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# The REGISTER

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## Commemorative book on town history presented by 250th Committee

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – This past Tuesday, members of the community gathered in the high school auditorium for a presentation about the newest collection of the town’s history, compiled by the 250th Book Committee.

“It’s been a long two-and-a-half years putting the book together,” said Brian Bylicki, a committee member and one of the key compilers of the book.

On Monday, in keeping with the tradition of previous histories of the town, a copy of the book was presented to Town Clerk Tim Batista. On Wednesday, copies were gifted to the school library as well.

Bylicki talked about the many partners in this project, including local businesses, town departments, and dedicated historians. He introduced Dr. William Koscher, Sandra Stanek, Mary Beth Silva, Kathy Ouimette, Bruce Fenney, and Martin Fanning, who each presented on specific topics covered in the book as they relate to town history.



Brian Bylicki (center) donated copies of the Ludlow 250th Book to the High School Library, pictured with Principal Lisa Nemeth (left) and Librarian Jamison Hedin.

William Koscher spoke about the town’s First Meeting House, built in 1783 and served as the political center of the town for several decades.

“Churches in the 17th and 18th century in New England were usually thought of as meeting houses,” Koscher said. “They also doubled often as governmental structures, as

did ours.”

Sandra Stanek spoke about the hospital, and the Hubbard Memorial Library, the home of Charles Hubbard that was donated

to the town to be used as a library, and was expanded in 1990.

“The improvements mainly affected the north side of the building,” Stanek said, “and the townspeople marveled at how well the design of the old building had been carried over into the new structure.”

Stanek pointed out panels on the south side of the building, visible from the library parking lot, which have a pattern of interlocking loops and spindles held together with twine, which she said was designed as a reference to Hubbard’s connection to the mills.

Diana Roy was unable to attend the presentation, and so Mary Beth Silva talked about the Boys & Girls Club and Exit 7 theatre.

“We’re thrilled to see how the Board of Directors have built the Exit 7 Players into a premier location for community theatre in Western Massachusetts,” Silva said.

Bruce Fenney then talked about the history of Randall’s Farm, and shared pictures of the WM Fuller milk wagon.

“My parents had pictures of this wagon, but I never personally

Please see **250TH BOOK**, Page 10

## Chief talks budget with Select Board

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – At the Nov. 12 Board of Selectmen meeting, Police Chief Dan Valadas was invited to talk about increases to the department’s budget.

Select Board Chair Derek DeBarge said that Valadas was invited to the meeting to discuss comments made at the Oct. 6 Town Meeting.

“The Board feels we do not agree that we do not support the Police Department, and that’s what we’re here to talk about,” DeBarge said.

### Police budget

DeBarge said that the Board and the Chief had exchanged correspondence asking for documentation on the issues alleged at Town Meeting, and opened the floor for Valadas to share his findings.

“My statement at Town Meeting is as a Town Meeting member,” Valadas said. “I made one statement to three different articles. My statement was that I’ve come, I’ve asked for additional officers and haven’t received them due to the fact that we couldn’t afford them.”

Valadas described a request from Chief Pablo Madera in 2012 to add four officers and a lieutenant to the department’s 37 officers. By 2018, the department stood at 42 officers. Valadas



became chief in 2020, and described the budget that he prepared in 2022.

“I asked for nine officers that year,” Valadas said. “I wanted to put a sergeant on each shift, a lieutenant in the Detective Bureau, and then five patrolmen.”

The Board approved one sergeant for the department, and approved a lieutenant in the Detective Bureau the following year.

“Lieutenant David Kornacki, at the time, was Acting Sergeant,” Valadas said. “He wrote this five-page dissertation explaining what they would do if there was a lieutenant in the Detective Bureau”

Valadas said that as of 2018, the department has remained at 42 police officers, with 12 supervisors and 30 patrolmen, and no change in the dispatchers.

“I’ve asked for a dispatch supervisor, I mentioned that at Town Meeting,” Valadas said.

“We have nine full-time dispatchers. The dispatch supervisor was going to be a separate, manager position.”

Valadas added that the Board has raised the Special Police Budget.

“If you look back at the budget figures I gave you from 2021, the Special Police Budget used to be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$22,000; that currently sits at \$90,000 because of the post requirements,” Valadas said. “Fortunate for us – and surprisingly – we maintained 20 Special Police Officers, meeting all the requirements of a full-time police officer.”

“We could talk about positions all we want, but I think this board has gone a long way to try to give you everything that you’ve wanted.”

Select Board Member  
James Gennette

Valadas said that the big expense for this item was to meet these requirements, which Valadas said is a big commitment for a unit whose members have other jobs.

Please see **SELECE BOARD**, Page 11

## Comprehensive Zoning Review at Planning Board meeting

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – At the Planning Board’s Nov. 14 meeting, representatives from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission presented the board with a Comprehensive Zoning Review.

The board opened the Public Hearing for a home occupation for Jessica Leonczyk on Allison Lane for a sourdough baking good business.

Leonczyk said her intention is just to “bake bread, bagels, and English muffins to sell to friends and family and other customers.”

After determining that customers would not be visiting the site and with no public comments regarding the business, the board moved that the finding of Leonczyk’s business is suitable under the bylaw, and waived the full site plan in favor of the sketch and photos.

The board then went over an ANR for Kevin Lavigne on Wedgewood Drive to subdivide the existing land into two parcels, and moved to unanimously endorse it.

The meeting then turned to a Comprehensive Zoning Review with the PVPC. Representatives from PVPC told the board about the Zoning Bylaw Review, that they do for many communities to go through the zoning bylaws to

compare with best practices, standardizing elements, and looking at organizational issues.

“We took a look at all of the recent planning efforts that have taken place for the town,” said Planner Aodhan Hemeon-McMahon. “From those plans, we tried to drill down some of the goals and objectives that were included in the past.”

Hemeon-McMahon mentioned objectives that were relevant to this process, specifically to develop zoning regulations to allow for greater development densities, developing a town-side greenway plan, expanding mixed-use redevelopment areas, creating a town-wide green infrastructure plan, and establishing procedures to advance land protection goals.

The planners from PVPC made a presentation to the board about specifics in the town’s zoning bylaws where language could be clarified or improved, or where the bylaws could be updated to reflect the needs of present-day businesses and residences. One suggestion was for inclusionary zoning and a space for short-time residential.

“We’ve tried doing cluster development bylaws a number of times,” Phoenix said. “Town Meeting has been very unresponsive.”

Phoenix said that the board

Please see **PLANNING BOARD**, Page 11





Visit us at [Ludlowma250.org](http://Ludlowma250.org)  
**Pancake Breakfast with Santa**  
 Please join us for a Merry Ludlow 250th Celebration at  
**Harris Brook Elementary School**



**SUNDAY,  
 DECEMBER 1, 2024**

**2 TIMES AVAILABLE  
 8:30-10AM  
 10-11:30AM**

Get your tickets at  
**PLAYNOW!**  
 at 433 Center St.  
 or Kathy Ouimette at  
 413-589-7994

**Christmas Tree Lighting**

**Sunday, December 1st  
 4:30 p.m. @ Ludlow Town Hall**

- Meet Santa & Mrs. Claus
- Christmas Carol Sing-along w/ Ludlow High School Choir
- Cookies & Hot Cocoa
- Toys for Tots Collection



**Christmas House  
 Decorating  
 Contest**

OPEN TO ALL  
 RESIDENTS OF  
 LUDLOW



To participate register your home address in the Christmas House Flyer on the Ludlow 250 website by December 9th, 2024.  
[www.ludlowma250.org](http://www.ludlowma250.org)

Judging for open class designs will take place December 13th-19th, 2024. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners will receive prizes.

For more info call Mary Beth Silva @ 413-583-6046 or Alesia Barbaro @ 413-478-8611



**Ludlow 250th  
 History Book**

The wait is over, the commemorative Ludlow 250th History book is now available. The cost is \$32.00. This 200-page coffee table history book showcases some of the newly discovered glass plate negatives from the Ludlow Mills. It also highlights Ludlow's historical time starting pre 1636, Ludlow's agriculture history, Hubbard Memorial Library, Westover, Ludlow Hospital, schools, sports, government, police & fire, the military, and the town's recent events of Ludlow's 250th birthday celebration. There are limited copies, please order your copy today by calling Kathy Hurley Ouimette at (413) 589-7994 or at the Ludlow Town Hall - Clerk's Office by check only, made out to Ludlow 250th.

Follow us on Facebook [ludlowma250](https://www.facebook.com/ludlowma250)

**LUDLOW**



**LILO**

This is Lilo, we are from Ludlow. Lilo loves boinks, plays fetch, and is scared of trash bags.

We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to [mgusmao@turley.com](mailto:mgusmao@turley.com).



**LFD reminds residents to sign up for ambulance program**

LUDLOW — Chief Ryan Pease and the Ludlow Fire Department would like to remind residents of the ambulance subscription program for 2025.

Ludlow Fire will be mailing the 2025 Ambulance Subscription form to all households in Ludlow by early November. The annual ambulance subscription fee is \$50 per household and all residents living in the same household will be covered under one subscription payment.

The subscription fees will cover any remaining balances for emergency ambulance services provided by Ludlow Fire that insurance does not cover.

Residents should be aware that 2024 subscriptions expire on Dec. 31. To ensure continued coverage for 2025, current subscribers should pay online or in person before Dec. 31.

The fee may be used as a tax deduc-

tion to the extent of the law. Donations from this program are used to help purchase the necessary supplies and equipment for the Ludlow Ambulance Service.

The department also offers online sign-up. Residents who do not receive a form by mail can print one online or call Ludlow Fire to request one. New members are welcome to participate.

Those who wish to drop off payment at the station should leave it in one of the secure drop boxes located outside the Fire Dispatch Area on the Center Street side or inside the main vestibule of the Public Safety Complex on the Chapin Street side. Cash and checks are accepted.

For questions or assistance, please call the Ludlow Fire Department at 413-583-8332, ext. 2309, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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## 250th Committee Pancake Breakfast with Santa at Harris Brook

LUDLOW – The 250th Celebration Committee is inviting residents and their families to enjoy a Pancake Breakfast with Santa and his Elves.

The event takes place at the Harris Brook Elementary School, 209 Fuller St. on Sunday, Dec. 1. There are two seatings first seating at 8:30 to 10 a.m. and the second seating is 10-11:30 a.m.

The cost of the tickets are: Children 3 to 12 / \$5 per person (Children under 2 are free) and 13 to Adult / \$7 per person. The menu includes pancakes, syrup, sausage, milk, water, juice and coffee.

The Mason's from the Brigham Lodge of Ludlow will be at this event to register your children for

the "CHIPS" program. The identification kit collects photos, videos, voice recordings, digital fingerprints, saliva swabs, as well as traditional statistical information like height, weight, hair and eye color. This information is matched to work seamlessly with Law Enforcement.

The kit shares critical identifying information that can be broadcasted and shared more quickly than ever before to assist with the safe recovery of missing children.

Scout Troop 1774 and the staff from the Harris Brook Elementary School will be assisting with this event. We appreciate the support of the Mason's, Troop 1774 and the staff from the school for making this

event a success.

Families will have time to take pictures with Santa. Children will also have time to discuss their Christmas wishes with Santa. There will be a fun kid's creative craft corner with complimentary crafts and activities for the children.

A basket raffle will be offered that includes kid's raffle baskets.

Tickets for the Breakfast with Santa will be sold at PlayNow at the Big Y Plaza at 433 Center St. Tickets are limited. For tickets and more information, please contact Kathy Hurley Ouimette at 413-589-7994.

"We look forward to seeing you!"

## State and local leaders cut the ribbon on the Residences at Mill 8 at the Ludlow Mills Complex

LUDLOW – On Monday, Nov. 18, at 11 a.m., local leaders visited 50 State St. to cut the on the Residences at Mill 8, a mixed-income community featuring 95 apartments for adults 55 and older.

Speakers included the state Housing Secretary Ed Augustus, Senator Jake Oliveira, State Representative Aaron Saunders, Ludlow Town Administrator Marc Strange, Michael Garand, Managing Director

and President of Bank of America Worcester, and Adam Stein, Winn-Development Executive Vice President.

The redevelopment not only transformed a portion of the historic mill building into much-needed housing but also restored and revived the iconic clock tower and clock featured on the Ludlow Town seal since 1919. WinnCompanies, an award-winning national owner, developer, and manager of high-im-

pact apartment communities, and Westmass Area Development Corporation partnered on the \$43.2 million project.

The three-story, 123-year-old clock tower at Mill 8 underwent a complete restoration and is now working for the first time in decades, thanks to Electric Time Company, Inc., of Medfield, an expert clock tower manufacturer with tower and street clock installations on every continent.

