbraham students have been named Resident Advisors for the 2023-2024 academic year at Western New England University. They are among 43 resident advisors.

Alexandra Karpinski is working toward a BSBA in Accounting.

Noah Love-Walsh is working toward a BSE in Mechanical Engineering.

# O'Brien of Wilbraham receives Canton College Foundation Scholarship

CANTON, NY -- Conor C. O'Brien, a SUNY Canton Computer Information Systems major from Wilbraham, received the Gilbert, Chadwick and Christy Investment Club Scholarship.

O'Brien is one of more than 300 students to receive at least one scholarship from the Canton College Foundation, Inc., during the fall 2023 semester. Most the college's scholarship recipients had the chance to meet with the benefactors responsible for their award during the annual Scholarship Luncheon Celebration recently held on campus.

"We extend our sincere congratulations to all of the students who received scholarships this year," said SUNY Canton President Zvi Szafran. "You are being rewarded for your hard work through the support of your sponsor. We all believe in you and look forward to watching you succeed."

SUNY Canton Vice President for Advancement Tracey L. Thompson thanked donors for making the awards possible.

"The gift you are giving is much more than a scholarship," Thompson said. "You are providing the gift of opportunity or a shot at a better life filled with purpose and achievement. Your return on investment is the lifelong gratitude of your student recipients."

# SCHOOLS

# Elms College Summer 2023 Graduates

CHICOPEE -- College of Our Lady of the Elms congratulates the following Wilbraham students who graduated after the conclusion of the summer 2023 semester.

Alba Albo, Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies  
Molly O'Donnell, Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis  
Nicholas Taylor, Master of Science in Nursing

They were among 75 students who received their degrees this summer.

# University of Hartford graduates from Wilb.

WEST HARTFORD, CT -- Congratulations to the following Wilbraham students who graduated as part of the University of Hartford Class of 2023! Lea Kuselias and Katie Shea.

# Girl Scouts of Central and Western Mass. CEO is stepping down

HOLYOKE/WORCESTER -- Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts announced on Sept. 28 that the non-profit organization's long-time Chief Executive Officer, Pattie Hallberg, is stepping down at the end of 2023. Pattie's decision to leave the Girl Scouts will end a remarkable 16 years of service to GSCWM.

"Pattie's legacy at Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is nothing short of extraordinary," said Nicole Messier, GSCWM board president. "Her leadership has been instrumental in shaping the organization into what it is today. We are profoundly grateful for her unwavering dedication, expertise, and vision, which have empowered countless girls and women to embrace their potential. As we embark on this transition, we remain steadfast to upholding the values and mission that Pattie has championed throughout her tenure. The GSCWM board is committed to finding a worthy successor who will carry on Pattie's legacy and uphold our mission to nurture the future female leaders of tomorrow."

"It has been my honor and a sincere privilege to lead Girl Scouts of Central and

Western Massachusetts - an organization dedicated to the development of a girl's personal leadership journey. I am proud of the organization we are today and the impact we've made, working with thousands of fabulous girls and adults to further the Girl Scout mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place," said Hallberg. "Our sustainability through a global pandemic and our current growth both in membership and revenue represents the

collective effort of an incredibly talented staff, a dedicated board of directors, generous funding partners, and an innovative and dedicated membership. I couldn't be more excited about what's next for this important organization," Pattie said.

The GSCWM board will oversee the process to choose Pattie's successor. The board of directors has engaged the search firm, Find Good People, to assist with the transition.

## The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

*We are celebrating our*  
**20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons.**

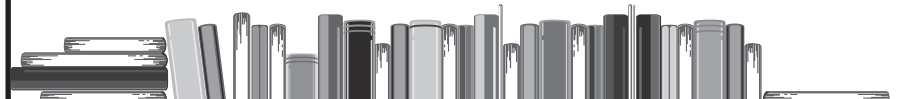
Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

**HOURS:**  
Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm  
Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm • Sat. 10am-2pm

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE**

Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours.  
Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books.  
We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



**Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library**



*Monson Arts Council presents its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual*

## HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

⊕

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH  
9 AM - 4:00 PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH  
11:30 AM - 4:00 PM

