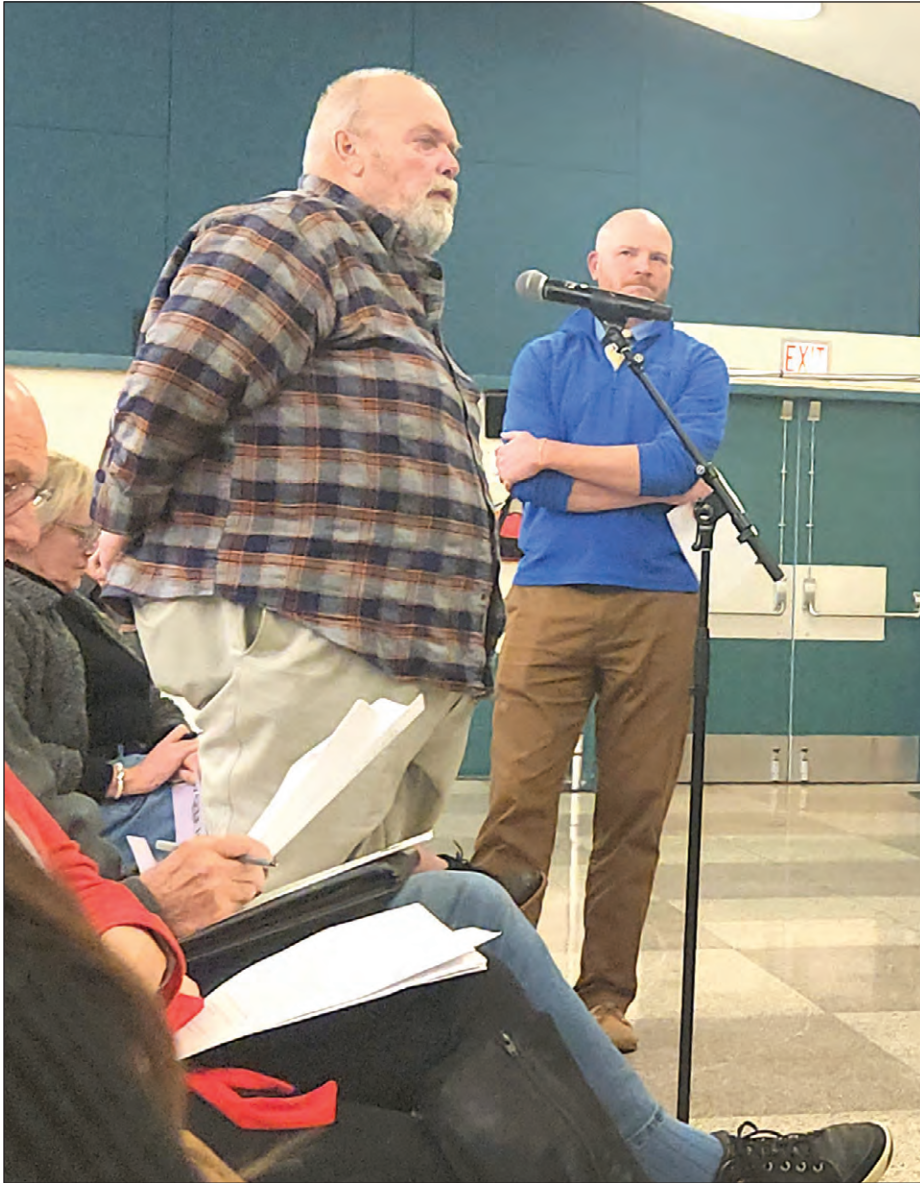


SENIORS
Farewell to Jered Sasen
Page 10

SPORTS
Volleyball team falls in second round
Page 16



Town Treasurer Richard Patullo shares his thoughts on Article Two about changing the Town Clerk from an elected position to an appointed position. Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Residents decide on Gov. Study Committee Articles

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Residents made their voices heard on four articles presented by the Government Study Committee during the Nov. 12 Fall Special Town Meeting at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

As the original Oct. 29 meeting was postponed due to overcapacity, two spaces were utilized: the cafeteria and the gymnasium for overflow space.

Bob Howarth, former town moderator, former judge and former member of the Planning Board, served as Assistant Town Moderator in the gymnasium, with JX 2 Productions supplying audio and visual streaming.

The warrant articles pertaining to the GSC were changing the name of the Board of Selectmen to the Selectboard, changing the Town Clerk from an elected position to an appointed position, combining the elected Treasurer and elected Tax Collector positions to an appointed Treasurer/Tax Collector position and increasing the Board of Selectmen from three members to five.

The Government Study Committee was created in 2022 to help review all aspects of Hampden town government and issue a report with their recommendations, which was made public this spring.

Article One focused on changing the name "Board of Selectmen" to "Selectboard" and "Selectboard Member" in-

stead of "Selectman," amending the name in the Zoning Bylaws and the General Bylaws of the town.

The Advisory Committee and the Planning Board both recommended passage of this article.

Connie Witt said how the term "Board of Selectmen" has been used in the state since 1633.

"Women have had the vote for over 100 years. I don't see the need to change this. It only makes more work for everybody and it doesn't even sound just as good as just Selectmen," Witt said.

Article One passed by a two-thirds vote in the auditorium and gymnasium, with 75% voting in favor.

Article Two was about changing the Town Clerk from an elected position to an appointed position and was a major highlight of this section along with Article Three, as that was about combining the elected Treasurer and elected Tax Collector positions to an appointed Treasurer/Tax Collector position.

The Advisory Committee recommended unfavorable action for both of those articles.

On Article Two, Richard Patullo, the town treasurer, explained he had "the utmost respect" for the Government Study Committee and their efforts. However, he disagreed with changing the treasurer position from elected to appointed, adding he also was not in favor of changing the tax collector and town clerk positions in

Please see **STM**, page 14



Turley Photos by Patricia Sullivan

Spectrum presented a \$5,000 check to Friends of Wilbraham Seniors on Nov. 14. From left: Matt Villamaino, president, Friends of Wilbraham Seniors; Cherie Spinks, office of Rep. Angelo, Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield); Nancy Clark of Charter Communications; Sue Bunnell, chair, Wilbraham Select Board, Marc Ducey, clerk, Wilbraham Select Board, and Jennifer Pickering, district director for the office of State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow).

Spectrum donates \$5,000 to Friends of Wilbraham Seniors

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Thanksgiving came early at the senior center when Spectrum/Charter Communications sponsored a turkey luncheon for 120 seniors and presented a \$5,000 donation to the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Inc., on Nov. 14.

Matt Villamaino, president of Friends of

Wilbraham Seniors, thanked Spectrum for the gift and noted that the funds are essential contributions that allow the fundraising group to enhance programs and services at the senior center.

"This support helps us foster a welcoming environment where seniors can connect, engage, and thrive," Villamaino said.

Nancy Clark, director of State Government

Please see **DONATION**, page 5

Community organizes scholarship in honor of Dylan Pariseau



"I'm really lucky to have the experience of doing research."
- Dylan Pariseau '19

Photo courtesy of Sophia and Mark Pariseau

Family and friends of Sima Setian Pariseau and her son, Dylan Pariseau, along with the Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation have come together to create the "Follow Your Passion" Science Scholarship in Dylan's honor.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The community is honoring Dylan Pariseau with the "Follow Your Passion" Science Scholarship.

The scholarship came together through the family and friends of Pariseau and his mother, Sima, and

the Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation. It will be awarded to a Minnechaug Regional High School senior pursuing a science major and career in college.

The WHSF's goal is to raise \$10,000 to fund the scholarship for several years, with community support already raising several thousand dollars.

Please see **PARISEAU**, page 8

Selectboard continues National Grid Public Hearing to Nov. 25

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The Selectboard continued their National Grid Public Hearing to next week's meeting after holding a hearing on Nov. 18

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard continued their National Grid Public Hearing to next week after meeting on Nov. 18.

The public hearing, labeled National Grid Pole Petition #30917761, concerned incorporating and requesting permission for National Grid and Verizon New England to locate poles, wires and fixtures including necessary and sustaining fixtures, installing 17 currently-owned poles on Chapin Road.

It would begin approximately 3,621 feet southeast of the center line of the intersection of Chapin Road and Northview Terrace, then continue approximately 6,000 feet in the southeast direction.

Lisa Jasinski from National Grid was joined by Reardon Hoffman, who filled in for the contractor for the order, for the hearing.

Hoffman explained what they were working on.

"We're just doing a reconducturing of a few different areas. We call it the Monson step-down bank. So, we had some work on South Washington Street and then this area of Chapin Road was just another area that's down on a

step-down bank," Hoffman said. "So, the National Grid's intent is to move the step-down bank and then do the associative upgrades to allow for single-phase walk-heights to continue down Chapin Road."

When Chair Don Davenport asked what the step-down banks were, Hoffman said this.

"Currently, I think what you guys have out in the field was it is converting the three-phase wide power down to delta and that's typical for some older systems. So now, what the process is moving forward is we'd like to remove those step-down banks and

remove the delta circuits from the feeder and just convert everything into a single-phase y or a three-phase y," Hoffman said.

Selectboard Member John Flynn asked "if there was any need" for the three-phase.

"Or are you just going to run it 240 up the street basically?" Flynn said.

Hoffman replied, "It is set up as a single-phase cap."

"But we like to update the system based on current standards and allow for expansion to three-phase. So, with the approval of these new pole locations,

this Chapin Road will be ready for any future expansion to three phases if needed down that road," Hoffman said.

Flynn said how there's been a problem with voltage drop and asked if this will do something to fix the problem, which Jasinski said "is really the driving force for the job."

"It's to get reliability back to that area," Jasinski said.

"At the end of the day, it's to increase reliability, so if there was issues with voltage drop on Chapin Road, these changes that we're making into the line are just going to ensure that the voltage drop is minimized moving forward," Hoffman added. "And that everyone's pulling reliable power, consistent-level power and not having any flickering lights or anything like that."

On the timeframe for this, Hoffman said how National Grid "tends to be really quick."

"If there's any outcome of this meeting where we need to change any of the designs, we can. Once we get the pole petitions approval, I would say, like, we'd go in the next six months," Hoffman said.

On how many new ones will go in, Hoffman said just about all of them will be replaced.

David Butova asked about the type of wire that would go in.

"You wanted tree wire up the streets because we've had a lot of outages with the trees coming down," Butova said.

Hoffman confirmed yes.

Edward Plum--after mentioning this might be more of a question for Verizon--said how there are 10 double poles on the road.

"Is this mess going to be cleaned up?" Plum said.

Hoffman said yes.

"Part of the initiative when we're going through this area of the project itself and South Washington Street, we were doing a running tally of all half-poles that were supposed to be already removed," Hoffman said.

He also clarified South Washington Street is a street in another town and was being used for reference.

Davenport then presented slides around the double pole issue, explaining how 42 poles were replaced last March, with double poles held with wires or boards and one line that was down on the street.

"So, my inclination is to vote no until you clean up the mess that you left from the last time. It's dangerous. This winter when they go down Allen Street and the plows start pushing ice and snow up against those things that are hanging in the air," Davenport said. "It's very dangerous. As you know, the law re-

quires you remove them within 90 days, although National Grid and Verizon never go by that law because they don't have a fine."

Hoffman understood the concerns and said based on the Joint Pole Ownership Agreement, National Grid owns responsibility and installing and maintaining the poles.

"So, when we replace or remove them--any poles--it falls on the responsibility of the telecom company," Hoffman said.

When Davenport brought up NJUNS, which keeps track of these poles, he said how they've done nothing.

"I've talked to them several times and they just keep sending me spreadsheets. I have over 100 of them that haven't even been put in for an order to be replaced and they've been up there for at least a year," Davenport said.

When Jasinski asked if National Grid did not connect them with someone, Davenport confirmed they did.

"We talked to her several times. She's very helpful and she sent us very nice spreadsheets and guess what? All those pokes are there still," Davenport said.

Jasinski expressed concern about this.

"Because I thought that you were on a track talking to the right people or the people that were in charge of the program, I should say, to make sure that it is NJUNS and it is from one company to another saying it's time to get off the poles and get these removed, and I thought that that was on better track than it sounds like it is and all I can do is follow back up with them and take these pictures and ask specifically for them to even report it to me," Jasinski said. "So, I can get back to you. I'm sorry to hear that they're not getting removed."

Jasinski also agreed with a resident on addressing the other double poles in town and again expressed concern that these poles were not removed yet.

"I think it's a hard thing to come back to this meeting to hear that all these poles are still not being removed. I would like to get that information to maintenance to say, 'I would really like to have this before anybody else goes into this town to say let's do this, let's get this cleaned up and what's the holdup on it?'" Jasinski said.

She also clarified the cleaning-up wording was about the removal of the double poles and she would like to get back to the board about if the cable company is holding up the telephone company on this issue, with other residents expressing similar concerns about the double poles not being removed.

Concerns about when power outages and interruptions would take place were also addressed.

Due to Selectboard Member Craig Rivest being absent this week and not wanting to schedule another hearing--therefore notifying all the abutters again--Davenport presented a continuance for the public hearing and for Jasinski or someone else to get information to Town Administrator Brian Domina about the double poles and their removal, which she agreed to.

The motion to continue the public hearing to Nov. 25 at 6 p.m. passed 2-0, with the board adding Domina can forward Jasinski a comprehensive list of all the double poles.

ROZELL'S
LANDSCAPING
& Bobcat Service
"COMPROMISE YOUR SERVICE" **413-636-5957**

- Overgrown property?
- Excavator Services • Extreme Brush Cutting!
- Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal • Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
- Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand • Storm Clean-up • Small Demo • Insured

JOSH ROZELL 413.636.5957

HOLIDAY TURKEYS
PASTURE-RAISED
IN LUDLOW

TAKING ORDERS
through Nov 26
fresh, local taste

prices, weights, and
pickup schedule on
LibertyTurkeys.com
cash only

Call or text
413-426-6636
to reserve

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

HAND FED, PASTURE RAISED
On a Ludlow farm, turkeys run freely, hand fed on healthful grains and extra vegetables. Minimally processed, they have more meat, less water, and extra taste found only in tradition. No antibiotics, animal by-products, hormones, or additives are used.
— Jeanette & Paul Johnson
Liberty Family Farms

COOKS 30% FASTER
than commercial birds

Wilbraham police remind residents not to pass school buses illegally

Police Chief Ed Lennon joined the Nov. 18 Select Board meeting to talk enforcement.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Police Department is going to great lengths to remind local drivers it is illegal to pass a school bus while its arm is extended and red signal lights are flashing.