## Free Christmas Concert and Tree Lighting at First Church in Ludlow

LUDLOW – Begin celebrating your Christmas season with the 26-piece West Mass Brass Band at First Church, 859 Center St, Ludlow on Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.

There will be wonderful renditions of your favorite Christmas songs. Following the concert, will be light refreshments and a procession to the front of the church to sing a few carols and the lighting of the Christmas Tree.

Bring your friends and family. All are welcome.

## Winter craft fair on Dec. 7

PALMER—Winter craft fair to be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 at Palmer High School, 4105 Main St., Palmer. Where creativity and holiday spirit merge. Wonderful unique and handmade treasures for a truly magical season. For more information contact nlachance5282009@gmail.com.

**CHRISTMAS PYROHY (PIEROGI) SALE**  
 at Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church  
 45 Newbury Street, Ludlow  
**Potato with Cheese or Cabbage filling \$12/dozen**  
 Please call in your order by Sunday, Dec. 8 to be picked up Saturday, Dec. 14. Call 413-219-2126.  
 Limited availability, first ordered first served.  
 All orders will be packaged in disposable containers. (No personal containers.) Like us on Facebook.

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## The Local Table-n-Tap holds Dine-In to help the Community Survival Center

WILBRAHAM – The Local Table-n-Tap Restaurant will hold a Dine-In Event on Monday, Dec. 9 from 5-8 p.m. in support of the Community Survival Center.

The Restaurant is located at 2039 Boston Road in Wilbraham. 20% of all sales will go to the Community Survival Center to help with their mission.

Additionally, the restaurant is holding a food and toiletries drive to benefit the Patrons of the Community Survival Center's Emergency Food Pantry.

The Center's Emergency Pantry provides bagged groceries, up to six times a year, to low-income households from Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Hampden, as well as from the Indian Orchard, and Sixteen Acres neighborhoods of Springfield. Senior clients may reside anywhere in Hampden County and visit the Pantry each month. Families enrolled in the Preschool Program also visit the Pantry every month to collect 20 breakfast, lunch, and snack items for their children who are not yet enrolled

in school.

The Pantry is open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 till 4 p.m. The Thrift Shop on Main is open Monday through Thursday and the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sales help support the Pantry and anyone may shop with us.

The mission of the Community Survival Center is to relieve hunger in our community by providing emergency food to individuals and families in times of need.

## Why supporting local small businesses matters

*It pays to shop small businesses during the holidays and all year long*

REGION—The holiday season is a time of year when shopping takes center stage. While online giants and big box retailers seem to be everywhere, offering an endless array of products with the convenience of low prices, small businesses provide a range of benefits that go far beyond the ease of a mouse click or mountains of merchandise. Shopping local retailers is more than just a transaction — it is crucial for maintaining the economic foundation of local communities. Let's take a look at the many ways it pays to shop small businesses during the holidays and all year long.

- **Strengthen the local economy:** A large percentage of the money spent at small businesses stays in the community. That's because these businesses often are owned and operated by local residents who are invested in the community themselves. Various studies indicate that for every \$100 spent at a small business, roughly \$70 stays in the community.

- **Enhanced customer service:** Owners and employees of small businesses have a keen interest in keeping customers happy. They often do so by providing superior customer service. Tailoring recommendations, exhibiting a willingness to accommodate special requests, offering a more engaging shopping experience, and being more friendly and connected with regular customers sets many small businesses apart.

- **Support the community:** Small businesses serve the community through the products and services they offer, and many give back in other ways as well. Small, locally owned businesses often sponsor schools, sports teams and charities. This helps foster a sense of belonging in the community.

- **Innovative offerings:** Small businesses are not beholden to corporate policies or franchise restrictions, so they can more readily bring new life to existing ideas and trends. Small businesses can offer customers different options that larger retailers cannot match.

- **Job creation:** Small businesses employ a significant percentage of the workforce and frequently provide jobs that might not be available in larger corporate settings. The U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy says small businesses have generated 12.9 million net new jobs over the past 25 years, accounting for two out of every three jobs added to the U.S. economy. Keeping residents working helps strengthen local communities.

There are numerous benefits to shopping at small businesses this Small Business Saturday and throughout the year. Such firms help to establish a more resilient, diverse and bustling local community.

## Baystate Wing Auxiliary selling Lotto calendars

PALMER—The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is currently selling their January 2025 Lotto Calendars. The one-month calendar, which costs \$5 each or 3 for \$10, has a daily winning amount of \$100 with special drawings on Jan. 1 and Jan. 31.

For over 65 years the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has been actively supporting local healthcare

through its sponsorship of special events and sales from the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop located on the first floor of the hospital.

The calendars will be on sale beginning Oct. 29 at the Baystate Wing Hospital gift shop. Funds raised by the annual Lotto Calendars support the Auxiliary's scholarship program and their philanthropic efforts that benefit Baystate

Wing Hospital.

Whether looking for something special for a patient, a gift for a special occasion, or an item for the home, the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop offers many unique, hand-selected items. For more information about the Lotto Calendar visit the gift shop located on the first floor of the hospital or call 413-370-8169.

## Wilbraham Community Chorus to present Concerts

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

2 p.m. at First Church of Christ, Longmeadow.

Drury has chosen a varied and compelling program including music of Haydn, Mozart, Vaughan Williams, Forrest and Whitacre as well as varied arrangements of folk tunes, pop songs and seasonal music. Of particular interest will be performances by both

Jackson and well-known local pianist Todd Rovelli offering selections of four-hand piano music, and additionally a chamber choir comprised of members of the larger group will also perform.

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

### HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Send your stories and photos to [mgusmao@turley.com](mailto:mgusmao@turley.com)

### Estate Planning



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## McDonald's owner/operators across NE raise more than \$40,000 for local sports

*One-day region-wide digital fundraiser benefits youth sports programs*

NEW ENGLAND - Local McDonald's owner and operators across New England have come together for their first-ever digital fundraiser to support youth athletic programs across six states in the region.

The one-day event in October generated more than \$40,000 in donations to local school and community sports teams. In its inaugural year, the digital fundraiser is providing a meaningful financial boost to local sports programs, benefiting thousands of student-athletes throughout the region.

On Oct. 10, local McDonald's restaurants in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont donated 20% of their app sales during a six-hour window to support a wide range of youth athletic programs. The funds will help cover essential needs for sports teams in the communities they serve.

"The outpouring of support from our local communities was remarkable," said JJ Lietz, New England McDonald's Owner/Operator and Massachusetts' top fundraiser. "This initiative perfectly reflects our commitment to caring for people, whether they're inside our restaurants or throughout our neighborhoods. As a local owner-operator, it's been incredibly rewarding to see Massachusetts restaurants unite our community in supporting youth sports programs - making a lasting impact both across New England and right here at home where we live and serve."

Spearheaded by local operators, this initiative is a natural extension of McDonald's' long-standing and deep-rooted commitment to providing meaningful support to its people and communities. New England operators consistently contribute to numerous give-back programs, including Round-Up for Ronald McDonald House Charities1 and Archways to Opportunity2 for employee tuition assistance, contribut-

ing more than \$1,000,000 to RMHC and more than \$800,000 in tuition dollars for employees respectively year-to-date.

For more information about McDonald's community efforts in New England, please contact your local McDonald's restaurant.

McDonald's is the world's leading global foodservice retailer with over 40,000 locations in over 100 countries. Approximately 95% of McDonald's restaurants worldwide are owned and operated by independent local business owners. For more information, visit [www.mcdonalds.com](http://www.mcdonalds.com), or follow us on Twitter @McDonalds and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mcdonalds](http://www.facebook.com/mcdonalds).

RMHC New England is comprised of two Ronald McDonald House programs, one in Providence, RI and one located in Boston, MA, as well as two Ronald McDonald Family Rooms located in Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence and in Mass General Hospital in Boston. Ronald McDonald House Charities is dedicated to improving children's access to the highest quality healthcare. Ronald McDonald Houses allow families to access specialized medical treatment by providing a place to live at little to no cost. In addition, Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles provide high quality medical, dental and health education to those with the greatest barriers to healthcare. RMHC New England qualifies as a 501(c) 3 and therefore contributions to RMHC may be tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

Archways to Opportunity is a U.S. initiative consisting of multiple programs intended to provide education to members of the McDonald's family. Founded in 2015, Archways gives restaurant employees an opportunity to grow and learn - no matter where they are on their journey. Through Archways to Opportunity, restaurant employees have the opportunity to learn English language skills, earn a high school diploma at no cost, pursue a college degree with the support of tuition assistance and access free education and career advising services.

## Heritage "Pops" Orchestra holds Christmas Party, Dinner, and Dance

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

The event will include hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and dessert. Advance tickets are \$25 per person, and there will be a giant Wood Dance Floor, a 50/50 Raffle and Cash Bar.

The party will be held on Friday, Dec.

13 at the Polish American Citizens Club at 355 East St. Hors d'oeuvres will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and the Grand Buffet Dinner by John Diotalevi will begin at 6:30 p.m. Music and dancing will run from 7-10 p.m.

Tickets are available for purchase at the PACC bar. For more information, call 413-636-7588 and ask for Bob, or call 413-800-4164 and ask for Paul.

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

WILBRAHAM - Feeling lucky?? The Saint Cecilia Women's Club is sponsoring a Calendar Raffle Fundraiser for the month of November. Each day a winner will be drawn for a cash prize.

\$3,500 has been donated by generous businesses in our area each sponsoring an amount for a particular day from \$50 to \$250. The profit is used for the

club's scholarships and donations to various charitable and needy organizations.

Raffle tickets may be found in the rotunda of St. Cecilia Church, on the Saint Cecilia website under downloadable forms, or call Sue Agnew, 413-596-9480, for information or tickets.

Thank you for your support!!

## Boomer's Book Club at Indian Orchard Library

INDIAN ORCHARD - Join Springfield Thunderbirds hockey player Drew Callin as he shares some of his favorite books with local residents.

Visit the Springfield Library's Indian Orchard Branch on Tuesday, Nov. 26, from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. for Boomer's Book Club

Callin will be joined by a teammate. There will be a scavenger hunt and other activities. The event is expected to be great for families. Participating players are subject to change.

## Drop-In Tech Help at the Wilbraham Library

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

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

### A day in the life: Never a dull moment

People often ask me what a patient advocate does. Truly, when my phone rings I never know what the day might bring. But if I have done my job, by the time my head hits the pillow, I will have made someone's life better or their hospital stay safer.

Let me walk you through a day in the life of a patient advocate.

#### Morning

I receive a call from a senior health-care industry professional with a referral for a man who is struggling to care for his wife, who has Alzheimer's. Dementia is hard not only on the person who has it, but on their loved ones who are determined to care for them. It can be a lonely existence.

This man needs support because he wants to keep his wife safe at home, meaning he will need to find 24-hour care. In addition, he is suffering from caregiver stress and has health challenges of his own. It seems also that a new neurologist is needed to get a fresh set of eyes and a new evaluation of his wife's condition.

One of our nurses will follow up with this couple after I share their story and initial priorities of care.

Then, a community member calls regarding an elderly neighbor who has been in the hospital for several weeks and is having complications that come with prolonged hospitalization. People who are hospitalized for days or weeks at a time may suffer sleep deprivation and disorientation, which can complicate their recovery.

The neighbor is concerned that the man is not receiving the care he should, but I explain that we cannot legally help unless we are formally retained and have the individual's or family's permission to act as their representative.

In addition, the man has a wife at home with dementia and no family around to help out. We plan to have a call this afternoon to discuss having one of our nurse advocates going to assess the patient's situation and make sure his wife is well cared for in his absence.

#### Afternoon

I prepare for a panel discussion presented by the National Association of Health-care Advocacy Consultants.

Two sisters contact me about their father, who is experiencing complications following what was supposed to be a straightforward surgical procedure. When they tell me his story, I realize that the proper standard of care is not being met. Because of the trauma he is experiencing, the patient is also displaying disturbing psychological symptoms for which he is being (unnecessarily as it turns out) medicated.

The sisters tell me that they have tried to speak to the medical staff but don't feel they are being heard. Meanwhile, they are terrified of losing their dad.

Patient advocates are often able to dial back the drama and get the situation sorted because we understand patient rights as well as the hospital's perspective and can try to work out a win-win for all concerned. I schedule a visit to the hospital. Later, if this family receives a bill from the hospital, I will work to make sure they don't pay a penny.

