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## WILBRAHAM HONORS VETERANS

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The community gathered at Crane Park Veteran Memorial on Nov. 11 to mark Veterans Day in an observance ceremony.

The ceremony included remarks from Patrick Renna, director of Veterans Services, and Select Board Chair Michael Squindo, Bruce Adams, legislative aide for State Rep. Angelo Puppolo Jr. (D-Springfield), and Jennifer Pickering, district director for State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), presenting citations to Senior Master Sgt. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Franklin Ludwig—who was named the 2025 Veteran of the Year—the Pledge of Allegiance by Scout Troop 359, the National Anthem performed by the Minnechaug Regional High School Choir, the “Veterans Salute” performed by the Minnechaug Regional High School Band and the Armed Forces Tribute.

Ludwig also shared remarks reflecting on his time serving in the Vietnam War.

After wishing the Marines a happy 250th birthday, Renna said, “Veterans Day is not just for Veterans.”

“When we served, it



State and local elected officials and community members pose for a group photo with Senior Master Sgt. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Franklin Ludwig, Wilbraham's 2025 Veteran of the Year.

Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

wasn't for personal gain. We served for the collective good of the United States of America. That's why this day

belongs to all of us and all of you. As a Veteran myself, I stand here with pride, humility and gratitude. I've seen

the challenges and sacrifices that come with service and I've seen the extraordinary spirit that binds together the

men and women who wear the uniform,” Renna said.

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## A new era begins at the HPD

Bruno sworn in, Trombly honored

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - A new era officially began at the police department after Daniel Bruno was sworn in as the new police chief of Hampden during the Selectboard's Nov. 10 meeting.



Chief Daniel Bruno

Ahead of the swearing-in, Outgoing Chief Scott Trombly, who retired on July 17 after 31 years of service and having served as interim chief during the search for a successor, was also honored by the board. He will continue serving the police department for the next month as Bruno gets acclimated into his new role.

The Times will be meeting with Bruno very soon to, formally, introduce him to the community.

### Who is Daniel Bruno?

As he shared during his candidate interview ahead of being selected by the Selectboard last month, Bruno, a Hampden resident for nearly 20 years, was a detective/sergeant with the East Longmeadow Police Department for nearly his entire 28-year career.

He explained to the board at the time there was no defining moment that led him to get involved in law enforcement, but he had the aspiration since middle school. Heading to college, he would later declare it as his major.

“It was just something that I always aspired to. I am the first person in my family to be in law enforcement. I didn't have a father, an uncle or a cousin, anybody in law enforcement. So, this was all new to me,” Bruno said. “It was just something that I was

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## An overview of Hampden's STM

Here, we review Articles 1 through 9

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - This year's Special Town Meeting featured 18 warrant articles voted on by residents.

Here's an overview of the votes for Articles One through 9. An overview of Articles 10 through 18 can be found in this week's edition.

Article One was a consideration to amend the Hampden General Bylaws for a 6:30 p.m. Annual Town Meeting start time as opposed to the current 7 p.m. time. The change would be in the first sentence of Chap-

ter Two, “Town Meetings,” section one.

Selectboard Chair John Flynn explained the article.

“We found over the past couple of years that people seem to appreciate the earlier start. As the town meeting warrants are getting more complicated with more articles, sometimes people like to get home a little earlier,” Flynn said. “And, of course, the longer seems like check-in times for the Annual Town Meeting. Sometimes the meeting doesn't start for 15, 20 minutes. This, I think, will give people an opportunity to get here early, look over the warrant if they haven't already and then get home at a reasonable time.”

Article One passed by majority vote.

Article Two was to see if the town will raise and ap-

propriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to increase the budget line item “32.4 Facilities Manager” for the town maintenance account - Facilities Manager. The amount was \$38,008 to be transferred.

After Ellen Bump asked for an idea of the current financial standing, Advisory Committee Chair Doug Boyd explained the town has a free cash number of \$1,820,000.

“That number's about twice what it normally is because of an accounting accommodation that the state made with us last year,” Boyd said. “We also have just under \$1.3 million dollars in our Stabilization Fund. If all the articles pass that are on the warrant and our recom-

Please see **STM**, page 5



Photo courtesy of Emilie Lang

Marianthy and Bruce with their paintings of each other.

## Wilbraham library hosts Paint Your Partner event

By Angelina Acevedo  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Nov. 10, the library hosted a Paint Your Partner event, sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

The event was catered towards adults, and focused more on the creative aspect of painting, rather than step-by-step instructions.

Paint Your Partner is a viral trend that started on TikTok, with couples online painting portraits of each other.

Emilie Lang, the Wilbraham Public Library's Adult Librarian, saw this trend and put a spin on it for the library to enjoy.

“When I saw videos of people painting each other, I thought it would be so fun to bring that to the community. Adults could sign up online with their friends or other family members, but they knew who they were painting before coming,” Lang said. “The library offers other art and painting

workshops, like Paint, Sip, Fun events with instructors, but those events are very straightforward with what is being created. For Paint Your Partner, it was much more up to the artist's interpretation of the person sitting across from them.”

Lang shared how everything went for the attendees.

“In the beginning, people struggled with where and how to start, which was expected since this event is so different from our other art workshops. I offered help to those who were really stuck on the first steps by telling them to focus on the basic shapes of a face, and gave them the option to sketch out their partner first,” Lang said.

The painters started their projects at 5:30 p.m., and continued until 7 p.m., giving them just enough time to add details and defining features. At the end of the event, partners got to reveal their paintings to each other, showing off their hard work

Please see **PAINT**, page 8

## Wilbraham United Players present 'Five Golden Rings'

By Patricia Sullivan  
Correspondent



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

The ensemble decks the halls and sings in “Five Golden Rings.”

WILBRAHAM - To kick off the holiday season with some warm-hearted comedy, The Wilbraham United Players will perform “Five Golden Rings—A Greeting Card Channel Holiday Musical.”

The show is a parody of Hallmark holiday movies. Performance dates are Nov. 28 through Dec. 7 at Wilbraham United Church at 500 Main Street. Performances on Fridays and Saturdays are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday performances are at 2:30 p.m.

“Five Golden Rings” mashes together all the silly holiday tropes from Hallmark movies, says Director Deborah Trimble, who has directed more than 30 shows for the Players.

“It's formulaic, with a wink and a nod to the audience,” Trimble said. “It's so

stupid it's fun. And the music is good, which is always something we look for.”

The Players' Board of Directors wanted to present a holiday show that wasn't a standard such as “A Christmas Carol” or “It's a Wonderful Life.”

“Five Golden Rings” is so new that it hasn't yet been staged in many venues. In fact, said Trimble, because the show is not widely performed, David Abbinanti, who wrote its music and lyrics, and Stephen Garvey, who wrote the book for the show, started following her on Facebook. Trimble was able to ask Abbinanti several questions about the mechanics of the production.

The plot of the play is familiar to anyone who has seen a Hallmark holiday movie.

Please see **PREVIEW**, page 8

# COMMUNITY

## An overview of Hampden's Special Town Meeting

Here, we review Articles 10 through 18

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - This week, the Times is providing an overview of the Nov. 3 Special Town Meeting.

Here, we're going to take a look at Articles 10 through 18. To read about Articles One through 9, check out this week's edition.

Article 10 on raising and appropriating or transferring from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to purchase a compact wheel front loader for the Highway Department was no action, which passed unanimously.

Selectboard Chair John Flynn explained the no action recommendation.

"The Highway Department is very respectful of the financial situation that Advisory so eloquently explained to everybody, so be aware, it is going to come up. We are exploring some other options to pay for it whether it's a lease program, etc. But, this is a need that Highway has and it will be back for us," Flynn said.

Article 11 on raising and appropriating or transferring from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to purchase a pickup truck for the Parks & Recreation Department was, also, declared no action by Parks & Rec Director Dan Blanchard for similar reasons to the Highway Department request, which passed unanimously.

Article 12 was appropriating a sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund for the replacement

of sidewalks at Centennial Commons at 26 Springmeadow Lane. The amount was \$42,823.

Advisory Committee Chair Doug Boyd explained the Community Preservation Fund currently has approximately \$690,000 that was raised through the assessment on the real estate tax and the match received from the state. A minimum of 10% has to be spent on affordable housing, 10% on historic preservation and 10% on open space.

"This request from the Housing Authority will fulfill our obligation to spend money on affordable housing, which is one of the areas where we have been lagging in terms of that support which is required by the statute," Boyd said. "So, this is an expenditure of money which is already in the bank. This does not affect the tax rate."

Article 12 passed by majority vote.

Article 13 was appropriating a sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund for the construction of a cul-de-sac in the southwest section of the Old Cemetery. The amount was \$27,000.

Article 13 passed unanimously.

Article 14—a Local Acceptance Statute—was to see if the town would vote to adopt the local room occupancy excise tax under Mass General Law Chapter 64G Section 3A at the rate of 6%. Unfavorable action was recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Selectboard Member Don Davenport shared the state allows towns to "assess an excise tax on room occupancy rentals."

