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Toy Drive



Members of the Hampden Police Department and Hampden Fire Department pose with Edna Rodriguez, director of Brightside for Families and Children and director of Behavioral Health for Mercy Medical Center and Brightside, and Santa Claus with the many toy donations received during this year's Toy Drive.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Police Association and the Hampden Fire Department hosted a toy drive to support local families and Brightside for Families and Children.

The toy drive ran from Dec. 2 through 14, with the community dropping off new, unwrapped toys at the police station, fire station and Monson Savings Bank.

On Dec. 14, the toy drive culminated in a Stuff the Cruiser/Fill the Fire Truck event outside Bethlehem Church from 1 to 4 p.m.

Santa Claus also stopped by from 2 to 3 p.m. to hear what children wanted for Christmas, with the children receiving free candy canes

and firefighter hats.

Reserve Police Officer Todd Schneider explained he, Ofc. William Jacques and Sgt. Thomas Yvon got together for the event--now in its second year-- and the three of them wanted to support Brightside.

"This is fantastic support. We did not expect to go over a cruiser," Schneider said. "Last year, we did it just in the fire station with no Santa and we were able to fill up all the tables in the training room with toys and then those were delivered. This year, we decided that because of all of the attention we got from the town and the support that we got from the town, we decided to partner with Brightside before the event. That way, we knew where the toys were going to go and who we would be helping out."

Schneider said teaming up with the fire department came together after the Public Safety Night Out in October.

"Through that partnership--at the end of it--I mentioned that we were going to be getting into a toy drive and they absolutely jumped on board with great support here and they brought two fire trucks, two apparatus, six people. It's been awesome," Schneider said.

On choosing Brightside, Schneider said a friend reached out to him about needing a place to go with toys and mentioned the organization.

"They do so much for the families that they take care of. Not only the families of the sick that are at

Please see **TOY DRIVE**, page 22

Reed Honored with Gold Cane

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent



Submitted photos the Reed Family

Frank L. Reed, Jr., with three of his five children. From left: Loring K. Reed, Frank L. Reed, Jr., JoAnn Reed Novak and Jay Reed.

WILBRAHAM—Frank L. Reed, Jr., Wilbraham's oldest citizen, was recently recognized with the town's Boston Post gold cane. Reed will turn 104 on December 23.

The gold-headed ebony cane, first bestowed upon Wilbraham's oldest male resident in 1909, is on permanent display at the Wilbraham Senior Center. Reed was presented with a plaque to celebrate his longevity and years of residence in the town on October 29, 2024. After nearly 80 years of living in Wilbraham, Reed especially loves the sweeping views of the valley—from Westover Air Reserve Base to Bradley International Airport—that he sees from his home on the mountain. The higher, the better, he says.

Upon receiving the gold cane, Reed shared his personal wisdom on living well for more than a century: Don't get over-stressed. Walk everyday and watch your weight, he advises. He does not smoke, but enjoys one cocktail a night.

Reed was born in 1920 and raised in Palmer, Mass. During World War II he served in the U.S. Army Air Force as a pilot. After the war he married Jean Kempton—also of Palmer—in 1945 and moved to Wilbraham to be closer to the family business.

The Reeds built their first house at 14 Merrill Road in Wilbraham. While residing there, they had all five of their children: Loring K. Reed, JoAnn Reed Novak, Jeffrey C. Reed, Jennifer Reed Marshall and Jay Reed.

The family moved to Ridge Road in 1965. The family business, Utility Manufacturing on Boston

Please see **REED**, page 7

Wilbraham United Church hosts Annual Holly Fair

By Hannah Yeasley
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The halls of Wilbraham United Church filled with holiday shoppers on Saturday, Dec. 14 for the 14th Annual Holly Fair.

Over 80 local vendors set up booths, selling everything from jewelry and homemade headbands to flavored marshmallows and homemade maple syrup.

The Fair began at 9 a.m. and ran until 3 p.m. In addition to shopping options, there was also live music, hot food, raffle items and the highly anticipated Cookie Walk.

Upon entry, guests were greeted by the volunteers behind the raffle table, where they could purchase tickets and drop them in one of over 80 baskets. A vast



majority of the winnable items were donated by vendors that had booths at the fair.

Guests also received a paper directory that laid out which booths were in which rooms; the Fair used all three floors of the church, as well as rehearsal spaces and the large performance hall.

Signs were posted in hallways and stairwells, directing shoppers to food, shopping or the Cookie Walk.

The Cookie Walk is a huge draw for the

Please see **HOLLY FAIR**, page 23

Photos Courtesy of Chrissy Plumb

The group of Cookie Angels working the Cookie Walk. From left to right: Judy Marek, Nan Bernard, Chrissy Plumb (back), Sandy Harris, Candy Dearborn, Jo Miner, Poppy Nelson, and Gail Lima. Some were there to take money and tickets, others were there to keep the cookies organized, and others' jobs were to tie off the boxes with a cute ribbon bow once they were full. All of them are WUC members.

MRHS students participate in Hands-Only CPR Training

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - Students at Minnechaug Regional High School had the opportunity to take part in Hands-Only CPR training on Dec. 2.

The training, which took place at the high school, was in collaboration with the fire department, HWRSD Director of Health Services Jennifer Puhalski and HWRSD Nurse Care Coordinator Amy LoMascolo, with 179 juniors and seniors in total learning CPR.

Other life-saving skills the students learned included Stop the Bleed, choking and Narcan.

Fire Capt. and Fire and Life Safety Educator Patrick Farrow was thrilled with the students participating, stressing the importance of this training.

"Taking the short amount of time to learn hands-only CPR is an investment in the safety of those around you at any moment. It's a small effort that can play a major role in someone's survival during a cardiac arrest event," Farrow said.

Michael Orzech, a teacher and department chair at Minnechaug for Physical Education and Health, shared Puhalski and LoMascolo approached him last year about running CPR, AED and Narcan awareness training for the seniors.

From there, the three of them met with the Coordinator of Patient Simulation at Springfield Technical Community College and Wilbraham Firefighter/Paramedic Jeffrey Witek to come up "with a game plan to conduct this training with all second-semester seniors."

"This year we met in the fall and made some adjustments and the WFD and district nurses were able to provide more staff so we were able to present this important information to 179 junior/senior students on Dec. 2," Orzech said.



Photos courtesy of Patrick Farrow

A close-up shot of a Minnechaug Regional High School student learning CPR.

Orzech added the training will occur again in the spring for the second-semester juniors and seniors, hoping students understand the impact of the training.

"The importance of this training is that whether you are a high school student or an adult, you gain the understanding of what it takes to potentially save someone's life with confidence," Orzech said. "I'm very grateful to the WFD, Amy and Jen for bringing this important training to our students here at MRHS."

Witek explained how Hands-Only CPR is a campaign through the American Heart Association.

"It is not a full CPR course, but a short presentation focusing on two steps; Call 911 and perform chest compression. The HWRSD Nursing Department and the Wilbraham Fire Department have expanded the program to include AED awareness, choking first aid, Opiate overdose signs and symptoms and evacuation and exit awareness," Witek said.

Witek said the fire department--through



A group photo of juniors and seniors at Minnechaug Regional High School, members of the Wilbraham Fire Department



A Minnechaug Regional High School student performs CPR during the Hands-Only CPR Training at the high school on Dec. 2.

the Fire Prevention and EMS divisions--has a goal of reaching 1,000 community members every year with this training.

"Early CPR improves survival outcomes in patients in cardiac arrest. When we reach a large group of young people, we empower hundreds of community members to act in a crisis. This program increases the chance that in the event someone in our community suffers from a cardiac arrest, early and effect CPR will be delivered," Witek said.

On what he enjoys about doing the training in the community, Witek shared this.

"Any program that allows us to get out and interact with the public is enjoyable. The fire department is involved with Community Risk Reduction beginning with fire and life safety programs at the elementary schools all the way to Senior Safe education. When we see the education applied out in the community it is extremely rewarding," Witek said.

For LoMascolo, it's all about teaching and sharing important information.

"As nurses, Jen and I felt it was very important to provide this potentially life-saving information to as many students as possible. Being able to collaborate with the WFD was critical to the success of the program and allowed the students to break into small groups and practice their skills and ask questions of the nurses and WFD," LoMascolo said. "Our hope is that the students will now feel empowered and more likely to help in an emergency situation."

Puhalski added awareness is key.

"I think we all agree that one of the greatest outcomes of this collaboratively led interaction with students is to promote an increased awareness of the student's surroundings and to be better prepared to handle potential life-threatening situations," Puhalski said. "Although the training we provided was not designed to certify students, we emphasized the importance of CPR certification and offered resources to help them achieve it."

Puhalski expressed her gratitude to the fire department along with the school district for their support.

"We are so lucky to have the support and collaboration with the Wilbraham Fire Department and Minnechaug teachers and administration," Puhalski said. "We hope to keep building on this."

Witek wants the community to know the CPR training at Minnechaug "is successful and well-received by the students and parents," encouraging others to take part in future training and to get certified.

"We are always looking for ways to grow and program to best benefit the students. We anticipate this collaborative will continue to be successful for years to come and all juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to participate," Witek said. "We encourage anyone interested to seek out a full CPR course, which can be found online."

CORRECTION:

In our Dec. 12 story on Macy's Mission, it was brought to our attention that there was a mistake with Macy's last name. It was misspelled as Felt when, in actuality, the correct spelling is Feit. We apologize for the error.



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WMS supports children in need at 14th Annual Pajama Drive

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - Students at Wilbraham Middle School stepped up once again to support children in need for the 14th Annual Pajama Drive.

This year, the middle school collected over 100 pairs of pajamas for distribution to children in the Springfield Housing Authority. Also, in partnership with Scholastic, each child received a book with their new pair of pajamas.

The drive began after Veterans Day and ran through Dec. 10.

The drive originated through sixth grade English Language Arts teacher Stacy Dwyer and, since its inception, several thousand pairs of pajamas have been collected.

Dwyer retired from WMS last year, with the staff stepping up to keep the drive going.

Bright and early on Dec. 13, students and staff gathered in the lobby with the donations as they met with Lynne Cimino of Springfield Housing Authority, who thanked everyone for their continued support.

The students then assisted Cimino in bringing donations to her car.

Cimino stressed the importance of literacy.

"Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world," Cimino said.

Paraprofessional Lisa McDiarmid shared that drives like this help students understand there are people in need in the community.

"It's just a great way to let children here know that there are children who never worn a pair of pajamas or don't have a book or a new book that belongs to them," McDiarmid said. "I think once you promote reading, it just helps with everything. The younger you expose children to the written word, the better success they will have later in their scholastic life or in their everyday life. Reading menus, reading directions, reading anything. Reading



Students and staff from Wilbraham Middle School pose for a group photo with their pajama donations from the 14th Annual Pajama Drive.

Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

anything is very important."

McDiarmid was thrilled with the donations.

"I'm pleased that we got that many and Lynn is also very pleased," McDiarmid said. "That's all that matters that we help and this is the season of giving to those less fortunate."

Reflecting on the drive itself, McDiarmid expressed pride for the students coming together and donating.

"It brightens your day," McDiarmid said. "They step up." Also, how the drive instills values of community service and giving back.

"I think it's a great platform to think beyond yourself because, especially in this age of students, it's all about me. It's me, me, me," McDiarmid said. "Well, it is about you, but you have counterparts that don't have the life that you have. So, I think it's up to us to tell them there are less fortunate people out there."

Elaborating on this, McDiarmid recalled when her family was driving downtown when her kids were really little and her son pointed out an apartment complex.

After telling her son that people live there when he asked, her son said, "Where do they ride their bikes? Where do they play catch with their dad?"