Please see **HEALTH**, Page 7



## GUEST COLUMN

### Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

The name Joanne Costello may be familiar to you for many reasons. Though now retired, this mother of three began her career in nursing for a private practice, then went onto working at Baystate Medical Center for thirteen years. She started in the Neonatal ICU then moved to the Labor and Delivery department. Her son Ryan lives in Italy with his family, her son Mike lives with his family in Georgia and her daughter Meghan (Terone) lives in Connecticut with her husband. After motherhood began she then switched to part-time teaching childbirth classes.

Another reason Joanne's name might be familiar is she was a strong advocate for her daughter who was a Children's Miracle Network poster child at Baystate Children's Hospital in the early and mid-nineties. When the now 38-year old was diagnosed with cancer she was only six years old. Joanne talked about the amazing Random Acts of Kindness that she and her family received while she stayed at the hospital with her daughter. She spoke of these niceties being received from not only the hospital personnel but the sharing and comradery of other parents of pediatric patients. Neighbors and family came forward to help with meals for the family as well as helping her then husband with the care of their two sons.

We often think of Random Acts of Kindness only being bestowed upon strangers, but these gestures can be shared with people we know as well. Perhaps sending a quick text in the middle of the day just letting them know you're thinking of them or maybe sending a card, bringing back a lost art of communicating. These can make such a difference in someone's day.

When Meghan became ill Joanne stopped her professional nursing and instead used her skills to help her daughter continue to the next plateau of wellness. Meghan has had a difficult medical jour-

ney and the biggest Random Act of Kindness that has ever been bestowed on her has happened recently, that being her brother Mike was a willing and qualified kidney donor for her. Her older brother Ryan unfortunately though willing, wasn't able to do that. Though this wasn't a 'random act', what an incredible act of unselfishness to offer this.

In those early Joanne felt she wanted to help other pediatric parents going through their own hardships and decided to add another qualification to her nursing by becoming a licensed massage therapist. This gave her more flexibility and her intention was to give parents back massages to help ease their tensions. She did this at no charge, instead doing as Random Acts of Kindness for others. Then as Meghan got older and her medical needs became less demanding, Joanne turned her massage therapy into a second career of which she retired from.

Joanne being a mother of an ill child as well as being a nine-year breast cancer survivor herself, knew well the value of this service. She proposed her idea of giving children, their parents and adult cancer survivors chair massages while they were being administered their chemo therapy. It was a way for them all to relax and take their minds off of their worries for a little bit.

Because Joanne was so adamant knowing this was such a valuable service she kept working with the director of the cancer center. The director also believing the same brainstormed but unfortunately they were unable to get an actual position approved for a program. Well with Joanne's persistence and the director's belief in this idea a plan was established and was successful. She would be paid one-half through a charity and one-half from a second budget in order to do this which would entail her being a private contractor rather than an employee. Joanne developed the process and implemented the plan as well as trained other therapists. She is still asked to return on a

### Election letters policy

The Register 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 The Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to theregister@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 The Register.

## The REGISTER

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be 250 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: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email theregister@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

### SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Readers, local merchants, institutions, municipalities, non-profit groups, and civic organizations are strongly encouraged to send The Register your hometown news and photos. News items and press releases should be sent via email to mharrison@turley.com as an attachment AND pasted directly into the email message screen.

Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in your image(s) from left to right.

We need first and last name, hometown, title if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo. Email uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution directly off your camera to mharrison@turley.com.

Publicity chairpersons are encouraged to send in news about upcoming fundraising or other calendar events at least three weeks before the event.

If you are having difficulty with a press release or need help, please call (413) 283-8393.

To send submissions by regular post, mail to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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# What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library?

To register for programs or find out more information, visit [ludlow.cwmars.org](http://ludlow.cwmars.org), or call (413) 583-3408. Weather-related announcements for outdoor events will be made on the library's Facebook page the morning of the program.

**Library Hours:** M, W, F 9-5, TU, TH, 9-8, S 9-1. Closed Sundays and holidays.

## FOR ALL AGES

**Social Services Drop-In**, first Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m. Come Meet with our Social Worker for assistance with getting connected to food pantries and applying for food stamps, health insurance questions, referrals to treatment and support groups, supporting those with mental health concerns, free fentanyl test strips and condoms AND MORE! This program is made possible through the Mill Town Public Health Coalition.

**Free Tech Help** Call us at 413-583-3408x114 to book an hour long appointment. We can help you with your laptop, smartphone, or tablet. By appointment only, please no drop-ins.

## FOR ADULTS

**Food Drive for the Ludlow Veterans Food Pantry, October 21- November 22** The adult department is accepting donations of non-perishable food items. Help us come together as a community to make a positive impact on the lives of those facing food insecurity! All donations benefit the Ludlow Veterans Food Pantry. Bring to the Circulation Desk.

**Bigfoot in Western Mass, Tuesday, November 19, 6:00 p.m.** Eric and Tim of Bigfoot Field Research Organization will be here to discuss Bigfoot sightings and encounters right here in western Massachusetts! They also want to hear from you! Have you seen something strange in the woods? Come with an open mind and leave with a different perspective! Register on our website.

**Witness to History - A Holocaust Survivor's Story, Thursday, Decem-**

**ber 5, 6:00 p.m.** Join us for a gripping story of resilience with Abraham Rodstein, a Holocaust survivor, as he takes us through his life's journey. Facilitated by local writer Tom Slawiak, Abraham will reflect on his harrowing time in the Kovno Ghetto and his survival of the Dachau Concentration Camp. You won't want to miss this evening of reflection, courage, and hope! Register on our website.

**Holiday Stress Relief Yoga, Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.** Are the holidays stressing you out? Relax with guided meditation, breathing techniques, and yoga – all taught by certified instructor Kerry. It's the perfect time to find your peace and reduce stress during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season! Bring a yoga mat or blanket for optimal relaxation. Register on our website.

**Mass Center for the Book Monthly Reading Challenge** Each month, you'll be challenged to read a book based on a chosen theme. Those who participate will be entered to win a free book! For more information and to sign up, please visit [massbook.org/readingchallenge](http://massbook.org/readingchallenge).

**Chair Volleyball for Seniors, every Thursday, 1:30 p.m.** Have some fun and join us for chair volleyball! No running or jumping required. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408. Walk-ins are welcome.

**Who picked this book? Book Club Meeting, first Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m.** Join us for this month's Who picked this book? Book Club meeting! You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

**Happy Hour Book Club Meeting, last Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m.** Join us for this month's Happy Hour Book Club meeting! You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

**Virtual 50+ Job Seekers Networking Group, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays through December on Zoom, 9:30 a.m.** The Massachusetts Library Collaborative's 50+ Job Seekers Group is for unemployed and actively looking,

underemployed, seeking a new career direction, re-entering the job market, or recently retired and looking for your "Encore Career". Meetings are facilitated by Deborah Hope, MBA PCIC, an experienced executive career coach. Register on our website.

## FOR TEENS

**Chess Club, every other Monday (December 2 and December 16) 3:30-4:30 p.m.** All experience levels are welcome for an hour of chess, some instruction provided. Club meets every other Monday. For ages 9-17, please register.

**Youth Crochet Club, every other Tuesday (December 3 and December 17) 5:30-6:30 p.m.** For ages 10-17. For beginners up to experienced crocheters, supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

**Tabletop RPG Club, every Tuesday, 3:30-5:30 p.m.** For ages 14-17. The group has room for 2 more players, and is playing D&D this fall. Please register.

**Third Thursday Sewing Club: Make Pumpkin Pillowcases (Thursday November 21 and Thursday December 12) 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.** For 5th-8th graders. Learn sewing basics, including cutting fabric, hand sewing, & using a pattern & a sewing machine, while making a gorgeous case for a large throw pillow. Please register.

**"Read Between the Lines" High School Book Group (Friday November 22 and December 27) 3:00-4:00 p.m.** Monthly book chat for ages 14-17. For November, the group is reading "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald; copies of the book are available in the Youth Room. Registration preferred.

**Open Sew Saturday (Saturday November 23 and Saturday December 14) 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Drop into the library's program room for sewing space, advice, and time to finish the Sewing Club project of the month at our monthly Open Sew! The library will have 2 sewing machines (or bring your own), tables for laying out projects, and seasoned seamstress Janet Foy on

hand to provide advice and support. Not recommended for beginners. Open to adults, tweens, & teens.

## FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

**Food Drive for the Indian Orchard Survival Center, October 28-November 22** The Youth Room is accepting donations of non-perishable Thanksgiving dinner food for the Indian Orchard Survival Center. Every child who donates will get a sweet treat! Please bring it to the Youth Room.

**Drop-in Holiday Card Making, throughout December** Pre-cut designer papers, stickers, glitter and more. Drop in.

**Thanksgiving Gratitude Jars, Tuesday November 26, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.** Make a decorated jar for your dinner table for family & friends to share notes of gratitude. Drop-in.

**Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt, Tuesday November 26, 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.** Search the Youth Room for Thanksgiving signs and symbols to win a prize! For youth of all ages and families. Drop-in.

**Pokemon Club, every other Wednesday (November 27 and December 11) 3:30-4:45 p.m.** For 8-14. Trading, dueling, and gaming on your own handhelds, phones, or Nintendo Switch. Please have your name on everything you bring to the club. Please register.

**Tween Graphic Novel Book Group, Thursday, November 21, 5:00 p.m.-5:45 p.m. and Thursday, December 26, 1:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m. Note December time change.** For ages 9-13. Meet each month with other graphic novel lovers to discuss and share books, play games, make crafts, and eat snacks. For November, the group is reading "Cardboard Kingdom" by Chad Sell; copies are available in the Youth Room. Please register.

**Easy Gifts for Grandparents, Thursday December 5, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.** All ages. Make a gift for a special relative or friend: a handprint

Please see **HUBBARD**, Page 11

## HEALTH from Page 6

### Evening

I get a call from a former client whose sister had a massive stroke four years ago, and now the insurance company is saying she no longer qualifies for placement in a skilled nursing facility. There has been fragmented communication among the physicians, therapists and family.

The family wants me to appeal the insurance company's decision and gather documentation that will allow the sister to be approved for further long-term care, therapy and high-tech care for her needs. While waiting for documents, I speak with the woman's daughter to formulate a plan.

Finally, I update presentations for our Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur training program and speak with two nurses who are eager to sign up and start their own

advocacy businesses. From their hospital experiences, they can see that families need a great deal of help these days navigating the health-care landscape.

My days aren't always this busy, but every day reminds me of the significant impact I can have on someone's life, health and well-being. It's worth it, to be sure.

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

## RANDOM ACT from Page 6

per-diem basis to train new therapists. You may well have experienced a massage and thanks to her, many people have benefited from this practice with this ongoing service still in effect. Another way Joanne enjoyed giving back was giving Random Acts of Kindness chair massages at charity events.

Joanne and Jim have now been together for seven years and are enjoying retirement while relishing trips to locations such as Africa, India, Poland, Ireland and many sites within the states. There are many more places they want to see so wishing them many safe journeys as they

continue to explore! I know they will also go on doing Random Acts of Kindness while experiencing these travels.

Doing a Random Act of Kindness not only feels wonderful for the recipient but it will also add an indescribable joyfulness to your day. As the saying goes, "Try it, you'll like it!"

If you would like to share a Random Act of Kindness story please contact me at [bdt514@aol.com](mailto:bdt514@aol.com) or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story in this column, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, did or received something nice being done.

See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness! ~ Barb

## Annual Tree of Love at Baystate Wing

PALMER— As the holiday season approaches, the Baystate Wing Auxiliary has set up the annual Tree of Love. This special tree has been created to honor and remember loved ones and features ornaments that can be purchased and personalized with names in memory of family and friends to be placed on the tree.

"The Tree of Love gives our community members a chance to join us in remembering loved ones during the holiday season," said Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Auxiliary at Baystate Wing Hospital. "We understand how difficult the holiday season can be for those who have lost loved ones. For some families placing the name of a family member on an ornament and being a part of the Tree of Love can bring them comfort."

Beginning Nov. 1, the ornaments may be purchased for \$5 for a single

name and \$10 for a family. The Tree of Love will be displayed in the lobby located on the first floor of the hospital by the gift shop.

All proceeds benefit the Baystate Wing Auxiliary, which in turn donates needed equipment and other items to the hospital for the benefit of patients. For over 70 years, the Auxiliary has supported Baystate Wing Hospital through its sponsorship of special events and gift shop sales. This diverse group of women and men includes teachers, nurses, business owners, and retirees, who live in many different communities and are united by a shared commitment to support the mission of the hospital.

To purchase an ornament, visit the gift shop located on the first floor open Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 9:30 to 1 p.m.

## BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Register, please email [theregister@turley.com](mailto:theregister@turley.com).



### THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

REGION – A look back through history at the momentous anniversaries this week.

On Nov. 27, in 1895, the Nobel Prize was established according to the will of Alfred Bernhard Nobel, a Swedish chemist, engineer, and industrialist.