"Right now, there is seven locations in Hampden which

are paying state excise tax, which is 5.7%. The town is allowed to put an additional 6% tax on that. This tax will be collected from people who stay on vacation or rent rooms and lodging in Hampden," Davenport said. "It won't create a lot of money. Wilbraham has this and they collect about \$19,000 a year, but it'll be something a little bit more for the town's coffers and it'll come from people—not townspeople like you would see with the meals tax—but from people who visit the town or stay in different locations in town."

Thad Clavette said he didn't have a problem with the 6% and asked where the seven locations were, which Davenport replied were four locations at GreatHorse, two short-term rentals on Chapin Road and one short term rental on Glendale Road.

After Sean Sullivan wondered about the Advisory Committee's unfavorable recommendation, Boyd said there were two reasons.

"One is the current zoning for the town prohibits rentals of less than 30 days. So, short-term rentals are prohibited by our bylaws. So, essentially what we're asking by way of this vote is to tax an impermissible use. We would prefer to see that other bylaw addressed and cleaned up if there's an intent to bring this occupancy tax," Boyd said. "And the second is, I guess, more of a philosophical reason, which is that the property owners are already paying their real estate taxes just like the rest of us are and that there's been no demonstrated increase in the burden to the town from these rentals. So, to ask them to pay an additional 6% seems unjustified."

Davenport clarified the taxes would be collected by the individuals who rent the property.

"So, it's not the business owners that would pay it," Davenport said. "The Department of Revenue will collect it and just quarterly send the money to the town."

The three short-term rentals, he added, the DOR has three properties currently listed as such and taxes are being collected on them.

After the vote, a manual count was declared. After the manual count, the article passed by one vote, 35 yes to 34 no, therefore passing by majority vote.

Article 15 was on transferring from unappropriated funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying costs of the previously approved expansion of the Scantic River Valley Water District. The amount was \$650,000 to be transferred.

Article 15 passed unanimously.

Article 16 was to see if the town will vote to transfer from unappropriated funds a sum of money for the purpose of reducing the tax rate for FY26. The amount was \$636,193 to be transferred.

Article 16 passed unanimously.

Article 17 on transferring a sum of money from the General Stabilization Account for the purpose of reducing the tax rate for FY26 was no action, which passed unanimously.

Article 18 is to see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from unappropriated available funds into the General Stabilization Account was also no action, which passed unanimously.



Turley photo by Natalie Proulx  
The main coordinators of the St. Cecilia's Catholic Women's Club Rummage Sale.

## Saint Cecilia Church holds Annual Rummage Sale

By Natalie Proulx  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Friday Nov. 7 and Saturday Nov. 8, Saint Cecilia Church held its Annual Rummage Sale.

The St. Cecilia Catholic Women's Club organized this event, gathering all sorts of donated items: jewelry, clothes, dresses, coats, toys, glassware, dish sets, bags and many other trinkets.

Instead of the same event for two days, there's a twist.

Ann Mango, the main organizer of the Rummage Sale and St. Cecilia's Catholic Women's Club, explained the difference between the two days. Open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, "Friday is just a regular rummage tag sale but Saturday is bag day." On Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to Noon bags were provided by the church so people could, "come in, take a bag, and fill a bag for three dollars."

Attending Saturday's event came with another perk, Mango mentioned.

"Some of the items are half price, some of our large

er coats and dresses are half priced, we also have the jewelry area and that's all half priced!" Mango said.

Lined up at the door by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, some were prepared with bags and carts to hold their new found items. The second day of the event tended to move faster than the first, but came with amazing deals, and a powerful move on the community.

Mango described her observation of what keeps people coming back each year.

"What we have is clean, it has been looked at, and they're getting a good buy for whatever they're looking for," Mango said.

One attendee who has been coming to the Rummage Sale for years stated it was her favorite time of the year. She said, "you never know what you may find," and she was never disappointed with the quality of items she found.

Mango also mentioned her favorite part about putting together this event.

"I think it's just the ex-

Please see **RUMMAGE SALE**, page 3

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# Three HWRSD projects receive MSBA approval

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The School Committee learned from Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Operations and Human Resources Dr. Douglas Slaughter on Nov. 6 that three projects submitted to the MSBA received approval.

Slaughter explained the MSBA's board of directors met on Oct. 29 and reviewed submitted statements of interest for the roofs at Mile Tree Elementary School and Stony Hill Elementary School and the doors and windows at Wilbraham Middle School. From there, the MSBA followed up with a letter containing a commencement date of March 2.

On action items, Slaughter explained these would include funding, particular vote language the School Committee would need to take into account and other items to be done by him and town hall staff.

"The sort of first set of deadlines are 90 days. They actually give us 91 because the 90th day is Sunday the 31st. So, they moved it to June 1, so we actually get an extra day because (of) the weekend," Slaughter said.

As items are put together, Slaughter said there will be an appropriation made for funding feasibility and schematic design to stay in the process.

"What's also fortunate is that gives us really through

our regular budgeting cycle and capital conversations with the towns opportunity to engage them in going through this and working on how we approach these projects, how we fund these projects, how we fit them into the larger capital plans that are in the community and all those sorts of things," Slaughter said.

After the 90 days, the next hurdle will be "about a year later" in securing full project funding.

"In absent of any other conditions, if we were to move ahead with this project, we really can do some funding in this Spring Town Meeting cycle and, again, the following Town Meeting cycle to fund the project and get them underway," Slaughter said.

With these projects moving ahead, Slaughter said it also prompts "some deeper questions about how we think about our facilities and our needs over the coming years."

"One of the things that comes with accepting this support from the MSBA is a commitment to use those buildings for educational purposes, for essentially the useful life of the thing that they're investing in. So, we want to be thoughtful about that and thinking about those buildings, their capacity, their lifespan and how we, as a community, want to approach those and approach these projects," Slaughter said.

Slaughter also noted how "there are times when districts opt out," for a number

of reasons.

"Sometimes the communities can't get the funding. As much as people might want to do projects, they—just the voters—don't support them or they make an alteration in what they think their needs are and their facilities planning," Slaughter said. "So, there's a lot of different ways to go through this, but we're in a fortunate place where we have this opportunity."

He added that, last year, the reimbursement rate for eligible costs was "just over 57%."

"So, I presume it'll be something of that sort. So, any costs within the total project that are eligible costs will be reimbursed," Slaughter said.

School Committee Member Sean Kennedy praised Slaughter for his efforts.

"I've never heard of this before where three projects have been approved in the same year. I haven't heard that for many months, so congratulations on that," Kennedy said. "What a massive, massive savings for the town of Wilbraham to have close to 60% of this project covered by the state."

Vice Chair Dr. Michael Tirabassi noted the Select Board will send the committee a letter to think about the future of middle school education in the district and, to his understanding, WMS has "six to eight classrooms" missing, a library missing and "tiles with asbestos in them peeling up."

"So, I think there are definitely multiple pathways

forward—right?—and the windows and door project is step one on one pathway—right?—where there's several projects, each of which will probably \$7 to \$10 million in scope to update things that are in the building and, eventually, add on the necessary classroom space," Tirabassi said. "So, I think the Wilbraham Select Board is asking a very good question as to is this the building for us for the next 20 years."

On Tirabassi's questions of the process and enrollment projections, Superintendent Dr. John Provost shared the conversation "is a little bit more comprehensive than just the middle school," noting projected enrollment numbers of 150 more middle school students in 10 years.

"But that means in five years, there's 150 more students in kindergarten and then first and second grade, third and fourth. So, thinking about how to address the entire portfolio of schools below the high school level, I think, is something we have to do," Provost said. "And so I would say that we'd want to include people in those discussions that have expertise not only in middle school education, but also what the needs of early childhood education are, what the needs of upper elementary education are and think about the problem as a whole."

The conversation continued with further questions on next steps and what other possible projections could look like years from now.

# Rotary Club to launch Hygiene Drive

WILBRAHAM - Maintaining good personal hygiene is crucial for preventing illness, boosting mental well-being, ensuring social acceptance and preparing for the world of work. Like many necessities today, the cost of hygiene items can put a strain on the family budget.

According to club secretary Brad Sperry, the Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden is collecting personal hygiene items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo and hairbrushes that will be donated to local community organizations helping needy families.

Collection boxes for donations are located at LUSO

Federal Credit Union on Crane Park Drive in the center of Wilbraham and at The Sugar Chalet Café also located in Crane Park a few doors down from LUSO's.

Hygiene items may also be donated at the Town of Wilbraham's Holiday Tree Lighting on Sunday, Dec. 7 starting at 4:30 p.m. "The annual event, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden, is a wonderful way to begin the holiday season of "giving", said Sperry.

For more information about the Hygiene Drive, or other service projects of the Rotary Club, contact Brad Sperry at 413-537-4171.

## RUMMAGE SALE

from page 2

citement of people who come in to shop and just find something that they're thrilled with! Whether it's a toy or a puzzle or a set of dishes or a new winter coat, they're happy, and they're happy with the quality and the price," Mango said.

But putting an event this large on comes with some heavy behind the scenes work.

"We start our sale always on the first Friday of November," Mango said, "and we begin accepting donations on that previous Monday."