"That just struck me as we're so cloistered in this well-to-do community that, sometimes, we forget that there's a life beyond us just down the road a couple miles," McDiarmid said. "So, I think it's important to let them know there are people out there that are much less fortunate than you are, so be happy that you are fortunate."

McDiarmid added the giving back won't stop here, with a food drive planned for January or February to support local food banks post-holiday season.

"So, we're going to try and do that," McDiarmid said.

McDiarmid wants the community to know that "when it comes down to it," they--the students--help and are happy to.

"When we tell them why we do this and why it's important, I think they open their hearts as well, which is important, again, to think beyond yourself," McDiarmid said.



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VFW Post 9397 hosts Cookies with Santa



Santa Claus with his elf helpers: Abigail (Left) and Isabel (Right) McElroy.



Dorothy McElroy Hands out cookies and crafts.



Wesley McElroy and Marie LeMoine helped out at the event and gave out hot chocolate.



All of the families are having a great time at the Cookies with Santa Event, the first ever at the VFW Post 9397 in Hampden.



Carrie Joseph signs the registered families into the event, welcoming attendees to Cookies with Santa.



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen
Santa arrives at the VFW Post 9397 in Hampden.

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - On Dec. 14, the Hampden Auxiliary and VFW Post 9397 held their first ever Cookies with Santa event.

At the VFW, which stands for Veterans of Foreign Wars, children made little foam crafts of Christmas animals and also enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies as well as a visit from Santa Claus.

The VFW worked in part with the Hampden Auxiliary. The auxiliary organized the crafts and snacks, while the VFW organized Santa's arrival and the presents that he gave out to the children.

At the front of the event was the registration, where Carrie Joseph helped cross off the names of registered families. She is the president of the Auxiliary of the Hampden VFW Post and this is her third year as president.

mas party, it wasn't really geared towards kids," Dorothy McElroy said. "So, I actually talked with my president like why don't we do something that is geared towards the kids? So, she talked with the Commander and it's here."

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USDA INSP. HATFIELD OLD TIME SKINLESS SHANKLESS HARDWOOD SMOKED WHOLE HAM \$2⁸⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN COOK'S HAM PORTIONS BUTT & SHANK \$1⁴⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BACON WRAPPED SHRIMP 15 COUNT \$8⁹⁹ ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS DINNER HAM AVERAGE 5 LB \$1⁹⁹ lb		USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN HADDOCK FILLETS \$5⁹⁹ lb
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merry christmas

"I'm so excited just to spread the cheer of the holiday season," Joseph said.

In regards to the VFW, Joseph said this.

"The VFW is an important organization which does service to our veterans in our community. And it's a great organization," Joseph said.

There were many volunteers at the event, including Dorothy and Wesley McElroy.

Dorothy helped hand out cookies and crafts to the children, while Wesley is the VFW agative and an officer at the VFW who helped out with all the various functions in regard to ringing in the Christmas cheer for the day.

"I used to be a part of the American Legion down in Texas, and we used to have things for kids for Christmas time and I noticed that last year when I came to the Christ-

"I always love doing these things, so I'm happy that we can put this on and we're looking forward to putting it on again next year," Wesley McElroy said.

Marie LeMoine, the VFW Auxiliary, was in attendance as well. She was providing cookies, presents, and hot chocolate as well as taking pictures of all the kids.

"It's a community and an effort to provide this opportunity for kids and their families to see Santa. It's a free party so to speak, and to see the smile on the kids faces and the excitement right down to the hot chocolate and marshmallows which they go crazy with, but they're really enjoying themselves and I think it's great for the parents too," LeMoine said.

The star of the show was the big man himself: Santa Claus stopped by and let children take pictures with him, who also told him what they wanted for Christmas, and then Santa and his elf friends gave them a little toy as a gift.

"I wanted to see all the kids right before we go into getting ready to deliver the toys," Santa said. "This is the first time that I've heard that this VFW has done this and I hope they do it again next year and we get a whole lot more people next year.

Please see **COOKIES**, page 5



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Bruce Tomaso, an AARP TaxAide Volunteer through the AARP TaxAide Foundation, provides information to attendees on filing taxes.

Presentation provides seniors information on filing taxes

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - The senior center held a tax presentation on Dec. 12 on what seniors need to know about filing their taxes ahead of the coming tax season.

The talk, hosted by AARP TaxAide Volunteer Bruce Tomaso, provided information on a variety of topics including filing state and federal tax returns, who must file and who should file, federal and state benefits for seniors, The Circuit Breaker refundable credit and the AARP TaxAide Free tax preparation service.

Tomaso told attendees the senior center is where people can, also, have free appointments for tax preparation, with those kicking off in early February.

On Jan. 2 at 8 a.m., names will be taken by the senior center and those who sign up will be contacted with an appointment time after the schedule is made.

Spots are limited.

Tomaso explained that he got into volunteering at the AARP TaxAide Foundation through his wife, who had seen information from the district coordinator in 2010 about looking for volunteers.

From there, she was interested and connected and recruited him when a question about the tech side came up.

"It's a community of volunteers," Tomaso said. "It's folks that either have been involved with taxes in their professional life or become interested in doing taxes in their retired life. It works out extremely well, but we could always use more volunteers, especially in our little chunk of the world here."

Tomaso stressed with other topics he brought up such as brokerage statements and Social Security benefits that "these are the things you have to be attentive to."

"Particularly, when it's coming to grips with whether I have to file a return or don't have to file a return. That was the principal focus," Tomaso said.

Tomaso appreciated the engagement and questions attendees asked throughout the presentation.

"It was pretty good, actually. People talked about things that were on their minds and I made a few suggestions," Tomaso said.

Tomaso hopes the presentation also provided information on the free tax preparation service available to seniors.

"I don't care whether it's \$100 or \$200 or \$300, whatever it is when they can have it prepared for nothing, especially people who simply cannot afford (it)," Tomaso said. "We have a very specific focus and we try to maximize everything for seniors that we can."

For Tomaso, it's his first time doing a presentation like this.

"My thought was just to help people get to a place where they're more comfortable when they do go to get their tax returns done, whether it's here or somewhere else," Tomaso said.

Tomaso hopes attendees took away something positive about approaching the tax filing process.

"There's a fear factor, there's always a fear factor. People are confused, they get all these documents in, what do I have to do," Tomaso said. "The electronic phase of it doesn't impact them, it impacts us."

Tomaso wants the community to know there are resources available to answer additional questions they may have.

"You should get a host of information on what's available. Even the IRS offers some direct free service. There are parameters who can avail themselves of that service, but it's there for them," Tomaso said.

To learn more about tax filing, visit IRS.gov and search for "Help for Seniors."

Baby's First Christmas 2024



Payton April Ziemba

March 13, 2024

Parents: Zachary & Jaqueline Ziemba, Wilbraham

Grandparents: Debbie & Jim Ziemba, Ludlow

Lisa Benoit, Ludlow

Great Grandparents: Maryanne Cierpial, Chicopee

Barbara Lanzarotto, Chicopee

Ronald & Margaret Benoit, East Longmeadow



Brixton Michael Malone

January 8, 2024

Parents: Ryan & Melissa Malone, Wilbraham

Grandparents: Bob & Ann Blanchard, Chicopee

Eddy & Debbie Malone, Ludlow



Zander Stone

October 14, 2024

Parents: Nick & Jenn Stone, Hampden



Leandra Maimaron

March 26, 2024

Parents: Jonathan & Lindsey Maimaron, East Longmeadow

Grandparents: Gary Giacomoni, Wilbraham

Thom & Wanda Merola, Enfield, CT

COOKIES from page 4

This is a great event to bring the families together and have some cookies and cocoa with Santa."

It was a great morning for families to come together, make crafts, have some sweets and see Santa before Christmas time. It was a great way to bring some holiday cheer at the VFW.

The VFW would like to thank the Hampden Parks and Recreation Department for coordinating with them and helping gather the registrations so that they can have a successful event.

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VIEWPOINTS

The last of the autumn questions for the Garden Lady

Lori, a reader of the column, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "I put my garlic cloves in three weeks ago and they have sprouted! The variety is a German White hardneck. Will they come back in the spring?"

Thank you for your question! It is not uncommon for garlic to send up shoots when fall weather is warmer than normal, much like ours has been.

Typically, the shoots survive the winter just fine, and will resume growth come spring time. To be on the safe side, I would mulch around your plants with straw or chopped up leaves to provide some insulation.

Once spring arrives, pull back the mulch and provide some fertilizer that is nitrogen rich to give the shoots a boost. A sprinkling of blood meal, fish emulsion, or composted manure would all do the trick.

Push the mulch back in place; it will help to keep weeds down. Garlic hates competition in this arena.

Early on, ample water and nutrients make the big fists of garlic we all want to see at harvest.

Hardneck garlic is typically the garlic grown in our area. Unlike softneck garlic, it needs the cold to complete its life cycle. It has fewer, but larger cloves.

Cloves from hardneck garlic are more pungent than softneck, but don't last quite as long in storage. Softneck don't grow stiff scapes as stems but have leaves that at harvest can be braided together to make a nice kitchen decoration.

Often you will see these garlic braids for sale at craft shows or in catalogs.

Michele, who gardens in Ware, has a question about tidying up her hydrangea bushes.

"The flowers at the tips of the branches of my blue hydrangea bushes have all browned and look unappealing. Some of the leaves are hanging on too. Altogether it's not a pret-

If you don't want to wait that long, feel free to cut the flower heads, and just the flower heads off. You see, most hydrangeas bloom on old wood.

Newer varieties – those bred in the last 20 years or so, often bloom on both new wood and old wood, so you'd never really want to cut them all the way down because you would be missing out on an opportunity for flowers to form. In case you don't follow my logic, flowers can form on the new growth the plant puts out in the spring, and the old growth from the previous year. Lots of gardeners remarked about what an amazing year it was for hydrangeas. So many flowers!

We attribute that to a mild winter last year and ample rainfall. I'm uncertain what the droughty fall will do, if anything, to next year's show.

I also wonder if hydrangeas put on a banner year one year, if the following year will be sparser because they are in recovery mode? I know it happens that way for fruit trees, my Asian pears for example, but not certain if it works the same way with flowering shrubs.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



ty sight. Can I cut down the branches to the ground? In effect, cleaning up the plant by the easiest way possible? It will sprout again when spring arrives, of that I'm sure."

I know exactly what you are talking about. From where I am writing, I can see my own hydrangea and it looks just as "pretty" as yours sounds!

Rest assured that the leaves will fall off. The flowers, on the other hand, will stick around awhile. Wind and wet weather will eventually cause them to degrade and fall away from the plant.

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Letters to the Editor

A Thank You from the Friends

To the Editor:
Dear Friends,

As 2024 comes to a close I want to thank the many 100's of Wilbraham residents, businesses, and residents in surrounding communities for their very generous donations to our Capital Fundraising Campaign to support our new Senior Center and Wilbraham Seniors. In March we set a goal to raise to raise \$750,000 and as of today we have received over \$900,000 in donations, pledges, and in-kind donations! This

speaks volumes to your support to help our Seniors. On behalf of the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Inc. thank you very much!

Of this, I'm pleased to report nearly \$700,000 has been spent or allocated. This includes supporting certain initial construction aspects of the new building, all fixtures, furniture and equipment inside the Senior Center like tables, chairs, tv monitors, exercise equipment, desks, cabinets, benches, kitchen utensils, outside patio furniture, billiard tables, and bocce court, plus financial support

for various Senior Center programs including the new Memory Cafe, Sarah Fidler Concert, exercise and art classes, and more. All of this would not have been possible without your thoughtful and caring contributions to the Friends. You made this happen. Thank you.