On Nov. 28, in 1943, the Tehran Conference opened, and was attended by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin.

On Nov. 29, in 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 181, calling for the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.

On Nov. 30, in 2001, Gary Ridgway was arrested in Washington and pled guilty to killing 48 women as the Green River Killer.

On Nov. 31, nothing happened, because that date doesn't exist.

On Dec. 1, in 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested for violating segregation laws by refusing to surrender her bus seat to



**U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin met during the Tehran Conference on Nov. 28, 1943.**

a white passenger, sparking a 381-day bus boycott led by Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Dec. 2, in 1823, U.S. President James Monroe announced the Monroe Doctrine, declaring that the nation would limit its sphere of interest to the Western Hemisphere.

Finally, on Dec. 3, in 1818, Illinois was admitted as the 21st state in the United States.

## Millennium Magic to Perform Winter Wonderland Concert Dec. 8

MONSON — On Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. the Millennium Magic Chorus, a Sweet Adelines group, will perform their Winter Wonderland Concert in the sanctuary of First Church Monson, 5 High Street. A cookies and punch reception will follow the concert in Fellowship Hall. The cost is a \$5.00 donation at the door.

Millennium Magic is a vibrant Sweet Adelines Barbershop and A cappella Chorus, composed of women from seven states and spanning four generations. This dynamic group performs a diverse repertoire and will present festive holiday and seasonal music at the First Church concert.

With an impressive track record, Millennium Magic has qualified for the Sweet Adelines International competition eight times, proudly bringing home silver medals twice and gold medals three times. They are the undefeated champions of Region 1, Division A. Most recently, they won the divisional

international championship in 2019, placed 16th in the world in 2023 and in 2024, they secured their division title and a second place finish regionally, qualifying for the 2025 international contest.

Millennium Magic is not just a chorus; it's a dynamic community of women who thrive on connections and camaraderie. Together, they embrace growth and learning, fostering a supportive environment where everyone feels at home. Their passion for music shines through in every performance, creating unforgettable experiences that resonate deeply with their audience. It is all about joy, friendship and the magic that happens when they come together to celebrate their love for music.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency.

## Monson Savings holds toy drive

MONSON— Monson Savings Bank, a local community bank known for their commitment to giving back, is once again hosting their annual Toy Drive. The bank has proudly partnered with multiple local toy collection programs to help bring joy to children this holiday season.

From now through Friday, Dec. 6, new and unwrapped toys for children ages 0-12 can be dropped off at any Monson Savings Bank branch.

Monson Branch, 146 Main St, Monson

Hampden Branch, 15 Somers Rd, Hampden

Wilbraham Branch, 100 Post Office Park, Wilbraham

Ware Branch, 136 West St, Ware

East Longmeadow Branch, 61 North Main St. East Longmeadow

"The holidays are all about spreading love, joy, and happiness. The Toy Drive allows us all to come together to make that possible for children in our com-

munities by collecting gifts for them to open. We have such generous communities, and we believe this year will be no different. We hope everyone will consider donating an item" said Dan Moriarty, president & CEO. "It goes without saying that we are extremely thankful for our partnering organizations who host the toy programs that ensure all children have a bright and cheerful holiday. We are thrilled to support them in their toy collection efforts."

Monson Savings Bank is proud to partner with toy drive programs held by the Hampden Police Association, East Longmeadow Police Association, Wilbraham Police Department, Ware Police Department, and The Car Club of New England.

To learn more about Monson Savings Bank's commitment to our community, please visit: <https://www.monsonsavings.bank/connect/our-community/our-community-commitment.html>

## Virtual support groups for those with cancer

PALMER— During a cancer journey patients and their families often benefit from the support of others. Virtual support groups are being held now and through 2025, by Camille St.Onge, LICSW and oncology social worker.

For many years, people had to travel to a predetermined location to attend cancer support group meetings. As a result of restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic virtual support groups began meeting entirely online, with participants joining through video conferencing platforms like Zoom. Today, many people prefer this method because it offers flexibility, and convenience, and allows them to access support from where they are without needing to physically travel to a meeting location.

"Sharing concerns with a support group can be a beneficial way for people facing cancer to get the help they need to cope with the physical and emotional concerns that arise during and after a cancer diagnosis," said St. Onge. "While support and self-help groups can vary greatly, groups share one thing in com-

mon, they are a place where people can share personal stories, express emotions, and be heard in an atmosphere of acceptance, understanding, and encouragement."

The support groups are designed to help patients, their families and caregivers cope with the challenges of a cancer diagnosis.

Virtual Support Group offered include: General Cancer Support Group: first Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Partners in Caregiving: second Wednesday of each month, 5 to 6:30 p.m.; Expressive Writing through Cancer, third Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Breast Cancer Support Group, fourth Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All meetings are currently held virtually and are made possible by funds raised by the Walk of Champions. For more information contact Camille St.Onge, LICSW, Oncology Social Worker by calling 413-239-7239 or by email at [cstomagin@gmail.com](mailto:cstomagin@gmail.com).



**Turley Publications, Inc.**



**Scarlett Legasey**

January 25, 2023

Parents: Thomas & Jessica Legasey, Rutland  
Grandparents: Donald & MaryAnn Dunbar, Ware  
Thomas & Sharon Legasey, Spencer

**Turley Publications would like to help you show off the newest member of your family this Christmas,**

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Attn: Jamie Joslyn  
Include a self addressed/ stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com) with subject line: **BABY'S FIRST.**  
This offer is available to all babies born in 2024. Pictures will be published the week of December 23-27, 2024.

Baby's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Deadline for photos and forms is Monday, December 16, 2024**



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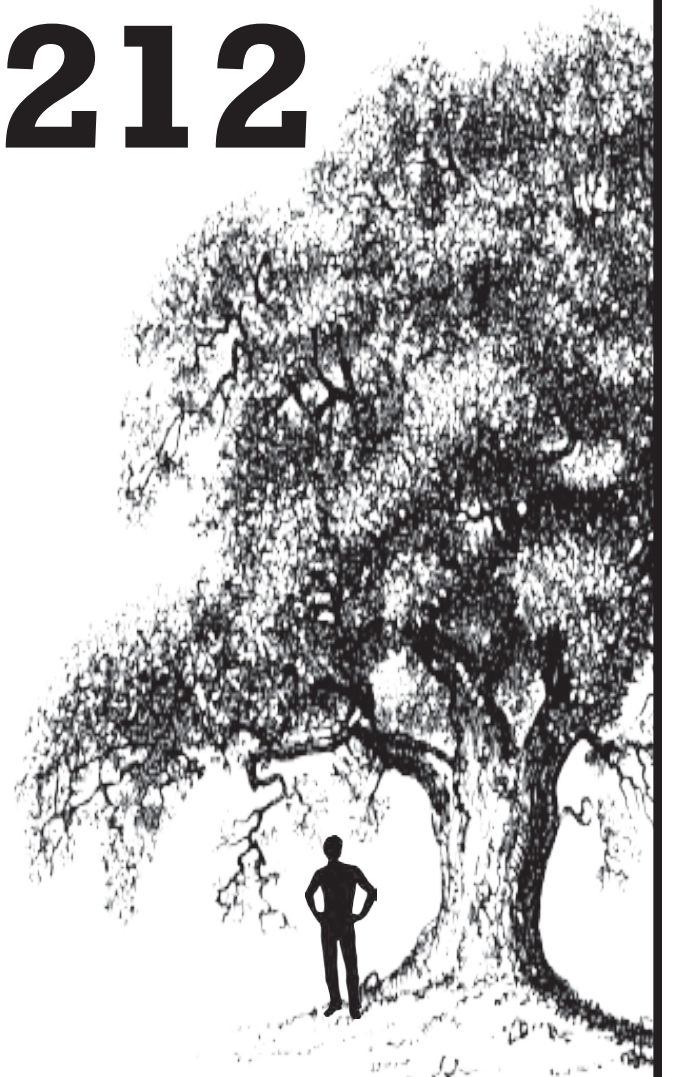
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**250TH BOOK** from Page 1

saw it," Fenney said. "There was also a sleigh that they used to use, with a horse pulling it, in the wintertime."

Martin Fanning then talked about the ways that the town has been affected by the nearby Westover Base and associated golf course.

"We thought of this as telling stories, but we thought of it also as documenting history," Fanning said. "We're certainly in a climate today where we don't know what's true out there, social media is not the best place for information. We've put together something that's a real quality history of the town of Ludlow, and it will help people down the road."

250th Committee Co-Chair Kathy Ouimette also came up to the podium to thank the many people and departments in town that helped make this year's 250th celebration a success.

After the presenters had spoken, a book was presented to John Moll, and Senator Jake Oliveira and State Representative Aaron Saunders to house at the state library. Bylicki finished the presentation by issuing a challenge to the state legislators.

"For years, we've been told nothing survived the rooting of Royal Governor Thomas Hutchinson's home by revolutionary soldiers," Bylicki said. "Talking with the archivist, he said, 'we have one book that was thrown in the mud, and it's been sealed for all these years.'"

"It would take a special legislative act and money to have the archives go through that," Bylicki said. "Maybe then we could actually find out why in the world we're named Ludlow, because no matter what we look and try to find, there's no reason why we're Ludlow."

Copies of the book are available at the Town Clerk's office for \$32 a copy. There will also be copies available at "Breakfast With Santa" on Dec. 1, at Harris Brook Elementary School. The committee hopes to schedule more pick-up and sale days.



Brian Bylicki of the 250th Book Committee spoke about the two years of work on the new history book.



Dr. William Koscher talked about the town's original Meeting House, with Brian Bylicki in the background.



Sandra Stanek talked about the Hubbard Memorial Library and the Ludlow Hospital.



Mary Beth Silva filled in for Diana Roy to talk about the town's history.



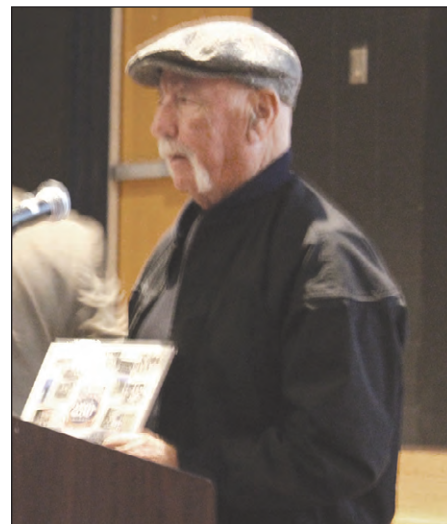
Kathy Ouimette thanked the community for its support of the town's 250th anniversary celebrations.



Bruce Fenney talked about his family's personal history with Randall's Farm.



Martin Fanning talked about the town's relationship to the nearby Westover Air Reserve Base.

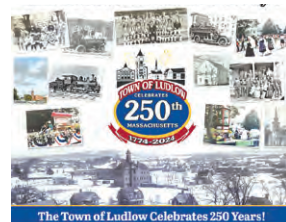


John Moll was presented with a copy of the new book as thanks for his support.

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Senator Jake Oliveira promised to donate a copy of the history book to the library at the state house.



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"I don't think there is a better measure of how a community takes pride in itself than how it views its history," said State Representative Aaron Saunders.



**SELECT BOARD** from Page 1

“They’ve all completed it,” Valadas said. “We have 20 post-certified Special Police Officers.”

Valadas then talked about the collective bargaining agreement of a \$178,000 expansion to the police budget, and Special Town Meeting requests, such as a request for \$120,000, of which the department only used \$47,000. Valadas added that the department has been authorized to receive an amount between \$94-95,000 from State 911.

“These funds go to backfill the dispatch for overtime spent on training and for the training costs,” Valadas said. “Right now I’m \$5-6,000 over on overtime in my dispatch account, because I count on these funds.”

**Board response**

Select Board Member James Gennette said that outside the department’s requests to expand staffing, it has not been able to hire officers to fill all the positions it currently has.

“We’ve always had positions that we’ve needed to fill, we’ve always been chasing empty spots, year over year,” Gennette said. “We could try to get 100 people in here, but if we can’t get them in, it doesn’t matter how many positions we have. I don’t know how

the town is supposed to allocate those funds for positions; we can’t fill them anyway, let’s fill what we’ve got.”

“We could talk about positions all we want, but I think this board has gone a long way to try to give you everything that you’ve wanted,” Gennette said. “I’ve been a staunch supporter – and I’ve said it many, many, many times – of the police department.”

Gennette said that he found Valadas’s comments at Town Meeting “completely offensive,” and said, “I go out of my way to try to help the police department, so to have it thrown back at me was a complete insult.”