Mango added that once they've accepted donations, the real work begins. The group sorts any items they've received on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the same week, and usually take a half day on Thursday.

The things that really make this Rummage Sale is the way it is has to do with the community that's supporting it.

"People are very generous," Mango said. "People

give us many items they can no longer use."

She explained that they do not take any electronics or things with cords.

"However," Mango said, "what they do give us, glassware and dish sets, we put at a price that's lower, but that people can use."

This Rummage Sale supports the people with more than just quality items at lower prices. And though that aspect of the Rummage Sale is very important to those in need, especially with upcoming holidays, it also supports other parts of the community.

Mango explained the variety as to where the funds they raise go to and how it's integrated back into supporting the community.

"We support the community with the proceeds," Mango said. "We give money to the church, we have scholarships, and we send money to many other charities and the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard."

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**VETERANS** from page 1

"But we should never forget the quiet heroes behind every Veteran. Families and friends who keep life going while their loved ones serve. They may not wear the uniform, but they serve all the same. Today, we honor them too. Service is never solitary. It ripples through families and communities. Our country is stronger because of every person who stands behind a Veteran and says, 'I've got your back.'"

Squindo encouraged attendees to share with their loved ones "that today is about remembering why we're here and who allowed us to be here today to have the enjoyments and to have the privileges that we all have."

"It's because of our Veterans that we can stand side by side with one another today and discuss our differences and find opportunities to move forward together and to help one another," Squindo said. "I think that we owe it to each of our Veterans to make sure that we never lose sight of that. That we never lose sight of our neighbors and that we put each other first and our differences aside for the betterment of our community."

Oliveira, who arrived later on and connected with the town's Veterans, noted how these ceremonies bring out many generations.

"I grew up during the Post 9/11 Wars, Afghanistan and Iraq and so, some of my friends were Veterans, but I grew up with a lot of World War II Veterans. Both of my grandfathers served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, one grandfather was in the United States Marine Corps and I still am fortunate to have one World War II Veteran left in my life, my 104-year-old great aunt—Aunt Syd—who's a 1939 graduate of Ludlow High School. She was a member of the Women's Army Corps," Oliveira said. "So, I'm just fortunate to have many generations of Veterans in my life and still have one World War II Veteran that's part of my family."

As a legislator, Oliveira said it's important for the state to continue supporting Veterans and their families, citing recent examples including extending benefits to



Senior Master Sgt. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Franklin Ludwig, Wilbraham's 2025 Veteran of the Year, reflects on his time serving in the Vietnam War. He was also presented with a plaque from Patrick Renna, director of Veterans Services.



From the left, Patrick Renna, director of Veterans Services, U.S. Army Sgt. Robert Kelliher, Jr., Wilbraham's 2023 Veteran of the Year, Senior Master Sgt. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Franklin Ludwig, Wilbraham's 2025 Veteran of the Year, and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) in a group photo.



Select Board Chair Michael Squindo provides remarks.



Jennifer Pickering, district director for State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), presents the citation from the Massachusetts State Senate recognizing Senior Master Sgt. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Franklin Ludwig as Wilbraham's 2025 Veteran of the Year.



Bruce Adams, legislative aide for State Rep. Angelo Puppolo Jr. (D-Springfield), reads the citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives recognizing Senior Master Sgt. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Franklin Ludwig as Wilbraham's 2025 Veteran of the Year.

family members and the redevelopment of the new Soldiers Home in Holyoke.

"We, in the Senate, just last week passed a bill to help out with Veterans and servicemen and women who might have children that are transitioning in school if they moved for deployment to ensure that they can stay in their school system for the remainder of the academic year," Oliveira said. "And, we also clarified language for the Massachusetts National Guard, the oldest National Guard in the entire country. Massachusetts was an outlier where our adjunct general—the head of our National Guard—didn't report directly

to the governor. But in this era when chain of command is very important, we changed that last week in the Senate to ensure that the adjunct general reports directly to our governor and not to a cabinet secretary or a department, that there was a direct line to the commander-in-chief of the National Guard, which is our governor."

Ludwig reflected on his

friends who died on the battlefield or were wounded and carried out on helicopters. Also, his wife's support throughout the years upon returning home.

One particular night he shared was December 27, 1966 at Cam Lô Combat Base.

"They had aspirations of doing things—going to college and so forth—and they

never made it. Never made it back, and that really bothers me, and I always said when I stood in that foxhole, I said, 'God, if I make it through this, I'm going to be a good man.' and I think for the most part I tried," Ludwig said. "And I still work with the Veterans today, helping them out, because I know what it feels like to be a Veteran and still coming out of the war and what these folks have to go through."

Ludwig was honored to be recognized as the 2025 Veteran of the Year.

"I never thought this would ever come. I never thought about it and then they approached me, they said, 'We'd like you to be the Veteran of the Year' and I said, 'You must have somebody else that's more important,'" Ludwig said. "And they said, 'No. You're important. We want you the Veteran of the Year,' and I thank them very much for that."

His message was this.

"We should never forget those people that served those Armed Forces and still do today, both men and women," Ludwig said. "I think Wilbraham is tremendous the way



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
Patrick Renna, director of Veterans Services, conducts the Armed Forces Tribute, which recognizes the U.S. Army, Marine Corps., Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and the Space Force.

they take care of their Veterans and I couldn't find a finer place to be."



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**CHIEF** from page 1

always drawn to.”  
On what led him to Hampden, Bruno said the town “became the town that it felt like where I grew up,” as he grew up in East Longmeadow.

“Hampden still has that small-town feel. That’s why we decided to come here. We were a little bit away from it, a little bit insulated, yet this is the small town I grew up in,” Bruno said. “Love living here in Hampden and always wanted to be in law enforcement.”

He emphasized the service piece of law enforcement is what “this career, this profession, is about.”

“From when I started until now, policing has evolved and policing has changed. This is a service-oriented profession first. The protect piece goes along with it,” Bruno said.

On community policing, Bruno said, to him, it was always felt in small towns like Hampden, Wilbraham, Longmeadow and East Longmeadow.

“I pride myself on being community-oriented and service-oriented. That’s what this profession is. It’s developed into that, but we’ve been doing it all along, and in Hampden, I think even more so,” Bruno said. “I’m fortunate, I know most of these guys, I’ve worked with them. Just by the nature of mutual aid calls and working together over the years, this is what they do best in Hampden. I think that’s one of the strengths of Hampden PD is community service.”

As examples, Bruno noted the Public Safety Night Out, one of the Hampden officers

visiting one of the schools and spending time with the students and finding creative solutions to problems that don’t result in criminal court action.

“I think they do that well in Hampden and that’s what I would like to continue here in Hampden,” Bruno said.

On working with the town and the town administration, he also emphasized open lines of communication, collaboration and having an open-door policy.

His budgeting experience, meanwhile, began during college while working at a college radio station. Fast forward to now, Bruno said he was involved in additional tasks from the Cruiser Maintenance Program and weapons program and firearms instruction to meeting with his colleagues to discuss future needs.

“I’ve always taken a pretty active role and I’ve been asked to help with that. So, although I don’t administer the budget—I would never claim that—I’m fortunate that I have had my hands in it and been involved with it, so I know quite a few of the budget lines,” Bruno said.

For goals, they include recruitment and retaining police officers—such as collaborating with the local high school and colleges to get the word out—and more community engagement with officers, whether with the senior center or the schools.

“I feel like if we cultivate this agency to be a place where people are happy to come to work, it starts with good leadership. If they’re happy to come to their facility, to work in the town here,



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
**New Hampden Police Chief Daniel Bruno and his family.**

I mean, what a great place. They can go stop at the Village Mart, get a sandwich, stop at Lou’s get a coffee. They have a great place to work,” Bruno said. “We have a great way to retain people here. So, we just want to promote that.”

**The Swearing In**

After Selectboard Chair John Flynn thanked Trombly, he presented a plaque recognizing his many years of service to the town.

“Thank you for your dedicated years of service to the Hampden Police Department and the community,” Flynn said. “And I think the community, it should be in bigger letters because what you’ve done for the town of Hampden can’t be overstated. March 25, 1993 to July 17, 2025.”

The board then unanimously approved appointing Bruno as the new police chief,

who shared that he wanted Trombly to pin the badge on him.

“I think it’s appropriate and the proper way to do it,” Bruno said.

Town Clerk Eva Wiseman then led the official swearing-in of Bruno, who took the oath to serve.

“I, Daniel A. Bruno, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform the duties incumbent upon me as chief of police for the town of Hampden, Massachusetts, in good faith, without prejudice and to the best of my ability,” Bruno said. “I will bear true faith and allegiance to and will uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I will obey and be bound by such rules and regulations established by the town of Hampden and its police de-



**New Hampden Police Chief Daniel Bruno and his parents in a family photo.**



**New Hampden Police Chief Daniel Bruno takes the oath as Outgoing Police Chief Scott Trombly looks on and Town Clerk Eva Wiseman leads the ceremony.**

partment. I solemnly swear to uphold my professional standards of honesty and integrity, that I will never betray my badge, my character or the

public trust, so help me God.”  
Afterward, family, friends, colleagues and more celebrated the occasion with cake, photos and best wishes.