While we reached our initial goal, we are continuing to raise funds for unexpected expenses that is not uncommon for a new project like this. In addition, we plan to support new and expanded programs that support our Seniors.

In fact, if you have any thoughts in this area, please let me know.

In closing, I also want to thank our 7-member Capital Fundraising Committee and 8-member Board of Directors for their tenacity and dedication, for without their participation, this would not have been possible.

Thank you.
Matt Villamaino, Wilbraham
President, Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Inc.

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.

Early Christmas shoppers...



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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.



Submitted photos the Reed Family

Frank L. Reed, Jr. in 2012 with three of the cars he hand-constructed.

REED from page 1

Road, custom makes cold-drawn brass pinion steel rod and wire. These precision parts have a wide array of applications, including automotive, electrical, aerospace, and computing.

One of Wilbraham's oldest businesses, Utility Manufacturing was started by Reed's father, Frank L. Reed, Sr., in 1930. The original building at 2443 Boston Road was expanded over the years to accommodate its growth. Frank L. Reed, Sr. ran the company from 1920 until his death in 1965. Frank L. Reed, Jr. took over as president in 1965. His three sons, Loring, Jeffrey and Jay, were successively brought into the business over time. The company is now owned and operated by a fourth-generation Reed. While not at Utility Manufacturing, Reed could be found in his workshop. Over the years, he hand-constructed three airplanes, four sports cars and a motorcycle.

His fondest memories of moving to Wilbraham were how friendly and welcoming the residents were. The biggest change he has noted over the years is how much the town has grown—from fewer than 4,000 residents when he arrived in 1945 to more than 14,000 people today.

The Reed family has grown too. In addition to his five children, Reed has 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Says Paula Dubord, Director of Elder Affairs for Wilbraham, who recognized Reed with the town's Boston Post gold cane: "Frank is a long-time, hard-working resident of Wilbraham who ran a very successful business and raised his kids here. He epitomizes Wilbraham. Who could be more fitting to receive our golden cane?"

Selectboard holds discussions on Water District Connections

Editor's Note: The Hampden Selectboard did not meet on Dec. 16 and are scheduled to meet next on Dec. 23. So this week we bring you a story from last week's meeting.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard discussed Water District Connections during their Dec. 9 meeting.

Town Administrator Brian Domina explained he sent out three items to the Board of Health listing the addresses that are currently testing for PFAS, have already been connected to the water district, are currently testing and have no detections found and ones that have detections dated May of this year.

"My original question was--and John (Plaster) and I had discussions about this--was who should we make an offer for the town to hook up. That was our original question," Domina said.

Domina said in further discussions he and John Plaster, chair of the Board of Directors for the Water District Commission had that day, was that "the testing isn't limited to PFAS."

"Except for nine of these, these addresses are tested for other chemicals, contaminants," Domina said. "So, the only way

that we relieve ourselves of those testing costs are if a private well is no longer used for drinking water. Our original thought when John and I were talking about this was could we just hook up those who have PFAS detections, but the answer to that is no because it won't save us on testing costs because it'll still be required to test."

Domina added how nine addresses were added to the water district in January to test for PFAS only, with three of them having detections.

"Meaning that there's six, in theory, we don't necessarily have to hook up," Domina said.

Chair Don Davenport asked this.

"So, the money that the Town meeting voted for, that's the hook of everybody?" Davenport said.

Selectboard member John Flynn replied yes and added this.

"But the question you also have is some people don't want to be hooked up and does that mean that we have to keep paying the cost to test them," Flynn said. "I mean, do they have that option?"

Selectboard member Craig Rivest thought that was a question the board had for MassDEP.

"When we had our water discussion meetings, (the question) was if these people don't want to be hooked up when we're offering to hook them up to re-

mediate a big contaminant concern, do they need to, now, sign a waiver absolving the town of any liability because they don't want to be part of that solution?" Rivest said. "And then at that point, are they responsible for the testing?"

"Or are we forced to offer the other solution of filtering, which would be enormously expensive," Flynn said.

Rivest stressed how "We need to offer a solution."

"We're offering a solution," Rivest said.

"Right, but are we obligated to offer a solution?" Flynn said.

"No, I don't think so. I think we need to come up with the solution. We have a solution which is the district expansion. The town has voted for the solution," Rivest said. "If a resident doesn't want to be part of the solution, then I feel like they need to sign a release."

Flynn agreed.

"Is there something we can get? Dan has moved on unfortunately to another job and I think Tom is now maybe taking over. Can we get them to give us the definitive answer?" Flynn said.

Rivest said, "The last we heard, we didn't have any guidance from them on that" and again stressed his earlier recommendation on the release.

Plaster said one idea that was

Please see **BOARD**, page 8

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

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OBITUARIES

Death Notices

Rosemary Kalloch, of Wilbraham
died December 6, 2024.
Services are under the direction of Wilbraham Funeral Home

David W. Manning, DMD
Longtime Wilbraham resident, died December 4, 2024.
Wilbraham Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements

Patricia A. Stoerber, of Wilbraham
died December 11, 2024.
Wilbraham Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Patricia H. Madden

September 8, 1946 – December 11, 2024

WILBRAHAM - Patricia H. Madden, age 78, passed away at home on December 11, 2024 surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Ludlow on September 8, 1946 to the late Michael and Helen (Warzecha) Dvorchak.



She was a graduate of Ludlow High School. Pat was a 57-year member of St Cecilia's Women's Club and along with her late husband Larry they coordinated numerous church celebrations and auctions. She worked in sales, marketing and customer service positions over the years at Janlynn Corp., Halmar, Lechmere and the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club.

She opened her own silkscreen business, K&K Lettering, in 1978 and helped establish the Madden Insurance Agency with whom she was a partner with her daughter Karen for over 35 years. Pat enjoyed playing and watching basketball and also enjoyed going on many trips to see the Red Sox, Celtics and Duke Blue Devils. She was the matriarch of the family in every sense, she hosted every holiday and would make sure when anyone left, they would not leave without a care package.

Pat loved playing cards with her family, especially pitch, where she really impressed Steve who will forever be her partner. She loved collecting stamps and coins and especially spending time with her Gandpuppy, Sadie.

Pat enjoyed the simple things like a good meal and great company. Her love of crafts was extensive including knitting, scrapbooking, cake decorating and sewing which she shared with her daughter, Kathy. Her happiest times were spent with her family at the National Seashore at the Cape. She loved to spend hours riding the waves, watching the surfers and the spectacular sunsets.

Pat leaves her two daughters, Karen Madden of Wilbraham and Kathleen DeMorris and her husband Stephen of Wilbraham; one brother, Robert Dvorchak of Arizona and many nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws. She was predeceased by her husband Larry Madden who passed away in 2019; two brothers, Michael Dvorchak and Tom Dvorchak and one sister, Evelyn Pilon. The family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Legacy Hospice and Baystate Wing ICU for all their compassionate care.

A Funeral Service will be held on Sat, Dec 14, 2024 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Sampson Chapel of the Acres, 21 Tinkham Rd. Springfield with a Mass of Christian Liturgy at 10 a.m. at St. Cecilia's Church, 42 Main St. Wilbraham. Burial will follow at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Visiting Hours will be held on Friday, Dec 13, 2024 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Legacy Lifecare VNA & Hospice West, 770 Converse St. Longmeadow, MA 01106, St Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675.

Wilbraham-Hampden Times

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be

submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Wilbraham Men's Glee Club to Begin Rehearsals

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club, accompanied by Marcia Jackson and conducted by Ray Drury, will begin rehearsals for the 2025 concert season on Monday evening, Jan. 6, at Christ the King Lutheran/Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. Rehearsals

will continue each Monday thereafter until 2 concerts in late April/early May.

While no audition is required, all interested should be able to "carry a tune" attend the majority of rehearsals, and be able to pay a nominal fee at the first rehearsal to cover the cost of sheet music.

Italian recipes come to life at the Wilbraham Public Library

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - "What's your favorite recipe?" Meeting up on the Wednesday of every other month, members of the Cookbook Club at the library made and shared selected dishes from the month's selected cookbook.

This month, participants chose "The Tucci Cookbook" by Stanley Tucci and started with the entrée and ended with a tasty dessert on Dec. 4.

Assistant Director Mary Bell of the library shared her beginnings at the library and background of the Cookbook Club. She also talked about starting programs up again after the pandemic and the difficulty of getting the word out of these events.

"When I was the adult services librarian, when I did the programming, that is one of the things I started doing a few years back. There were several libraries nearby that held Cookbook Clubs or something similar. We organized it so that every other month we would meet, we would have one cookbook that everyone checked out and selected a recipe to bring in and share. It was really great," Bell said. "We had a dedicated group but then the pandemic happened. We couldn't

meet and a lot got cancelled. Now it's coming back with renewed interest in it. We haven't gotten back the numbers since 2019, people have expressed interest in the last couple months but couldn't make it in December. I am hopeful in the new year we will have a slightly larger group. It's hard with only a small number of people to really explore the different recipes. That would be our hope at the library."

Reflecting on her career, Bell shared this.

"I started as a page 25 years ago, I've been in this position since December of 2017, almost seven years now. I like so many things working here. The biggest thing is working with people and getting them connected to books and resources that are just what they need. That is probably true to when I was a page to what I am now. That is what I like to do," Page said.

Members of the Cookbook Club were found in the Brooks Room, provided with ample space and a small kitchenette, participants were able to talk freely and share a meal together. On Wednesday evening members were able to taste stuffed pizza, arugula salad with parmesan cheese, vegetable torte, and tropiano biscotti. The

Please see **ITALIAN**, page 9

Baystate Health and Wellpoint Reach Agreement

New multi-year contract protects patients' access to affordable, high-quality care

SPRINGFIELD - Baystate Health and Wellpoint have reached a new multi-year contract that maintains patients' access to the doctors and nurses they know and trust. This means that Wellpoint members will continue to have access to all Baystate Health hospitals, facilities, doctor offices, convenient care, and ancillary service centers as well as its affiliated physicians through Baycare Health Partners on January 1, 2025 and beyond.

"We are extremely pleased to have reached a new agreement with Wellpoint and ensure continued access for health plan members to the care they receive at

Baystate Health and our affiliated physicians through Baycare Health Partners," said Peter D. Banko, President & CEO of Baystate Health. "From the beginning, our mutual goal was to ensure we continue to meet the needs of our patients today and in the future and protect their access to essential services in Western Massachusetts."

"We worked tirelessly to come to an agreement that preserves access to high-quality, affordable care at Baystate Health for Wellpoint members," said David Morales, general manager of Wellpoint. "We are pleased that our longstanding partnership with Baystate Health will continue promoting preventive care and supporting the whole health of the individuals our organizations serve across the Springfield region."

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floated around was around if there's no detection.

"We kind of answered that ourselves that the problem still exists. They're not affected by it but the problem is still there," Plaster said. "So, it's kind of a Board of Health issue and if someone decides they don't want to hook up and take part of a solution, we're not liable on my opinion. But, that's up to the lawyers to make that (decision)."

Rivest shared how in DEP's eyes, "either we test or we filter or find an alternate water source."

Flynn said that's true.

"But, then when they sell the place a year later and the new owner says, 'No, I want to be hooked up,'" Flynn said.

"Well, that would be on their deed disclosure," Rivest said.

After Flynn said it would be worth reaching out to DEP again for another meeting, Plaster agreed.

If someone refused to install, Domina thought what they would do for the project is "we would tap the main and install a stub and put a curb stop for future connections."