In the state of Massachusetts, illegally passing a school bus carries a maximum fine of \$200 and repeat offenders may have their licenses suspended.

Wilbraham Police Chief Ed Lennon joined the Select Board on Monday evening to share word of the police department's recent efforts to raise awareness and improve enforcement.

Lennon said the department embarked on a "very robust social media campaign" last month to remind motorists that they must stop their vehicles at least 100 feet from the front or rear of a bus while its lights are flashing and arm is extended.

Beyond posts on Facebook and Instagram, Wilbraham police officers

took to the streets and followed school buses to enforce the law.

"Over a two-week period, we followed approximately 40 routes in the afternoon and approximately 20 routes in the morning," Lennon said. "We wrote four citations on the first week and one citation on the second week for vehicles that failed to stop for the school bus stop arms and stop lights."

According to Lennon, the experience gave officers a chance to interact with bus drivers and allowed bus drivers to be heard. All the while, the community's understanding and awareness of the law increased.

Lennon hopes the department will launch the campaign on an annual basis while also doing lighter versions of it throughout the year. He hopes to sustain the social media efforts and communicate with more school bus drivers and organizations.

"What we want to do is be able to, if they see a violation, have them report it to us afterwards to the extent they're able to do so," Lennon said. "Get a plate number, maybe even see who the driver is so we can investigate it after the fact. Sometimes, it's really difficult to pull that together, but if we can, we will contact and cite the operator if we're able to put all the elements of a violation together."

Looking back on the campaign,

Lennon believes that it was very useful. He pointed out the fact that the conversation reached the Wilbraham Open Forum Facebook page, where many discussions were had.

"A lot of people talking about it," Lennon said. "Various opinions, which was really good because it just got the issue really out there."

Lennon was also encouraged that there were three less violations reported the second week compared to the first one.

"Obviously, this is very important," Lennon said. "A school bus stops and puts out its arm, potentially a child is going to cross. If somebody doesn't stop, that's obviously something we can't have. So, we're going to do the best we can to keep this up and try to keep it rolling. Hopefully, it will be successful."

Lennon noted that many people struggle with following the school bus laws, even some of his own officers. He said that in most cases, it's not because they're bad people.

"I think some of this isn't people trying to intentionally violate," Lennon said. "They want to stop. I think it's a lot of distracted driving and, 'Oh my goodness, I just went by this school bus.' I don't think it's necessarily evil people, it's just inattention."

WE COOK EVERYTHING BUT THE TURKEY!

Randall's Fresh Baked Pies

Order Early for Best Availability



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

Ready to Heat & Serve FROM RANDALL'S KITCHEN

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



Last Day to Order Your Favorite Fresh Baked Pies, Thanksgiving Side Dishes & Catering FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

SPECIALS 11/20-11/26

- Locally Grown Butternut Squash 69¢/lb
- Locally Grown Yukon Gold Potatoes, 5 lb Bag \$2.99
- Yellow Onions, 2 lb Bag 2 for \$3.00
- Fresh Brussels Sprouts \$2.49/lb
- Massachusetts Grown Cranberries, 12 oz Bags 2 for \$5.00
- California Navel Oranges, Bag of 8 \$3.99
- Golden Ripe Pineapples \$2.99 ea
- Fresh Raspberries, 6 oz Size \$2.99 pack
- Locally Grown Mac or Honey Crisp Apples, 5lb Tote Bags \$5.99



Great Selection Of Wines For Your Holiday Dinner

Boen Pinot Noir 750ml \$17.99
Local Hardwick Vineyards Cranberry Wines
Great Selection of Chardonnays, Pinot Noirs & Rosés



FOR YOUR Thanksgiving TABLESCAPE

Fresh Flower Bouquets & Arrangements
Ceramic Pumpkins & Wicker Cornucopias FILLED WITH COLORFUL FALL BLOOMS

ALWAYS FRESH AT



631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54 LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net
OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY 7AM – 1PM
OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM – 8PM

Find us on Facebook and YouTube

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

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

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

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



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.289.1977
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com

Editor

Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

Subscriptions

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

WEB

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

@ Wilbraham-Hampden Times

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

NOTICE

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



2039 Boston Road, Wilbraham
Open: Sun.-Wed. 11:30am-9pm
Thurs.-Sat. 11:30am-10pm
~ BAR OPEN LATE ~
413-279-1198 • thelocaltabletap.com

Give LOCAL



Book your Fundraiser at the LOCAL!
We'll donate 20% of the food sales from your organization's guests during the event. Sign up today!

MONDAY SPECIAL \$15 Burger & Beer

Smash Burger, Fries, and Choice of 16 oz. Stella or Bud Light



TUESDAY SPECIAL \$20 Steak Dinner

10 oz. Sirloin with Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Vegetables



WEDNESDAY SPECIAL \$20 Pasta Night

Choice of Six Pasta Dishes!
Choice of Linguini, Rigatoni, Spaghetti, Cavatappi or Gluten Free Penne



THURSDAY SPECIAL \$29 Steak & Shrimp

10 oz. Sirloin Steak and 3 Baked Stuffed Shrimp



SUNDAY BRUNCH Favorites and Specials

PLUS:
Bloody Marys • Mimosas
Peach Bellinis

9am-12pm

EVENT SPACE

Semi-private room for 25-90 guests.
BOOKING COMPANY
HOLIDAY PARTIES NOW!

We Are Hiring! Apply online at thelocaltabletap.com/jobs

WPL holds jazzy concert starring The O'Tones



Front row and starting on the right; Georgia, Judy, Lynn, and Susan traveled to the WPL to bop to the motown swing band. Back row and starting on the right, Wayne, Carol, and Amado were all smiles when waiting for the concert to start.



The three-piece band that stars Mary Witt was angelic to listen to in the Wilbraham Public Library's Brooks Room that offered jazzy acoustics.

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The O'Tones are known all over to be a "hot New England swing and Motown band" that's been leaving audiences wanting more for over 30 years.

Tucked into the Brooks Room at the library, the three-piece band set up their equipment at the front, with band members elated to use the space that offered astounding acoustics on Nov. 13.

The concert was sponsored by the Friends of the Wilbraham Public Library.

The WPL has offered many music events like The O'Tones concert in the past, but this event was memorable to Emilie Lang, adult services librarian, who wanted to bring a different sound to the library.

Touching upon how the band

came to Wilbraham, Lang discussed the importance of offering events that are accessible for everyone, especially folks getting out of work after 5 p.m. during the week.

"We offer a variety of programs and try to offer a concert every year, trying to offer different genres of music. We try to hold programs during different times and days of the week, regardless of their schedule, people have an event they can come to that they enjoy. The O'Tones reached out to us because they were awarded a grant from the WCC and were looking for a venue to do their show. We are happy to have artists reach out for local performances," Lang said.

Mary Witt, band leader of The O'Tones, spoke about her friends who were continuing to set up before the gig started. This was

Witt's first-time visit to Wilbraham and she was pleased with the warm welcome from the library and fellow audience members.

"I sing and play bass. We are a six-piece band but today we are a trio. Today we have John Caban, guitarist and singer, and Ben Cohn, singer and pianist. We received a grant from the WCC (Wilbraham Cultural Council) and MA Cultural Council and needed a place to play. Most towns have libraries and councils on aging, so those are the ones I usually reach out to and are used to having music. I got in touch with the WPL and they were thrilled to have music here. The Brooks Room is beautiful, I can't believe what a nice place we get to play in!" Witt said.

Witt talked about her beginnings as an artist and why she continues to play the music that makes the audience move. Being part of a musical upbringing, Witt reminisces on the people who inspired her love for singing and playing instruments. "We do a



Turley photos by Amanda Munson

On the left, John and Elaine Vdovjak, Carolyn Seibelli, Maria DeAngelis, and Jean Blanchard were excited to attend The O'Tones band that's been playing since 1990.

mix of swing music from the 40's, Motown, soul, blues and Latin. We always mix everything up and we love to sing about peace and love. In my childhood my parents were both musicians. My mom was a classical pianist and she was playing until 98 years old. My dad played cello, neither were professional. I was sent to my first piano lesson at age five...on my birthday! I played from five to 9 years old until somebody handed me a french horn, I ended up playing that for 20 years. I also had an older sister who sang a lot and owned a guitar, and eventually we started playing Joni Mitchell and Carole King. I ended up catching on and

now I am able to harmonize perfectly," Witt said.

Witt shared what her favorite part of her job is.

"My favorite part of my job is getting to play gigs. I love to sing, I love to play bass, and I like dealing with people. The real reward is singing and playing music with my friends. It's so uplifting, singing is so personal and public, very community based. If you are passionate about doing it, people can sense that and are able to enjoy it too," Witt said.

For upcoming O'Tones shows, visit their Facebook page or theotones.com.

JOIN US FOR A FREE, FAMILY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE

OLD POST ROAD ORCHESTRA

Home for the Holidays

Please join in the fun and wear your favorite holiday pajamas!

Directed by
Alexandria Black

DEC 6, 2024 • 7:30 pm
St. Cecilia's Church, 42 Main Street, Wilbraham MA
Sponsored in part by Berkshire Facial Surgery, Inc.

DEC 15, 2024 • 2:00 pm
Mary, Mother of Hope Church, 840 Page Blvd., Springfield MA
Sponsored in part by RMG Wealth Management Group

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

www.opro.org | facebook.com/Old-Post-Road-Orchestra
PO Box 683, Wilbraham MA 01095

Monson Arts Council
presents its 45th Annual

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH
9 AM - 4:00 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
11:30 AM - 4:00 PM

70 EXHIBITORS IN
FOUR BUILDINGS IN EASY
WALKING DISTANCE

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

-FREE ADMISSION-

FOR MORE INFO CALL
413-896-8666

DONATION from page 1

Affairs for Charter Communications, continued the Thanksgiving theme, expressing the company's gratitude for the opportunity to provide a donation in support of the senior center.

The thanks of speaker Susan Bunnell, chair of the Wilbraham Select Board, went out to the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors.

"While the town voted to support the funding that built this building, it is the donations that everyone made and all of the hard work and fundraising that was done by the Friends that paid for every chair, every fixture, every light, and every table here," Bunnell said. "Thanks to the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors for that extraordinary level of work and commitment over 14 years. I'm so impressed with this building and what we have been able to achieve as a community."

Bunnell also noted that continuation of the Charter Communications contract with the town of Wilbraham is in the early stages of negotiation.

A group of longtime Wilbraham friends were among the 120 attendees thankful for the afternoon's food and companionship. Helen Szaban, a resident of Wilbraham for 67 years, her sister, Terry Sherman, a resident for 57 years, Sandra Chabot, a resident for 58 years, and Christine Sullivan (resident for 54 years) enjoyed their turkey luncheon together.

Szaban, age 94, is a former local radio announcer. Sherman, Chabot, and Sullivan, all retired nurses, met in 1961 while students at the Springfield Hospital School of Nursing, from which they graduated in 1964. They keep their enduring friendship going with monthly lunches, including many at the senior center.



Turley Photos by Patricia Sullivan

Friends for 63 years, Wilbraham residents Helen Szaban, Sandra Chabot, Terry Sherman and Christine Sullivan caught up at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

Holiday Craft Fair takes place Dec. 7

HAMPDEN – The Federated Community Church of Hampden will be hosting a Christmas Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will also be a pancake breakfast from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

A variety of items made by local crafters! Lunch available for purchase!

The Federated Community Church of Hampden is located at 590 Main Street, Hampden, MA 01036.



Singer Freddie Marion crooned for the crowd at the luncheon.

"It's always packed," Sherman said.

Sherman and her friends are thrilled with the new facility, she said, and have enjoyed programs, speakers, and the center's café.

"We haven't tried any exercise classes yet, but we might," Sherman added.

Jennifer Pickering, district director for the office of State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), and Cherie Spinks from the office of State Rep. Angelo Puppulo, Jr.

(D-Springfield), also came to the luncheon while Oliveira and Puppulo attended legislative sessions in Boston.

Lunch was enhanced with entertainment and freebies. Singer Freddie Marion serenaded the crowd with renditions of songs made famous by Tom Jones, Elvis Presley, Neil Diamond and more.

Spectrum gave every senior a fleece blanket and other Spectrum-branded swag, including pens, pads, cell phone holders, sunglasses and koozies, was up for grabs.

After the hearty meal of salad, soup, and turkey with the traditional trimmings, prepared by Hamel's Creative Catering of Holyoke, Szaban declared the food "fantasmo."

As she bundled cookies in a napkin to bring home, she said this.

"It was the best party I ever went to for the price! F-R-E-E!" Szaban said.

Village FOOD MART

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

FRESH TURKEYS
ORDER EARLY - SIZING WILL BE LIMITED
Call or go online at armatasmarket.com to order yours!

Waybest 10-24 lbs. Fresh All-Natural **TURKEYS** **\$1.69** LB.

Murray's Family Farm Raised 10-28 lbs. Antibiotic & Hormone FREE **TURKEYS** **\$3.69** LB.