**STM** from page 1

mendation for the balance of the free cash is accepted by town meeting, the tax increase would be approximately 8%.”

Robin Warner wondered about the vote due to the \$1.3 million in Stabilization and “if we can transfer some of those funds to cover some of these expenses instead of raising our taxes.”

“It’s the way the process works I don’t fully understand it, but it seems if we have \$1.3 million, maybe we could transfer some so we don’t have to raise our taxes,” Warner said.

Boyd said the recommendations is those articles “be funded by transferring from the free cash which we have available.”

“So, this is not raising and appropriating new money,” Boyd said. “For any of these articles, the recommendation that we’re making as is that they be funded from the free cash. Free cash is money which is in excess of we had planned on having available.”

On the raised taxes, Boyd noted the spring vote increasing the budget by \$1.2 million, “which is in excess of our 2.5% increase.”

The \$1.3 million is also

kept to improve ratings when money needs to be borrowed, cash flow and, Boyd added, “it’s meant for long-term situations.”

After further clarification and additional questions, Article Two passed by majority vote.

Article Three was to see if the town would raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to increase the budget line item “7.2 Employee Benefits” for the insurance account - Employee Benefits. The amount was \$56,000 to be transferred.

Selectboard Member Don Davenport elaborated on this one.

“We had some retirements, so we owe our employees for many years some pay for vacation time, unused sick time, that type of thing. We didn’t budget that in the Annual Town Meeting because we didn’t project these retirements. So, that’s what this is for,” Davenport said.

Article Three passed by majority vote.

Article Four to see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the budget line item “6.0 County Retirement” to “37.2 General Salary (Council on Aging)”

was to take no action, which passed by majority vote.

Article Five to see if the town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 18 “Senior Center Repairs and Renovations” of the May 12 Annual Town Meeting to add the replacement of the HVAC system as a permitted use of the appropriated funds passed by majority vote.

Article Six, as shared in last week’s edition, was to see if the town would raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money—which was \$130,000—to replace the HVAC system at the senior center. This passed by majority vote.

Article Seven to see if the town will raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to purchase and install new HVAC systems at the new Hampden Town Hall, formerly the Thornton Burgess Middle School. The amount was \$300,000 to be transferred.

Article Seven passed by majority vote.

Article Eight was to see if the town would raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to extend the

electrical service to the Transfer Station shed and to install new signs to better direct users through the facility. The amount was \$10,000 to be transferred.

Article Eight passed un-

animously.  
Article 9 for raising and appropriating or transferring from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to pur-

chase a new police cruiser for the police department was no action, which passed un-

animously.



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**VIEWPOINTS**

**SOCIAL SECURITY Matters**  
By Russell Gloor

**Did the Obama-era Social Security tax cuts hurt the program?**

Dear Rusty:

*I will be retiring early next year, but my question to you is: During the Obama administration, payroll taxes that employees pay were cut in half from 6.2% to 3.1%, while the employer's part stayed the same at 6.2%. This continued for around a year I think. This was an attempt at giving people a tax cut, which I think was a bad idea or maybe the wrong way to have done it. How much damage do you think this may have caused to Social Security?*

Signed: Soon to Retire

Dear Soon to Retire:

FYI, the Obama-era cut in the employee portion of FICA payroll taxes and SECA (self-employment tax) was a temporary measure, which has long since expired. However, the legislation which enabled that cut in employee FICA/SECA taxes also included a provision to replenish the Social Security Trust Funds from the General U.S. Treasury in an amount equal to the estimated loss of tax revenue to the Trust Funds. So, in effect, there was little or no impact on the Social Security Trust Funds.

FYI, the Trustees of Social Security have been projecting for many years that the Social Security reserves would be fully depleted in the mid-2030s, unless Congress takes action to reform the SS program. Unfortunately, Congress has not yet taken any meaningful action to accomplish that reform and the current projection from the Trustees is that all Social Security reserves will be depleted in about 2033, necessitating an across the board cut of about 21% in everyone's benefit. Time

is running short and we see signs that Congress is finally starting to seriously discuss Social Security reform.

At AMAC, we have developed and submitted to various Congressional Representatives a reform plan, which would restore Social Security to full solvency. People can see AMAC's suggested plan by visiting [www.amac.us/social-security-guarantee](http://www.amac.us/social-security-guarantee). And AMAC is working every day in Washington, D.C. to promote Social Security reform to avoid future cuts in benefits. We believe and hope that Congress will eventually reform the Social Security program to avoid future benefit cuts but, unfortunately, not until they can muster sufficient bipartisanship to make the hard choices needed. To this end, contacting your Congressional Representative to demand Social Security reform now would be a good thing to do. The longer Congress delays reform, the harder the choices will be.

*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.*

**Are you a 'complex patient?'**

With more people living longer, it's becoming likelier than an individual will be dealing with more than one chronic health condition, such as heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, any number of autoimmune disorders (such as lupus) – the list is practically endless.

Your doctors – you probably have more than one -- may not tell you to your face that you are "complex" or "complicated," so how do you know if you are? What are the possible implications of complexity, and what can you do about it?

Here are some typical characteristics of complex patients, in addition to having multiple health conditions:

- You take multiple medications.
- You have a lot of health-care providers, including specialists.
- You are in the hospital frequently.
- You struggle to manage your own health care because of its complexity.
- You lack the family or social network you need to manage your health care.

Health-care providers are seeing more patients with complex conditions than ever, but there's little consensus among doctors about how to deal with them. Aside from the characteristics I listed above, patient complexity is aggravated by a number of other factors.

Our health care and social care systems are fragmented, and the gaps are continuously growing.

The scope of individuals' needs are constantly growing. More patients are living alone, as family and community connections weaken.

There is a global shortage of caregivers in the workforce. Researchers have also noted the impact of socioeconomic factors, such as lack of nutrition, poverty and access to care.

"All of this poses great challenges and the need for a paradigm change in proposing possible solutions and interventions," three European

researchers wrote in 2023. "We have to invest, mobilize and implement harm reduction interventions in the care

results, notes and electronic health records.

Will they have time to read everything? Maybe not, but you should, so you can convey your understanding of what other doctors are saying. This is where medical-trained patient advocates provide a valuable service, by reviewing the records and then conveying that information to doctors in medical terminology.

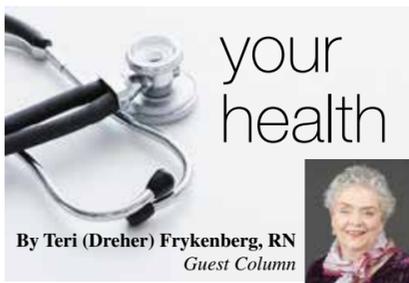
Being honest.

As humans who want to appear competent and in charge of our lives, we sometimes hesitate to tell our providers everything that's going on. Maybe there's an emerging mental health issue. Maybe you're taking a drug that hasn't been prescribed. Maybe there's been a break-up in a marriage. Maybe you're drinking more. All of these things can impact your well-being, and your doctor needs to know about them.

Taking notes. I've said it before and I'll say it again. Take someone with you to medical appointments and have them take notes, or even keep a journal yourself. You can keep track not only of doctor discussions, but also note your mental, emotional and physical symptoms on a daily basis to share with your provider.

If you are a "complex patient," or you know someone who is, recognize that fact and take a stronger hand in your care. You may be helping yourself or a loved one live their best life.

*Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at [Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com).*



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

of complex patients."

Easier said than done, obviously.

One positive I'm seeing is the emergence of patient-centered care as a pathway to better health outcomes. Using a patient-centered assessment lets providers understand not only a patient's physical health, but also their mental health, lifestyle, behaviors, social factors (education, employment) and ability to understand their symptoms and treatments.

As a patient advocate, I have to take all of these factors into consideration when working with a client and communicating with their care team. Even the smallest problem in any of these dimensions can dramatically worsen a patient's health outcome.

But patient advocates and health-care providers cannot do the job by themselves. If you fall within the definition of "a complex patient," it's important for you to take the bull by the horns and participate in your own health care to the best of your ability. The same goes for your loved ones, your primary care provider and caregivers.

This is not easy in our fragmented health-care world. Still, there are actions a complex patient can take to help themselves and (one hopes) improve their health outcomes.

Coordinating care. Each health-care provider has to know what the others are diagnosing, treating and prescribing. It's likely that one or more of your providers is accessible through a patient portal that also contains test



**in my BACKYARD**

By Ellenor Downer

Black-billed cuckoo

In October, Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a black-billed cuckoo at Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary and another was seen at a different location in Wellfleet.

The black-billed cuckoo is often heard more than seen. They spend a lot of time in densely wooded eastern forests and thickets. It is slender, brown bird with white belly, long tail and as its name implies a black bill. It has a red ring around the eyes and white tips on the underside of its tail. They also have a hunch backed look. It is about the size of a mourning dove 11 to 12 inches without the plump body.

Cuckoos eat lots of spiny caterpillars and can make quick work of tent caterpillars and webworms. The spines of the caterpillars stick to the lining of their stomachs. To rid themselves of the spines they periodically shed the stomach lining and coughing it up in one giant pellet, similar to an owl.