"So, the question becomes in what happens--testing aside, whether we have to do it or not--the theory is that the town is allegedly liable for the contamination

because it comes from the landfill. Now, people could have no detects now, but because (of) the water cycle and groundwater, they could have detects in the future," Domina said. "And the question is, what's the liability of the town at that point?"

After Rivest said, "I think we absolve that by hooking all the connections up, right?," Domina responded yes.

"In my opinion, the Board of Health has the ability to for people who don't have portable water to order them to get portable water whether infiltration or a system," Domina said. "But, for those who have no detects, I don't know what authority the town has to force them to hook up. I don't think that we can say, 'Well, just so we can be relieved of these testing costs, you have to hook up.' I don't think the Board of Health has that authority."

After returning to the original questions before them, Domina summed it up this way.

"If the answer is we're going to send this letter out to everybody to offer them to hook up, then we have our answer for tonight and we can move forward with that," Domina said.

After the discussion, it was later clarified the bid for this was opened on Dec. 12.

More on this as it develops.

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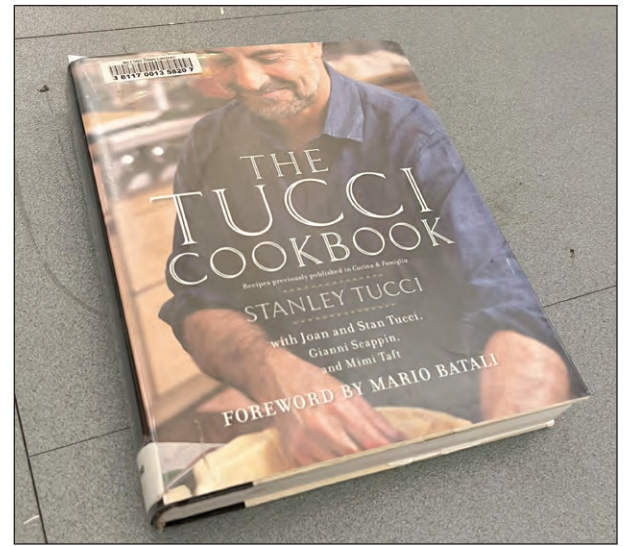


On the left, Lydia Brady, Roz Forty, Molly Brady and Lynn Z. proudly show their cookbook creations.



A closeup of the tropiano biscotti made from scratch, paired well with a hot cup of coffee.

Turley photos by Amanda Munson



The cookbook club covered "The Tucci Cookbook" by Stanley Tucci, where members were able to explore mouthwatering Italian recipes.



Decorated by the WPL staff, the library has trees and wreaths sprawled out around the building to spread holiday cheer.

ITALIAN from page 8

page number corresponding with the recipe was written down just in case anyone liked the recipe enough to replicate at home.

When asked about Bell's favorite cookbook, she spoke highly of the book that only uses one pan. "It's called 'Dinner in One' by Melissa Clark, it's become my go-to. I borrowed it from the library and requested the book for my birthday last year. I've been regularly cooking from that and trying new recipes. My meal today was a couscous with eggplant dish, it was really good. It's also only in one dish so less cleaning!" Bell said.

Reflecting on her years at the library, the one aspect that became special to Bell were the patrons she got to know.

"The conversations and the people I've gotten to know over the years, it's been really nice to develop those relationships over the years," Bell said.

The best part about the Cookbook Club was it occurred around dinner time; members were happy they didn't have to cook that night and able to take leftovers home, excited to come together again in another month.

Next, the library is offering a Winter Reading Program offered for all ages and the registration is online.

To learn more about upcoming programs in the new year, visit wilbrahampubliclibrary.org.



The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District

We will be taking applications for our early childhood programs for district residents for the 2025-2026 year. Programs are for 3 and 4 year olds.

If your child will be three by September 1, 2025 you may obtain an application at hwrsd.org website under "Departments," "Student Services." "Early Childhood Program" or call Corinne Roberts, Student Services at 279-3863.

Applications will be available starting January 1, 2025. Priority screening and placement will be given to applications received prior to January 31, 2025, but we offer a rolling admission.

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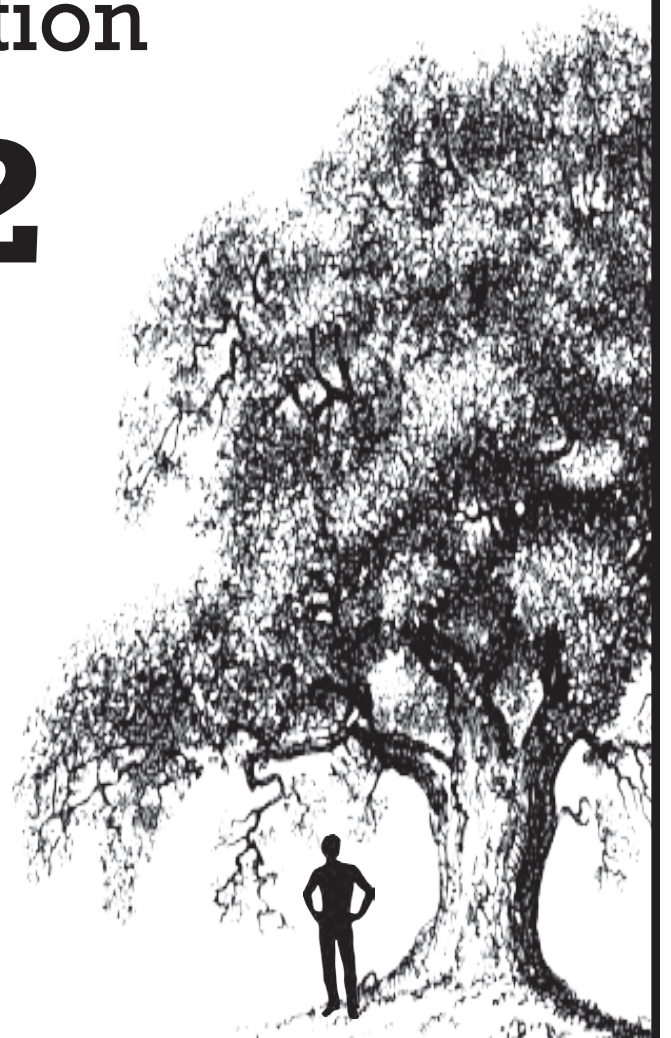
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Troop 359 helps set up manger scene

Members of Troop 359 had a busy Dec. 1 where after they held their Annual Wreath Sale, they also worked together to bring the manger scene to its new location at Gazebo Park. It was on full display at this year's Annual Tree Lighting in Wilbraham.



Submitted photos Lorna Lawrence

Hot mulled cider on a cold winter's day...



Past President Sandy Sanders (left) and Michelle Cove have a taste of hot mulled cider at the Wilbraham Atheneum Society's Old Meeting House Museum Christmas Tree Festival on Main Street Dec. 8. (Charles F. Bennett photo)

Life in & CHA

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.

Old Meeting House Hosts Museum Christmas Tree Festival



Erin Nelson (left) and Ka Wilbraham Atheneum Society members at the Museum Christmas Tree Festival and tested the scent of a Candle Co. (Charles F. Bennett photo)

Hampden Garden Club decorates for Christmas



The Hampden Garden Club helped decorate the Hampden Free Public Library for the Christmas season every year, with the library expressing their appreciation for creating a festive atmosphere for the library. The members in the photo are Nancy Salerno and Lil Fedora, and the back row from left to right, Liz Frederick, Paula Messier, Mary Gagnon, Liz Merrill and Mary Bator. Submitted photo Ellen Moriarty

THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU



Wishing Mag Holiday

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival...



...tie O'Connor visited the
...ociety's Old Meeting House
... Festival on Main Street Dec. 8
... a candle for sale by Wilbraham
...ett photo)



Young Itham Cabral of Wilbraham makes a visit to
the Children's Room at the Old Meeting Museum
Christmas Tree Festival Open House Dec. 8. The
Children's Museum decorated the Christmas Tree in
the room. (Charles F. Bennett photo)



The Cabral Family of Bartlet Avenue in Wilbraham pose for a photo in the Children's Room
at the Wilbraham Atheneum Society's Old Meeting House Museum Christmas Tree Festival
on Main Street Dec. 8. (From left) Steffany and Domenic and son Itham. (Charles F. Bennett
photo)



...on Dec. 2. The club decorates the
... the community. Pictured here seated
...ary Ellen Buckley, Judy Brewer, Judie



The Christmas
Tree decorated by
the Friends of the
Wilbraham Public
Library stands
next to the Hearth
in the kitchen of
the Old Meeting
House Museum
at the Wilbraham
Atheneum
Society's
Christmas Tree
Festival on Main
Street Dec. 8.
(Charles F. Bennett
photo)



Icy holiday message...



An icy Merry Christmas was carved into Santa's sleigh
at the Wilbraham Atheneum Society's Old Meeting House
Museum Christmas Tree Festival on Main Street Dec. 8.
(Charles F. Bennett photo)

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Falcons tie late, fall in OT



Liam Fancuff possesses the puck.



Matt Beaudin follows through in a wrist shot.



Brayden O'Sullivan rushes up the ice.



Dom Fiorentino makes his way up the ice.

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association decided to stay with 15-minute periods instead of 17's in order to offer a short overtime period. The overtime period did not work out well for Minnechaug in its season opener against Ludlow last Saturday. The Lions prevailed 5-4 at Olympia Ice Center. The Falcons got scoring from four different players in its first game of the season, including goal from Laim Faneuff and Ryan Donovan. The Falcons rematch with Ludlow next Saturday, Dec. 21 at 2:30 p.m. at Olympia.



Ben Daniels tries to pass through an opponent.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Nick Garib exits a crowd with the puck.



Ethan Kelleher fights for possession.

Longtime coach Nundi Goncalves receives Briggs Award

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Eight of the previous Larry E. Briggs Award recipients attended the 78th Pioneer Valley Soccer Official Awards Banquet, which was held at the Polish American Citizens Club in Ludlow on Dec. 6.

The 2024 Briggs Award winner is Nundi Goncalves, who has been coaching the girls' varsity soccer team at Minnechaug Regional in Wilbraham since 1995.

"This is a very special moment for me and my family," said Goncalves following the banquet. "I've been coaching soccer at Minnechaug for the past thirty years. During that time, I've been able to meet some wonderful people, who have become my friends. I've also



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Nundi Goncalves was given the Briggs Award at the Pioneer Valley Soccer Official Awards Banquet held on Dec. 6.

coached a lot of memorable games. I've been able to coach some outstanding student-athletes at Minnechaug."

The Larry E. Briggs Award is

annually given to a person who exemplifies the high standards and contributions to soccer over a long period of time.

Please see **AWARD**, page 9

Harding headed for Providence

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Following a very memorable junior season, Gabby Harding is looking forward to having another successful season as one of the seniors on the Minnechaug Regional girls' swimming team.

One thing that Harding doesn't have to worry about is making her college decision.

Harding recently signed her letter of intent to join the swimming and diving team at Providence College next year.

"I've always dreamed about swimming in college," Harding said. "Providence College is a very good school both academically and athletically. It has always been my top choice, but after I visited the school and spent some time with the girls on the swim team, I knew that I really wanted to go to school there."

Harding, who made her college decision last spring, was also interested in attending Bryant University, Amherst College, Conn. College, Tufts, and Boston University.

"I visited the other schools, but I liked Providence the best," she said. "It's less than two hours away, so I can come home whenever I want."

The Providence College swim team, which is coached by John O'Neill, competes at the Division 1 level and is a member of the Big East Conference. O'Neill, who graduated from Springfield College in 1981, founded the Providence College swim program in 1984.

"Coach O'Neill has been coaching at Providence College for a very long time and he's a very good coach," Harding said. "He has watched me compete for my USA swimming team several times."