<p>USDA Gov't Insp. Whole Peeled Beef TENDERLOIN Custom Cut for FREE \$10.37 LB.</p> <p>USDA CHOICE Certified Angus Beef Top Sirloin SPOON ROAST \$7.99 LB.</p> <p>USDA Gov't Insp. Whole or Half Boneless RIB EYE Custom Cut for FREE \$8.97 LB.</p>	<p>Armata's Own Italian SAUSAGE LINKS \$3.97 LB.</p> <p>USDA Gov't Insp. Store Made DAILY GROUND PORK \$3.49 LB.</p> <p>USDA Gov't Insp. Beef Round STEW MEAT \$6.37 LB.</p> <p>USDA Gov't Insp. Fresh Bone In Center Cut PORK CHOPS \$2.47 LB.</p>	<p>OUR OWN HOMEMADE PIES CALL OR ORDER ONLINE AT ARMATASMART.COM</p> <p>Armata's Own Made From Scratch 9" PUMPKIN or APPLE PIE \$16.99 EA.</p> <p>Armata's Own Made From Scratch 9" PECAN PIE \$19.99 EA.</p> <p>Armata's Own Made From Scratch 9" DOUBLE CHOCOLATE CREAM PIE \$17.99 EA.</p> <p>Armata's Own Made From Scratch 8" Double Layer CARROT CAKE or CHEESECAKE \$21.99 EA.</p>
---	---	---

Fresh PRODUCE

Native from Hatfield, MA BUTTERNUT SQUASH 77¢ LB.	Massachusetts Grown Blue Water 12 oz. bag CRANBERRIES \$1.99 EA	Red Seedless GRAPES \$2.99 LB.
Native from Warren, MA APPLES 5 lb. Tote \$3.99 EA	Eastern Shore 5 lb. bag WHITE POTATOES 2 FOR \$5	Sleeve CELERY \$1.69 EA

BAKERY Treats

Store Baked 8 pk. SNOWFLAKE or Mini TWISTS \$2.99 EA	Superior 5 pk. ECLAIRS \$2.99 EA	Store Made Port Wine or Horseradish CHEESE BALLS \$5.99 LB.
St. Pierre 10 oz. BRIOCHE LOAF \$4.99 EA	Leonard's 12 oz. ITALIAN COOKIES \$5.99 EA	Cabot CHEESE BARS \$4.99 EA

DELI Deals

Best Yet Frozen 31-40 Ct. 1 Lb. Bag RAW SHRIMP \$4.99 EA.	Jimmy Dean 16 oz. Sage SAUSAGE ROLL \$4.99 EA.	Simply 24 oz. Asst. Varieties MASHED POTATOES \$2.99 EA.
Grab N Go OLIVE BAR \$7.99 LB.	Columbus PROSCIUTTO \$7.99 LB.	

Armata's Own Individual Turkey Dinners GRAB N GO

WED 11/27 STARTING AT 11AM

Starting at

\$6.99

LB.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE!

INCLUDES:

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

GRINDER OF THE WEEK NOVEMBER 25-30

8" HAM & CHEESE **\$5.99** EA.

Public Auction

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH at 11:00 A.M.

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE • WILBRAHAM •

8 ROOM / 3 BEDROOM
2 STORY
COLONIAL STYLE HOME
WITH
(3) CAR ATTACHED GARAGE

4 Monson Road WILBRAHAM, MA
To be Sold on the Premises

- FEATURES:**
- 2 Story Colonial Style Home • ±¾ Acres of Land •
 - Total of (8) Rooms w/ (3) Bedrooms & (2) Baths •
 - ±2,436 S/F of Gross Living Area • Hot Water Baseboard Heat •
 - Basement • Fireplace • Wood Exterior •
 - Map Reference: 7950-2-3276 •
 - ★ Attached (3) Car Garage ★

Sale Per Order of Mortgagee
Attorney C. Barry Waite
or the firm of Resnik, Beauregard, Waite & Driscoll
330 Whitney Avenue, Holyoke, MA
Attorney for Mortgagee

Terms of Sale: \$10,000.00 Deposit Bank or Certified Funds.
5% Buyer's Premium Applies.
Other Terms to be Announced at Time of Sale.

Aaron Posnik
AUCTIONEERS - APPRAISERS

West Springfield, MA • Philadelphia, PA
413-733-5238 • 610-853-6655
TOLL FREE 1-877-POSNIK-1 (767-6451)
MA Auc. Lic. #161 • PA Auc. Lic. #AY00241L
www.posnik.com • E-mail: info@posnik.com

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

VILLAGE FOOD MART ARMATA'S MARKET VILLAGEFOODHAMPDEN.COM ARMATASMART.COM

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

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
VISA M/C DISC AMEX
PRICES VALID 11/21-11/27/24

VIEWPOINTS



White-throated sparrow, white and tan striped morphs

In My Backyard
By Ellenor Downer

A Brimfield resident reported white-throated sparrows in his yard.

He said, "Adult white-throated sparrows are polymorphic, occurring in two plumage types or forms: white striped (bright) or tan striped (dull). Almost all of the white-throated sparrows I see are the tan striped morph." I also saw white-throated sparrows, but they are mostly the white striped morph.

I put a small amount of bird seed and shelled peanuts in my feeders in the morning. I do not fill them as there are many black bears in my area. With this wonderful Indian summer weather, I have been working outside since I use a laptop computer. Besides working on the two papers I edit, Barre Gazette and Country Journal, I enjoy the weather, and get to see birds coming and going at the feeders.

The white-throated sparrow is 6 1/2 inches long with a dark crown with a buff or tan central stripe and white throat. Depending on which morph, they have either white or tan eyebrows with a yellow mark before the eye. Their breast is gray with a few, faint streaks.

The female has a less bold pattern on the head, duller yellow by eye, more streaking on the breast and grayer. The immature of either sex looks like the female. Immature plumage is kept through their first winter. Breeding pair usually contains one bird from each morph, either a tan female and white male or white female and tan male.

The female lays four to six light blue-green eggs with dark marks in a nest of grasses lined with hairs and rootlets. It is placed on the ground or under a small tree or shrub.

For many years, my family and I had horses. Their hair was a popular nesting material for the birds in our yard. Nests often had horse hair woven into them. After grooming the horses, birds would often come and fly away with strands of horse hair especially from the horses' mane or tail.

White throated sparrows summer in Canada and winter in the northeastern and part of the southern United States. They feed on the ground eating weed seeds, grain, fruit and insects. They come to tray type feeders or scattered on the ground. They like cracked corn, sunflower seeds and millet.

Their song is two long whistled notes followed by three or four higher, quivering notes. It sounds like "sweet sweet Canada Canada Canada." Calls are "tseet" when birds are in flocks and "pink" in alarm. They inhabit coniferous and mixed woods and brushy areas.

Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident reported not much happening at the Warren ponds. In his yard, he saw a male eastern towhee, a couple of ru-

by-crowned kinglets, five goldfinches, a chipping sparrow, song sparrow and white-throated sparrows.

Black swallow tail caterpillars

The Brimfield resident also said in an email, "Over a week ago we found a couple of black swallowtail caterpillars on a volunteer 12" tall fennel plant growing out of the space between pavers in our walkway. I collected the caterpillars and put them in the house in a small aquarium with fennel leaves. Last year we found three black swallowtail caterpillars chrysalises in the garden, kept them inside a shed over the winter and in the spring tied the chrysalises to tree branches. All three hatched and flew away."

Fun facts about Canada geese

The Brimfield resident also offered some facts about Canada geese he got from Mass-Wildlife. Human intervention radically altered the status of this species within the Bay State. Before the 1930s, these geese rarely nested here, today many Canada geese are in this state year round.

Their migratory population still pass through in the spring and fall and stop to rest during migration. Resident population are descendants of captive geese used by waterfowl hunters; live decoys were outlawed in the 1930s and captive birds were released. With no pattern of migration, these geese began nesting in Massachusetts. In the 1960s and early 1970s, MassWildlife moved geese from the coast into central and western Massachusetts to the applause of both hunters and non-hunters. A population explosion followed.

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.



Surprise squash or is it a pumpkin?

I compost the lazy person's way – no thermometers, frequent turning or aerating is done at my house.

I simply pile my vegetable refuse, leaves, coffee grinds and plant parts in a pile with copious amounts of chicken bedding. Once in a blue moon I'll mix it all up with a pitchfork, but that is all I do.

I'm not saying it's the right way, but it's my preferred way. After a certain point in the fall, I start a new pile and let the old one sit until

spring when I use the compost in the garden.

Often, I end up with some surprise plants growing in the pile from the previous year after I've taken what I need. I call them volunteers.

For the last two years I've grown my best tomatoes in the compost pile. No accolades need to come my way, I did nothing to earn the luxury of garden fresh tomatoes in November.

Well, maybe covering the plants with layers of cloth on the few cold nights has helped some, I guess, otherwise they would be frosted like the rest of the tender plants.

But alas, once again I digress. I am not here to talk about the tomatoes that grew in the compost pile, but the squash that did. I may have mentioned these white pumpkin lookalikes in an earlier column, but as I sit here devouring a squash muffin, they deserve another mention.

While my hills of butternut were not very prolific, the white pumpkin lookalike squash were unbelievably so. Honestly, I am not sure how many plants sprouted. Maybe three at the most, and I easily ended up with maybe two dozen, so the average is seven or eight fruit per plant!

I bought the original at a local farm and as it turned to an imploded pile of mush, it got chucked into the compost pile last fall. After

sprouting it took no time flat for the vines to cover the pile and adjoining fence and lawn, much to my husband's dismay.

After a quick internet search, the white pumpkin lookalike squash still doesn't have a name. It could be part acorn squash, or a variant of a white pumpkin.

All I know is that they made excellent fall decor!

Just for the fun of it I cooked one up, in the same manner I do butternuts, by slicing in half, removing the seeds and roasting cut side down in a 400 degree oven for about an hour.

The pale yellow flesh caramelized a little. Perhaps I should have finished the cooking cut side up to attain more of that caramelization.

While not incredibly sweet, it didn't taste bad or bitter, so I whipped it up with the immersion blender and decided I'd try it in my favorite squash muffin recipe. Not bad, not bad at all.

My husband asked if I was going to raid the porch of it's decorations to process more of them, but I don't think I'll go that far. If November is mild, I'll certainly have a windfall once we switch over to a Christmas theme.

Please see **GARDEN**, page 8

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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



The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM



EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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



@Wilbraham-Hampden Times

WEB

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



www.turley.com

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

Editorial Policy

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

Correction Policy

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

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

Wilbraham Select Board is hesitant to approve The Hill Climb

From traffic to timing, town officials expressed reservations about the event.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – In May, the Wilbraham Hill Climb attracted more than 4,000 spectators to the center of town to watch vintage cars sprint up Wilbraham Mountain.

On Monday, during the Select Board meeting, organizers arrived hoping that town officials would not only approve the 2025 event, but the 2026 event as well.

Unfortunately for them, members of the Select Board and Town Administrator Nick Breault expressed reservations regarding the popular event.

“I appreciate the fact that they’re looking to get an early start and, also, looking to expand the duration. I’m inclined to postpone the approval particularly given some of the challenges there were with traffic and so forth last year. I’d like to look at putting this off maybe into early January,” Select Board Chair Sue Bunnell said.

Bunnell said she would like to first hear from Fire Chief Michael Andrews and Police Chief Ed Lennon regarding a traffic plan. She said she hopes “a bunch of things” go smoother next year compared to the 2024 event.

Bunnell added that the Hill

Climb, proposed to occur on Mother’s Day Weekend, may fall too close to several key town events.

“As you can imagine, the Town Hall team, as they’re ramping up for Annual Town Meeting and elections, it’s just a lot,” Bunnell said.

Select Board Clerk Marc Ducey seconded Bunnell’s opinion.

“I think we need to get a better understanding from the chiefs, particularly because May is a time of year where there’s a lot of different activities going on. I’d like to get more [input] from the police department and the fire department,” Ducey said.

Select Board Vice Chair Michael Squindo wasn’t comfortable making a motion on Monday either, especially regarding the request that the second year be approved too.

Jeff DeMarey, an event organizer, made a case for the event to occur next May, as he hoped the board would approve.

DeMarey said Wilbraham & Monson Academy is going to be onboard next spring, and a lot of the show cars will end up on their property. He said that will eliminate some of the cars coming down Main Street because they’ll be traveling down Faculty Street.

Organizers are also talking to the businesses in Crane Park regarding how to promote them. DeMarey hopes that they won’t “necessarily need to be open” during the event. He also hopes the Mother’s Day Plant sale will move to the following weekend,



Turley photo by Jason DeGray

A photo of a car that took part in this year’s Wilbraham Hill Climb in Wilbraham on May 11.

and said there will be a table for it at the Hill Climb.

According to DeMarey, vehicles won’t have to cross from Springfield Street into Crane Park as they did last May, coming down, going in and backing out again. He said organizers will also try to divert some of the tractor-trailer trucks from Main Street and send them over through Stony Hill Road.

“We put extensive amount of time into looking at the traffic problems and we think we can, not eliminate because we’re never going to fix all of it, but I think we’re going to substantially change it,” DeMarey said.

He added that a big traffic problem this past May included that the shuttle buses only had one lane and had to stop in the middle of the road. Now, he said shuttle buses will be able to come down Faculty Street and go right into Crane Park, offload and get back into traffic.

“We’re very aware of the traf-

fic, and I think we’ve got a good plan moving forward with it,” DeMarey said.

DeMarey doesn’t believe that the immense traffic is a terribly bad thing. He pointed out that it is indicative of the event’s popularity, as it draws spectators from across the region.

“I will say one of the contributing issues to the problems last year was the popularity, which is a good thing. It was unbelievably well-attended,” DeMarey said. “That contributed to the traffic issues and other things going on. I’ve been involved since the start, and I’ve never seen that many people at that event as we had last year.”

When asked why the event couldn’t be moved to later in the summer, in a month like July, DeMarey said that wouldn’t be possible.

“One of the reasons why we did move it to a cooler time of year is the last time it ran in July it was too hot. Those old cars just

can’t do it. Half of them didn’t make it up the hill. Why bother if they’re not going to be able to handle that type of heat,” DeMarey said.

Breault wasn’t entirely sold. He said it takes an awful lot to put on the event, and while the town wants to help as best it can, there can’t be a repeat of last May.

“It’s an awful lot to do with the event. The town wants to make sure we help as best we can, but we were overwhelmed by the way things were managed last year, and we just can’t have that again. You understand that,” Breault said.