They sing especially at night in midsummer. Their song is a staccato with less of a knocking sound than the

yellow-billed cuckoo. They also perch motionless for long periods of time so they can be tricky to find. A good location to look for them are areas with tent caterpillars or fall webworms, a favorite food of these birds.

**Audubon bird sightings**

On Nov. 9, Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the following sightings at Wachusett Reservoir.

Sightings included: nine common loon, two horned grebe, one double-crested cormorant, two great blue heron, 135 Canada geese, four mute swan, one immature gadwall, two black ducks, 63 mallard, five ring-necked duck, 95 greater scaup, eight lesser scaup, 41 bufflehead, 11 hooded merganser, seven common merganser, one ruddy duck, one red-tailed hawk, three wild turkey, 11 ring-billed gull, one belted kingfisher, one northern flicker and one pileated woodpecker. Other birds included on common raven, one winter wren,

one Carolina wren, 46 eastern bluebird, five cedar waxwings, 90 dark-eyed junco and 30 red-winged blackbird.

**Black vulture**

I received an email from a Palmer resident on Nov. 4. She said, "When I came home, I noticed two birds across from the house. I thought they might be vul-

tures because of their face, but were not turkey vultures." She googled vultures and said, "It was easy to recognize them because of their face white feet and legs. Plus the head appeared to be gray and like a helmet. They were definitely black vultures. They stayed in that one spot for quite awhile. They didn't appear to be scared of anything. Cars going by did not phase them." Since then she has not seen them again. She said, "They are really a beautiful bird."

**Helping birds**

Bird feeders and feeding platforms are also hotspots

for disease. Many wildlife diseases, like mange and avian pox, are spread by physical contact between healthy and sick animals. It is important to clean bird feeders frequently and remove any molding seeds and debris from them especially during the rainy weather. Moving the location of feeders to different locations also helps prevent the spread of disease.

**Flocking birds**

Birds are migrating. Last week I saw a large flock of blackbirds flying overhead. I also have seen flocks of

Please see **BIRDS**, page 11



**The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM**

**EDITOR**  
Kristin Rivers  
[krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Jocelyn Walker  
[jwalker@turley.com](mailto:jwalker@turley.com)

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

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**Correction Policy**

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

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

**Election letters to the editor welcome**

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

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

**Campaign news**

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

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

A COMMUNITY GALLERY

*Life in &*

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

# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

## Veterans honored in special Vets Social Hour

### COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Send us in your announcements! Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.

We will pick one each week to run here free of charge, please keep it to less than 50 words. Please send to [krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com)



U.S. Army Veteran Cecile Ross and U.S. Navy RM3 Veteran Edward McCorkindale III strike up a conversation.



Vice Queen and Event Chair Janet Vitkus offers a treat to attendees.



Event Chair Kathy Sowa and Red Hatters Member Deb Gormley smile for a photo.

On Nov. 14, a special Vets Social Hour at the Wilbraham Senior Center honored and thanked Veterans and their families for their service to this country during the week of Veterans Day.

The social hour was sponsored by the Red Hat Ya Ya Sisterhood of Wilbraham, providing refreshments of cold and hot cider, cider mini donuts, apple cider and pumpkin loaf cake and more. Also, Veterans in attendance received handwritten thank you notes written by members of the Red Hatters.

The chair ladies for the event were Kathy Sowa and Janet Vitkus.



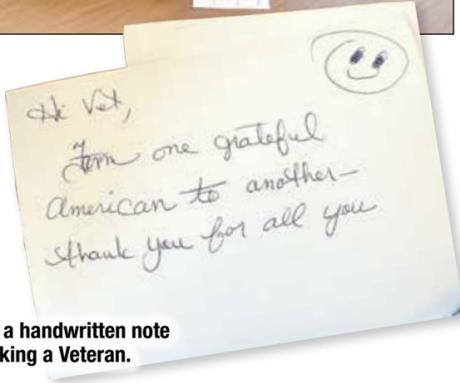
Members of the Red Hat Ya Ya Sisterhood of Wilbraham smile, laugh and work on their handwritten cards for the Veterans.



Air Force Veteran Kathleen Kennedy—the town of Wilbraham's 2024 Veteran of the Year—reads her handwritten note thanking her for her service.



Red Hatters Member Maria Cacela works on her note.



A shot of a handwritten note thanking a Veteran.



Vice Queen and Event Chair Janet Vitkus thanks Veterans and their families for their service.



Attendees enjoy treats and conversation.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

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	<b>Saturday Dec. 6</b> PETER NEWLAND		<b>Saturday Dec. 13</b> LUTHER		<b>Saturday Dec. 20</b> ATO A RIPLEY		<b>Saturday Dec. 27</b> LIVIO	

**Join Us Thanksgiving Weekend!**

**Wednesday Nov. 26**  
PETER NEWLAND

**Thursday - closed**

**Friday Nov. 28**  
ATO A RIPLEY

**Saturday Nov. 29**  
LIVIO



**Wilbraham Troop 359 holding Wreath Sale**

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Troop 359 will have a Wreath Sale on Sun, Nov. 30 in St. Cecilia's Church parking lot from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until supplies last. All proceeds will go towards camping equipment and materials. The generous community support is greatly appreciated. Thank you from Troop 359.

**Gingerbread House Workshops at the WPL**

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library is pleased to announce that it will be hosting two Gingerbread House Workshop events for children and teens.

Decorate your own gingerbread house using cones of various types of frosting, fondant and a generous candy buffet with Mandy Roberge from Wicked Good Henna!

All supplies are provided, including a homemade gingerbread house for each participant.

On Monday, Dec. 1, the Kids' Gingerbread House Workshop for Grades 3-5 will be from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, and the Teen Gingerbread House Workshop for Grades 6-12 will follow from 6 to 7 p.m.

Registration is required starting Monday, Nov. 17 at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org) or call the library at 596-6141. Wilbraham residents only for the first week of registration.

These programs are sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

**Community Survival Center food drive**

INDIAN ORCHARD - On Dec. 1, the Community Survival Center will be having a fundraiser at the Local Table N Tap in Wilbraham on Boston Rd. 20% of everyone's bill that goes to support the nonprofit organization will be given to the Community Survival Center.

There will also have a box to collect non-perishable food for the Community Survival Center.

**PREVIEW** from page 1

It revolves around Holly, a businesswoman from the big city who gets snowed in at a charming Vermont bed and breakfast. Although she's dating the ruthless businessman, Bradley, Holly falls for the B&B's down-to-earth owner, Lance. Sweet complications ensue.

Ava D'Agostino plays Holly and Nick Adams plays Lance. Joe Lessard of Enfield, Conn., has been growing out his beard and perfecting his ho-ho-hos to portray a townsman named Nick.

"I'm a tongue-in-cheek Santa, with a nudge-nudge, wink-wink at the audience," says Lessard, who also serves as the theater group's treasurer. "I'm a human snow globe of holiday cheer."

"This production is a great escape," he said. "There is no thinking and no learning! The songs are infectious and audience members will be singing them as they drive home."

Rylee Santiago, age 14, of Palmer plays the innkeeper's adorable 11-year-old daughter.

"I use a softer, higher voice to seem younger," says Santiago. "And I also mimic my 7-year-old sister. The character has some funny one-liners and I've made her more tomboyish and spunky to be more like me."

Santiago took part in the Young United Players production last summer and also serves as a scenic designer for "Five Golden Rings."

"I chose the color of the paint for the set and learned to use power tools," she said. "I'll do whatever they want me to do. I love it so much!"

As a member of the ensemble, Amanda Emet, of Somers, Conn., plays several roles in "Five Golden Rings," including portraying a cheery townsman in the picture-book village of Fairhope.

"I'm a huge Christmas person so I've always wanted to be in a Christmas show," she says. "I'll be wearing my own ugly sweater and being super cozy."

Kiernan Cone of East Longmeadow plays Trish, Holly's best friend.

"She's sassy and has a bit of a hard edge," says Cone. "The entire show is hysterical and I have a fun musical number called 'It's Not You, It's Them.'"

Casey Dion of Holyoke is Bradley, Holly's avaricious boyfriend.

"Bradley is all about getting money any way he can," says Dion. "There are very few things about him that are authentic. He probably got veneers at age 14."

"Playing him is a lot of fun," said Dion. "But when I finish a scene, I feel like I should donate money to charity."

Graham Christian is the musical director for "Five Golden Rings" and Jacqui Panasian is the choreographer. The ensemble also includes Shannon Martin, Jeff Erb and Jim Martin. The performances will be accompanied by a



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan  
**Ava D'Agostino plays Holly in the Wilbraham United Players musical.**

three-piece orchestra. Kennedy Prashaw of West Springfield, a board member as well as the show's producer, is in charge of props. She's been gathering gift bags, Santa hats, reindeer ears, and plush snowballs for the production and will have edible French toast ready for the actors at all performances.

To smell the French toast, watch an adorable snowball fight and enjoy some hummable tunes, you can find tickets for "Five Golden Rings" at [wilbrahamunitedplayers.org](http://wilbrahamunitedplayers.org).