A couple of swimmers listed on this year's Friars swimming roster are from Western Massachusetts.

One of them is sophomore Ava Larkin who lives in Holyoke. She attended Wiliston Northampton.



File photo

Gabby Harding has signed a letter of intent to swim at Providence College next year.

Senior Sophia Roche, who went to Suffield Academy, is from East Longmeadow.

Harding, who also lives in East Longmeadow, transferred to Minnechaug Regional before the start of the 2023-24 school year.

The Lady Falcons, who are coached by Erik Mandell, didn't lose any regular season meets a year ago.

"I've known coach Mandell since I was in middle school, and they've always had a very good swim program here," Harding said. "I was expecting it to be a lot harder, but changing schools last year was really a smooth transition for me. Everyone was very welcoming on the first day of school."

Because her father, John, was in the military, Harding has lived in several different places.

"My family has moved to a different place every few years," Harding said. "I've lived in Germany, Hawaii, and Tex-

as. We have lived here since 2018. We won't be moving anymore because my dad has retired from the military. It's nice to be settled in one place."

One of Harding's friends is Makenzi Pastreck, who was the starting goalkeeper for the Lady Falcons soccer team the past couple of years. Pastreck also signed her letter of intent to play college soccer at Southern Connecticut University next fall.

"Makenzi has worked so hard to become a great athlete," Harding said. "We attended each other's signing ceremony. I really appreciate her support."

Harding's swimming career began ten years ago while she was living in Germany.

"My parents thought swimming would be something that would keep me busy," Harding said. "It eventually became something that I love doing. I'm very thankful for all my coaches in Germany."

Harding's main events are the 100

yard butterfly, 100 yard freestyle, and the 200 yard freestyle.

"My favorite event is the 100 yard freestyle," Harding said. "It's a sprint event and I currently hold the school record."

Harding broke the school record with a time of 0:53.13 during a home meet against Holyoke last December.

"I didn't enter that meet thinking about breaking a school record," she said. "The previous record holder was Laura Quinn, who's one of my role models."

Quinn, who graduated from Minnechaug in 2016, broke several other school records during her high school swimming career before joining the swimming team at Boston College.

Harding had the opportunity to meet Quinn last year.

"I met Lauren at a practice last year," Harding said. "She congratulated me on breaking her record. I really appreciated it a lot."

At last year's Central/West tournament, Harding finished in first place in the 100 yard freestyle. She also finished in fourth place in the 200 yard IM. She was the runner-up in the 100 freestyles at the Division 1 state meet.

"My main goal for this season is to try to break another school record," Harding said. "I also want to try to get as many girls as we can to qualify for both the Central/West and Division 1 state meets. When you have your entire team there with you, it's a lot more special."

Harding, who's hoping to qualify for the NCAA Division 1 tournament during her college career at Providence, has also performed very well in the classroom. She's an honor roll student.

"Balancing everything that I do can be very difficult at times," Harding said. "I know the sacrifices that I've made will only help me in the future."

The Lady Falcons will be hosting Northampton High School in the first swim meet of the 2024-25 regular season on December 13.

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Railers get point, fall in shootout

WORCESTER – It has been one of those weekends that seem like a month for the Railers. They have battled one of the ECHL's best teams in the Trois-Rivieres Lions and changed a coach all at the same time.

Worcester lost its final game under Bob Deraney, 5-3, Friday night. They lost their first game under Nick Tuzzolino, 3-2, Saturday night but it was one of those half-a-loaf deals. The Railers earned a point with a shootout loss.

It says something about the Lions that Worcester played one of its best games in recent weeks and still could not get two points. Trois-Rivieres is loaded with offensive opportunists and flawless goaltending.

The Railers out shot the visitors, 41-26, but still could not outscore them.

It was, however, an encouraging start to Tuzzolino's head coaching career and in general he liked what he saw.

"I don't want to say that I was excited about how we played," he said, "because the result wasn't there, but we made a few

minor adjustments in clogging up the neutral zone and our forecheck, and I thought they were really good."

The goal scorers were Justin Kaplan and Matthew Kopperud for Worcester while the Lions got two goals from Cormier. The first was from Xavier Cormier, the second from Tommy Cormier. Alex Beaucage had the only shootout goal.

It was a good goaltending night both ways. Zachary Emond made 39 saves for the Lions. Michael Bullion, who had been in a slump, stopped 23 and made the save of the night early in the third period.

He stopped Logan Nijhoff on a penalty shot at 2:31. The period was Bullion's best as he also made some big saves late to keep the score at 2-2.

Xavier Cormier put Trois-Rivieres ahead at 4:29 of the first period. It was a tap-in goal with the Lions on a power play. Kaplan tied it at 8:45, also on a power play. He beat Emond with a rebound backhand.

Kopperud scored from the right circle at 14:26 to give Worcester a 2-1 lead, then Tommy Cormier converted a long breakaway at 18:01.

"If we can carbon-copy what we did tonight," Tuzzolino said, "I don't see us losing more than a couple games here and there. It's one of those things where that type of system can plug in play some players and drive some teams wild up front."

"I guess my overall goal is to work on the consistency of that this week because we'll have a good stretch and really have all things firing for Maine. It's a very big weekend for us."

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Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending a MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed.

T-Birds grab point in Wilkes-Barre

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-9-2-0) dispatched a 4-1 second intermission deficit to earn a standings point before ultimately falling in overtime, 5-4, to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (14-7-1-0) on Saturday night at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza.

Upstart rookie Rutger McGroarty quickly got the Penguins on the board on their Teddy Bear Toss night as he took a delicate saucer pass from Joonas Koppanen and deked to the forehand to tuck it behind Vadim Zherenko just 1:53 into the opening period.

The T-Birds were able to draw two power play opportunities while trailing 1-0, but the Penguins' penalty kill dispatched both of the Springfield man-up situations. Special teams continued to trend in the home team's direction as the Penguins cashed in on their first power play on a goal by Emil Bemstrom at 16:06 of the frame to give Wilkes-Barre/Scranton a 2-0 lead into the intermission.

Filip Larsson was not heavily taxed in Penguins crease in the first, but he came up with the nine saves asked of him to start the night.

Thanks to their top offensive

unit, the T-Birds quelled some of the Penguins' momentum at 5:17 of the second. Aleksanteri Kaskimaki took a drop feed from Leo Loof and whipped it in the low slot to Dalibor Dvorsky. While Larsson slid across to deny the T-Birds' star rookie, the rebound trickled behind the netminder, allowing Marcus Sylvegard to backhand it into the yawning net to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Special teams, though, proved to be Springfield's undoing once again just 3:16 later as Valtteri Puustinen slipped behind the defense on a power play and chipped a backhand past Zherenko to make it a 3-1 Penguins lead.

Late in the period, the Thunderbirds thought they had solved Larsson on a power play scramble in the crease, but after a review, the goal was washed out, and Bemstrom took advantage with just 18 seconds left in the frame, snapping a wrist shot under the crossbar, extending the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton lead to 4-1 after 40 minutes.

The T-Birds' leaders rapidly turned the game around as the final period began. Captain Matthew Peca flung a wrist over Larsson's glove just 17 seconds into the period to make it a 4-2

contest. Less than four minutes later, crashing in for a rebound in the slot area, former Penguin Scott Harrington notched his first as a Thunderbird at 4:08 to cut the margin to 4-3.

Larsson and the Penguins tightened to hold the fort into the game's final two minutes, but a penalty with 2:09 on the clock handed Springfield another power play and a chance to get an equalizer. With Zherenko at the bench for an extra skater, the T-Birds seized the moment as Matt Luff found Kaskimaki in the slot, and the rookie's snapper eluded Larsson to tie the game with 1:56 left.

The Thunderbirds had another power play chance to close out regulation, but the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton penalty kill shut it down to get the game into the extra period.

Unfortunately, the T-Birds' magic ran out in the extra session as a penalty gave the Penguins a 4-on-3 power play, and Bemstrom completed his hat trick with a spinning jam shot at 4:27 of the overtime to snap the T-Birds winning streak. Despite coming short of victory, Springfield earned standings points for the 11th time in its last 13 games.

AWARD from page 1

Briggs, who lived in Amherst, died in 1970. He was the first men's soccer coach at the University of Massachusetts in 1930. He was also the founder of the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association and was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame, which is in Frisco, Texas, in 1978.

James Downie was the first Briggs award winner given by the P.V.S.O.A. in 1947.

Deacon James Ziemba, who received the prestigious Briggs award in 2000, presented this year's award to Goncalves.

Eric Degnan, who retired as the girls' varsity soccer coach at Monson High School a year ago, received a letter of Commendation at this year's banquet. He gave his thoughts about the 2024 Briggs Award winner.

"Nundi has done so much for soccer in Western Mass.," Degnan said. "He's been a very successful coach at Minnechaug and I'm very happy for him."

Goncalves and Tom Rivet, who was the longtime boys' varsity soccer coach at Chicopee High School, were teammates on the men's soccer team at Springfield Technical Community College for one season.

"Nundi and I were teammates at STCC, so I've known him for a very long time," said Rivet, who received the Briggs award in 2011. "When you look at Nundi's resume, he's very deserving of receiving this award. He's a great soccer coach and person."

Rivet never had the opportunity to coach against Goncalves in a varsity soccer match.

One person who has faced Goncalves many times on the soccer pitch is Agawam girls' varsity soccer coach Laura Wray-Ramos. Her daughter, Lilliana, played soccer at Minnechaug a couple of years ago.

"Not only have I coached against Nundi's teams over the years, I also had the opportunity to see how he interacts with his

players from a parent point of view," said Wray-Ramos, who received the Briggs award in 2022. "Nundi is an outstanding soccer coach, and he also loves his players."

Back in the middle of October, the Lady Falcons squeaked out a 1-0 home win in a non-league match versus the Agawam Brownies. Junior Kelly Cronin netted the only goal of the match.

Several of the Lady Falcons soccer players attended the awards banquet.

"This is a very special night for Nundi," said junior Ava Kearney, who's looking forward to returning to the field next year after missing this season with an ACL injury. "He's a tough coach, but he really cares a lot about each of his players. I'm really looking forward to coming back next year."

Junior Elizabeth Woytowicz was a first year member of the Lady Falcons varsity squad this past fall.

"I was nervous on the first day of tryouts back in August because I had never played for Nundi before," said Woytowicz, who's a midfielder. "Having him as a soccer coach this year was a privilege. He really means a lot to all of us, and I'm looking forward to playing for him again next year."

The other Minnechaug girls' soccer players who attended the awards banquet were sophomore Ainsley Holden, sophomore Abigail Lee, and junior Cailin O'Brien.

Prior to becoming a varsity soccer coach, Goncalves coached at the youth level in Ludlow, which is his hometown. He was an assistant coach for the Western New England and Amherst College men's soccer teams. He was also a volunteer assistant soccer coach for both the boys' and girls' varsity soccer teams at Ludlow High School.

Nundi's dream job was to coach the Ludlow girls' varsity soccer team. When that coaching position was opened in 1995, he applied for it. He didn't get the



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Goncalves is surrounded by family, friends, and players after receiving the Briggs Award.

job because he wasn't a teacher at the high school.

"From what I was told, to keep peace with the union, Ludlow needed to hire a teacher for the coaching position. When they told me that I didn't get the position, I cried on the way home," said Goncalves, who's a painter. "A couple of days later, I saw an ad in the newspaper that Minnechaug was looking for a new girls' soccer coach. I knew very little about Minnechaug at that time, but I was hired for the position by Ned Doyle, who was the Athletic Director at that time. I never thought I would still be coaching there thirty years later, but it has been the best thing that has ever happened to me."