Gennette then added that Valadas’s comments about the police budget had nothing to do with the article presented at Town Meeting related to the \$500,000 MA Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant for improvements to Whitney Park.

“This Whitney Park thing, you stated you were a police officer, that you were the Police Chief, and you talked about your budget and how the money that was for Whitney Park could be directly used for the Police Department when it couldn’t,” Gennette said.

Gennette complimented Valadas’s ability as an orator, describing him as “an influential person in town.”

“You literally tanked a project that would

have benefitted something,” Gennette said. “That was \$500,000 of grant money coming into Whitney Park that we didn’t get.”

Select Board Member Bill Rosenblum then brought up the need for upgrades to the park, as established through resident requests and complaints, surveys, and its use by the community.

“Whitney Park has been at the top of just about every request from people in town,” Rosenblum said. “That project, to renovate and upgrade an area that has a summer program that many families use (...) it’s an important thing for those people.”

Rosenblum mentioned that street parking for the park is dangerous, as is dilapidated equipment that needs to be replaced. Rosenblum said he was “caught off guard” at mentions of departmental budgets in relation to the article about Whitney Park.

Select Board Member Manuel Silva had no comments for Valadas. DeBarge agreed that he was disappointed with the comments, saying he “really wanted that Whitney Park thing to work out.”

DeBarge spoke to his involvement in contract negotiations, particularly the cost of the Quinn Bill.

“My point is not trying to make out that the contracts are exorbitant,” DeBarge said. “Everything you got, I think, is comparable

– and we have paperwork to show is comparable – to most other departments in our area and in our number.”

DeBarge said that the budgets are constricted by the town’s levee limit. Valadas responded by saying that his comments at Town Meeting were not meant as an attack against the board, but that he felt he “could not vote for an expenditure of a service, of a debt, that was over \$300,000.”

Valadas concluded that the department is doing very well, citing the funds coming from State-911, and said he was hopeful that he wouldn’t go to Special Town Meeting with any budget requests.

At Valadas’s statements that the department is well-funded, Gennette asked if this meant that his comments “didn’t hold weight,” and described the statement as “opportunistic.”

“We’ve been trying to do everything we can as far as the Police Department goes,” Gennette said, and made a comparison with the school budget. “We’re fighting to do anything we can to try to help the school out, and all these other departments have not been getting the benefits that the Police Department’s been getting.”

Gennette thanked Valadas for the opportunity to discuss the issue, and Valadas said he appreciated his comments.

**HUBBARD** from Page 7

suncatcher, a thumbprint magnet, a snow globe, or an upcycled jar lid ornament—top it off with a homemade gift bag and personalized tag! Drop-in.

**Mass. Children’s Book Award Book Group, second Thursday of the month, December 12, 6:00-6:45 p.m.** For 4th-6th graders. Kids decide who wins this award after reading at least 5 nominated books. Meet each month to share opinions, play games, enjoy free snacks, and talk about what you read and which book you think should be the winner. Please register.

**Sewing Club for YAs: Make Earbud Cases, Thursday December 12, 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.** For 9 & up. Learn how to sew a cool, protective case for your earbuds, all materials provided. Please register.

**Roblox Club, every Friday, 3:30-4:45 p.m.** Meet new friends or play with old ones while playing Roblox. For ages 8-15.

**Ugly Sweater Scavenger Hunt, Friday December 6, Drop in** to hunt for ugly sweater pictures (made by kids!) hiding around the Youth Room, win a prize when you find them all!

**Minecraft Club, every Saturday, 11:00 a.m. -12:45 p.m.** Minecraft players of all skill levels can bring their own devices, or may use one of the library’s eight computers to build, play & create. For grades 3-8. Drop-in.

**FOR CHILDREN**

**Daily Drop-In Crafts**, all ages. DIY crafts available in the Youth Room daily. New craft each week.

**Sing With Me, every Tuesday, 10:30-11:00 a.m.** For ages 0-5. Join Youth Ser-

vices Librarian July for 30 minutes of favorite children’s songs & movement. No group on 11/26. Drop-in.

**STEAM: “If I Build A House” Building Sets, Wednesday November 27, 11:00 a.m.** For ages 3-5. Hear a storybook then build with colorful, magnetic building sets to test your engineering skills! Please register.

**Lego Build Challenge, every Wednesday, 12:00-5:00 p.m.** Pull a Lego Build Challenge Card and try to build it with the library’s Legos, or free build just for fun. All creations will be put on display in the Youth Room for the week. Drop-in.

**Grow, Play and Learn for ages 0-2, every Thursday, 9:45-10:30 a.m.** Stories, songs and skill building, led by Early Childhood Developmental specialist Jane Christian of Pathways for Parents, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. Program includes curriculum, “Ages and Stages” Questionnaire, and resources to fit your child’s individual needs. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

**Grow, Play and Learn for ages 2-5, every Thursday, 10:45-11:00 a.m.** Stories, songs and skill building, led by Early Childhood Developmental specialist Jane Christian of Pathways for Parents, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. Program includes curriculum, “Ages and Stages” Questionnaire, and resources to fit your child’s individual needs. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

**STEM Saturday: Bridges & Boats, Saturday November 23, 11:00 a.m.** For ages 8-11. Attention young engineers! Learn new skills & have fun while making a bridge that stays up & a boat that really floats. Please register.

**PLANNING BOARD** from Page 1

might pursue something like this again, and described projects that “could have been handled a lot better” through related initiatives.

“Getting higher density with maybe some preserved open space around it is not a terrible thing,” Phoenix said. “That’s not usually how that gets seen, unfortunately.”

The planners also went over exclusionary practices relating to single-family residential districts, minimum lot sizes, and parking requirements for new housing units. Phoenix expressed concern about adjusting these practices based on the zonings intent to protect neighborhoods from fire.

“Especially this time of year, this year in particular,” Phoenix said, “I would hate to have something happen to one house and have it spread to a whole neighborhood before it can get contained.”

Phoenix said that he was “nervous” about increasing density in town across the board.

The planners will continue to turn this presentation into a final draft to go before Town Meeting, and the Planning Board thanked PVPC for its work.

“I know you certainly have a bunch of tools in your toolkit that we don’t have readily available in ours,” Phoenix said, “and eyes that are not looking at the same bylaw all the time.”



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## Tough Week 10 for Lions



Kyle Rodriguez kicks off for the Lions.

LUDLOW – Though both teams had struggles at times during the regular season, the matchup was not close between Ludlow and Chicopee Comprehensive last Thursday night. Comp did all the scoring and took advantage of great offense and turnovers in a 51-0 win. Ludlow fell to 3-7 heading into Thanksgiving. The Lions were scheduled to host Palmer while Comp was set to host Chicopee in the “Sword Game.”

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Dominic Fialho makes a block for Ludlow.



Brady Trahan returns the ball for the Lions.



Cruz Guzman looks for an opening to return the ball.



Mason Morace takes the snap.

## Lions shut out in quarterfinals of state tournament

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

SHREWSBURY — Four days after celebrating an 1-0 upset road win against top-seeded Newton South High School, the 17<sup>th</sup>-seeded Ludlow boys' soccer team made another trip east on the Massachusetts Turnpike to Saint John's High School of Shrewsbury.

This time, the bus ride back home wasn't as enjoyable for the Lions players and the coaching staff following a 3-0 season ending loss to the eighth-seeded Pioneers in a Division 1 state quarterfinal match held on a chilly night at Pioneer Field, last Wednesday.

“We lost some key players from last year's team, and we had to put the puzzle together again this year,” said long-time Ludlow head coach Greg Kolodziej. “We made another run to the Elite 8 and we gave it our best shot. To beat a very good soccer team like Saint John's, you need to play a perfect game, and you can't make very many mistakes. I'm very

proud of these guys.”

Ludlow, who also dispatched 16<sup>th</sup>-seeded Belmont, 2-0, in the opening round of the Division 1 tournament, finished their season with a 10-4-8 overall record.

“Just making it to this point again this year is something to be proud of. We did beat a very good Newton South team the other day to get here,” said Ludlow senior Thomas Wadas, who's one of the best boys' soccer players in the state. “Not only are all of these guys very talented soccer players, but they're also even better teammates and friends.”

Wadas, who scored the only goal in the round of 16 match victory versus Newton South with ten minutes remaining in the first half, is one of the Lions four-year varsity soccer players, along with classmates Owen Wurszt, and James Dias.

The other seniors listed on the Lions varsity soccer roster are Gavin Vala, Lucas Alvan, Chris Goncalves, Owen McCarthy, Matt Ganhao, Aleksander Wojcik, Noah Pedro, Devyn Skiba, and Griffin McCarthy.

“The seniors were very good leaders this year. They've helped us win a lot of games during the past couple of years,” Kolodziej said. “They made another great run in this year's postseason tournament.”

It wasn't the first postseason meeting between Ludlow and Saint John's, which is an all-boys Catholic school.

Back in 2007, Saint John's defeated Ludlow in overtime in the Division 1 state semifinals at Westfield State University. Four years earlier, the Lions celebrated a 1-0 postseason win over the Pioneers in a snowstorm at Szot Park in Chicopee.

Both teams had scoring chances during the first ten minutes in last Wednesday night's match.

During the fourth minute, Wadas took a free kick from about 20 yards out. The left footed line drive kick hooked wide right. He also had another free kick a little more than ten minutes later that sailed high over the crossbar.

Please see **LIONS**, Page 13

## MIAA seeks to throw out judge's decision

Minnechaug, Monson unaffected by appeals

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

Minnechaug Regional High School and Monson High School filed injunctions at the beginning of the month with the Hampden Court Superior Court.

The schools were appealing a ruling from the MIAA that forced the schools to take forfeits for Western Mass. tournament games because of a procedural issue that was not followed by Minnechaug, Monson, Pathfinder Regional, and several other schools in the region.

According to information sent by the MIAA to member schools, they were supposed to input games to their schedule on the Arbiter website used to track results and formulate tournament data.

Those games, which were not yet known due to the how the schedule is structured, were simply supposed to feature the school and opponents TBA (to

be announced). Those fillers in the schedule would eventually be filled with Western Mass. tournament games, or nonplay-off games if teams did not qualify.

Those filler games were supposed to be on team schedules by mid-September. Because the procedure was not followed, the MIAA imposed forfeits on the schools that did not follow the rule. Under the MIAA's ruling, Minnechaug and Monson, which had soccer teams in the Western Mass. tournaments, would have to take losses affecting their standing for the state tournament. If the schools won, they were still able to advance in the tournaments. Monson girls soccer reached the Western Mass. finals. Pathfinder boys soccer did as well. Minnechaug girls soccer made it to the semifinals.

An injunction was filed by Monson and Minnechaug, seeking to not have the athletes punished for an administrative issue. Judge Tracy Duncan granted the injunction, and both schools had

Please see **MIAA**, Page 13



# T-Birds, Blues, announce long-term extension

SPRINGFIELD – Last month, the Springfield Thunderbirds and St. Louis Blues announced the extension of their affiliation agreement through the end of the 2030-31 season. The deal further solidifies the long-term future of the American Hockey League in Springfield, one of the league's charter cities.

"We are thrilled to continue our richly rewarding long-term partnership with the St. Louis Blues," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "The Blues and Thunderbirds share similar core values regarding player and staff development and maintaining a deep commitment to their communities. Our collaboration has enabled us to grow our franchise both on the ice and throughout the region. We cannot wait to see the next generation of Blues stars hone their talents in Springfield in front of the best fans in the AHL."

In the first three seasons as the Blues' AHL affiliates, the Thunderbirds have experienced tremendous success on and off the ice. In 2022, the team captured the Richard F. Canning Trophy as Eastern Conference Champions, reaching the Calder Cup Finals for the first time in club history. The T-Birds received the

AHL President's Award as Team of the Year that same year.

"On behalf of our local ownership group, we are proud to announce an extension of our affiliation agreement with the St. Louis Blues. I want to thank Blues Chairman Tom Stillman, General Manager Doug Armstrong, and the Blues staff, as well as our President Nate Costa and his team, for building a culture of cooperation and success that is unparalleled within the AHL. This agreement will ensure that AHL hockey has a home in Springfield for many years to come," commented Paul Picknelly, Thunderbirds Managing Owner.

The club built upon their success last season, posting a franchise-record 20 sellout games, including a 14-game sellout streak to end the campaign. 2023-2024 also marked the T-Birds' eighth consecutive season of attendance growth (6,321 fans per game).

"First, I want to thank Springfield Thunderbirds President Nate Costa, the local ownership group under managing partner Paul Picknelly, and the entire team and staff for their continued dedicated efforts and support and belief in our City of Springfield," said Spring-

field Mayor Domenic J. Sarno. "Special thanks and appreciation to the St. Louis Blues organization for their continued strong commitment to our local T-Birds! Both organizations are class acts that share a strong emphasis on community and fan engagement and putting a quality product and team on the ice.