Photos courtesy of Emilie Lang  
**Irene and Ni with their paintings of each other.**

**PAINT** from page 1

to those closest to them.

"These kinds of events are really important for adults so they can just take a break and have fun. As we get older, and we have more responsibilities from life, we're less likely to engage in things that are fun, not at anyone's fault. Paint Your Partner puts an emphasis on fun and creativity that we may take for granted without realizing it," Lang said.

The Wilbraham Public Library has many events catered to art and creativity for solely adults. On Friday, Nov. 21, the library will have its Adult Crafternoon session focusing on creating gnomes using mason jars. After the New Year, on Jan. 5, adults can have the opportunity to make a vision board about their person-

al goals and dreams to help visualize what they want to achieve.

While reflecting on the first Paint Your Partner event at the library, Lang shared this.

"It was honestly really fun and interesting to see the results of each person's painting. They had a lot of variation in just a person's art style, and each one was original and personal. It was great to see the paintings to not be the exact same, and refreshing to see different perspectives," Lang said.

The new pieces of artwork created will surely be cherished by those closest to painters' friends and family, all while they got to interact with their creative side in a comfortable and laid-back place.



**Linda & Marie with their paintings of each other.**

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# SPORTS

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## Falcons split pair at home, ousted from tourney

WILBRAHAM – Earlier this month, the Minnechaug Regional High School girls volleyball followed up on a Western Mass. Class A title with pair of home games in the Division 2 state tournament. After defeating Somerville High School 3-0 in the Round of 32, Minnechaug hosted Reading in the Round of 16. The Falcons fought hard, but was ultimately defeated 3-2 in a marathon five-set match. Minnechaug had a very impressive 19-4 overall record, including three wins in the Western Mass. tournament this year.

Nehir Elcin goes to her side to get a bump.



Jordan Miller gets a far reach to bump the ball over the net.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Irene Chen gets low to keep the ball in play.

## Local players named to all-star teams

HOLYOKE – The International Volleyball Hall of Fame has made a tradition of hosting a showcase for both high school boys and girls players. The girls all-star showcase was held this week at Holyoke Community College in the Bartley Center featuring players from all over the region.

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 nomination and vote of the Western Massachusetts girls high school coaches.

There were two games scheduled to be played. One featuring the second team all-stars followed by a game between the first team all-stars. Both games were scheduled to be three-set exhibitions. For more information on the Hall of Fame Girls All-Star Volleyball Showcase, contact events@volleyhall.org.

Players named to the first team included: Minnechaug's Anna O'Toole, Cora Pace, Maliha Daubon, and Nehir Elcin,

Player named to the second included: Agawam's Sophia Laprise, and Hannah Jock, Minnechaug's Haley Powers, Belchertown's Layla Liminski, South Hadley's Grace Matyszewski, Chicopee Comprehensive's Olivia Warren and Lori Vazquez.



Haley Powers sends a serve over the net.



Cora Pace sets a ball straight up.



Maliha Daubon goes for the spike.

## T-Birds offensive struggles continue against Penguins

WILKES-BARRE, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (2-10-1-1) could not overcome an early deficit, falling 3-1 to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (12-3-1-0) on Saturday night inside Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza.

After scoring five goals in a third period comeback win on Friday night, the Penguins picked up where they left off just 2:20 into the game on Saturday, as Raivis Ansons funneled a wrister through heavy traffic and past Georgii Romanov to make it a 1-0 game.

The T-Birds had a tough time getting much cooking in the offensive end, and the Penguins' relentless pressure pushed the lead to a pair at 12:51. After already picking up a fighting major in a scrap with Springfield's Kale Kessy earlier in the period, Boko Imama positioned himself in the slot and deflected a Zach Gallant shot through Romanov's legs to make it a 2-0 game and bringing Imama two-thirds of the way to a Gordie Howe hat trick in the opening period.

The Penguins wasted little time adding to their margin early in the second, as Rutger McGroarty - making his season debut - cashed in with a backhand tuck between the legs of Romanov just 1:06 into period two.

After continuous even-strength action for the first 28 minutes, special teams were finally put to work in the middle frame, and the T-Birds had a perfect showing, killing off two Penguins' man advantages and adding a power play goal at 11:52. After creating his own predicament on a turnover, Romanov reacted alertly to deflect a centering pass toward the neutral zone, where Chris Wagner and Hugh McGing sped up on the rush and converted a 2-on-1 past Joel Blomqvist to make it a 3-1 game, as McGing picked up his third of the season while Wagner picked up a point for a second straight night.

Romanov settled in very well after the McGroarty tally and turned aside the final 11 shots he faced to keep it at a two-goal margin heading into the third. Blomqvist, though, answered in kind with a busy and strong final period, as the Penguin backstop turned away all 12 attempts that came his way in the third, while the Penguins' PK also survived one more Springfield power play threat.

The T-Birds continued their busy road schedule Tuesday morning when they square off in Hartford against the Wolf Pack at PeoplesBank Arena.



Makenna Sacco chases down the ball.

## Girls soccer falls in second round

WILBRAHAM – Minnechaug girls soccer's run in the state tournament ended in the second round as the Falcons were defeated 6-2 against Duxbury High School. In the defeat, Ava Kearney had both goals for the Falcons. Their season ends with an overall record of 7-8-5. Minnechaug defeated Melrose in penalty kicks to advance in the tournament.



Katelyn Hoar sends a header backwards.



Cailin O'Brien heads up the field.



Zorih Wray dribbles up the field during state playoff action.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Ava Kearney makes a throw-in.

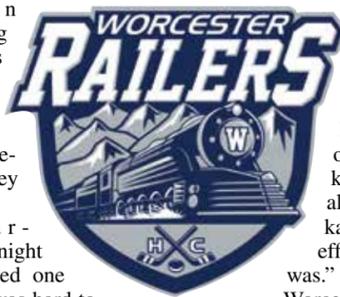


Taylor Bartosz follows through on a forward pass.

# SPORTS

## Railers score sweep of Lions

WORCESTER – The Railers spent the first few weeks of this season playing games where it was hard to find something they did right.



Saturday night they played one where it was hard to find something they did wrong.

Behind sensational goaltending by Henrik Tikkanen and equally sensational penalty killing, Worcester shut out the reigning ECHL Kelly Cup champion Trois-Rivieres Lions by a 2-0 score.

Tikkanen made 32 saves. The Railers killed five penalties, three in the third period. Counting the penalties and the four minutes or so Trois-Rivieres played with its goalie on the bench, Worcester spent about half the period skating 5 on 6.

Goaltending was the difference in the final 20 minutes as Tikkanen made 13 saves. So, which aspect of the game

was key, goaltending or penalty killing, coach Nick Tuzzolino was asked.

“It works hand in hand,” he said. “I think the lanes that our penalty kill created allowed (Tikkanen) to be as effective as he was.”

Worcester got a goal from Lincoln Hatten in the second period and Anthony Callin, just back from a suspension, in the third.

The shutout was the first by a Railers goaltender since Tikkanen beat Wichita, 1-0, out there last Nov. 27. It was the first at the DCU Center since March 2, 2024. John Muse blanked Trois-Rivieres, 4-0.

It was the fifth of Tikkanen’s career here. He is one behind Mitch Gillam, the franchise’s all-time leader, and tied with IceCat Brent Johnson for sixth on the Worcester all-pro list. Curtis Sanford of the IceCats leads in that category with 10.

Tikkanen’s career in the

Islanders’ organization has had its highs and lows. It is highs like Saturday night that have kept him around.

“I know he has had sort of an up and down stat career in Bridgeport,” Tuzzolino said, “but every time I’ve been behind the bench and he’s been in net I can count maybe one game that he’d like back.

“I have no issue with Teeks.”

Tuzzolino did have an issue with the way his team played in the first two periods and let them know about it. Even so, the Railers had the lead going into the third thanks to Hatten’s goal at 12:31 of the second period.

He snapped the dual shutout with his second goal of the weekend at 12:31. Cole Donhauser tried a wrap-around that Lions’ goalie Benjamin Gaudreau denied but the puck bounced out to Hatten just above the crease and he popped it home to give Worcester the lead.

Callin made it 2-0 at 8:12 of the third. Calle Odelius set things up with a nice rush through center ice. He found Callin on the right side and he beat Gaudreau with a high wrist shot to the far corner.

## Falcons alumni invited to take part in game

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Boys Varsity Soccer annual alumni game will be held Friday, Nov. 28, at 10:30 a.m., the day after Thanksgiving, at the Falcon Soccer Club Fields off of Stony Hill Rd. This will mark the 26th year of the game being played. All former and current varsity players, parents, and friends to the program are encouraged to attend. Players are responsible for the appropriate gear to play. All are invited to gather at the Taproom Grill following the game. Help keep this great tradition alive.

## 15th Annual Holiday Bazaar November 22

WILBRAHAM - The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors invite you to enjoy our popular 15th Annual Holiday Bazaar to be held at the Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield Street, Saturday, Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

According to Bazaar Chair Dee Mitchell, this popular event will feature favorite crafters for gifts of jewelry, pet products, pottery, greeting cards, metal work and holiday décor! New artisans will also exhibit with unique art and specialty creations.