Nundi's biggest supporters are his wife, Ann, and his two children, Alegria and Michael.

"Nundi just loves being a soccer coach and he has a true passion for the game," Ann Goncalves said. "I want him to keep coaching forever because it makes him so happy."

The Lady Falcons assistant

coach during the past couple of seasons have been Laura Poin-dexter.

Steve Burndrett, who's the current Athletic Director at Minnechaug Regional, is very glad that Nundi is coaching his girls' varsity soccer team.

"Nundi's longevity, success and accolades speak for how hard he works, how much he cares about the players and the program," Burndrett said. "His commitment to Minnechaug girls' soccer is second to none."

Goncalves has an impressive 370-126-8 overall record as a varsity soccer coach.

After failing to qualify for the postseason tournament in his first five seasons at Minnechaug, the Lady Falcons have played in the Western Mass. finals 16 times during the last 24 years. They took home the championship trophy seven times.

The Lady Falcons won the Western Mass. Division I title for the first time on Nov. 13, 2005. The Minnechaug boys' soccer, field hockey, and girls' volley-

ball also took home the Western Mass. Division 1 championship trophies on the same day.

"I don't think it'll ever happen again at any other school because it's a rare feat," Goncalves said. "That was a very memorable day."

The only time the Lady Falcons have captured the state title was in 2008.

"We beat Acton Boxborough 1-0 in the state finals," Goncalves said. "They were the number one ranked team in the country, and they entered the state finals with a 58 game winning streak."

The game winning goal in the state finals was scored by Lauren MacLellan, who was a freshman that season. She went on to play college soccer at Boston University.

Just like every other head coach, Nundi Goncalves is probably already thinking about the 2025 season. Win, lose, or draw, he's always going to enjoy being a soccer coach.

The Tale of Wilbraham's Antique Gold Cane



Several sets of initials are engraved on Wilbraham's second gold cane.



The cane's gold knob is engraved "To the OLDEST CITIZEN of North Wilbraham, Mass."



The Boston Post cane and the second cane discovered in the town offices.

Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Wilbraham's 115-year-old Boston Post cane, traditionally presented to the town's oldest resident, is now on permanent display at the Wilbraham Senior Center. The cane is a beautifully crafted shaft of African ebony topped with a 14-karat gold knob.

The cane has its origins in a 1909 promotional ploy by the Boston Post, New England's largest newspaper at the time. The publisher of the Post had 700 canes made and sent to selectmen in 700 towns across New England to be given to the oldest man registered to vote in each town. The canes were to be the property of the towns and transmitted upon the oldest resident's demise to the next oldest resident.



Rev. Nathaniel Jewett Merrill, first holder of Wilbraham's gold cane.



Wilbraham's 1909 Boston Post cane is on display at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

As the Post decreed, the canes were intended as "a tribute to honored and useful lives, to thrift, temperance, and right living, and above all, to the superb vigor of New England manhood."

As each town presented its cane to its oldest male citizen, news accounts nearly always mentioned that the cane was a gift from the Boston Post, boosting the paper's profile.

Wilbraham's cane is engraved: "Pre-

sented by the Boston Post to the OLDEST CITIZEN of North Wilbraham, Mass. (To be transmitted.)" It's unknown why the Post engraved "North Wilbraham" on the cane's gold knob rather than "Wilbraham."

The First Oldest Man

The first recipient of Wilbraham's gold-headed cane was Reverend Nathaniel Jewett Merrill, an accomplished member of a prominent Wilbraham family. Merrill received the cane in 1909 at age 91 and died three years later.

Merrill attended Wesleyan Academy (now Wilbraham & Monson Academy). After graduation he taught at Louisiana State College and with his brother, Amos, established Merrill Academy in New Orleans. He returned to New England to study theology and subsequently became the pastor of several Massachusetts churches. An active abolitionist, he served in the Civil War. Merrill came home to Wilbraham at age 65 to preach and teach at the academy. He is buried at Woodland Dell cemetery.

The second cane holder appears to be another pastor, Reverend Charles Henry Gates. Gates was born in 1823 and ordained in the Congressional Church in 1851. He passed away in 1914 at age 91 and is buried in East Wilbraham Cemetery.

According to Paula Dubord, Wilbraham's Director of Elder Affairs, no records have been found regarding who next received Wilbraham's gold and ebony cane. However, there were undoubtedly many female cane-holders throughout the years. In the 1930s, well after women won the right to vote in 1920, the Boston Post proclaimed that women were eligible to receive the cane.

Although it's unclear when Wilbraham's cane was last awarded, it was held by a citizen until at least 1990. In that year, Mildred E. (Cooley) Cotter, age 95, holder of Wilbraham's gold cane passed away. A lifelong Wilbraham resident, Cotter worked for many years in the cafeterias of Memorial and Stony Hill schools.

Lost and Found

The cane was mostly forgotten until 2014 when Dennis Lopata, executive director of Life Care of Wilbraham, sought to revive the tradition. Lopata wanted to celebrate the positive side of aging.

"I call it the wow factor," he says. "It's about 'Wow, we're living long! It's important to listen to the wonderful stories older people have to tell. We should also recognize them for the dedication they had to whatever vocation they were in.'"

Lopata inspired Dubord to search for the cane in Wilbraham's town offices. It turned up quickly; employees discovered it stored safely in the town clerk's vault.

Surprisingly, a second cane was found in a town office storage closet. Although very similar in design, with an ebony shaft and gold knob, the second cane is not a Boston Post cane. Its head has four sets of initials carved around its sides: W.A.M., A.R.J., N.M. and C.N.M.

It's likely that this second cane is the one donated by Wilbraham resident Geraldine Dorey in 1969, to be presented to the oldest person who has lived in Wilbraham for a minimum of 25 years. In her 1997 book "The Bay States's Boston Post Canes," Barbara Staples reported this practice unique to Wilbraham.

The Legacy Continues

Although the Boston Post folded in 1956, the legacy of the Boston Post cane continues. Many New England towns have an uninterrupted history of awarding the cane. In Wilbraham, the tradition was resumed soon after the town cane was rediscovered.

The Wilbraham Council on Aging, working with the Select Board, has adopted Boston Post cane guidelines. The recipient must be a resident of Wilbraham for at least five years, verified through the town clerk's records. The Select Board will present the cane to the chosen resident, along with a personalized plaque. The cane will remain at the Senior Center, accompanied by a plaque listing all the recipients' names and years of presentation.

In 2014 the Wilbraham cane was awarded to Winnifred (Peg) Stearns on her 103rd birthday. Stearns, a former nurse, was a longtime resident of Hampden before moving to Life Care of Wilbraham.

"She was our shining star," says Lopata. "She was always out and about welcoming new residents to Life Care. She was comforting for other residents to be around—a sincere soul."

Stearns passed away peacefully in her sleep in 2020 at age 109.

After Stearns' death, at the height of the COVID epidemic, awarding of the cane was suspended. Earlier this year, upon the opening of the new Wilbraham Senior Center, both gold-headed canes gained a secure home in a display case on the wall of the center's cafe.

The time was right, says Dubord, to award Wilbraham's cane once more. Frank L. Reed, Jr., a town resident since 1945 who will turn 104 on Dec. 23, received his gold cane plaque in October.

More knowledge of past recipients of Wilbraham's Boston Post cane is out there somewhere, says Paula Dubord. If you have any information, please contact her at the Wilbraham Senior Center at 413-596-8379.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Miller beer variety
- 4. Member of people inhabiting Bering Sea islands
- 9. Stomach
- 14. Investment vehicle
- 15. Fictional soccer coach Ted
- 16. Irregular in botanical parlance
- 17. Cease standing
- 18. "American Horror Story" actress
- 20. Grow milk teeth
- 22. Plant parts
- 23. Snow house
- 24. Most contemptuous
- 28. Note to repay
- 29. Old English
- 30. Wings
- 31. Financial institutions
- 33. Parks and Lopez are two
- 37. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
- 38. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 39. Give off
- 41. Semitic alphabet letter
- 42. Farm state
- 43. Actress Sarandon
- 44. Back parts
- 46. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 49. Touchdown
- 50. One point north of due east
- 51. Refurbishes
- 55. Silver and Dogg are two
- 58. Former Tigers catcher Alex
- 59. Type of envelope
- 60. Seriously considered
- 64. Unhappy
- 65. Past (archaic)
- 66. Asian wild dog
- 67. Old English letter
- 68. Young domestic sheep
- 69. Football players need to gain them

CLUES DOWN

- 70. Witness
- 1. Dormant Peruvian volcano
- 2. Norwegian composer
- 3. Indicates location
- 4. Pubs
- 5. Unable to walk easily
- 6. Electronic warfare-support measures
- 7. World leader
- 8. Midsection
- 9. Jewish calendar month
- 10. Urological condition
- 11. A small quantity of anything
- 12. Mountain Time
- 13. Affirmative
- 19. Word element meaning ear
- 21. Carried away
- 24. Short-billed rails
- 25. Newborn child
- 26. Sword
- 27. Groups of people
- 31. Prickly, scrambling shrubs
- 32. Become less intense
- 34. Polishes
- 35. Indicates position
- 36. Songs sung to one's beloved
- 40. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 41. Insects
- 45. Israeli politician
- 47. Pre-digital
- 48. Roaming
- 52. Ambience
- 53. Brew
- 54. Late
- 56. Make ecstatically happy
- 57. Semitic alphabet letter
- 59. Blend
- 60. Dash
- 61. Self
- 62. Exclamation of satisfaction
- 63. Hill or rocky peak

Wilbraham Middle School Honor Roll

WILBRAHAM - The following students received Honor Roll status for the Term 1 marking period at Wilbraham Middle School. Distinguished Honors is all A's in all subjects; Honors is all A's and/or B's in all subjects.

Distinguished Honors - Grade 8

Teddy Acquah, Alison Aucoin, Sireen Awkal, Margaret Babbs, Charlotte Beaulieu, Lauren Beaulieu, Bailey Burgmyer, Benjamin Butts, Jason Cao, Nolan Carney, Juliana Coffey, Oliver Cunha, Madelyn D'Amore, Kayla Dooley, Sadie Dos Santos, Grace Falzone, Charlotte Fitzgerald, Kathryn Fulton, Eva Gagliarducci, James Gallagher, Olivia Goodrow, Nicole Grabowski, Lily Guo, Teaghan Haluch, Max Harrigan, Isabel Horne, Jackson Hulseberg, Alexandra Jaslanek, Elizabeth Jourdain, William Kern, Jillian Lajeunesse, Willis Lam, Christie Lang, Johanna Lewis, Griffin Litchfield, Owen Lucarelle, Ashley Manning, Michael Murray, Ethan Nunlist, Megan Pronovost, Lara Riberdy, Logan Richard, Sierra Rocha, Jackson Rust, Quintis Saviengvong, Kayla Smith, Ian Stratton, Carolina Tangredi, Sean Tillberry, Nathaniel Tirabassi, Maya Usher, Caitlyn Wetherbe, Mia Yvon