Breault proceeded to say he appreciates the effort the committee puts into the event, but said he is going to ask the Select Board to decide if the Hill Climb should be a yearly occurrence at all.

“It was an every other year event, and now it’s an every year event. Also, the timing of it in May, which I understand is nicer weather than perhaps trying to do it in July, but it’s just a super busy time, and it affects so many other things that are going on at that time. I really need time to look at this,” Breault said.

DeMarey said he understood and that his biggest goal is that the Hill Climb is an event that includes everyone.

“I want it to be a wonderful town-wide festival and a good time,” he said.

No vote was taken at this meeting.

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

Affordable Waste Solutions
Your Hometown Provider for Rolloff and Front Load Dumpster Service

413-244-1943
A portion of every rental is donated to Breast Cancer Research

Get To Know Our Great Service

Park CLEANERS, INC.

Family Owned And Operated Since 1935

Pretty Picky People Pick Park Cleaners

- We now offer Wash & Fold service on premise.
- Dry Cleaning
- Laundered Shirts
- Fancy Dresses & Gowns
- Comforters & Draperies
- Tablecloths & Napkins
- Minor Repairs & Alterations
- Pick-up & Delivery to home or office.

“We get stains out like it never happened.”

Ask about special pricing for first responders and our pre-pay discount

2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

262 Allen St., Springfield
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am-6 pm, Sat. 9 am - 3 pm

464 Main Street, Wilbraham
Mon. - Fri. 8am - 5pm, Sat. 9am - 1pm

413-279-3222 • parkcleaners413.com

POST Computer Systems
Repairs • Upgrades
New & Used Equipment • Trade-ins

Where Technology Has Met It’s Match

Expert support beyond the sale for small businesses, home offices, family systems, mobile professionals and everyone in between is what separates POST from all the rest.

2785 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095
413-596-5177 • www.pocosys.com

Edward Jones

Christopher O'Connor
Financial Advisor
2141 Boston Rd Suite G
Wilbraham, MA 01095
413-596-6875

MKT-5894N-A > edwardjones.com

Park CLEANERS, INC. Your Hometown Dry Cleaners
Family owned and operated since 1935

GET TO KNOW OUR GREAT SERVICE

Ask about special pricing for first responders

“We get stains out like it never happened.”

15% OFF DRY CLEANING when you pre-pay!

262 Allen St., Springfield
Mon.-Fri. 8am-6pm, Sat. 8am-3pm
Sun. 9am-2pm

464 Main St., Wilbraham
Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm, Sat. 9am-1pm
Sun. closed

2 Convenient Locations
413-736-5476 • parkcleaners413.com

GARDEN from page 6

What do I learn from the compost pile? Although the garden is right next to the compost pile, the white squash pumpkins had virtually no damage from

the squash vine borer.

The plants were so much healthier than those I planted in the garden. The leaves were large and deep green.

I've said it before and I'll say it again times three: Nitrogen,

nitrogen, nitrogen. That's one thing my compost pile has that the garden needs. I will definitely not skimp on that nutrient come springtime so that maybe, just maybe, I can grow my beloved butternut squashes on pur-

pose and healthily!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Vil-

lage. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

PARISEAU from page 1

To support the scholarship, checks can be made to the Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation (WHSF) and writing Dylan Pariseau in the memo line. From there, mail to WHSF, PO Box 441, Wilbraham, MA 01095.

To donate directly, visit the Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation's Facebook page to access their PayPal link. From there, include Dylan's name in the note section.

A Minnechaug graduate and baseball player, Pariseau's life was tragically cut short in June along with his mother, Sima Setian Pariseau, two pillars of the community who left a lasting impact not only on their family and friends, but the town of Wilbraham and the St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church in Indian Orchard, where mother and son were beloved members.

A group of longtime friends consisting of Theresa Finnegan, Dina Lamotte, Mary Krol, Meg Cyr, Kelly Karam, Shelly Naumec, Tammy Trudeau, Erin Dowding, Tina Bazarian and Beth George also honored their "peacekeeper" in Sima Pariseau back in June when they held a memorial toast and vigil at the Wilbraham Community Garden on Monson Road, where Pariseau had tended a garden.

After graduating from Minnechaug in 2015, Dylan Pariseau pursued his love for science when he majored in Biology and Chemistry at Keene State College, later receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in 2019.

From there, he worked as a research associate at Moderna Therapeutics and later as a senior research associate at Verve Therapeutics.

For the family, friends and Barbara Trombley, president of the Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation, this scholarship honors not just someone who loved science, but a young man who expressed kindness, compassion, a love for family and lifelong friends and humor everywhere he went.

Reflections from the WHSF

Trombley shared she and her husband knew Dylan well, with her son having played baseball with him and her husband coaching him.

She also knew Sima really well.

On how the scholarship came together, Trombley credits the family and friends, who were working on ideas to honor mother and son.

"When they were thinking of Dylan, they got in touch with me and said, 'We would love to come up with a scholarship in Dylan's name,' which I thought is a great idea," Trombley said.

Trombley misses Dylan's spirit, adding "he was an incredibly friendly kid."

"He was always cheerful and always excited," Trombley said. "He had two parents who still lived here locally and to go off and get a job in Boston was such a big deal for his family. I think he exceeded a lot of expectations that people had for him and I think that was really nice."

Trombley said the scholarship is "a touching and appropriate tribute."

"I remember him as such an active student at Minnechaug. I think everybody knew him, he was everybody's friend and I think this is such a great way to remember him, especially because his mom and dad were so proud of him," Trombley said. "A lot of kids say, 'I'm going to go off and be pre-med' or 'I'm going to go off and be a science major' which we all know is so hard. But, to actually go and do it and graduate and he then got a job in Boston working in his field. I think this is full circle. It comes right back to who he was."

A Lifelong Band of Brothers

Josh Henry, Matt Naumec, his younger brother Dan, Jack Dowding, Michael Karam and Matt Krol called him a broth-

er, "the glue that kept everyone together" and who always had a smile on his face, who told each of them, "I love ya, brother."

"He had a beautiful heart. Always had a smile and infectious laugh. I think everyone has a story here of Dylan laughing and us following suit," Matt Naumec said. "Just a beautiful human being that's definitely missed and I think we all try to emulate some of his traits. We can't emulate who he was or replace who he was, but we take everything that he stood for and try to live it out on a daily basis."

"We did everything as a group. Holidays, vacations, any sort of get-together. Even though we live in different areas now, do different things, I see these guys more often than I see some of my actual family members," Dowding said.

For Dan Neumac, he always felt like part of the group, with Dylan as "the first person who really kicked that off for me."

"I was always super grateful to him for that," Dan Neumac said. "When I always think of Dylan, I always think of generosity. Always, no matter what, was there for us. Would do anything for any of us and just super grateful for us."

The friends were thrilled with the scholarship.

"Huge. I love the idea. I was hoping for the idea," Henry said. "I think that the scholarship's going to honor his legacy, especially when it comes to science, right? Dylan pursued science as his passion in college. He went about his way and was tutoring in college for work-study in science or for kids who needed help. He did a lot of volunteering too. I think it's a great way to kind of honor who Dylan was and the passions he had for science."

"Dylan touched a hell of a lot of lives at Minnechaug, whether it was friends, teachers, coaches. Everyone that he was around knew and loved Dylan," Karam said. "The scholarship's a great way to have him keep touching lives at Minnechaug."

"I think it's pretty special for the people that would be the eventual recipients of the scholarship, I think. It's great to honor Dylan in something that he was so passionate for in a place where he was able to sow that passion and grow it. So, starting from a place like Minnechaug which we knew Dylan loved and moving forward and specifically going to Keene. I think it's pretty special to provide someone and help someone chase their passion like Dylan chased his at Keene," Matt Neumac said.

"Once he enjoyed something or found something he liked, he just went in head-first. Whether that was him developing a love for science and biology or, like, two years ago when he just started skydiving like every other week. That was his personality and something I definitely admired," Dowding said.

"Dylan was always super open. I remember one time we came home and he talked about this research paper that he helped on with cancer research and I was like, 'Yeah, I just wrote a paper on Napoleon, that's pretty cool, right?' and he was like, 'Yeah this is a little cooler than that,'" Krol said. "But like everybody else has said, he's super passionate, and like Jack said, he never half-assed anything so he dove headfirst into it. It was incredible to see how much he gave himself to what he studied."

"Obviously, we all know that the price of school is just insane these days. So, I know there's tons of kids even in Wilbraham this money can go a super long way for and helping their families out. So, huge thank you to everybody involved," Dan Neumac said. "I think it's going to be awesome."

After sharing they miss his humor, impressions, openness and authenticity, spontaneity and sense of adventure, the guys expressed their gratitude to the community's support not just of Dylan, but his

mother too.

"Everyone knew Sima and Dylan. Sima was the walker on Main Street. It was not surprising whatsoever the response from the community and then the Armenian community as well, with them obviously being very religious. I think the scholarship's a great start. I think that maybe we'll do something--the group of us maybe--a little more interactive or something fun to remember Dylan. So, I think this is going to be just the start," Dowding said.

"I think you hear--and it comes from our mothers as well--the glue of Sima. She was so immersed in her community and she touched a lot of people on the charities that she was involved in or, like Jack was saying, physically being out and about in the community and being recognized as someone that's entangled. When you think of Wilbraham, Sima's one of those of people you think of. I think that showed in Dylan as well. Sima was the glue with all of our parents and Dylan was the glue with us as well," Matt Neumac said.

"When we were going through everything that went on back in June, I had people reach out to me to tell me stories that they had with Dylan that I didn't even realize that they were close with him or had nice memories of. They were just reaching out to make me feel better, which it did make me feel better that they're thinking about him too and they're thinking about him and miss him. Everyone loved them," Karam said.

"That just sparked something. I think I received at least 20, 30 messages from people I didn't even realize were--like Mike said--friends with Dylan and just expressing their gratitude," Henry said. "Just nothing but nice things."

Krol summed it up best on the message to the community and the best way to honor Dylan's memory.

"The biggest thing for me is the money's great, the scholarship's great, but take some of what Dylan lived by that passion that Matty was just saying and take some of that with you to wherever you go," Krol said.

A Beloved Brother and Son Remembered

Sophia Pariseau and her father, Mark, credited Kelly Karam, Michael's mother, and Sima Pariseau's group of friends for spearheading the scholarship to honor Dylan and appreciated Trombley and the WHSF's support.

"When this first happened, Sophie and I talked about wanting to do something. We want to keep their names out there. Dylan's passion was science. Science turned Dylan's life around, gave him purpose. Dylan struggled for a long time and was just bouncing off the walls and didn't really know what was going on. He had his sports, but just science, it really clicked for him," Mark Pariseau said. "It made him take school seriously and, without science, I don't know what Dylan would have done for college or what have you."

"The Follow Your Passion scholarship was created in Dylan's honor as a way to give back to the community that has so generously given to us and that the goal of the scholarship is to lessen the burden of financial hardship that can come with higher education, even if just a little bit," Sophia Pariseau said. "But moreover, college was where Dylan really flourished and came into himself. Finding science--one of his passions--allowed Dylan to have something to work toward that he was really excited about. Prior to college, school was never really his thing, but once he found Keene State and declared his major, he was a whole different person. My dad and I want others to feel the lightness which comes with following your passion. It was life-changing for Dylan and we hope it can be for many others in

the future."

Mark Pariseau added how he and his son "were all about sports and that's what was most common between the two of us" and, originally, the scholarship was going to be a baseball scholarship, until he encouraged Karam to consider a science scholarship.

"They just kind of got the balling rolling and next thing I knew, donations were coming in like crazy," Mark Pariseau said.

"For bringing the scholarship to fruition, like my dad said, we mostly have Kelly Karam and Barb Trombley to thank. Kelly Karam is a very near and dear friend to my mom, Sima, as well as a mother to one of my brother's very close friends and without Kelly, we wouldn't be here," Sophia Pariseau added. "Kelly Karam worked very closely with Barb Trombley, who's president of the Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation, to make this happen and we're very grateful."

The family misses his essence, smile, sense of humor, aura and how he was everyone's number one hype man.

"Most personally, I honestly just miss laughing with him. A relationship with a sibling is a bond in its own league and we had so many inside jokes, shared experiences and just similar minds from our shared experiences. So, it wasn't hard for us to have a good time," Sophia Pariseau said. "Every single day, I find myself experiencing something I wish I could tell him about so that I could hear his infectious laugh."

"I miss the sound of his voice. The touch of his hands when he would shake my hand. Our Thursday night dinners together and just the moments we got to share together. He was going through some tough times, but he would never let me see that side of him. He was always trying to pick me up," Mark Pariseau said. "I miss him dearly."

The community support for the scholarship means everything to them.

"I hope it helps some kid find his way. Kids today and today's day and age, they're bombarded from so many angles and so many different things. I just hope there's a kid out there that, 'You know what I really like this,' and who follows what's in his heart," Mark Pariseau said. "That's what I really want. I just want some way for Dylan's spirit to pay it forward."

"It's hard to put into spoken and written word what this scholarship means to me and my family. For my brother to potentially have an impact on what is, for some people, such an important decision in life is surreal. The way that I think of this scholarship is as a way for Dylan to continue giving even in his absence," Sophia Pariseau said. "We just really hope that the recipient of this scholarship each year feels supported by Dylan and excited to, in a way, follow in his footsteps and, most of all, we hope the recipient is proud."

Their message to the community was this.

"From my standpoint, I would like to thank the residents of Wilbraham, the different donors. It means the world to me that people care enough about my son to give a donation," Mark Pariseau said.

"I would not be remiss if one of the first things I said to the community and its residents wasn't a big thank you. Through this tragedy, our community has come together like no other in order to support my family and this has meant so much to us and we hope that this scholarship can be seen almost as a token of our gratitude as well as Dylan's for taking such care of his family," Sophia Pariseau said. "We're so proud of Dylan and the man that he is and we are so grateful that the community sees that as well. We're just so appreciative of everyone's donations and just so happy that everyone can play a part in the importance of this scholarship."

INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Tree Removal



Structural Pruning



Crane Service



Storm Damage



Stump Grinding



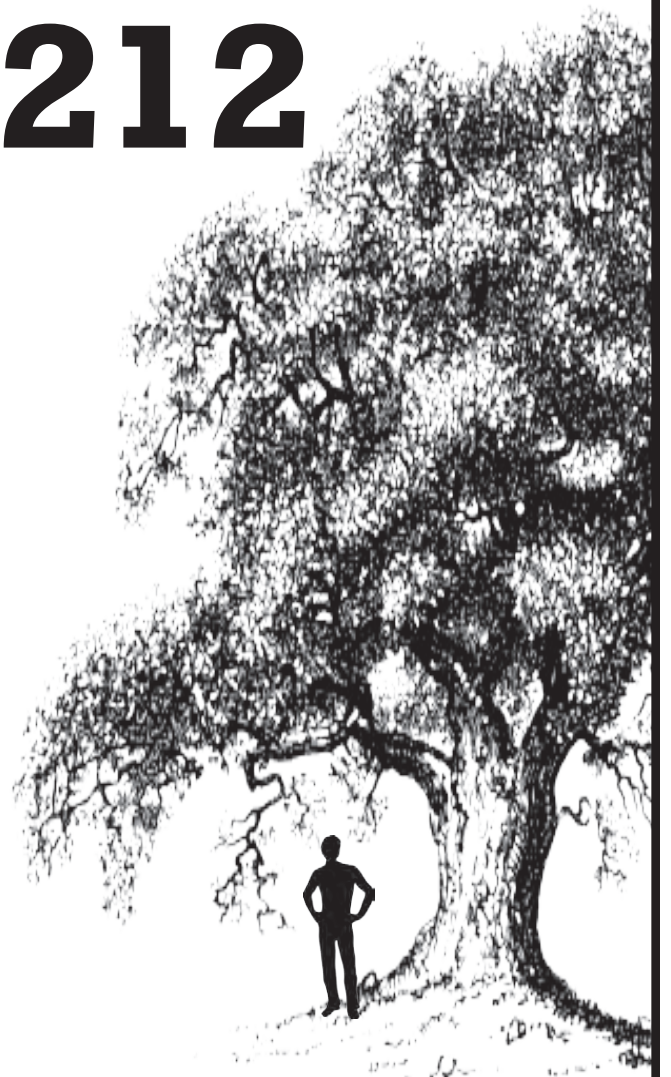
Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



A COMMUNITY GALLERY



State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) presents Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen with a citation from the State House in recognition of his six years of service to Wilbraham and its veterans.

Life in & WILBRAHAM

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

Wilbraham says farewell to Jered Sasen

The community gathered at the senior center on Nov. 15 to say farewell and send best wishes to outgoing Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen. He will be dearly missed by all!

Photos courtesy of Wilbraham Senior Center



Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen and Dee Mitchell, corresponding secretary for the Friends of Wilbraham Senior Center, share an emotional farewell hug.



Residents line up to chat with Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen to thank him for his service to the town of Wilbraham.



Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen and a resident share a hug.



Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen shakes hands with a local veteran.

THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Let's Get
"Home"
for the Holidays

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen chats with residents on his last day.



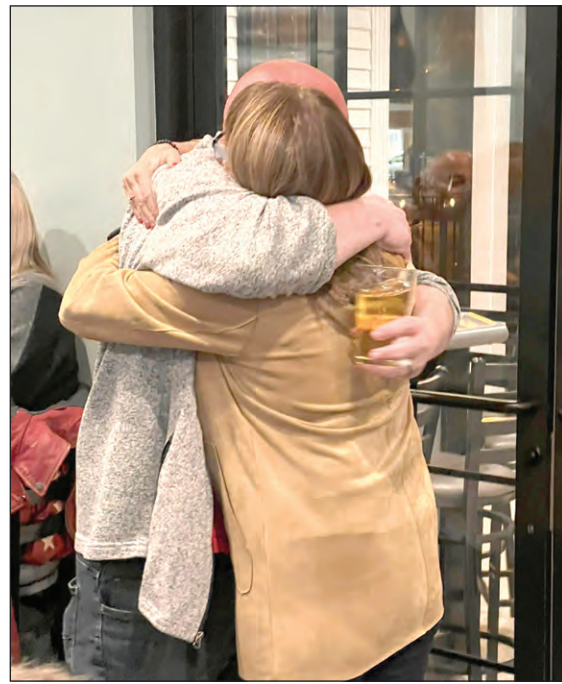
A humorous banner to celebrate Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen as he departs his role.



Residents chat amongst themselves as they celebrate Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen on his last day.



Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen poses for a photo with State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), who stopped by to celebrate Sasen on his last day.



Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen and Barbara Harrington, social services coordinator at the Wilbraham Senior Center, hug during Sasen's last day.



Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen looks on with emotion as Barbara Harrington, social services coordinator at the Wilbraham Senior Center, provides remarks.



Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs, Jered Sasen, director of Veterans Services, Barbara Harrington, social services coordinator, and Jen Finnigan, activities/volunteer coordinator, smile for a group photo as they celebrate Sasen on his last day as Veterans Services Director in Wilbraham.

AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:

et You
me"
olidays



Heidi Pafumi

Realtor®

Co-founder Team 413 of Coldwell Banker

136 Dwight Road
Longmeadow, MA
413-687-4339

Heidip413@gmail.com
Licensed MA & CT

Christmas Holiday Craft Fair takes place Dec. 7

HAMPDEN – The Federated Community Church of Hampden will be hosting a Christmas Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will also be a pancake breakfast from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

A variety of items made by local crafters! Lunch available for purchase! The Federated Community Church of Hampden is located at 590 Main Street, Hampden, MA 01036.

Find Your Calm: Join our Gentle Yoga Retreat

WILBRAHAM – Join us for our Gentle Yoga Retreat on Friday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m. to Noon at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

Reconnect with your inner peace at our Gentle Yoga Retreat. This retreat is designed

for all abilities with a focus on mindfulness, relaxation, and healing.

You will be guided through a restorative yoga session consisting of gentle movement and balance followed by a guided meditation practice and extend-

ed savasana.

This event is FREE thanks to the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors.

Non-Senior Center members are welcome!

Please call the Senior Center to register. 413-596-8379

CALL YOUR TURLEY REP TODAY! 283-8393



**YOUR LOCAL
TRUSTED
RELIABLE
DEPENDABLE**

HOMIE PROs

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

THE MOST DEPENDABLE STREAMING SYSTEM FOR MOVIES AND TV SHOWS

Unlimited TV, movies and sports!



Cut the cord and tell Cable you got a better offer

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

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Hampden Septic

Pumping • Installation • Title 5 Inspections • Perc Tests

566-2916

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

LUMBER & FEED

C.A. SMITH



CABINETRY
DOORS • WINDOWS
DECKING
ROOFING
AND MORE ...

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

HOME REMODELING



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

Call for An Appointment

413-783-1101 • www.cummingrf.com

JUNK REMOVAL

Magnet P.I.

Your Junk Collecting Man!

Get Rid of ALL your junk at a reasonable price.

Even the Tough Stuff!

Boilers, hot Water Tanks, Oil Tanks, T.V.'s, Monitors,

Mattresses, Pools, Hot Tubs, Tires... We take it all!

Call Doug at 413-455-4397

SEAMLESS GUTTERS

Verdon's
Seamless Aluminum Gutters

Over 40 Years
Experience
Family Owned &
Operated

65 Main Street, Wilbraham • (413) 596-9611
Mon.-Fri. 7am to 5pm - Please No Sundays - Lic.#105559
www.verdongutters.com • verdongutters@charter.net
Fully Insured & Free Estimates

CUSTOM MADE & INSTALLED CONTINUOUS SEAMLESS ALUMINUM GUTTERS & DOWNSPOUTS

CONCRETE SERVICES



SPARTAN
CONCRETE SERVICES, INC.

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL
2460 Boston Road, Unit 4, Wilbraham
(413) 214-7983 • www.SpartanConst.com
spartanservices@gmail.com

Bobcat, Concrete & Outdoor Living Area Solutions

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE ON

Local HOME PROs

mmcgarrett@turley.com

413-283-8393

TREE WORK

INSURED AND CERTIFIED

- Tree Removal
- Structural Pruning
- Crane Service
- Storm Damage
- Stump Grinding

**DL&G
TREE**



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation 413-478-4212



Holiday Toy Drive at HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics

WILBRAHAM - Join us on Sunday Dec. 8 from Noon to 4 p.m. at HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics located at 2378 Boston Road in Wilbraham Massachusetts for a special HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE! This event will be hosted by Rik Alvarez (owner of HasBeen and former Creative Manager of the Transformers/GI Joe Brands) and local comic book YouTube channel Lunch Money Comics. Attendees are asked to bring a new unwrapped toy to be donated to local children in need.

Attendees will receive a raffle ticket for each item donated. Several raffles will be held throughout the day with some fabulous prizes ranging from toys, art and comics! Refreshments and holiday treats will also be available. Lunch Money Comics t-shirts will be available for purchase with all proceeds going towards charity. If any items are pur-

chased at HasBeen (with a \$10 value or more) for the toy drive, the attendee will receive two raffle tickets.

Special Guest Aaron Archer will also be selling original art and taking art commissions. Aaron is a former designer and character creator at Hasbro and has worked on a variety of brands including GI Joe, Batman, Aliens, Jurassic Park and most notably Transformers. Aaron spent a total of 14 years on the Transformers Franchise and worked as a creative partner across the feature films, toys, video games, publishing, rides, and animation projects.

Lunch Money Comics has been a YouTube sensation since 2022 and has well over 16,000 followers! HasBeen opened their doors in March of this year and is located adjacent to the Frame & Picture Shoppe.

Community Chorus to Present Concerts

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

Drury has chosen a varied and compelling program including music of

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

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

Tree Festival to display nine decorated Christmas Trees this year

WILBRAHAM - The Christmas Tree Festival at the Old Meeting House Museum at 450 Main Street will take on an expanded role this year with new starting and ending times. It will be open later and feature a special "Remembrance Tree" on the back porch of the Museum that everyone can add to.

The festival hours will be adjusted to fit in better with children and adults who also attend the Town Tree Lighting activities down Main Street at Gazebo Park, sponsored by the Rotary Club.

The Christmas Tree Festival, presented by the Atheneum Society of Wilbraham, will sponsor the annual festival in the Old Meeting House Museum at 450 Main St. from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. chaired by Trustee Marianne Wagner.

The museum will be open until 6 p.m. so that those who attended the Tree Lighting (starting at 4:30 p.m.) will also have a chance to see all nine Christmas



Christmas Tree decorated by the Wilbraham Children's Museum at last year's festival. (Times file photo)

Trees decorated for the holidays by the following organizations: Five Star Gardens, Friends of the Wilbraham Library, Karen Geaghan Photographer, St. Cecilia's Women's Club, Wilbraham Art League, Wilbraham Children's

Museum, Wilbraham Garden Club and Wilbraham Girl Scouts.

The Gift Shop will be open featuring "Wilbraham"-imprinted tee shirts, hats, stationery and local history books. Among the activities will be an ice carver demonstration, mulled cider in the Hearse House, a Scavenger Hunt for children and a wreath raffle.

Wilbraham Flowers will donate a wreath for the Wreath Raffle.

The Wilbraham Art League Tree will feature bookmarks as ornaments. The bookmarks will be for sale for \$2 each with proceeds going to the Atheneum Society.

Visitors can hang a special remembrance on the "Remembrance Tree" for a donation that will go to the Community

Survival Center.

For more information about the Old Meeting House Open House, email president@wilbrahamatheneum.org.

Gingerbread House Workshops at the Wilbraham Public Library

Wilbraham—The Wilbraham Public Library is pleased to announce that it will be hosting two Gingerbread House Workshop events for children and teenagers. The events will be held on Dec. 2. Registration is required. These programs are sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Kids' Gingerbread House Workshop Monday, Dec. 2 at 4 p.m.

Sign up to decorate a gingerbread house using cones of various sizes, different types of frosting, fondant and a generous candy buffet! All materials are free & included for this event. Allergy note: The ingredients used include eggs and dairy. Open to children in grades three, four and five only, registration required, registered participants only in the Brooks Room. Starting Monday, Nov. 18, sign up online or call the library at 596-6141. Wilbraham residents only for the first week of registration. Nov. 18 to 24. The program will then open up to children residing outside of Wilbraham.

Teen Gingerbread House Workshop Monday, Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Teens in grades six through 12 will create their own gingerbread house using cones of various of sizes, different types of frosting, fondant and a generous candy buffet! All supplies are included. Starting on Monday, Nov. 18, sign up online or call the library at 596-6141. There is no charge for this event but sign-up is necessary as space is limited! Wilbraham residents only for the first week of registration. Nov. 18 to 24. The program will then open up to teens residing outside of Wilbraham.

Hanukkah - It's NOT Jewish Christmas

WILBRAHAM - Norah and Craig Kazan will be hosting a free educational presentation at the Wilbraham Senior Center

Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights and occurs in proximity to Christmas each year. Come learn a little bit about the Jewish religion, the significance of Hanukkah in the Jewish calendar, and sample some of the culture surrounding this holiday.

We will be discussing:

- 1) Very brief overview of Judaism
- 2) The Jewish Calendar and Holidays
- 3) The story of Hanukkah and its significance
- 4) Observance and meaning in Israel vs. the U.S.
- 5) Lighting the Menorah
- 6) Games
- 7) Foods
- 8) Open Forum

Dec. 20 at 1 p.m. at the Wilbraham Senior Center. This is a free presentation that all are welcome to join. Please call the sign up at 596-8379

Death Notices

Jane E. Godfrey, 100,
of Wilbraham
died on Sunday,
November 3, 2024
Wilbraham Funeral
Home is assisting the
family.

David H. Silva, 98,
Longtime Wilbraham
resident, died on
Wednesday,
November 6, 2024.
Wilbraham Funeral
Home is in charge of
the arrangements.