⊕

TOWN WIDE CAROL SING  
4:00 PM SATURDAY  
MEMORIAL HALL

⊕

200 MAIN STREET  
(ROUTE 32), MONSON, MA  
MA PIKE EXIT 63, 32 SOUTH

-FREE ADMISSION-

FOR MORE INFO CALL  
413-218-0693

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

## FOR SALE

### ESTATE SALE

**NOVEMBER 24-25-26. 9AM-4PM. 51 BRIDLE ROAD, LUDLOW** urniture, artwork, antique items and more. Indoors and outdoors.

### FIREWOOD

**FIREWOOD**  
Fresh cut & split \$200.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

**BALED HAY FOR SALE.** Call 413-23-7120.

## JUNK REMOVAL

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

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

## SERVICES



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

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

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

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

## ELECTRICIAN

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

## HEATING & AIR COND.

**ALL AIR HVAC**  
Offering heating & air conditioning services. New installs, changeouts, duct work. 17 years of experience. Fully licensed and insured. 413-335-7530. Email: allairhvac7@gmail.com

## SERVICES

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

**HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST** BBB approved, sheetrock repair, painting jobs, window & door replacement, vinyl-wood siding, flooring installed. Dependable, affordable. Tim 413-563-2229.

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

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

**NAWROCKI HOME IMPROVEMENT** Kitchens, bathrooms, replacement windows & doors, roofing, siding, decks, custom woodworking, drywall. Full insured & registered 413-237-2250 Mark

## LANDSCAPING

**A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE**  
Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvite Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

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

## SERVICES

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

## MASONRY

### STOP WET BASEMENTS

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

## PAINTING

**FORBES & SONS PAINTING & STAINING** Interior, residential, commercial and new construction, wall-paper removal, sheetrock and plaster repairs. Quality products. Since 1985. Free estimates. Fully Insured. Call Brad Forbes at 413-887-1987.

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

## PLUMBING

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

## SERVICES

### RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

## SNOWPLOWING

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

## TREE WORK

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

## TUNE-UPS

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

## STUMP GRINDING

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

## HELP WANTED

**PAID ON-THE-JOB HOME HEALTH AIDE TRAINING.**  
Earn \$2000 once you complete our Certified Home Health Aide 115-hour Training Program. \$300 Sign on Bonus also available! Call **Excel Nursing Services 413-583-8900**. EOE. [www.excelnursing.com](http://www.excelnursing.com)

### TOWN OF BROOKFIELD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Brookfield is seeking a full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description and application details at [brookfieldma.us](http://brookfieldma.us). Deadline to apply is November 20th or when position is filled, whichever is longer.

## AUTO

**CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS**  
FREE TOWING  
FAST SERVICE  
CASH PAID AS IS  
CALL OR TEXT  
413-219-6839

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



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

**LUDLOW:** \$925, quiet 1 bedroom, 2nd floor, open kitchen/living room. Parking, on-site laundry. Utilities not included. No smoking, no pets. 413-543-3062.

**MILL HOLLOW APARTMENTS 133 JABISH ST. BELCHERTOWN, MA**  
Mill Hollow Apartments is located in a quiet country setting with bright, clean one bedroom units. Heat, hot water, carpet and appliances are included. Patios and balconies. Near transportation and shopping. Pets allowed. Pet rules apply. To qualify applicants must be 62 years of age or older, handicapped, disabled regardless of age and meet income guidelines. Apply at the Rental Office, 121 N. Main St., Belchertown or call (413) 323-5535 or TTY 711.



**Post your job openings in our classifieds. We get results! Call 413-283-8393**

## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON or call: 413-283-8393

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

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

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

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

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

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

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

We all learned the importance of making a first impression. The Wilbraham Senior Center is well on its way to welcoming members of our and surrounding communities to a special place, equipped for and dedicated to, the continued health and thriving of adult individuals.



Although what it will say is still not obvious, the base for the signage as one enters the property is a work of masonry art!

The details are still being addressed, but we are on target for a grand opening in Spring 2024. We hope you will join us. As always, feel free to send questions/ comments to seniorinfo2021@gmail.com or leave a voice-mail at 596-2800 ext. 315.

Linda Tatko Cooper RN for Wilbraham Senior Center Building Committee



Our main entrance is taking shape! The area is covered by a portico to make access easier in inclement weather.