Honors - Grade 8

Goudy Abuata, Zakaria Ardolino, Ariana Balwa, Evan Barcome, Olivia Barnett, Jamie Barton-Cimino, Joshua Branham, Nicholas Bretta, Thomas Brogle, Nolan Burke, A'laynah Cartwright, Charlotte Castellano, Xavier Catellier, Douglas Clark, Emilia Connors, Nolan Costello, Ryan Criscitelli, Brynn DeForest, Nathan Demetri, Amelia DePace, Owen Downey, Keeley Doyle, Liam Doyle, Christopher Duby, Samantha Engel, Azariy Eskandarinejad, Dina Ferrentino, Jack Ford, Austin Fortune, Olivia Gaudreau, Evan Gilmartin, Aviana Gomez, Yusuf Gunaydin, Tegan Haluch, Andriea Holder, Ted Holt, Tyler Hoskinson, Ethan Johnson, Aurora Kirton, Kaitlyn Labadorf, Aubrey Lafield, Sophie Laliberte, Daniel Lareau, Lucas Lawrence, Noah Magill, Brooklyn Manning, Jackson McCullough, Summer McInnes, Madelyn McNabb, Joy Mendonca, Noah Metzger, Emily Meunier, Gavin Meunier, Alina Mishchuk, Charlotte Moses, Cohen Nelson, Evan Niemi, Brielle Nieves, Ava O'Connor, Sarah O'Connor, Madeleine O'Sullivan, Brayden Pacifico, Hannah Palmer, Jack Parastatidis, Olivia Parent, Kenisha Patel, Ava Pelloso, Owen Piquette, Cameron Powers, David Quinn, Calvin Quintana, Mason Quintana, Camden Rodrigues, Colton Rogers, Annelise Roszko, Ava Rowe, Kyla Sacco, Mallory Sample, Evelyn Santaniello, Madison Schmieding, Marcello Severino, Liam Shattuck, Adrielle Sheridan, Olivia Spiller, Abigail Stachowicz, Kyle Stebbins, William Stromwall, Peyton Sullivan, Liam Sutherland, Stepan Syrota, Nicholas Tracy, Addison Trosky, Ryenne Vedovelli, Annelise Waldron, Mason Waskiewicz, Shannon Wietecha, Ryan Wisley, Jacob Zanetti

Distinguished Honors - Grade 7

Cassandra Alvarez, Aubrey Appleby, Dylan Bean, Reid Blanchard, Rose Christensen, Jacob DeGray, Maycie Eldridge, Peyton Eusebio, Cody Feit, Martin Garcia, Oliver Hart, Gavin Hisgen, Jasper Hulseberg, Nicholas Kennedy, Delaney Kinsman, Andrew Kmelius, Jack Lapalm, Madeline Lee, Adeline Look, Julia Magee, Therese Mathias, Sophia Mazzaferro, Vivian McIntyre, Zahra Minhaj, Joseph Montano, Sebasti Morales-Garcia, Maeghan Morris, Andrew Mullen, Emily Mumper, Desmond O'Brien, Shana Oguku, Sunmi Oh, Mya Pafumi, Abigail Patterson, Ryleigh Picard, Logan Pryor, David Roberts, Garrett Roberts, Alexan Robles-Blasenak, Jaxson Rogers, Chris-

topher Romano, Grace Romano, Greta Rust, Jake Salemi, Oskar Schmidt, Jamie Scliopou, Jackson Shanley, Louise Shaughnessey, Madelyn Smith, Lucas Tassinari, Cole Thomas, Ashley Wetherbe, Brenna Woytowicz, Kylie Zamorski

Honors - Grade 7

Aruneesan Anurathan, Alaina Bailey, Molly Baroni, Anna Bokhan, Dante Bontempi, Madelyn Boudreau, Alianna Brandoli, Abigail Britton, Brenna Bryan, Jack Christofori, Emma Cristino, Isabella DePace, Leo Deziel, Joseph Dickson, Cooper Donovan, Julian Dugan-Costa, Emery Dyer, Timothy Euber, Nora Fontaine, Ryenne Fountain, Jada Haqq, Gisell Henrichon-Arena, Kareem Ibrahim, Brian Ingman, Joshua Jacobsen, McKinley Jaeger, Jacob Johnson, Rieland Kearney, Bree Kiernan, Oliver, Chloe Lawless, Jason Lemus, Siobhan Mahoney, Logan Mangar, Abigail McElroy, Ryan Minns, Kristina Monteiro, Josiah Morales, Mia Newman, Ryan Nichols, Grayson Nowakowski, Nathan O'Brien, Michelle Ohemeng, Joshua Pelletier, Kennady Raymond, Lyla Raymond, Gage Ring, William Roberts, Hayden Senft, Katelyn Sheehan, Jessica Soukup, Violet Straitiff, Maxwell Sylveste, Alanna Thouin, Jaxson Walker, Caitlin Weichselbaumer, Owen Wright, Emily Zheng

Distinguished Honors - Grade 6

Amber Antunes, Tia Assaf, Pheobe Babineau, Aria Balwa, Oliver Bergeron, Olivia Beston, Matthew Brogle, Sadie Casella, Olivia Chen, Ella Coviello, Mary Dos Santos, Honora Farrell, Natalie Fol, Quinn Folli, Nathan Gencarelli, John Guerin, Taleya Gunn, Zoe Harrigan, Grayson Householder, Eva Kellogg, Gavin Kern, Brooke Kmelius, Jessica Kwajewski, Leo Langone, Anthony Lapomardo, Claire Lareau, Jayden Lewis, Jayden Lopez, Katherine Lotterer, Amyr Ly, Molly MacEachern, Caroline Maziarz, Cole Michael, Ellis Nelson, Adriana Pafumi, Austin Piquette, Ava Ricketts, Brayden Rivest, Taesha Rowe-Singleton, Mia Santos, Damien Sasen, Sophia Schott, Paige Smith, Samantha Strange, Vivian Stromwall, Dominick Tangredi, Jake Vanderleeden, Kayla Vanderleeden, Camdyn Vazquez, Allie Whittier, Caira Williams, Justina Wojtowicz, Ella Wisley

Honors - Grade 6

Logan Abdelmaseh, Alexis Adames, Owen Benninger, Louis Bertelli, Avery Blume, Jackson Bourke, Margaret Brannigan, Bella Brown, Cassidy Bryan, Emily Burke, Sophia Cantalini, Angelica Capatina, Maddox Carreira, Jackson Chappel, Nathaniel Choinski, Colin Conboy, Mya Conselino, Philip Costello, Cameron DeForest, Audriana Desousa, Valeri Echeverria Diaz, Anna Fletcher, Jack Ford, Maxwell Gawron, Gavin Haber, Carter Hanks, Sawyer Haugh, Abigail Haygood, Nora Hegarty, Gavin Hoar, Brennan Hoey, Emma Howland, Enzo Imbriglio, Lucas Inguagiato, Emily Jourdain, Emerson Judd, Grace Keith, Hayden Kelley, Noah Kelly, Liam Knowlton, Helena Kudryk, Riley LaBarre, Michael Lafield, Eli Laravee, Rylee Lopes, Zara Lotterer, Caroline Maserati, Adriana Monteleone, Lucas Morrow, Ali Mourad, Merliah Nguyen, Parker Noonan, Justin Nowicki, Joelky Nunez De Jesus, Betty Pagoaga, Colin Paige, Austen Paterno, Lilly Peltier, Stella Petit, Amelia Pluciennik, Axel Reed, Madison Riker, Audrey Roach, Taishla Rowe-Singleton, Audrey Scott, Nicolas Siciliano, Daniel Soto-Tovar, Anna Steele, Connor Sullivan, Malaysia Tessier, Juliany Torres, Kayson Twarog-DeJura, Cooper VanDerBeken, Carter Verteramo, Jorel Washington, Hailey White, Evianna Wright, Jaxen Wright, Samuel Zanetti

CAMPUS

NOTES

HCC recognizes fall 2024 graduates

HOLYOKE: Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the following students who will complete their requirements for graduation at the end of the fall 2024 semester. These members of the Class of 2025 were recognized at HCC's second Fall Graduate Reception on Monday, Dec. 2, in the college's Leslie Phillips Theater and will also be invited to participate in HCC's 78th Commencement exercises

at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass., on May 31, 2025.

The following students from Hampden and Wilbraham will complete their requirements for graduation.

- Hampden: Brittany Brideau
- Wilbraham: Malyna Jade Dansereau, Deborah Ann Farnham and Nicholas A. Gentile.

This Week in Rec

Wilbraham Hiking Club

By Sue Burk

WILBRAHAM - 2024 has been a great year for the Wilbraham Hiking Club! The club's TeamReach App has more than 230 members, from Wilbraham and surrounding towns, with more hikers joining almost every month. There's been at least one hike nearly every week, and sometimes more than one. Thanks to hikers who have stepped up to lead their favorite hikes, the club has expanded beyond easy-to-moderate, relaxedpace hikes, and now also offers easy and moderate hikes at a moderate pace and even some challenging hikes.



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

The club, co-sponsored by the Open Space Committee and Rec Department, continued to explore Wilbraham's wonderful hiking areas and also headed north as far as Petersham, south as far as East Windsor, east as far as Brimfield, and west all the way to Cummington. Most hikes have had between four to twelve hikers. Although most, but not all, current hikers are retired or semi-retired, the club is open to hikers of all ages; in 2024, participants have ranged in age from middle school age to over age 80! The club would LOVE to offer weekend and school vacation hikes for parents and their children, and hopes to hear from some folks who would like to lead these kinds of hikes. Delightfully, nineteen hikers joined Shelley and Howie's seventh annual "Spend Some Time Outdoors on Black Friday" hike at the Quabbin, and many stayed on for delicious lunch nearby! There have been other special hikes followed

by delicious lunches, such as Ellen and Mary's "Art in the Orchard" hike at Park Hill Orchards in Easthampton. John's challenging hikes have included the Seven Sisters and Mount Tom hiking areas. Looking ahead to 2025, there are plans to add more hiking locations in western and central Massachusetts and Connecticut, and perhaps bring back some of the long (8 to 9+ mile) "City Sidewalk Walks" in Boston or

New York City. Most of the hikes for each month are usually posted by the 20th of the preceding month. The easiest way to find out about and to sign up for hikes is to use the club's section of the TeamReach app, which is available at the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. To join the Wilbraham Hiking Club there, use the Group Code WHC01095. After joining, hikers should set their notification to allow push notifications and email notifications so that the hiking club can send notes and reminders about upcoming hikes. Hikers who do not like to use "apps" and want to be part of the Wilbraham Hiking Club can send an email to wilbrahamhiking@gmail.com and their email address will be added so they will be notified about upcoming hikes.

The Wilbraham Hiking Club welcomes new and returning hikers and hike leaders for all hiking levels! Hike Leaders can choose a location and difficulty level and mileage/duration that works for them and lead one hike a year or one every day, or anything in between. Please contact wilbrahamhiking@gmail.com if you'd like to lead hikes for the WHC!

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The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills. Please visit our website TownOfBlandford.com or email Administrator@TownofBlandford.com for more information.