Cookbook Club at the Wilbraham Library

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

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

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

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

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

Frozen Polish Food Sale

INDIAN ORCHARD - A Frozen Polish Food Sale will be held on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at Immaculate Conception Church Hall, 25 Parker St. Indian Orchard, MA from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pierogi (Cabbage, Potato & Cheese, Sweet Cheese, Blueberry), Golabki, and Kapusta will be available.

All are invited to purchase.

ROBERTS ROOFS

SPECIALIZING IN
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing
Snow Removal
Snow/Ice Damage Repair

Tel. 413-283-4395
Cell 413-237-9434

www.RobertsRoofsInc.com



Trusted Name Since 1982

LUDLOW MEMORIAL COMPANY INC.

Celebrating over 60 Years in Business ~ The Trusz Family

- ❖ Benches ❖ Statues ❖ Monuments ❖ Custom Design Work
- ❖ Plot Maintenance ❖ Bronze Plaques ❖ Cleaning ❖ Markers ❖ Vases
- ❖ On-Site Lettering ❖ Restorations ❖ Cemetery Signage ❖ Granite Signs

201 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 ❖ www.ludlowmemorialcompany.com

413-589-7564 Office ❖ 413-589-7588 Fax ❖ 413-531-5360

STM from page 1

Article Three.

"I wasn't sure why they got this wrong, in my opinion, until I read their report a number of times and found out that the one resource that they used the most was the Mass Municipal Association," Patullo said. "Contrary to what its name is, the Mass Municipal Association is not an organization of towns. It's an organization of Selectmen and mayors. So, the fact that their conclusion was to concentrate power with the Selectmen rather than to have independent, elected positions is kind of a logical conclusion of where they would try to guide the committee."

Patullo said how he had multiple town administrators and multiple Selectmen "instruct me to do things that were contrary to Mass General laws" and that he had to refuse to do.

"I don't know how that would have come out if they held the ability to hire and fire my position. That bothered me an awful lot," Patullo said. "Again, I'm not reflecting on anybody who's here tonight on the stage."

Patullo ended his comments with this quote at the Village Food Mart years back: "It's very tough to get rich in a small town. Everyone's watching."

"I think it's a good thing in small-town government that someone is watching," Patullo said.

James Smith found Article Two "ironic" given Article Four which would increase the number of members for the board from three to five.

"Because they're going to be appointing individual members who are currently elected by the community and not appointed," Smith said.

Addressing the positive argument about "administrative functions only"--meaning it doesn't matter if the positions are elected or appointed--Smith said, "That is not the case."

"For example, the town clerk has discretion on things like the wording of town report regarding the town meeting. Also, has discretion on things like the timing of ballots--or at least--weighing in on it," Smith said. "And there have been instances where there's been some conflicts there and they've been resolved, but those differences of opinion play an important role."

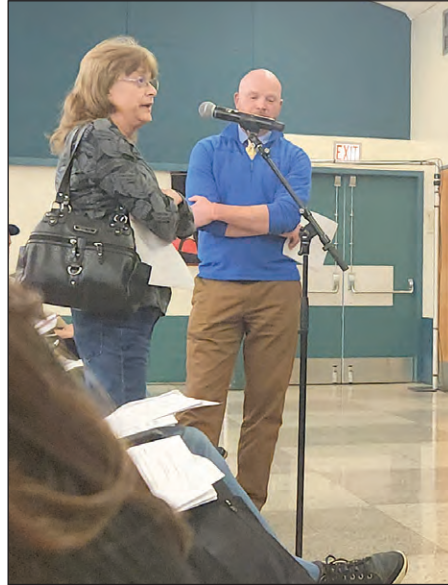
Smith also stressed communications, adding how some people feel more able to express opinions freely with positions such as the town clerk or the tax collector.

"They won't have that freedom of expression if these people are appointed. So, this becomes a filtering mechanism in a communication mechanism where people go in, talk to the tax collector or the treasurer and that gets filtered through the daily interaction of the office of, like, hear some concerns from the community," Smith said. "I think we'll lose that."

Smith's final comments centered on the argument of going after "a larger talent pool," saying he has not seen a time "where a very dedicated and talented person did not step forward for the position."

"So, in summary, I have seven words. If it ain't broke, don't fix it," Smith said.

Jed Berliner stressed checks and balances as part of a democracy, saying "When policy is being made, the positions of power need to be separated, distributed, so that there can be vibrant discussion."



Laura Gogan speaks at the microphone during the Special Fall Town Meeting in Hampden.

"In this case, the clerk has some awesome responsibilities and deserves--my opinion--the independent base of a separate election. Not to be appointed by the Selectboard," Berliner said.

Laura Gogan asked why the change was presented.

"What is the reasoning behind implementing something like that? I don't understand the reason for even the need," Gogan said.

Government Study Committee member Keith Pixley explained a lot of the concerns that were brought up "are things that we discussed at length when we were having our meetings."

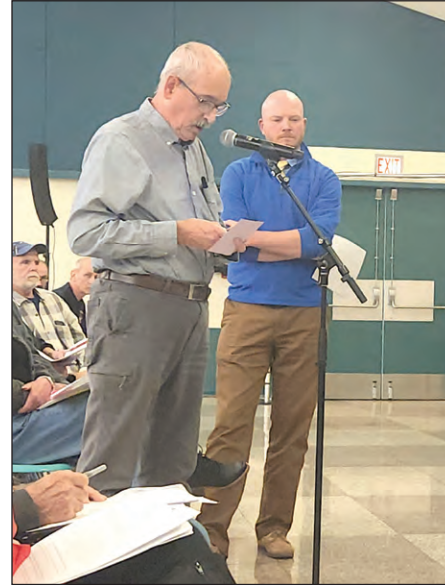
"I share a lot of the same concerns about concentrating power with the Board of Selectmen and a lot of what has been brought forward--a lot of what Mr. Smith and Mr. Patullo said--are things that concern me too," Pixley said. "But in the end, I think it's important for everyone to know that the reason we're bringing this forward, first of all, has nothing to do with the people that are in the positions currently. The people that are in the positions have been in them a long time, we respect them. We're not looking to make a change with them."

Pixley said the change focuses on "the process of how we pick the next people."

"Because there were concerns--as you can see on the screen--the requirements to run for a position like this are minimal. You don't have to have any experience in finance to run for treasurer. You don't have to have experience in anything to run for any of these positions," Pixley said. "We felt as a board that being able to interview and vet the position and pick the right person to do the job, the benefits of that would outweigh the potential negative effect of either not having someone run or not having the right people. So, that was part of our reasoning."

Thad Clavette's biggest concerns were about the talent pool too, commenting how Patullo and Town Clerk Eva Wiseman have "learned a lot over the years" in their roles.

"Those jobs change, okay. Are we looking for some college-educated person in that? I most certainly hope not, okay?" Clavette said. "Myself, I did not graduate high school, but I was a chief operating officer of a \$3 billion company, okay? Nowhere in this presentation--maybe the advisory board has some--talks about what financial impact this is going to have on the town..."



James Smith reads his prepared thoughts on the warrant articles.

After Clavette mentioned figures, Town Moderator Richard Green had stepped in, advising to "steer away" from that part of the discussion "if we're not sure of them," which led to Clavette asking what the real numbers were.

Government Study Committee Chair Donna Hatch said the average count for treasurer/collector for 28 cities and towns was \$80,488.18.

Kathy Pessolano--who noted she was speaking as a resident and not as part of the Advisory Committee--commended the Government Study Committee for their efforts and noted the growth in town along with the diverse population.

"I really feel there are enough qualified residents in Hampden to run for both town clerk and for treasurer," Pessolano said. "Voters are smarter than that. Regardless of whether or not there's any listed qualifications for the job, I think we have a direct democracy here, which is the purest form of democracy we can have. The voters are the legislative branch."

Pessolano stated voting yes for Article Two--and Three--would "move us away from a democratic system to more of an oligarchy."

"An oligarchy means rule by a few," Pessolano said.

After Hatch said a yes vote would put the item on the ballot for the next town election in 2025, Selectboard Chair Don Davenport said the comment about the current people in the roles "being railroaded out" was not true.

"The town meeting voted to establish a Government Study Committee in October of 2022. They worked for a year, they looked at a lot of things and they made their recommendations. They're talking about the future, they're not talking about tomorrow or the next election," Davenport said. "I just want to make you understand that I just took umbrage to the word railroad because those people really worked hard to try to provide a future for the town and what they thought would be helpful to the town."

Tina Doran asked the Selectboard members if a yes by majority vote would mean the current elected officials would be reviewed and would "we need to have them appointed to stay in the positions that they were originally elected to?"

"Do they need to be now appointed and then is there a risk of them not being appointed?" Doran said.

Town Council Rose Crowley answered this question, explaining if the vote was favorable at the town meeting that night

and after the town election--when presented as a ballot question--the position would become appointed.

"The difference between an elected official and an appointed official is that an elected official is answerable to the elected officials. An appointed official is answerable to the body that appoints them," Crowley said.

After Doran repeated her question, Crowley said those currently elected would remain in office "but only until the Board of Selectmen choose to appoint a new officer."

"So that could be a week, that could be a month, that could be years," Crowley said.

"So, technically, the elected people in office no longer have a job until they are appointed?" Doran said.

"Unless they are appointed," Crowley said.

Patullo had the final word on Article Two.

"There's no possible way if this was to pass that the current people can hold their job because this is making mandatory combining the tax collector and the treasurer's job and that's held by two people now," Patullo said. "So, there is no possible way, if this passes, that the Selectmen could hire the same people to do the job."

Article Two was defeated by a majority vote, both in the auditorium and the gymnasium.

For Article Three on combining the elected Treasurer and elected Tax Collector positions to an appointed Treasurer/Tax Collector position, Clavette first presented a motion to amend the original motion to kill the article--which was not done as the consensus in the room was to vote as presented--followed by Andrew Netherwood proposing a motion.

"Am I able to make a motion that we don't bring this back up for five years?" Netherwood said.

Green replied no.

"The answer is no because it's not part of the warrant and, to me, your motion falls outside the four corners of the question," Green said. "So, in order to keep the thing consistent, no, but your question's well asked."

Article Three was defeated by a majority vote both in the cafeteria and gymnasium.

Lastly, Article Four was increasing the Board of Selectmen--now the Selectboard--from three members to five. This too received an unfavorable action recommendation from the Advisory Committee.

Berliner came back to the microphone to say he liked the idea of expanding the board.

"One is I want the Selectboard members to have an opportunity to legally and informally discuss issues. With a three-member board, two of them violates the Open Meeting rule, so they can't have informal discussions. If it takes place, it's illegal. I don't like that," Berliner said. "I like to see five because that will increase public input to the functions of the board, the discussions. It will make it more inefficient and that's the price of democracy. That's the price of having more input, more vibrant discussion and debate, and if five Selectboard members are now going to beat up on the Town Administrator instead of three, that's the downside of the democracy we cherish. To have more input from the public."

Smith also returned, clarifying Berliner's point and adding having five members can create "a chain discussion."

"Person A talks to Person B, then Person B talks to Person C, Person C talks to Person D, etc. So, I do not think that that is a good reason for a positive vote on this," Smith said.

After Tad Brown agreed with Smith and joked about Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant Lauren McCormick having additional bosses if two more members joined the board, Article Four was defeated by a majority vote in both the cafeteria and gymnasium.

Next week, the Times will have a full overview of the Fall Special Town Meeting and what residents had to say on other topics.

Happy Thanksgiving

EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **THANKSGIVING**
There will be an
EARLY CLASSIFIEDS & ADVERTISING DEADLINE
Place your advertisement no later than
Thurs., Nov. 21 Noon

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 • 413-283-8393 • www.turley.com

EARLY DEADLINES FOR PUBLIC NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all public notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 25-29, 2024.

Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue
• Agawam Advertiser News • Sentinel • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Thursday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue
• Barre Gazette • Country Journal
• The Journal Register • Quaboag Current • Ware River News

Friday, November 22 at 2 PM for November 29 Issue
• Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
413-283-8393 • www.turley.com

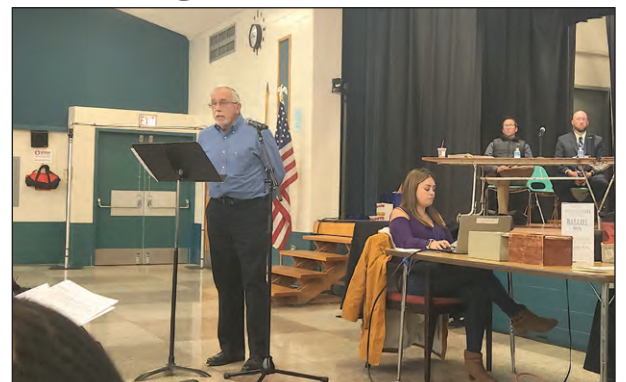
HSC renovation and expansion defeated again at STM



A shot of the updated proposed plans for the Hampden Senior Center renovation and expansion presented during the Special Fall Town Meeting.



Mary Ellen Glover shares her comments on Article 10.



Gary Weiner, chair of the Senior Center Building Committee, conducts his presentation on the updates to the proposed Hampden Senior Center renovation and expansion.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN—After 30 plus minutes of discussion for the proposed senior center renovation and expansion plan during the Special Fall Town Meeting on Nov. 12, the conversation took another turn.

Joe Green presented an amendment to the original motion to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$1.872 million to cover the cost of renovating the senior center.

Amendment to Motion Presented

After a second was presented, Doug Boyd, chair of the Advisory Committee, said the committee recommends unfavorable action.

Town Moderator Richard Green explained after discussion on the amendment, a majority vote on the amendment would be taken.

“If majority passes, we will go to a two-thirds vote on the new number,” Green said.

Weiner responded to this amendment.

“I don’t know where that number came from other than the fact that we did talk that renovation-only was \$1.7 to \$2 million. I would point out—and I think I spoke to that fact—that renovation only does not solve or move the senior center forward and, in fact, what would happen is that the bathrooms that need to be renovated are going to get bigger,” Weiner said. “So, if you don’t change the footprint—you keep the footprint only and the renovation number as it is—the senior center actually loses program space and library space by the enlargement of the bathrooms and with that regard, a lot of the programs that now have to share space and are negated, if you will, on certain days of the week.”