Featured will be our large Raffle with a wide array of items to bid on. Homemade freshly baked goodies will be available to purchase for your holiday table or to enjoy with a beverage while shopping.

Children can enjoy Miss Deb’s stories in the Senior Center Café from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. And Santa is taking time from his busy schedule to visit with us

from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.! Be sure to bring special wish lists to share with him! A light lunch will be available for purchase.

All Bazaar proceeds will be used to support the Wilbraham Senior Center’s programs and services, and to enhance the lives of our area seniors.

This year, as a special project, The Friends are asking attendees to help STUFF THE SENIOR CENTER’S VAN with gifts for Veteran’s Children, ages birth to 17-years-of-age. These donations will be given to area Veterans families who have registered with Project New Hope’s Jeepers Christmas program. Donated gifts can be wrapped or unwrapped but need to be labeled by gender and age range. We hope to make their holidays brighter!

For more information, Dee Mitchell, 413-363-1037.

## Wilbraham seeks volunteers to help launch ‘Friends of the Veterans of Wilbraham’

WILBRAHAM - The Town of Wilbraham’s Department of Veterans Services is calling on local residents, veterans, and community members to help form a new volunteer organization - Friends of the Veterans of Wilbraham.

Over the past year, many residents have expressed interest in doing more to support local veterans beyond the official programs coordinated by the Town. In response, Veterans Services Director Patrick Renna is helping to facilitate the creation of this independent community-based group dedicated to honoring, assisting, and engaging Wilbraham’s veterans and their families.

“It’s inspiring to see how many people in our community want to do more for our veterans,” said Renna. “The Friends of the Veterans of

Wilbraham will provide an outlet for that enthusiasm - helping to expand events, programs, and volunteer support for those who have served.”

The purpose of the Friends of the Veterans of Wilbraham organization will be to:

Plan and fundraise for veteran-centered programs, events, and special projects.

Support community commemorations such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Provide outreach, education, and volunteer assistance to veterans and their families.

Strengthen connections between veterans, their families, and the broader Wilbraham community.

Participate in the selection of the annual Veteran and Veteran Business/Organization of the Year awardees.

While the Department of Veterans Services fully supports this effort, state ethics laws prevent the Director from holding an official role within the organization. However, Renna will continue to provide guidance, coordination, and communication to help ensure the group’s success.

Community members interested in helping shape this new organization are invited to attend an information session on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 5 p.m. at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

This founding committee will develop the group’s mission statement and determine its organizational structure (such as establishing a nonprofit 501(c)(3)).

For more information or to express interest in participating, contact: Patrick Renna, Director of Veterans Services, Town of Wilbraham.

## Participate in the 2025 Wilbraham Turkey Trot

WILBRAHAM – Please join us on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 27 for the Wilbraham Turkey Trot - a five-mile road race up Monson Road now in its 46th 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. 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 \$25 and available online at [www.RunReg.com/13116](http://www.RunReg.com/13116)

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)

## Calendar Raffle coming

WILBRAHAM – A Calendar Raffle Fundraiser for the month of November is being held by the Saint Cecilia Women’s Club.

Thirty very generous local businesses have sponsored a day in November with most of the days awarding \$100 and up to the name drawn for that day. Raffle tickets are \$25 each. The proceeds help to fund the club’s scholarships and donations to many charitable organizations in the area as well as to the needs of the church. Tickets can be found on the St. Cecilia Parish, Wilbraham, website under downloadable forms, on the table on the rotunda at the church, or from parish members.

Call Sue Agnew, 596-9480, with questions.

## New DRC days and hours of operation

WILBRAHAM – There are new DRC hours of operation beginning Nov. 12.

The town of Wilbraham will be modifying the operating hours for the Disposal and Recycling Center. Saturday and Sunday hours have been modified and Thursday hours have been added.

\*Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday Closed  
Tuesday Closed  
Wednesday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\*Thursday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\*Saturday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued commitment to responsible waste and recycling practices.

## Stuff a Cruiser Dec. 6

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Police Relief Association will be holding its annual Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Big Y located at 2035 Boston Road in Wilbraham.

They will be accepting donations

of new, unwrapped gifts for local families in need. More information to follow.





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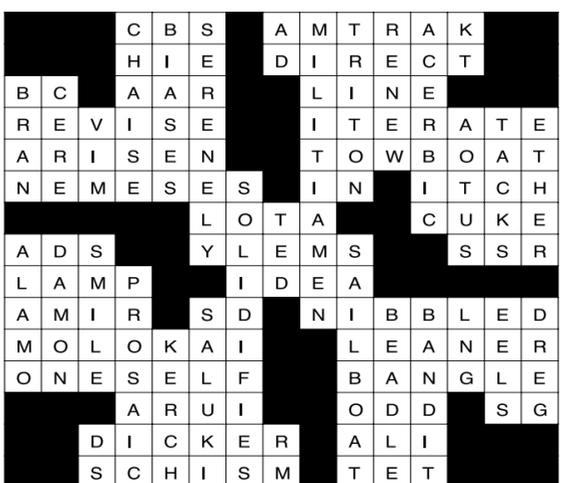


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## Building Utilization Committee seeks community input

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



The Wilbraham Select Board formed the Building Utilization Committee in early 2025 in response to the need to optimize the town's facilities amid growing demands for efficiency and cost savings. Comprising

nine members, including six community residents and one representative each from the Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, and Planning Board, the committee's primary purpose is to assess current town-owned buildings and properties, identify opportunities for improvement, and recommend cost-effective solutions to enhance functionality, repurpose underutilized spaces, and improve overall operational efficiency.

As part of its mandate, the committee is required to report its findings, analyses, and recommendations directly back to the Select Board, providing actionable insights to inform future town planning and budgeting decisions.

To ensure the committee's recommendations reflect the needs and perspectives of Wilbraham residents, a municipal building usage survey has been developed to gather community feedback on how town facilities are currently used and potential improvements. The survey is quick and anon-

ymous, covering topics such as building accessibility, usage frequency, and ideas for optimization.

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

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

## Update on HPL Hours

HAMPDEN - The library has shared the following information on their hours ahead of the upcoming move to the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

Week of Nov. 17: Open at 625 Main St for regular hours Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday 1 to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Week of Nov. 24: Open at 625 Main St. for regular hours Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday 1 to 8 p.m.

and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. except on Thursday, Nov. 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday

Week of Dec. 1: Library closed for moving

Week of Dec. 8: Open at the new Town Hall at 85 Wilbraham Rd. Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday 1 to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be at the new library location on Saturday Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### BIRDS from page 6

about a dozen Canada geese flying overhead. Last week, my granddaughter, Lizzie and I saw a flock of geese flying low over her house. We could hear their wings beating. The robins that head south have also been flocking in my field and along

the roads. Some robins over winter living in the swamps.

#### Winter berries

Every year a flock of robins come and make short order of the winterberries on a bush in my yard. I've spotted the bright red winterberries in several spots during my travels. I will keep an eye out

for birds at those bushes.

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.

## Wilbraham Community Chorus 2025 Concert Series

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Community Chorus, accompanied by Marcia Jackson and directed by Raymond Drury, will perform two concerts this December. Sunday, Dec. 7 at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, Wilbraham at 3 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 13 at First Church of Christ in Longmeadow at 2 p.m.

Drury has chosen a var-

ied and compelling program including classical masterworks of Vivaldi, Lauridsen, Purifoy and Navarud plus a selection of folk tunes, pop songs and seasonal numbers. Of particular interest will be a performance by both Jackson and local keyboard artist Todd Rovelli of music for piano four-hands, and a chamber choir consisting of WCC

members singing music of the incomparable P.D.Q. Bach.