A bit further on the horizon will be a Bocce court. In the distance, there is a beautiful view of the golf course of the Country Club of Wilbraham.



Speaking of "Rooms with a View"! The main activity room will open out onto this patio of memorial pavers that members of the Community have generously purchased and will be engraved in memory of, or in honor of loved ones/occasions. The pavers in this photo will be replaced with the engraved pavers.



On the second floor, the view to the east shows a County Club fairway. In the near distance is the emergency generator for the Senior Center that has yet to be placed in its permanent home.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Colene Melikian for a Special Permit as required under Section 4.4.8 of the Zoning By-Law to allow construction of a detached accessory building (garage) with a building footprint area of 1,008 square feet and a maximum building height of 17.4 feet and under Section 3.9.2.2 to allow a combined total of four garage doors on property owned by Colene Melikian and Martin Ryan at 5 Vista Road as shown on information on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at [www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board). Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/165685941> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 165-685-941).

John McCloskey  
Chair

11/09, 11/16/2023

### Wilbraham Community Preservation Committee Annual Public Hearing

The Wilbraham Community Preservation Committee will hold its Annual Public Hearing on **Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 6:30 PM** at the Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street. The purpose of this hearing is to get input from the general public as it relates to Community Preservation efforts in Wilbraham in the catego-

ries of Open Space, Historic Resources, Recreational Land and Community Housing. Members of other municipal boards and committees as well as Town employees are also welcome to attend. This hearing will be followed by a regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee. The agenda for the hearing/meeting will be posted on the Town Hall outdoor bulletin board and on the Town's website at <https://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/> at least 48 hours prior to the meeting time and date.

The Committee may be contacted at [cpechair@wilbraham-ma.gov](mailto:cpechair@wilbraham-ma.gov).

Tracey Plantier  
Chair CPC

11/16, 11/23/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23P2320EA**

**Estate of:  
Patricia L Gordon  
Also known as:  
Patricia Lee Gordon  
Date of Death: 09/02/2023  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **E. George Gordon of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **E. George Gordon of Wilbraham, MA** be appointed

as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/11/2023.**

This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

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

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

Date: November 13, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/16/2023

### LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS OPEN ACCESS PROVIDER SERVICES FOR WILBRAHAM FIBER

The Town of Wilbraham Broadband Committee, on behalf of the Wilbraham Select Board, issues a Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified Bidders for Open Access Provider Services. The successful Bidder will provide a platform and all related hardware and software capable of supporting a minimum of one gigabit symmetrical active Ethernet services to business and residential customers for a Town-wide Municipal Fiber Network. While the primary focus of this platform is the delivery of internet services,

the Town recognizes the platform will be capable of delivering many diverse services.

Copies of the RFP will be available beginning November 8, 2023 on Commbuys, the Town's website at: [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov) ("Government, Bids") and from the Select Board Office, 240 Springfield St., Wilbraham MA 01095.

Sealed Proposals must be received by December 6, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in the Select Board Office. Proposals will be opened and recorded in the Select Board Meeting Room at 240 Springfield Street on December 6, 2023 at approximately 2:05p.m.

The Broadband Committee reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive informalities and to recommend award of the contract to the Select Board, in the best interest of

the Town of Wilbraham. All questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Nick Breault, Town Administrator, at: [nbreault@wilbraham-ma.gov](mailto:nbreault@wilbraham-ma.gov).

Thomas Newton, Chairman  
Wilbraham Broadband Committee  
11/16, 11/23/2023

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **November 24, 2023** the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle: 1994 Chevrolet S-10  
VIN: IGCCSa442RK181386  
COLOR: Blue  
LKO: Unknown  
R & S Assoc. Inc.  
Wilbraham MA 01095  
413-596-4374  
11/09, 11/16, 11/23/2023

# EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **THANKSGIVING**  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
WILL HAVE AN **EARLY AD DEADLINE**  
Place your public notice no later than

## Thurs., Nov. 16 Noon

FOR PUBLICATION THE WEEK OF NOV. 20-24

A **TURLEY PUBLICATION**  
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
413-283-8393 • [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)



# INSURED AND CERTIFIED

## Tree Removal

■  
Structural Pruning

■  
Crane Service

■  
Storm Damage

■  
Stump Grinding

■  
Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

# 413-478-4212

# DL&G TREE