After reiterating his earlier points on the renovation-only scenario, Selectboard member John Flynn asked Treasurer Richard Patullo about the number and Proposition Two and a Half.

“If there’s a lower number, does that language change at all?” Flynn said.

Patullo said the way the amendment was phrased, it would still be subject to Proposition Two and a Half override and given the same bonding authority.

“The only thing that was changed was the number, and obviously, the number changes the scope of the project,” Patullo said. “But, it doesn’t change any of the legal hoops or financial hoops we have to jump through to get there.”

“Even though the lower number possibly could have been fit inside the levy but the way it’s phrased...” Flynn said.

“It could have been, but that’s not the question before us,” Patullo said.

Tina Doran asked about the figure given by Weiner including soft cost, which Weiner clarified that “most” of the soft costs “are

rolled into the \$5.96.”

“What is the expansion without the soft cost?” Doran said.

“Without the soft cost, the cost of the building alone is \$4.75 million,” Weiner said.

Soft costs, he added, would pertain to a construction supervisor or a contingency for the architect to not go over.

Doran, who works at the senior center as an administrative assistant and volunteer coordinator, said, “We’re busting at the seams.”

“A couple of people mentioned that this was brought up to vote twice and voted down twice. There was a lot of miscommunication both times. We had people that left because they thought that it went through—if you remember—okay? So, that was one mistake. Anybody could have made that mistake, but people just left the building,” Doran said. “Then, it went through to the ballot even though we thought it wasn’t going to go through. So, there were people that came into the senior center after the vote was voted down and they were like, ‘Oh, I didn’t know that the vote was going to count so I didn’t go.’”

Doran added there were many seniors she spoke with earlier that day that said they couldn’t come because they don’t drive at night.

“Well, I know that the Friends were offering rides to come to the senior center, but still they were reluctant to do that,” Doran said. “What I’m going to say to you tonight is regardless of how you feel about the expansion, allow this to go to the ballot. Allow it to go to a ballot where the entire town has the opportunity to vote. Not just after 6:30 p.m. at night when it’s dark and it’s cold and we have the majority of our seniors that will not come out.”

As Doran finished her comments that she would personally accept the decision if it went to a vote at the ballot, a point of order was called by the audience, followed by Green wrapping up this portion.

As Connie Witt spoke next and referenced the square footage—which other residents had mentioned prior—Green spoke up again to, also, pause this part of the conversation.

“We’re good because we’re outside the four corners of the article now,” Green said.

Flynn also referenced the prior votes, telling the residents to remember how the last vote required a two-



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Rita Vail speaks her perspective on the Hampden Senior Center renovation and expansion.

thirds vote.

“So, the majority of people here in attendance in May did vote for it. It was successful. It just didn’t make the documented two-thirds and then, I think as it was said, it went to a vote afterwards and for whatever reason, people weren’t sure about the impact of the vote. It didn’t pass there,” Flynn said.

Flynn added how this was a new proposal.

“Be fair about it. This is a part of the community that has served the public with—and the number was—2% of the budget. 30 plus percent of the population with 2% of the budget,” Flynn said. “Please keep in mind that this would bring it up to 5% of the budget.”

The Votes

After Green repeated where the discussion stood for the amend-

ment, Randy

Rivest sought clarification on the parliamentary procedure, which was clarified the amendment would be by majority vote to replace the \$5.96 million amount with the \$1.872 million amount.

If that fails, it would go back to a vote on the original number, which would require a two-thirds vote.

Rivest then proposed a motion to go to a secret ballot, which would also be a majority vote.

Green explained what this entails.

“What’s being asked is that we do a secret ballot on the majority question. It needs to receive a second before we can go any further,” Green said.

This motion received a second. Kathy Pessolano had a point of information request.

“Why are we not being given the opportunity to vote whether or not we want to go to secret ballot? I understand that somebody made a motion and I understand that somebody seconded it, but don’t we as a body have a right to vote whether we want that because that’s not what you said,” Pessolano said.

Green clarified that’s where they were headed was to vote on whether to go to a secret ballot.

The secret ballot vote was defeated by a majority vote in both the cafeteria and the gymnasium.

Doran returned to the microphone for a clarification on the

amendment.

“If you amend the dollar amount down and then you just vote on, or, and it’s voted down on this and we go to the \$5.9. If the \$5.9 doesn’t go through, is it over?” Doran said. “Does that mean that we no longer can ask for the renovations which we so desperately need?”

Green confirmed yes.

“This will end it for now,” Green said.

When asked why not go from the \$5.96 million first then to the amendment, Green said parliamentary procedure has to be followed.

After Melanie Joy Cooper made a motion to vote on the amendment, the vote finally commenced.

“Let’s move the question forward,” Joy Cooper said.

The vote on the amended motion to reduce the number from \$5.96 million to \$1.872 million was defeated by a majority vote in both the cafeteria and the gymnasium.

Now, for the final vote which was the original proposal on the town warrant.

After being counted manually, the final count was 108 yes, 172 no, with the percentage at .38 or 38%. Therefore, it was defeated by a two-thirds vote in both the cafeteria and gymnasium.

Next week, we’ll take a look at what residents shared on this article that led to its defeat again.

READY TO COOK!

THANKSGIVING DINNER

STUFFED TURKEY - SIDES - DESSERT

DINNER FEEDS 10 PEOPLE

\$69.99

USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC **\$1.39** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH GROUND PORK..... **\$2.77** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 SPIRAL HAM **\$1.29** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH KAYEM BUDABALL WHOLE SMOKED PIT HAM..... **\$3.66** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH SKINLESS & SHANKLESS HATFIELD OLDTIME WHOLE HAM **\$2.89** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH LEG LAMB..... **\$5.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS WHOLE OR HALF RIB EYE CUT FREE **\$8.99** lb

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

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHOULDER **\$7.99** lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF **\$4.99** 5 LB BAG

USDA INSP. FROZEN TURKEY BREAST **\$1.69** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG **\$2.22** lb

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

USDA INSP. FROZEN SWEET POTATO PIE **\$2.99** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN BACON WRAPPED SHRIMP 15 COUNT **\$8.99** ea

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP 16/20 COUNT 2 LB BAG **\$14.99** ea

ALSO A COMPLETE LINE OF GOURMET CAKES & DESSERTS

90 Meat Outlet

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

SALE DATES: 11/20/24-11/28/24
CLOSED: 11/29 & 11/30

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

happy thanksgiving

90 Avocado St. Springfield
413-737-1288
www.90meat.com
We reserve the right to limit quantities.



Cora Pace gets the set.

SPORTS

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Falcons season ends in second round



Saniyah Dawkins sends a spike over the net.



Anna O'Toole gets a block.



The Falcons defend the net.



Haley Powers serves for the Falcons

WILBRAHAM – After a 12-6 season, the Minnechaug Regional High School girls volleyball team was able to enter the Division 2 State Tournament earlier this month. The Falcons faced off with Putnam Vocational in the first round, beating the Beavers 3-1. The Falcons continued to draw local in the state-wide event with Longmeadow in the second round on Nov. 4. Unfortunately, the Lancers were too much for Minnechaug as the Lancers swept the Falcons 3-0 to end the season. Minnechaug went 13-7 overall.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

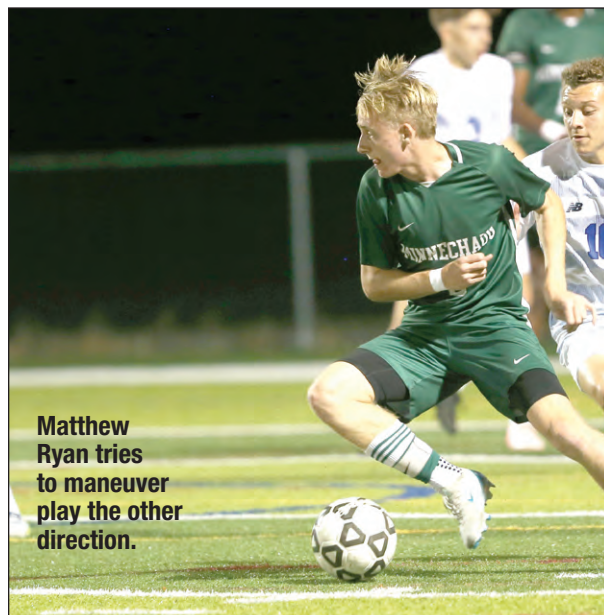
Falcons advance to quarterfinals



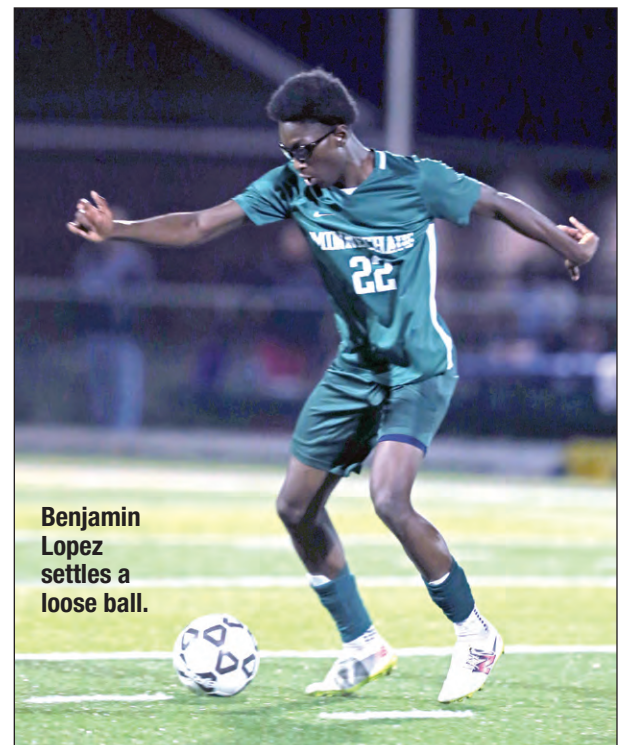
Matthew Ryan fights for a header.



Jediah Stewart runs for the ball.



Matthew Ryan tries to maneuver play the other direction.



Benjamin Lopez settles a loose ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School boys soccer team continued their trek through the Division 2 State Tournament. They defeated Reading Memorial High School on Friday, Nov. 8 to advance into the quarterfinals. In the win, Bryce Barlow had two goals while Brady Suomala and Paul Diehl also scored. The Falcons would play Hingham in the quarterfinals and fell in that round. Highlights from that final matchup will be in next week's edition.

Boys soccer alumni game to take place Nov. 29

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug varsity boys annual alumni game will be played on Nov. 29, 10:30 a.m., at the Wilbraham Soccer Club fields. Former and current players as well

as friends and family are encouraged to attend. Players should be in proper soccer gear. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the game.

Late goals get T-Birds much-needed win

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (6-8-1-0) got a clutch late-game goal from their captain en route to a 4-2 win over the Charlotte Checkers (7-4-0-1) on Saturday night at the MassMutual Center. Springfield picked up its first set of back-to-back wins this season in the process.

The T-Birds played a stout defensive opening period against the AHL's most potent offense, keeping the Checkers to just nine shot attempts and one unsuccessful power play opportunity. Vadim Zherenko has a stable start to his night, denying each Charlotte shot that reached the blue paint.

At the other end, former T-Birds head coach Geordie Kinnear also had his team locked in defensively. The Checkers also killed off one Springfield power play, and Ken Appleby had answers for each of the T-Birds' seven first-period shots.

2:30 into the second, one of the newcomers to North America got Springfield the night's first tally. Leo Loof brilliantly maneuvered himself down the right wing into the slot, moving the puck to his forehand and rattling a shot off the post. While Loof did not have luck on his side, his fellow Swede Simon Robertsson did, as the rookie arrived in the slot, found the loose puck, and snapped it past a fallen Appleby to give Springfield the 1-0 lead. It was Robertsson's first AHL goal, and it marked the first time in three games that Springfield tallied the first marker.

The Springfield power play, which had not scored since Nov. 2, got into the action next at 5:57, as Aleksanteri Kaskimäki uncorked a one-timer from the right circle off a setup from Samuel Johanneson. Marcus Sylvegard parked himself in

front of the net and deftly tipped the shot past Appleby for his second man-advantage goal of the season, and the T-Birds lead moved to 2-0.

A late penalty and subsequent unsportsmanlike conduct call put Charlotte on the power play for four minutes at the tail end of the middle stanza. With just 1.8 seconds left in the frame, Trevor Carrick held a clearing attempt in and snapped a shot past Zherenko to bring the Checkers to within a goal heading into the third.

The visitors built off that goal at the 2:23 mark of the third when Marek Alscher moved up from the blue line to find a loose puck in a scramble and score his first AHL goal to tie the game, 2-2.

The stalemate carried into the back half of the final frame, and a pair of matching minors set the teams up at 4-on-4 hockey with less than six minutes to play. Almost immediately, the T-Birds rose to the occasion. Hunter Skinner raced to the right point to hold a puck at the blue line. With no hesitation, he whipped a pass diagonally to a streaking Matthew Peca on the left-wing side. Appleby denied Peca's first attempt with the pad, but the captain corralled the rebound and swept it into an empty net, restoring the T-Birds lead, 3-2, with 5:29 to go.

With Appleby pulled in the closing minutes, Charlotte kept pressing the issue, but Zherenko and the T-Birds defense stiffened. Dylan Peterson blocked a last-ditch effort, cleared the defensive zone, and tapped the puck into the empty cage to wrap up Springfield's win.

Zherenko earned his first win since Oct. 12 with 25 stops on the night, while Appleby had 22 saves for Charlotte.

Owls finish football season with .500 record

WESTFIELD – Westfield State senior running back Dylan Disabella (Granby, Conn.) punctuated the Owls' senior day with 241 yards rushing and three TD's to power Westfield to a 22-7 win over Fitchburg State.