Admission is free, but a free will offering will be taken to help defray expenses. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Longmeadow Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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<p><b>LANDSCAPING</b></p> <p><b>Keith Isham Landscaping, LLC</b></p> <p>For a FREE Estimate CALL: 413-531-1216 www.keithishamlandscapingLLC.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property Maintenance</li> <li>Organic Tick &amp; Mosquito Control</li> <li>Loam and Seed</li> <li>Fertilizer &amp; Pest Management</li> <li>Mulch, Stone, Loam Applications</li> <li>Spring &amp; Fall Cleanups</li> <li>Power Seeding</li> <li>PH Remedy</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walls, Walkways, Patios, Edging</li> <li>Landscape Design and Installation</li> <li>Walking Trails Installed &amp; Maintained</li> <li>Excavation - Drainage - Drywells</li> <li>Field &amp; Brush Hogging</li> </ul>	<p><b>SEPTIC SYSTEMS</b></p> <p><b>Hampden Septic</b></p> <p>Pumping • Installation • Title 5 Inspections • Perc Tests</p> <p><b>566-2916</b></p> <p>Evening &amp; Weekend Appointments Available!</p> <p><b>Billy Bond - The Area's #1 "Go To" Septic Guy!</b></p> <p>Fully Insured • Family Owned</p>	<p><b>LUMBER &amp; FEED</b></p> <p><b>C.A. SMITH</b></p> <p>LUMBER &amp; FEED COMPANY</p> <p>CABINETRY DOORS • WINDOWS DECKING ROOFING AND MORE ...</p> <p>For Your Interior And Exterior Living Spaces!</p> <p>84 Hubbard St., Ludlow • 413-583-3472</p> <p>Mon- Fri 7:30am -5:00pm; Sat 7:30am - noon; closed Sunday</p>
<p><b>ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE ON</b></p> <p><b>Local HOME PROs</b></p> <p><b>THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE</b></p>	<p><b>JUNK REMOVAL</b></p> <p><b>Magnet P.I.</b></p> <p><b>Junk Removal &amp; Dumpster Service!</b></p> <p>Get Rid of ALL your junk at a reasonable price.</p> <p><b>Even the Tough Stuff!</b></p> <p>Boilers, hot Water Tanks, Oil Tanks, T.V.'s, Monitors, Mattresses, Pools, Hot Tubs, Tires... We take it all!</p> <p><b>Call Doug at 413-455-4397</b></p>	<p><b>SEAMLESS GUTTERS</b></p> <p><i>Verdon's</i></p> <p>Over 40 Years Experience Family Owned &amp; Operated</p> <p>Seamless Aluminum Gutters</p> <p><b>65 Main Street, Wilbraham • (413) 596-9611</b></p> <p>Mon.-Fri. 7am to 5pm - Please No Sundays - Lic.#105559</p> <p>www.verdonsgutters.com • verdonsgutters@charter.net</p> <p>Fully Insured &amp; Free Estimates</p> <p>CUSTOM MADE &amp; INSTALLED CONTINUOUS SEAMLESS ALUMINUM GUTTERS &amp; DOWNSPOUTS</p>
	<p><b>TREE WORK</b></p> <p>INSURED AND CERTIFIED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tree Removal</li> <li>Structural Pruning</li> <li>Crane Service</li> <li>Storm Damage</li> <li>Stump Grinding</li> </ul> <p><b>DL&amp;G TREE</b></p> <p>Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation <b>413-478-4212</b></p>	<p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Walker Home Improvement</b></p> <p>Repairs &amp; Renovations INTERIOR &amp; EXTERIOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finish Carpentry • Framing</li> <li>Windows &amp; Door Replacement</li> <li>Drywall • Painting • Decks</li> </ul> <p><b>413.687.5552</b></p> <p>Competitive Pricing • Licensed • Insured</p>

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

### FOR SALE

#### FIREWOOD

**DRYFIREWOOD** Oak/maple, cu/split/delivered, \$300 a cord, \$285 for 2 or more. Edwin Wroblewski Logging, 413-824-0731. Buying standing timber, paying good money.

#### FIREWOOD

Fresh cut & split \$225.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00  
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. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

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#### WANTED TO BUY

#### ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

#### ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688.

**ATTENTION SMITH & WESSON RETIRES:** Sell me your collection of S&W grips. Tim 413-246-4966.

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We buy guns. Federal and state licensed. 413-658-5690.

### CLASSIFIED DEADLINES THURSDAY AT 1PM

### JUNK REMOVAL

#### A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

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

### SERVICES

#### A B Hauling and Removal Service

#### 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.

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

### ELECTRICIAN

#### PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Licensed & Insured • Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.

**NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.** Call today to schedule your appointment. (413) 366-1703 (Lic. #24046-A)

**BUILT 'N POWERED.** Serving all your electrical and construction needs. Fully insured and licensed. Free estimates. 10% Senior and Veteran's discounts. Call Tom 413-472-4104. Electrical Lic. #56789/CLS Lic. #104505

**JAMES FERRIS: LICENSE #E16303** Free estimates. Insured. 50 years experience. No job too small. Cell (413)330-3682

#### LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured. Master Elec. #20773A. Text/call Luis 413-218-3301.

#### ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC

Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1. Call John at (413)206-6509

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

### SERVICES

#### HOME IMPROVEMENT

#### HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor. Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/Insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

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

#### CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR

#### Remodeling & Deck Specialists

Residential/Commercial Fully Insured • Free Estimates 413-351-1147

### LANDSCAPING

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Excavator Services Overgrown property? Extreme Brush Cutting! Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal Lawn/Arboretum 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.

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

Handyman Services

**Walker Home Improvement**

Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!

(413) 687-5552

Licensed & Insured

please recycle this newspaper

### SERVICES

#### 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

**INTERIOR PAINTING** - only \$249.00 for average 12x16 room. Free estimates, fast, dependable service. Call (508)867-2550.

#### PRO PAINTING

Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. 413-310-5099.

### PLUMBING

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

#### 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

### SERVICES

#### TREE WORK

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.** Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING** Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

**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

Snowblowers, Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers & Small Engine Repair. Work done at your home. Call Mike (413) 348-7967

### STUMP GRINDING

**AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING** Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

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

### PETS

**GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS.** Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F, Ready, w/shots. Now \$1,200. 413-218-2321

### AUTO

#### CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

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

### HELP WANTED

**SERVERS WANTED** Inquire at **Grilly's Grill**, 1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069 or call 413-284-0005.

### HELP WANTED

#### CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT DIESEL MECHANIC

In charge of daily repairs & maintenance on trucks as well as keeping equipment records/ordering parts. Health insurance/vacation. Mon-Fri. Come & meet with us!

#### RB Enterprises Ludlow, MA

#### Town of Worthington Highway Position Opening

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer positions in the Town Highway Department.

Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

• salary rate range: \$26.49 - \$38.59 per hour

Further information can be found on the Town's website:

www.worthington-ma.us

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: highway@worthington-ma.us or to Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

#### TOWN OF WORTHINGTON INVITATION TO BID SNOW PLOWING SERVICES

The Town of Worthington Highway Department is soliciting bids for seasonal plowing services for the 2025-2026 winter season. Work will include plowing backroads and selected blacktop sections throughout the Town of Worthington.

Minimum equipment requirements:

• ¾-ton truck or larger

• 8-foot plow (minimum)

Please contact the Worthington Highway Department for bid specifications and route details:

Worthington Highway Department 64 Huntington Road Worthington, MA 01098 Phone: 413-238-5830

Email: highway@worthington-ma.us

The Town of Worthington reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

### REAL ESTATE

#### FOR RENT



#### EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

#### QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE

by babbling brook, I-shaped 2bdm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone 774-262-6667.

### FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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

#### Advertise your HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES

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: FRIDAY 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 \$27.50
23	Base Price \$28.50	24	Base Price \$29.50
25	Base Price \$30.50	26	Base Price \$31.50
27	Base Price \$32.50	28	Base Price \$33.50
29	Base Price \$34.50	30	Base Price \$35.50
31	Base Price \$36.50	32	Base Price \$37.50
33	Base Price \$38.50	34	Base Price \$39.50
35	Base Price \$40.50	36	Base Price \$41.50
37	Base Price \$42.50	38	Base Price \$43.50
39	Base Price \$44.50	40	Base Price \$45.50

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

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

## GREAT VALUE!

ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to Turley Publications



# DL&G TREE

Tree Removal



Structural Pruning



Crane Service



Storm Damage



Stump Grinding



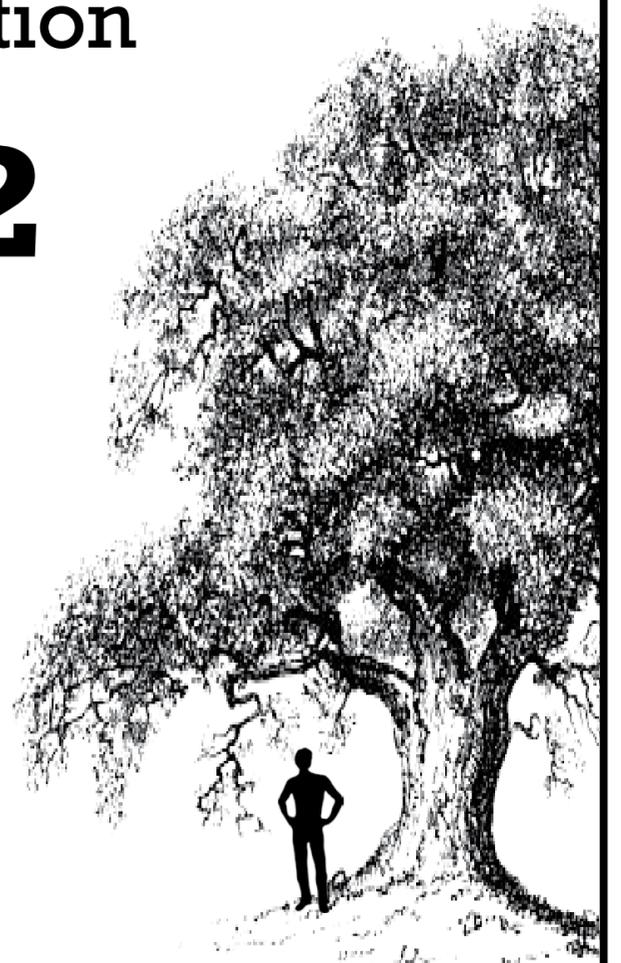
Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

**413-478-4212**

# DL&G TREE



**INSURED AND CERTIFIED**