Since the start of the partnership, the Blues have also promoted several Springfield staff members to the parent club in St. Louis. Most notably, Drew Bannister became the first T-Birds coach to earn a promotion to an NHL bench when he was named the Blues' head coach on May 8.

"Springfield provides a first-class environment for players in the Blues organization to develop on and off the ice and continue their progress toward the NHL in a well-established, supportive market with strong, experienced leadership," said Blues Assistant General Manager Ryan Miller.

In addition to Bannister's rise to the NHL, 26 players have skated in games for both the Thunderbirds and the Blues, including young stars Jake Neighbours, Zack Bolduc, Matthew Kessel, Joel Hofer, Scott Perunovich,

and Zach Dean.

"This is an exciting day for both the St. Louis Blues and the Springfield Thunderbirds organizations," said Thunderbirds General Manager Kevin Maxwell. "This agreement provides stability for our players and staff, and it will continue to offer our fans the chance to identify with our prospects and follow their careers as they graduate onto the Blues."

The affiliation extension assures Springfield's continued tenancy in the American Hockey League, which dates back to 1936. The City of Firsts has had an active AHL franchise on the ice every season since 1954.

"The city of Springfield has been a cornerstone of the American Hockey League for more than 80 years," said AHL President and Chief Executive Officer Scott Howson. "Hockey in Springfield has experienced a renaissance since the arrival of the Thunderbirds. Stability with an NHL affiliate is very important for AHL clubs, and we're pleased that Springfield's partnership with the St. Louis Blues will continue to bring excitement and entertainment to the fans of Western Massachusetts."

## Tough start hurts Railers in loss

PORTLAND, ME – Worcester was outshot in a fateful and fatal first period, 21-1, and outscored by the Maine Mariners 4-0, on the way to a 5-2 defeat.

Lincoln Hatten and Cole Donhauser had the Railers goals. It was the first ECHL goal for Hatten, the first in a Worcester uniform for Donhauser. It was also shorthanded.

Drew Bavaro, Patrick Guay, Bennett Stockdale, Wyllum Deveaux and Evan

Vierling had the Portland goals. Former Railers forward Jimmy Lambert had three assists for the winners.

Hatten scored from in close at 3:35 of the second period to make it a 4-1 game, Donhauser assisting. Donhauser scored unassisted with a wrist shot from the right wing at 19:29 of the third period to make it 5-2. He was plus-2 for the night.

Henrik Tikkanen made 33 saves for

Worcester. Ryan Bischel had 27 for the Mariners.

Bavaro opened the scoring with a power play goal at 6:30 of the first period, just before the Railers would have gotten Jordan Kaplan out of the penalty box. He snapped a 40-foot wrist home from above the circles.

Guay made it 2-0 at 9:02. He finished off a 2 on 1 break, converting a pass from Lambert. Stockdale scored

a little more than a minute later with a shot from the left circle. Deveaux scored on a deflection at 16:23 to make it 4-0 on the scoreboard.

The Railers actually won the last 40 minutes, 2-1. Vierling had the only Maine goal in that span, scoring on the power play at 16:40 of the third period, but there was no way Worcester could climb out of its early hole.

### LIONS from Page 12

"We did have a couple of nice chances early in the game," Kolodziej said. "If one of them goes into the goal, it would've given us some momentum. They then picked up the pace and scored a nice goal."

In the middle of the first half, St John's senior William Baltas delivered a pass to classmate Daniel Lau, who fired a low shot into the right corner of the net past Ludlow sophomore goalie Nick Dion.

Before the start of the regular season, Kolodziej named Dion as his starting keeper. He then suffered an injury and was replaced by junior Daniel Pires, who started all the regular season matches. Dion returned to action at the start of the postseason tournament.

"Entering the regular season, Nick was

our number one goalie and then he suffered an injury. He returned to action last week," Kolodziej said. "He and Danny are very good goalies. They'll be competing for the starting position again next year."

The home team took a 2-0 lead 49 seconds into the second half on a fluke goal, which was knocked into the right corner of the net by a Ludlow player.

During the 60<sup>th</sup> minute, Wadas lined a free kick from the top of the box, which looked like it was going into the net, but junior goalie Colin Casperson made an outstanding diving save keeping his shut-out bid intact a little bit longer.

The Pioneers sealed the deal late in the second half when Baltas blasted a shot into the back of the net.

It wasn't the way the Lions players wanted to see their season come to an end, especially the 13 seniors.

### MIAA from Page 12

their forfeits changed to whatever their actual results were.

Minnechaug boys soccer benefited the most from the change, securing the No. 5 seed in the Division 2 state tournament. The changes had the ability to affect schools such as Agawam, Ludlow, Holyoke, and Chicopee Comprehensive in Division 2. Monson's injunction affected seedings for schools such as Granby, Quabog, Palmer, and Pathfinder.

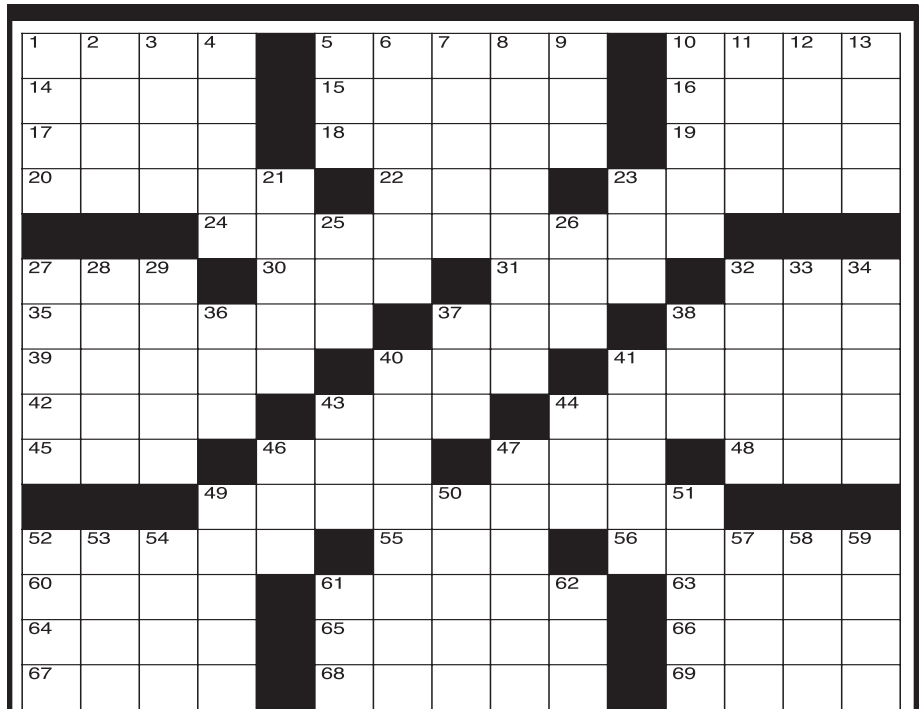
Pathfinder did not appeal to a court,

and was defeated on the road in the first round of the tournament.

The injunctions also led to delays in the state tournament starting in the case of field hockey and girls volleyball.

Northampton and Pioneer Valley Regional also won injunctions, though the MIAA is appealing those rulings. They are appealing despite the fact the tournaments have already concluded. The MIAA is not commenting on the court cases.

No schools from Western Massachusetts made it to the state finals in boys soccer, girls soccer, or field hockey.



#### CLUES ACROSS

1. Long piece of squared timber
5. Emaciation
10. "Bewitched" boss Larry
14. Combining form meaning "different"
15. Current unit equal to 10 amperes
16. Older
17. Large, stocky lizard
18. Ringworm
19. Actor Pitt
20. Indian hand clash cymbals
22. Data at rest
23. Jeweled headdress
24. Indicators of when stories were written
27. Check
30. Cigarette (slang)
31. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
32. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
35. Delivered a speech
37. A place to bathe
38. Postmen deliver it
39. Surface in geometry
40. More (Spanish)
41. \_\_\_ and Venzetti
42. Exclamation at the end of a prayer
43. Hawaiian dish
44. Aggressively proud men
45. Fellow
46. Mark Wahlberg comedy
47. Mock
48. When you expect to get somewhere
49. Songs
52. Pair of small hand drums
55. Play
56. Sword
60. Evergreens and shrubs genus
61. Filmed
63. Italian Seaport
64. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
65. Pores in a leaf
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. Snake-like fishes
68. Pretended to be
69. Body part

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Piece of felted material
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Aquatic plant
4. Potentially harmful fungus (Brit. sp.)
5. Body art (slang)
6. One who follows the rules
7. Ordinary
8. Honorably retired from assigned duties and retaining one's title
9. Relaxing space
10. Japanese socks
11. Indian city
12. Rip
13. Icelandic book
21. Satisfies
23. Where golfers begin
25. Small amount
26. Snag
27. Determine the sum of
28. A distinctive smell
29. Exposed to view
32. Stain or blemish
33. Small loop in embroidery
34. River herring genus
36. Large beer
37. Deep, red-brown sea bream
38. Partner to cheese
40. At a deliberate pace
41. Gurus
43. Of each
44. Angry
46. Popular beverage
47. Flower cluster
49. Blocks
50. Those who benefitted from efforts of relatives (slang)
51. Polio vaccine developer
52. A (usually) large and scholarly book
53. Popular soap ingredient
54. NBAer Bradley
57. Popular movie about a pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. Not a sure thing
61. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
62. Father

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# DATEBOOK

Do you have a local event or activity to publicize? Please send the information as either a Word doc or plain (no bold text or other formatting) email text (no PDFs, please and do not use all uppercase (i.e. UPPER CASE) by 5 p.m. Friday. At least two weeks prior to the event is encouraged. Send your community events to [pressreleases@turley.com](mailto:pressreleases@turley.com).

**FREE CONCERT.** Christmas concert by The West Mass Brass Band on Dec. 7th at 2 p.m. at First Church, 859 Center St, Ludlow, bring the family and friends to a wonderful Holiday program. For more information visit the Facebook page, or contact Ken McCance: (413) 659-2622, [westmassbrass@gmail.com](mailto:westmassbrass@gmail.com). To hear the band please visit <http://facebook.com/WestMassBrass>.

**CHRISTMAS PYROHY SALE.** Pierogi Sale at Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church at 45 Newbury St., Ludlow. Potato with cheese or gabbage filling, \$12 per dozen. Please call 413-219-2126 to put in your order by Sunday, Dec. 8, to be picked up Saturday, Dec. 14. Limited availability, first ordered first served. All orders will be packaged in disposable containers.

## ONGOING

**FREE CLOTHING.** Every Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m., in the school building located behind Crossway Christian Church, 2230 Main St., Three Rivers. Clothing from baby through adult. Current, seasonal clothes in all sizes. Bags are provided for easy shopping. For more information call Donna, (413)478-0768.

**SENIOR BINGO:** Hosted by the Indian Orchard Citizens Council 3:30-5 p.m. every Monday. Free to play with great prizes. For more information, call 413-209-8240.

**THRIFT SHOP:** Now open at St. Gregory Armenian Church, 135 Goodwin Street, Indian Orchard, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every Satur-

day offering quality items at affordable prices. Gently- used clothing and accessories, household items, books, children's items, collectors' items and more are available. For more information, call the church office at 413-543-4763.

**CHESS CLUB:** Open to residents of all surrounding communities 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Indian Orchard Citizens Council, 117 Main St. For more information, contact the IOCC at 413- 209-8240 or [indianorchard-citizenscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:indianorchard-citizenscouncil@gmail.com) or stop in during operating hours. Follow the IOCC on Facebook and Instagram.

**LUDLOW SENIOR CENTER 55 AND OVER CO-ED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE:** At East Street School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. the cost to take part is \$5 per year. For more information contact Maria Ardolino, activities director at [activity@ludlow.ma.us](mailto:activity@ludlow.ma.us) or call 413-583-3564.

**AQUACISE AT THE CLUB:** The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club, at 91 Claudias Way, continues to offer Aquacise throughout the week. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength. Classes are open to all members with pool-inclusive memberships and do not require prior registration. Classes are held 8:30-9:15 a.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For questions, call 413-583-2072, ext. 124.

**SUPPORT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS:** The Michael J. Dias Support Group meets 6-7:15 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Center. Education, resources, peer support, and hope for parents and family members coping with a loved one with a substance use disorder. Anyone needing help is welcome to attend. Masks are required and we will be seated six feet apart. For more information, call Maureen at

413-563-6226.