Westfield closes the season 4-6 overall and 4-5 in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference under first-year head coach Lou Conte, Jr. Fitchburg ends its first season under coach Izzy Abraham at 2-8, 1-8 in the MASCAC.

Disabella and the Owls methodically ground out the win, as he finished with 35 carries, and scored on a 7-yard run in the first quarter, and a 21-yard run in the second quarter to grab a 14-0 lead at the half. He added a seven-yard TD run in the third quarter. He finishes the year as the Owls leading rusher with 763 yards and 7 rushing TD's on 143 carries, switching into the primary ball-carrier role for Westfield after a mid-season injury to Sean Willis (450 yards). Disabella also led the Owls in receiving for the season with 14 catches for 240 yards and two more TD's.

The Owls tacked on a 28-yard Cooper Harvey (Niskayuna, NY) field goal to take a 22-0 lead in the fourth quarter, before Fitchburg finally got on the board with 31 seconds left in the contest on a 50-yard Devin Lebron (Ledyard, Conn.) to Jeremy Allik (Natick, Mass.) completion.

Westfield dominated in time of possession, 42:42-17:18, and had 342 yards of total offense compared to 216 for the Falcons. The game also featured eight fumbles and two interceptions between the two teams, and a combined 26 flags for 227 yards in penalties.

Ryan Scott (Dalton, Mass./Wahconah) started at QB and finished 4-10 for 72 yards passing. He was relieved by Lucas Pickard (Dalton, Mass./Wahconah) in the second half, who was just 1-1, but that was a 38-yarder to Jordan Lanoue (Belchertown, Mass.). Jacob Swinehart (Holyoke, Mass.) finished

with three catches for 63 yards.

Fitchburg's offense was led by 55 yard rushing from Matthew Aguirre (Laredo, Tex.). Emilo Cabey (Boston, Mass./Dover Sherborn) caught three balls for 48 yards. Starter Rocky Marchitelli (Gunnison, Colo.) was 6-12 for 58 yards passing, but had to leave the game after receiving a second unsportsmanlike conduct foul. Lebron relieved him and completed 3 of 10 passes for 50 yards and a td.

Westfield's Eric Lovell (Barnstable, Mass.) picked off a pair of Lebron's passes, including a 24-yard return to the Falcons' 7-yard line in the third quarter that set up Disabella's third score of the day. Senior DT Cade Nelson (Shrewsbury, Mass.) led the Owls with seven tackles with 1.5 TFL, and Justyn Gardener (East Hartford, Conn.) added six stops and half a sack. Dylan Zuerblis (Wethersfield, Conn.) netted 1.5 sacks.

The Falcons defense was led by 13 tackles and a sack from Sebastian Burmester (Germantown, NY), with John McGarry (Highland Lake, NY) adding eight stops.

Westfield State honored its 27 seniors before the game, and all who were healthy for the game played with the big lead late in the fourth quarter.

Jacob Applebee, Gavin Bullock, Dylan Clark, Curtis Dion, Dylan Disabella, Sean Ferguson, Gabriel Fernandez, Justyn Gardner, Nikolas Giotsas, Chris Greene, Jordan Lanoue, Adam Legere, Max Margeson, Anthony Messore, Cade Nelson, Tim O'Connor, Gilberto Rodriguez, Ethan Russell, Connor Schlittler, Blake Simpson, Jake Swinehart, Casey Tang, Matthew Varteresian, Nate Walton, Noah Will, Malachi Wright, and Alvin Yvon comprised the Owls senior class recognized in the pregame ceremonies.

Westfield finished with four wins, one more than the 2023 campaign, and their best total since the fall of 2018 when the Owls finished 5-5.

This Week in Rec

Andrea Rust
Administrative Clerk

WILBRAHAM - Fall is in full swing with leaves falling and temperatures dropping. Here at the Parks and Rec, we are wrapping up with outdoor sports and transitioning to indoor programs. Basketball season has started

for grades K-8th, and registration for High School Intra-mural Basketball begins Tuesday, November 26th. Wrestling, Pickleball Lessons, Kids Judo/Jujitsu Clinic, and Dog Obedience Training with Essential Canine are all underway at Memorial School. If

you prefer to be outdoors all year, join the Wilbraham Hiking Club on one or all of their upcoming hikes. There is always something to do in Wilbraham year around.

Many of these programs are made possible by the Wilbraham Friends of Recreation (FOR) who raise money to support the funding for projects at our recreation facilities, programs, and scholarships. FOR depends on generous donations from residents, groups,

and businesses in Wilbraham and surrounding towns to fund the needed improvements. Come out and support their upcoming event on Wednesday, November 27th from 4-9 PM -- Celebrity Bartending Night at Pafumi's on Main. Local celebrities join forces behind the bar to serve drinks to raise funds for FOR. Each hour is sponsored



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

by local businesses including Secure Energy Solutions, Country Bank, Country Club of Wilbraham, and Team 413 of Coldwell Banker. All tips are donated directly to the Wilbraham Friends of Recreation to fund current projects including the Falcon Wrestling Room improvements, outdoor pickleball amenities, and Spec Pond renovations.

We hope you'll invite friends, family, and coworkers for a fun night out to support the Wilbraham Friends of Recreation. And remember—tip big and often!!

NOTE: Please visit WilbrahamRec.com for more information on all of our programs and to register for activities.

Available evenings and Saturdays.
Scan today to book a consult!

pop
ORTHODONTICS

75 Post Office Park
#7507, Wilbraham
413-675-7570
www.mypoportho.com



100% locally owned and operated

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage. For more information on news or community features for Wilbraham Hampden Times, please email krivers@turley.com.

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

FIREWOOD

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

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

WANTED

Buy, Sell & Trade Video Games
Retro World
413-301-5020 M-S 11-7
187 Main St.
Indian Orchard, MA


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

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

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**

JUNK REMOVAL

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


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.

JUNK REMOVAL

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

SERVICES

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

JACKIE'S BOOKKEEPING SERVICES
Call **(413) 455-4020**

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?
Look no further!
Peter's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate!
(413) 366-1703
LICENSED & INSURED

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HANDYMAN RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS. Powerwashing, home repairs, interior/exterior painting, ceiling/wall repairs and chimney repairs. Fully licensed/insured. Lic. #105950CSL. Call **413-566-5596/413-433-5073**.

SERVICES

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.

LANDSCAPING

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

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

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**

SERVICES

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES.
Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call **413-896-8264**.

RETIRED GUY
Will paint an average size room for \$200. Quality work. References available. Dave **413-323-6858**.

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**

ROOFING

JENKINS ROOFING specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - **413-566-5596/413-433-5073**. Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

SERVICES

SNOWPLOWING

SNOW PLOWING
Residential, commercial and business.
413-388-5854

TREE WORK

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

STUMP GRINDING

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

AUTO

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

HELP WANTED

QVDC IS LOOKING for a part-time facilities person to attend to three properties in downtown Ware. Duties include minor repairs, scheduling necessary inspections and serving as a liaison with outside contractors. Previous maintenance experience preferred. Please visit www.qvdc.org for information.

SEEKING WEEKLY HOUSE-KEEPING: 1 floor - 2 baths, 1 bedroom, living room, kitchen and den. Southwick/Feeding Hills line. **413-530-6747**

DRIVERS

INTERSTATE BATTERIES IS SEEKING A DRIVER/WAREHOUSE for deliveries in Western Mass area. Qualifications include: clean driving record; ability to lift heavy weights; stable job history; good communication skills; high work standards & strong self-organizational skills. Apply in person **8 am-5pm M-F 9am-12pm Sat. 230 Chauncey Walker Street (Rte 21) Belchertown**

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.

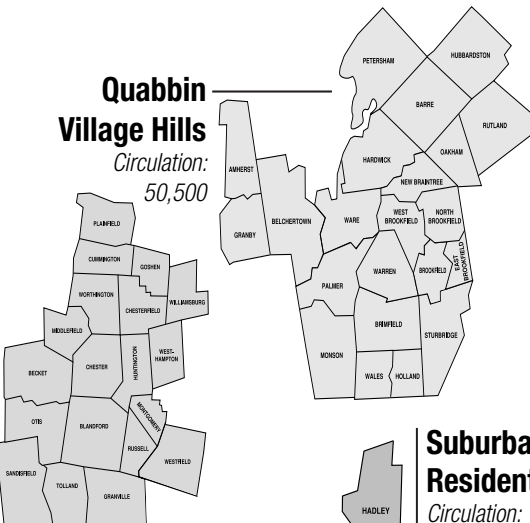
CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
MONDAY AT NOON

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

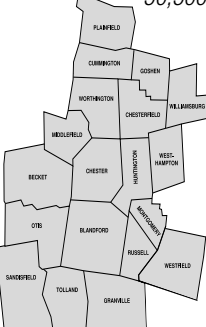
MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

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

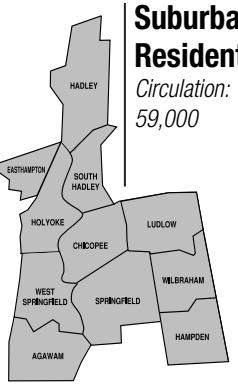
Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500



Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800



Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50c 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: _____

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

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

James Rooney
Chair

11/14, 11/21/2024

Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 6:30 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA on the application of Fiore Grassetti for a Special Permit under Section 6.1, 6.11 (1) of the Hampden Zoning Bylaw to allow the construction of a detached 30 ft. X 40 ft. metal building and

the construction of a 22 ft. X 21 ft. metal carport with (3) enclosed sides which both exceed, in aggregate area, a square footage which is more than one half (1/2) the ground floor area of the main dwelling including any attached garage, at the Grassetti residence located at 115 Stafford Road. Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours.

For the Board,
Madison Pixley, Chair
Hampden Planning Board
11/21, 11/28/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0359CA

In the matter of:
Hayven Sea Brault
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Hayven Sea Brault of Wilbraham, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Hayven Sea Belsapin
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/06/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which

you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: November 07, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/21/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P2316EA

Estate of:
Edith L. Cross
Also known as:
Edith S. Cross

Date of Death: 08/06/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

The Petitioner requests that: **Richard L. Cross of Southwick, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right

to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/02/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

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

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

Date: November 04, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
11/21/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **December 6, 2024** the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle :
2019 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: KMHD84LF8KU885556
COLOR: Red
LKO: Zachery Mazzocca
5 Blackhorse Lane
Burlington MA 01803
and IC Credit Union
300 Bemis Rd
Burlington MA

R & S Assoc. Inc
PO Box 543

Wilbraham MA 01095

413-596-4374

11/21, 11/28, 12/5/2024



RICHARD R. GREEN

Insurance Agency, Inc.

• AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE

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

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

Two Locations:



128 Main St.
Monson, MA
267-3495

32 Somers Rd.
Hampden, MA
566-0028



Fax: 413-267-3496

Email: richardgreenins@gmail.com

www.richardgreeninsurance.com



Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

Haven't started your Holiday Shopping Yet?



Start now and you could put a bow on the biggest gift of all
A NEW HOME!

Maureen McGarrett Hall
REALTOR®

MA 9585138 | Member MLS | Equal Opportunity Housing



GALLAGHER
REAL ESTATE

413-364-4994
realtybypmaureen@gmail.com

Town Tree Lighting to feature visit from Santa

WILBRAHAM – Two traditional civic organizations will once again present the atmosphere of a Holiday winter wonderland in the center of Wilbraham on Sunday, Dec. 8 to kick off the season. All that is needed will be some mood snow, says Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club President Peter Salerno.

Prior to the Town Tree Lighting, which starts at 4:30 p.m. in Gazebo Park, sponsored by the Rotary Club, the Atheneum Society of Wilbraham will present their annual Old Meeting House Museum Christmas Tree Festival running at 450 Main St. from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. chaired by Trustee Marianne Wagner.

The Town Tree Lighting will feature holiday music and refreshments starting at 4:30 p.m. With the help of the Town of Wilbraham's Fire Department, Santa will arrive at Gazebo Park around 5 p.m. on a Wilbraham

Fire Engine said the Tree Lighting Chairman and club secretary Brad Sperry. LUSO Federal Credit Union will provide hot chocolate and cookies for families attending the event, in addition to candy canes for the children visiting with Santa under the Gazebo.

Salerno commented, "In keeping with Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self", and in the spirit of the "Giving Season", the Club will be collecting hygiene item donations at the tree lighting. Families attending the event are asked to place personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soft soap, combs and more in donation boxes at Gazebo Park. The Rotary Club will deliver the items to the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard to help needy families in Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow and Springfield.

To consolidate the town's holiday displays, Boy Scout Troop 359 will relocate the Nativity Scene from Crane Park, where it has been for several years, to Gazebo Park. There will also be a menorah on site to celebrate Chanukah.

Sperry said local businesses are lending a hand to support the event. Business owners Mark and Heidi Pafumi of Pafumi's On Main, and Bobby Ward, proprietor of The Guilty Grape Beer, Wine & Provisions, are providing generous contributions of their time and resources in decorating the tree and the park.

For more information about the event, or the Rotary club, contact Club Secretary and event chair, Brad Sperry at 413-537-4171.



From a previous event, members of the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club gather in the Gazebo Park Gazebo to greet Santa after he lights the Town Christmas Tree. (Times file photo)

New Owners



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



Climate Controlled Units Available

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



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

HAMPDEN SEPTIC

WE'RE STILL TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS!

Time To Get Your Septic Pumped, Call To Book Now!



WE ARE A LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED BUSINESS

*Pumping • Installation • Title 5 Inspections • Perc Tests
SEWER PUMP REPAIRS • FULLY INSURED • FAMILY OWNED*




24/7 Emergency Service (413) 374-1322 **566-2916**

You are cordially invited to attend the

Wilbraham Christmas Tree Lighting

a community-wide Holiday Event

Hosted by
The Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden

Please bring your donations of hygiene items (shampoo, liquid soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, etc.) which the Rotary Club will donate to local organizations serving families and individuals in need.

❄️ Surprise Visitor from the North Pole at 5:00 PM ❄️

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th
Music & Refreshments 4:30 PM
in GAZEBO PARK

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times,
Media Sponsor