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The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application, and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Application deadlines vary. EOE

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON Highway Position Opening

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill a part-time (six hours a week) **Administrative Assistant** position in the Town Highway Department. Duties include providing customer service, handling department's incoming and outgoing correspondence, processing payroll and maintaining records. The pay rate range for this position is \$18.16/hour to \$26.26/hour. A more in-depth job description can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us. Questions will be answered by Highway Superintendent Devon Wolf - telephone number 413-685-5949. Please send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthingtonhighway@gmail.com or to **Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098.** This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled. *The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT



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

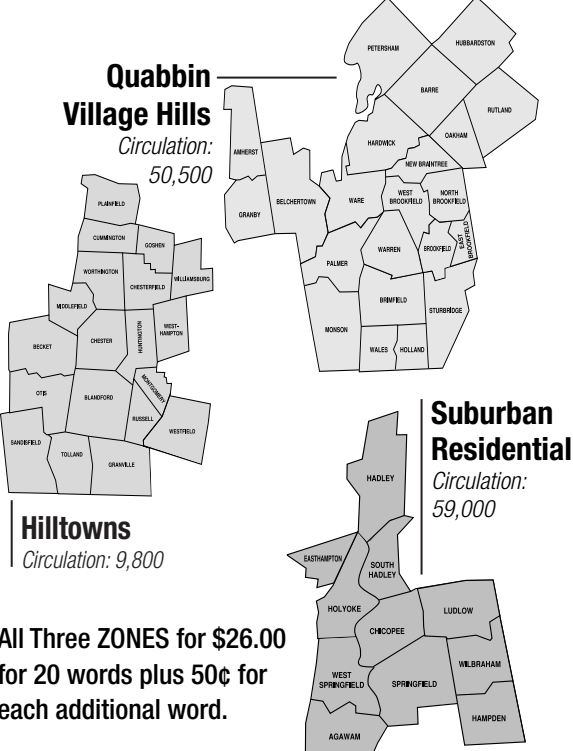
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or call: 413-283-8393

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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
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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. HD24C0386CA

In the matter of:
Addison Rose Janas
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Addison Rose Janas of Wilbraham, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

ADDISON ROSE TUROWSKY
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 01/03/2025.**

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: December 03, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/19/2024

01/07/2025. 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: December 10, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/19/2024

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. HD24P2567EA

Estate of:
Rosa B Quicksey
Date of Death: 11/02/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Devora L Quicksey of Springfield, 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: **Devora L Quicksey of Springfield, 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**

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 5:45PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed amendments to the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaw to regulate Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) by amending Sections 1.3, 3.4., 3.9.2.15 and 4.10.

The complete text of the proposed amendments is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office and the Planning Office during normal business hours and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. All persons interested or wishing to be heard on this matter are urged to attend the public hearing.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/500519685> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 500-519-685).

James Rooney, Chair
12/19, 12/26/2024

Wilb. Troop 359 hosting Bottle & Can Drive

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Troop 359 will have their Bottle & Can Drive on Sat, Jan. 4, 2025 from 8 a.m. to Noon.

It will be held in the St. Cecilia's Church parking lot.

All donations to Troop 359 provide support toward camping equipment and supplies, program materials, registration and activity fees throughout the year. People come to the troop's bottle & can drives year after year.

The generous community support and donations are greatly appreciated.

Theater Guild holding auditions for 'Jerry's Girls'

HAMPDEN – The Theatre Guild of Hampden will hold open auditions for the musical "Jerry's Girls" on Sunday Dec. 29 at 2 p.m. at the Hampden Town House on Main Street.

For more information, call Mark Giza at 413-204-5333.

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 United States
- 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



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Hope Your Holiday Season Is **Extra-Extra Happy!**



Thanks to all of our readers and advertisers for supporting our publication and the future of local community journalism. We value our role in this community, and we're committed to keeping you current in 2025 and beyond with a focus on the local news and events that matter most to you.

We wish you an informed and fabulous new year!

The Wilbraham-Hampden
TIMES

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

Early Deadlines
for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers Will Deadline
Thursday, Dec. 19 at Noon for Publication Dec. 23-27

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

All Papers Will Deadline
Friday, Dec. 27 at Noon for Publication Dec. 30-Jan. 3



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
A resident drops off toy donations during the Hampden Police Association and Hampden Fire Department Toy Drive outside Bethlehem Church on Dec. 14.



Members of the Hampden Police Department and Hampden Fire Department pose with Monson Savings Bank Branch Manager Adriano dos Santos for a group photo after receiving the donations that were dropped off at Monson Savings Bank.



Hampden Fire Cadet Logan Howard and Probationary Firefighter Bryan LaFountain hold up toy donations they just received from the community.



Fire Cadet Logan Howard, Santa Claus and Reserve Police Officer Todd Schneider wave to drivers outside Bethlehem Church in Hampden as residents stopped by to drop off their toy donations.



Firefighter John Fitzgerald and Reserve Police Officer Todd Schneider organize the toy donations as they continue coming in.



A Hampden resident drops off a toy donation.



Firefighter Jonathan Cadieux and Fire Cadet Logan Howard meet a family after they donated toys to the Hampden Police Association and Hampden Fire Department Toy Drive and met Santa.

TOY DRIVE from page 1

Trinity, but also their whole families. They take care of everybody for Christmas so that we didn't have to worry about it, so that's nice," Schneider said.

Edna Rodriguez, director of Brightside for Families and Children and director of Behavioral Health for Mercy Medical Center and Brightside, said the toy drive supports "close to 100 families" with a Santa's Workshop with volunteers that come and work off a wishlist for the children.

"So, our kids get what they desire," Rodriguez said. "We basically treat one of the kids in the house often, but we make sure all the kids that are residing in the house and are being touched by Brightside receive toys, so that way families can have the burden of having to shop and all that taken off of their shoulders

and focus on the time together and healing from things that are causing them pain, which is why we're there."

Rodriguez was grateful to the police and fire departments for organizing the toy drive.

"Thanks to their kindness and efforts, we're going to continue to do this tradition that we've been doing for many years. So, this is wonderful," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez explained Brightside has been around for 153 years, having been founded by the Sisters of Providence as an orphanage, followed by a center for youth with problems and a residential program.

For the last 25 years, Brightside has been an outpatient service for behavioral health, including in-home therapy. They serve children from the ages of three to 21 years old, with most falling between the ages of 10

and 13.

"So, right now, our focus is to go into the homes, help families to build up their skills to stay together, thrive together, survive and heal from trauma," Rodriguez said. "Because we go there and we create this sort of bond with the families and rapport, we're able to know what these kids want and they need and they're getting into. So, that's what feeds us our wish list."

On the community support, Rodriguez said this.

"It just shows the hope and the Christmas spirits and the love that really is in Western Mass. What we've felt is that people want these kids to do better. We really want these families to build a life that's worth living and funded in hope and joy," Rodriguez said. "It's just another way for the community to show up and say that they're supporting the work that we do."

Firefighter John Fitzgerald was elated with the donations.

"It's been great. I'm surprised by the turnout that we've had. It's very nice to have people with their very donations," Fitzgerald said.

His son, Ryan, who serves as an EMT, loved how the event brought both departments together.

"We work together all the time out in the field. It's kind of nice to come together and do an event. It builds that community relationship between the fire department and police department and it, also, helps get the public involved," he said.

Firefighter Jonathan Cadieux agreed.

"I think it's pretty fun because, as Ryan said, you get to build the relationship with the different officers and different skill sets and they know how to help each other out in different

events," Cadieux said.

Fire Cadet Logan Howard and Probationary Firefighter Bryan LaFountain encourage the community to continue supporting toy drives every year.

"Thank you for donating and those that don't know about it, come out because it's the right thing to do," LaFountain said.

"Just like he said, thanks for donating. Everyone that got a gift from this drive is going to be very appreciative and grateful, so thank you," Howard said.

Schneider said they will have the toy drive again next year, sharing this message.

"Thank you very much for everybody who contributed, stopped by, stopped by at the beginning of the week, stopped by and saw Santa. Thank you for the great support," Schneider said.

To learn more about Brightside, visit mercygives.org.



Amy Grossi stands behind some of her jewelry. Grossi makes the glass beads and designs herself, setting them into the metal jewelry. One particularly cool item was a bracelet assistant; a metal stick with a clasp attached to it for those bracelets that are tricky to clasp and hold with one hand. She does many shows and is launching a website very soon.



Beverlee and Peter Corriveau stand behind their home-made maple syrup. Little Oak Farm is located in Wilbraham.



Turley photos by Hannah Yeasley
The small group of Christmas carolers moved from room to room, singing a few different songs each time. They all held bells to add to the merriment as well.



Fran Selva stands behind her hand-woven baskets. Each one was available for purchase.



Gibby's Gourmet Marshmallows offers a wide variety of flavored marshmallows, some freeze dried and some not. Denise Gilbert (left) and Martha Berry (right) were offering samples of a couple different flavors.



Just one table of many of the raffle prizes offered. A majority of the prizes were donated by vendors at the event.



The long table of cookie trays, many of which were made by the Cookie Angels themselves.

HOLLY FAIR from page 1

Fair, according to Cookie Angel Chrissy Plumb.

"We had people in line waiting starting around 8:15 this morning," Plumb said. "We make a large chunk of funds for the church from this Cookie Walk. People love it, and the Angels have fun making cookies and preparing for it every year. It's become a huge part of this event."

For the Cookie Walk, bakery boxes could be purchased for \$30, and guests could then choose their own cookies to fill their box.

"As long as the box can be closed flat, they can put whatever and however many cookies they want in them," Plumb said. "And then some of our lovely Angels will wrap the box with decorative ribbon."

In the large performance hall, attendees could find the Holly Café and a setup of booths. For part of the morning, they could also find a small group of Christmas carolers, who carried around bells to ring as they sang holiday tunes.

One such booth was Amy Grossi Jewelry Design, who makes art glass for jewelry and

other metalworks. Located in Holland, Grossi attends many local fairs with her husband.

"We come to this one every year," Grossi said. "It's a huge time of year for us, and we love doing it. I also have a website launching very soon."

Grossi explained her process to those who inquire, noting that one time she squished a bead while making it and the abnormal sphere became her signature.

"It's a nice touch that people actually like," Grossi said. "They can tell it was handmade."

On the opposite side of the church, attendees could find

Baskets from the Heart, a booth where Fran Selva was selling her hand-woven baskets of all shapes and sizes.

Selva has been basket weaving for 34 years after taking a community class about it.

"I have a lot of books at home with different patterns," Selva said. "Sometimes I just start one and then decide what colors to use, and other times I get inspired by something else. I have this basket that has a lid on it, but I made the lid for something else. I then saw that these worked together much better, so I added matching colors to the basket part of it and

ended up really liking it."

Selva also takes special orders and offers instruction.

Other booths at the fair included, but are certainly not limited to, a homemade marshmallow booth where bricks of different flavored marshmallows could be purchased, a booth with decorative succulent candles, and even a booth where people could meet and buy books from two local authors, Courtney Vail and Sandra J. Howell.

With a little something for everyone, the Holly Fair is a yearly event that is certainly not to be missed!



HOME FOR THE *Holidays*

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Tom Newton
who donated his services to
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ON THE NIGHT**

**BIG THANK YOU TO
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THE WILBRAHAM
FRIENDS OF RECREATION**

Falcon Housing Coporation

Organization: Falcon Housing

Location: Wilbraham

Type: Volunteer

About Us:

Falcon Housing is dedicated to providing affordable and quality housing to low-income seniors through HUD programs. Our mission is to enhance the living standards of our residents while fostering a strong sense of community.

Position Overview:

We are seeking passionate and dedicated individuals to join our Board of Directors. As a Board Member, you will play a critical role in shaping the strategic direction and oversight of our organization. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to meaningful change in the community and support our mission of affordable housing to seniors.

Key Responsibilities:

- Attend and participate in Board meetings and committee meetings.
- Provide strategic guidance and oversight in areas such as finance, governance, and program development.
- Review and approve budgets, policies, and major organizational decisions.
- Advocate for the organization and its mission within the community.

Qualifications:

- Commitment to the mission of providing affordable housing to seniors and community development.
- Previous experience in non-profit management, real estate, finance, law or a related field is preferred.
- Strong communication and leadership skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively with other board members and staff.
- Willingness to dedicate time and effort to board responsibilities.

Time Commitment:

- Attend quarterly Board meetings and additional committee meetings as needed.

How to Apply:

Please submit a resume and a brief cover letter outlining your interest and relevant experience to Carr Property Management at cpmi@carrproperty.com by January 15, 2025.

Equal Opportunity Statement:

Falcon Housing is an equal opportunity organization and encourages applications from individuals of all backgrounds and experiences.

**Join us in making a difference
in the lives of those who need it most!**