**H.O.P.E. RECOVERY GROUP:** Having Our Pathways Encouraged meetings are for those who have experience with addictions, grief, anxiety and depression, (including anxiety and depression due to COVID-19) and for loved ones who might need help in their recovery. This group is also for those who can help lead others in their recovery by example. This meeting in no way replaces professional therapies. It is a time for sharing strength, encouragement and hope. No fees. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Pre-packaged snacks are available. Small group structure based on basic Christian principles, concept, purposes and confidentiality. COVID-19 guidelines are observed. Masks required. 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at Fellowship Hall in Faith Community Chapel, 485 East Street in Ludlow. Parking lot behind Chapel. Fellowship Hall entrance at back of Chapel. Seating is limited. To reserve yours, call 413- 519-4591.

**QUABBIN VALLEY TWIRLERS** If you missed the first lessons in the fall, now is the time to give yourself a gift of dancing enjoyment for the coming holiday time. Do you want some exercise, mental acuity, and lots of fun with great people? Try our national folk dance, square dancing with the Quabbin Valley Twirlers. They dance in Belchertown and Ludlow with Sunday and Wednesday evenings available. For more information, call Gloria or Fran at 413-467-3352.

**BIBLE STUDY:** A weekly Bible study led by Ludlow resident Hank Bastos takes place at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays at 485 East St., Ludlow. Call 413-348-6487 for more information.

**SHARE YOUR SIGHT:** Volunteer to read, shop or walk with a blind or vision impaired person in your community. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired at 1-888-613-2777 for details.

## Wilbraham Garden club meeting

WILBRAHAM—The December meeting of the Wilbraham Garden club will be held at the St. Cecelia Parish Center on Main St. in Wilbraham at noon on Thursday, Dec. 5.

The speaker for the day will be Matthew Flatow, owner of Flowers, Flowers in Springfield. Flatow, has been creating unique floral masterpieces for clients in Western MA and Northern CT for decades. He will share his innovative and cutting-edge techniques with us. Flatow's beautiful arrangements will be raffled off at the end of his program. Come and enjoy a Wonderful Christmas meeting.

## Wilbraham Hiking Club December Hikes

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Hiking Club has these hikes coming up for December.

\* Dec. 3 – 10 a.m., Arunah Hill in Cummington

\* Dec. 9 – 10 a.m., Two Towns, Two Brooks, Wilbraham and Monson

\* Dec. 16 – 10 a.m., Mittineague Park, West Springfield

\* Dec. 22 – 1 p.m., Harvard Forest, Petersham

For more info on the hikes above (and possibly additional hikes), use the club's TeamReach App or write to [wilbraham-hiking@gmail.com](mailto:wilbraham-hiking@gmail.com)

...and, wait! there's more!  
The Wilbraham Senior Center Hiking Club has great hikes, too! For more info and to register for the hikes below, contact Jen at the Senior Center, 596-8379

\* Friday, Dec 13- 9:30 a.m.- Bear Hole Reservoir, West Springfield

\* Tuesday, Dec 17- 9:15 a.m. McLean •Game Refuge, Granby CT

\* Tuesday, Dec 31- 9:30 a.m. Arcadia Rolling Meadows, Easthampton

## Wilbraham Women's Club Christmas Luncheon Meeting

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Women's Club will be holding their Christmas Luncheon Meeting on Thursday December 12, 2024.

11:30 a.m. for Social followed by Noon Lunch at the St. Cecilia Parish Center.

Holiday Floral Arrangements with Bob Whitney too! Bob will design six holiday arrangements to be raffled off at the end of his presentation.

Area clubs will be invited. There will be a guest fee of \$5 for this program.

## Cookbook Club at the Wilbraham Library

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

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

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

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

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

# Church DIRECTORY

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**  
584 West St., Ludlow  
413-583-8454

S Sunday services  
Sacrament Meeting 10- 11 A.M.  
Sunday school for adults, Young single adults( 18-30) and teens ( 11-18)- 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon  
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon  
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon  
Classes for Single Adults(18-30)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -11- 12 noon  
Classes for Young Men( 11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon  
Classes for Young Women ( 11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month - 11-12 noon  
Children's classes: Sunday school & singing time every Sunday( 3-10 ) 11- 12 noon  
Nursery provided for ages 18 month- 3 yr

**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH**  
41 Warsaw Ave., Ludlow  
413-583-2630

**Pastor Rev. Raymond A. Soltys**  
Saturday Vigil Masses – 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday Masses – 7:30 a.m.; 8:45 a.m. (Polish); 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Mass – 5:30 p.m.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**  
25 Parker St, Indian Orchard,  
413-543-3627

**Very Rev. Piotr Kalik**  
**Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m. —1 p.m.**  
**CLOSED FRIDAY**  
**MASS SCHEDULE**  
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:15 p.m.  
Sunday Mass; 8:45 a.m. (English), 10 a.m. (Polish)  
Weekday Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – 7:45 a.m. (English)  
First Friday Mass: 5:30 p.m. (Polish/English)  
First Saturday Mass: 9 a.m. (Polish/English)  
Confessions: Saturday - 3:15–4 p.m.

**ST. ELIZABETH PARISH**  
191 Hubbard St., Ludlow  
413-583-3467

**Pastor – Rev. Msgr. Homer P. Gosselin**  
**In Residence – Rev. Norman Bolton**  
**Deacons: Normand Grondin, Thomas Rickson, Keith Davies**  
**Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
[stelizabethludlow.org](http://stelizabethludlow.org)  
**Like us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram**  
**Check out our Parish App**

Wednesday, Nov. 27, - Daily Mass - 8:15 am (C), Holy Mother Choir - 5:15p.m. (C), Scouts - 7 p.m. (JR)  
Thursday, Nov. 28, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C)  
Friday, Nov. 29, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m.(C)  
Saturday, Nov. 30, - Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C), Saturday Mass - 4 p.m. (C), Scout Wreath Sale – 4 to 5 p.m.  
Sunday Dec. 1,- Sunday Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 11 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 5 p.m. (C), Breakfast with St. Nick 8 a.m. (FLBH), Scout Wreath Sale after all Masses  
Monday Dec. 2, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Faith Formation - 6 p.m.(JR/ZR), Ladies Bible Study – 6:15 p.m. (ER)  
Tuesday, Dec. 3, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), St. Rita Choir - 2:30 p.m. (C), Middle School Youth Ministry - 3:30 p.m.(ER), - Bereavement Support Group - 6:30 p.m.(ZR) – Eucharistic Revival-6:30 p.m. (FLBHGroup (ZR) & Eucharist Revival (FLBH)

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH**  
438 Winsor St., Ludlow  
413-583-2312

**Father Pedro DeOlivera**  
**Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.**  
Sunday Masses – 9 a.m. (Portuguese); 11 a.m. (English)  
Monday and Wednesday Morning Masses – 8:30 a.m. (Portuguese)  
Tuesday and Friday Masses – 5:30 p.m. (Portuguese)  
Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m. (English)  
First Saturday of the Month – 8:30 a.m.  
For more information, visit [ourladyoffatimaparish.org](http://ourladyoffatimaparish.org).

**FIRST CHURCH IN LUDLOW**  
859 Center St. Ludlow  
413-583-3339

**Reverend Darcy Borden, Pastor**  
Office hours Monday & Wednesday 10 am to 2 pm  
Available by appointment at other times  
Sunday worship at 10 am alternating weekly with Grace Union Church, Wilbraham  
Call or check Facebook or the website for the schedule of worship and events  
Service live-streamed at 10 am on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow>  
Website: [www.ludlowfirst.com](http://www.ludlowfirst.com)

**ORCHARD COVENANT CHURCH**  
95 Berkshire Street  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151  
413-543-4204

**Revs. Karen and Nick Munn, pastors**  
Sunday School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship in person, 11 a.m.  
Or watch our livestream.  
See our website for more information: [orchardcovenant.org](http://orchardcovenant.org).

**FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL**  
**A Church of the Nazarene**  
485 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 413-583-7875

**Email: FCCLudlow@GMail.com**  
**Lead Pastor: Reverend Lisa Morrison**  
**Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs**  
Discipleship Groups 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m.  
**OTHER PROGRAMS**  
MONDAYS at 6:30 p.m. H.O.P.E. Meeting Recovery Meetings for those with addictions, anxiety, and grief  
SMC. Call 413-519-4591  
TUESDAYS at 7 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study  
RIDAYS Children's After School Club (pre K through teens) 5-6:30 p.m.

**STS. PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
45 Newbury St. Ludlow, MA 01056  
Phone: 413-583-2140  
**Pastor: Father Andriy Krip**

Liturgy schedule:  
Wednesday 9 a.m., Friday 9 a.m.  
Rosary for Peace in Ukraine on Wednesday at 6 p.m.



# OBITUARIES

## Creating a safe holiday for your pets

**EAST BROOKFIELD**— As Thanksgiving and the winter holidays approach, Second Chance Animal Services is reminding pet owners to keep their pets' safety in mind during the festive season. With holiday meals, decorations, and gatherings, this time of year can bring hidden hazards for pets. By taking a few simple precautions, pet owners can ensure a safe, joyful holiday season for their furry friends.

"Pets are part of the family, and it's important to consider their safety during holiday celebrations," says Lindsay Doray, chief development officer at Second Chance. "A little planning can prevent unexpected pet emergencies."

To help pet owners keep their pets safe, Second Chance offers these holiday tips:

Holiday treats may look enticing to pets, but many common ingredients, such as chocolate, onions, garlic, and bones, can be harmful to animals. Even rich, fatty, or spicy foods can upset pets' stomachs. Instead, give pets pet-safe treats or a small portion of their usual food so they can partake in the festivities safely.

Holiday decorations can be hazardous to pets. Items like tinsel, ribbons, and ornaments may seem like toys and can lead to serious health issues if ingested. Use pet-safe decorations and keep them out of reach of curious pets. Be mindful of candles and open flames as pets can knock them over, risking burns or fires.

Popular holiday plants, such as poinsettias, mistletoe, and holly, are toxic to pets. To prevent accidental ingestion, keep these plants out of reach or consider pet-safe alternatives. If using artificial plants or trees, be cautious, as some may contain chemicals that could be harmful

if chewed. The holiday season brings new sounds, scents, and sometimes unfamiliar guests, which can be overwhelming for pets. Create a quiet, comfortable space for them to retreat to when they need a break from the excitement. Remind guests to respect pets' boundaries and avoid feeding them table scraps. If your pet experiences stress during gatherings, Second Chance veterinarians can offer advice on keeping them calm.

With increased activity around the holidays, pets are more likely to slip out the door and go missing. Make sure pets wear collars with up-to-date ID tags. For added security, consider microchipping your pet—a simple, effective way to increase the chances of a reunion if they wander off.

If planning to travel with a pet this holiday season, a bit of extra preparation will help ensure their safety. Ensure vaccinations are up-to-date and contact a veterinarian to schedule any needed boosters before traveling. Pack essentials like food, water, medications, and favorite toys to help reduce stress on the road. If staying in hotels or with family, confirm accommodations are pet-friendly and secure.

By taking these simple, thoughtful steps, pet owners can enjoy a safe and joyful holiday season with their furry family members. A bit of planning goes a long way in keeping pets happy, healthy, and comfortable throughout the festivities. Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester are currently accepting new patients and offer weekly low-cost vaccine clinics. To schedule a holiday check-up or sign up for a vaccine clinic, visit [www.secondchanceanimals.org/vetcare](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/vetcare).

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

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

The Holiday Tour event supports Shriners Children's New England and will feature 35+ women-owned businesses,

acoustic music featuring Project 267, a cash bar, snacks and small plates for purchase and complimentary spa services and mediumship readings.

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

## Gary Richard, 81

**LUDLOW** Gary Richard, 81, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully on Nov. 17, 2024 surrounded by his loving family. He was the son of the late Joseph and Jeannette (Bousquet) Richard and lived most of his life in Ludlow. Gary served in the United States Navy from 1960-1964, and upon his honorable discharge, he briefly worked construction. He then began a long career as a Master Carpenter and was employed for over 20 years at Kitchens by Herzenberg from where he retired. Gary was an avid outdoorsman enjoying deer hunting, fishing, kayaking, and riding motorcycles. He also loved exploring New England on long car rides, and routing for the New England Patriots. Over his lifetime, he enjoyed many different hobbies including beekeeping, horseback riding, beer &



wine making, as well as gardening—just to mention a few; but his greatest joy in life was spending time with his family.

Gary was the beloved husband of 60 years to Martha (Klasanos) Richard; a loving father to Stephanie Richard, of Chicopee and Michael Richard and wife Shelley, of Belchertown; a devoted grandfather to Meghan and Shane LaPointe, and Julia and Joe-Ann Richard; a dear brother to Russell Richard and wife Karen, of N.C. and Kenneth Richard, of ME; and also leaves many loving nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

Funeral services for Gary will be held privately by his family and in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to Tunnels 2 Towers Foundation (t2t.org) for the benefit of housing our nation's veterans.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Gary Richard**  
Died Nov. 17, 2024  
Services are private  
Ludlow Funeral Home

## The Ludlow Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## WestMass ElderCare name change

**HOLYOKE**— As WestMass ElderCare celebrates its 50th anniversary at their annual meeting Wednesday, Nov. 20, the organization is proud to announce an exciting new chapter in its history. Beginning in early 2025, WestMass ElderCare will be known as Access Care Partners, reflecting a broader mission that extends beyond serving just the elderly population.

"Celebrating our 50th anniversary, we felt it was the perfect time to evaluate our brand and how we represent ourselves," said Roseann Martocchia, executive director at WestMass ElderCare. "Our goal was to ensure our name truly encapsulates the wide range of individuals we serve, many of whom are not necessarily elders. In fact, we provide services to individuals as young as 3 years old."

The decision to rebrand came after extensive research and community engagement. Partnering with Davis Advertising out of Worcester, WMEC conducted one-on-one interviews, online surveys, and focus groups, involving around 200 community members as well as internal staff, to gather input on how the organization is perceived and how it can continue to meet the needs of the community.

The findings indicated that while the organization is highly respected for its work, the name WestMass ElderCare did not fully capture the scope of services offered, which includes support for individuals with disabilities and younger populations. The name Access Care Partners better reflects the organization's mission of providing care and support to people of all ages and abilities, ensuring they have access to the services they need to live independently.

"As our community and services have evolved, so too has our brand," added Martocchia. "This change not only reflects who we are but where we are headed, ensuring we remain inclusive and adaptable for the next 50 years and beyond."

"As Access Care Partners, we remain committed to the same high level of care and comprehensive services, including in-home care, meal delivery, and support for individuals with disabilities and caregivers, and look forward to continuing our long-standing relationships within the community." For more information about Access Care Partners and their services, please visit [wmldecare.com](http://wmldecare.com) or call 413-538-9020.

## NOTICE

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# Better Business Bureau Tip: How to Buy Life Insurance

**Paula Fleming, CMSO**  
 pfleming@boston.bbb.org

Life insurance is an important aspect of financial planning. However, finding a policy that fits your budget and financial goals can be a real challenge with so many options available. In fact, a 2022 study revealed that people who don't feel knowledgeable about life insurance are less likely to have coverage. **BBB recommends the following tips to help you decide if you need life insurance, what kind of insurance is best for you, and how to purchase a policy.**

**Tips for purchasing a life insurance policy**

**Determine if you need life insurance coverage.** Life insurance is practical for many, if not most, people, but there are situations where you might not need it. You should definitely consider purchasing a policy if:

You want your funeral and burial expenses to be paid without eating into your assets;

Loved ones depend on you financially and would need significant financial support if you passed away;

Your family would be left with a large debt in the event of your death;

You want to pay for a dependent's childcare, tuition, or retirement expenses, or if

You wish to leave a charitable legacy behind for a cause close to your heart.

If none of these situations apply to you, you may not need life insurance.

**Think about how much life insurance you need.** Consider the financial needs of your beneficiaries to determine how much insurance you should buy, recommends the Insurance Information Institute. Three questions can help you determine a number. Once you determine the answers, subtract your survivors' resources from their needs to determine a specific coverage amount to purchase.

What financial resources, including social security benefits, group life insurance payouts, and any other assets or income, will your survivors have to rely on?

How quickly will the resources become available to them?

What are your survivors' financial needs when it comes to paying your final expenses, covering debts, and general income requirements?

**Get to know different types of life insurance.**

Term life policies generally have lower premiums than permanent policies, as they only cover a specific term of your life. They typically last between one and 30 years. The longer the term, the higher your premium will be. Once the term ends, you stop paying and no longer have coverage. Generally, no cash value is given back to the insured when the term is complete. That said, some life insurance companies may allow you to extend the term of your policy or convert it to a permanent policy, and in a few cases, they may offer a return of premium (ROP). A term life policy is a good choice for someone on a

tight budget or who only wants life insurance for a specific time. Worth noting, too, is that if you have a group life insurance plan from your employer, it's likely a term policy that ends when you leave the company.

If you are looking for coverage that will span several decades until your death, you'll want a permanent life insurance policy, sometimes called a "whole" or "universal" policy. Permanent policies cost more, but they have extra benefits, such as receiving the policy's cash value if you terminate it early and borrowing the amount of the current cash value from the insurance company as a loan. There are a few different kinds you can choose from:

**Whole or ordinary life insurance.** The most common kind of permanent life insurance, this kind of policy is straightforward. It offers a death benefit and works as a savings account. You agree to pay premiums for a specific death benefit, and the company agrees to pay you dividends periodically. Usually, this kind of policy includes a guaranteed interest rate and predictable premium rates over the course of the policy's life.

**Adjustable or universal life insurance.** This kind of policy gives the policyholder more flexibility than whole policies. Sometimes, you can increase your death benefit by passing a medical exam. In addition, you can choose to pay more than your premium up to a limit, and the extra money goes into your cash account. Or you can pay

less than the premium and draw from the cash account to cover the difference. These options make this kind of plan appealing to workers with fluctuating incomes. With universal life insurance, the cash value account (the savings aspect of this kind of policy) usually earns interest based on current market rates, which can change over time. All these factors mean this kind of policy needs to be monitored regularly by the policyholder. Keeping an eye on your policy's cash value will help you avoid a lapse in coverage, especially if you pay less than the minimum premium on occasion.

**Variable life insurance.** With this policy, policyholders receive death benefits, and they can also use their cash value account to invest in stocks, bonds, and money market mutual funds. This means there is a potential for growing the value of your policy quicker, but there is quite a bit more risk involved. One example of variable life insurance is indexed universal life (IUL), which is best for someone with a good understanding of the stock market, fees, and forecasts. IUL is gaining popularity, but without at least some investment experience, it can be easy to allow coverage to lapse. Plus, market crashes could mean you must pay higher premiums to keep your policy in force.

**Variable-universal life insurance.** This kind of insurance lets you invest your cash account in the stock market while at the same time offering you the ability to adjust your death benefit and premiums.

**Decide if you need any life insurance policy riders.** Policy riders are extra benefits used to customize policy coverage. Adding riders usually means paying a higher premium, but they are worth it in many circumstances. For example, you may want to include a children's term rider, which allows parents to cover their children and receive a death benefit if the child dies before a specified age.

**Compare life insurance companies.** There are many providers to choose from, so you'll want to do comparison shopping. You can contact an insurance agent, a broker, or an insurance company directly to get help

comparing policies and pricing, or, in many cases, you can comparison shop online. Once you've narrowed down your selection, ensure the companies you are interested in are licensed and have a good business reputation. Read reviews, look up the company on BBB.org, and ask your friends and family if they have any experience with it. Take the customer service level into account, along with the company's financial rating. Remember that the financial rating they've received is a projection, not a guarantee.

**Review the insurance contract carefully.** Make sure you fully understand any policy you are considering. All terms and conditions of an insurance policy are outlined in the contract. You should know how much you'll be paying for how long in order to receive protection, what will happen if a premium payment is late, and any information on restrictions as to insurance company investments. Since insurance contracts are legal documents, they can be wordy and difficult to understand. If you're having trouble with the language of the contract, ask your agent to explain it in layperson's terms.

**Be ready to answer lots of questions and be honest with your answers.** You'll likely need to fill out a lengthy application, which may include giving specific information about your health, family history, profession, and even your driving record. Be ready to spend some time answering honestly. Insurance companies use third-party sources to verify your answers, so any untruths will probably be discovered, putting your policy in jeopardy.

**Store your documents in a safe place.** Once you've purchased a life insurance policy, keep it in a safe place, like a safety deposit box. Let your beneficiaries know about the policy, what you want them to do with the death benefit, and where they can find a copy of the policy. Otherwise, it's possible their benefits could go unclaimed. Give your lawyer a copy of your policy, too.

**Watch out for mail-order life insurance.** You may get offers to buy life insurance through the mail at attractively low prices. The pitch may say you will be approved regardless of age and health. Be careful! Never purchase such a policy until you have read and understood every word, not just the advertising. Also, check with state insurance authorities to find out if the company is licensed to sell insurance in your state.



We hope this holiday finds you surrounded by those you love and hold dear. Thank you for giving us so much to be grateful for this holiday season and all year; we appreciate your loyal support.

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visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



## Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Public Charter School requests Charter Amendment to revise region, with goal of providing free transportation to all students

SOUTH HADLEY – Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School has submitted a request to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for an amendment to adjust PVPA's region in the school's charter and enrollment policy.

If approved, all Massachusetts students would still be eligible to apply to PVPA, but priority would be given in the school's lottery to students residing within the updated region, and all students living within that region would be eligible for free bus transportation.

PVPA is currently accepting applications for the 2025/2026 school year at [PVPA.org/admissions](http://PVPA.org/admissions). Application deadline is Feb. 23, 2025. The Enrollment lottery will take place on Feb. 26, 2025. Open House events are scheduled for December, January and February, offering prospective students and their families an overview of the school's arts-

cused approach to learning for grades 7-12.

Registration is online at [PVPA.org/admissions](http://PVPA.org/admissions). PVPA is a public charter school; there is no tuition or audition required to attend.

PVPA has long been aware that lack of affordable transportation is a barrier for many students considering attending the school, and a challenge for many currently enrolled families.

If DESE approves the proposed amendment, PVPA's revised region will reflect the communities where approximately 95% of currently enrolled students reside, covering most of Hampden and Hampshire counties.

Current students and siblings of current students, would not be affected by the change in region. All Massachusetts students would still be eligible to apply, but priority would be given to students residing in the updated region.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments regarding the school's amendment request to [CharterSchools@mass.gov](mailto:CharterSchools@mass.gov). Comments can also be mailed to Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, c/o Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign, 135 Santilli Highway, Everett, MA 02149.

Email is preferred. A decision from DESE is expected by Feb. 25, 2025. If approved, the change will take place for the 2025/2026 school year.

The proposed region would include the following school districts: Agawam, Amherst-Pelham (Amherst, Leverett, Pelham and Shutesbury), Belchertown, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Granby, Hadley, Hampden-Wilbraham (Hampden and Wilbraham), Hampshire (Chesterfield, Goshen, Southampton, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington), Hatfield, Holyoke,

Ludlow, Northampton, South Hadley, Springfield, West Springfield, and Westfield.

PVPA is a publicly funded charter school, authorized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, enrolling 400 students in grades 7-12. PVPA offers a college preparatory curriculum that provides all students a broad exposure to the performing arts.

Per MA General Laws, Chapter 76: Section 5, PVPA shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in the English language or academic achievement.

Please contact PVPA at [Admissions@PVPA.org](mailto:Admissions@PVPA.org) with any further questions.

## BusinessWest accepting nominations for the 2025 Difference Makers Awards

SPRINGFIELD – BusinessWest, the business journal of Western Massachusetts, is now accepting nominations for its 17th annual Difference Makers awards.

In 2009, BusinessWest initiated the Difference Makers program as a celebration of individuals, groups, organizations, and families that are positively impacting the Pioneer Valley and are, as the name suggests, making a difference in this region. As previous nominees have shown, there are many ways to do this: through working within the community on one or many initiatives aimed at

improving quality of life; through succeeding in business, public service, or education; through inspiring others to get involved; through making an imaginative effort to help solve societal issues; or a combination of the above.

Nominations for the Difference Makers class of 2025 are due by Monday, Dec. 16, 2024. They can be submitted at [BusinessWest.com/difference-makers-nomination-form/](http://BusinessWest.com/difference-makers-nomination-form/)

For more information, call Natasha Mercado-Santana, Marketing and Events manager, at 413-781-8600, ext. 100, or email [Mercado@BusinessWest.com](mailto:Mercado@BusinessWest.com).

## Keep Homestead to present Santa history

MONSON— Ever wondered how Santa came to America? Plan to visit the Keep Homestead Museum, 35 Ely Road, when Lorraine German presents her program "How Santa Claus Came to Town" on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 1:30 p.m.

German is the owner of Mad River Antiques in North Granby, CT and she will share information about New Amsterdam's St. Nicholas, the marketing strategy used by members of the New York Historical Society, and finally the jolly old elf we grew up with. She will also bring Santa related antiques.

Visitors are welcome to tour the museum from 1 to 3:30 p.m. to view

new Christmas button displays courtesy of the Monson Button Club and to enjoy light refreshments. Visit the gift shop where handmade note cards featuring buttons are for sale.

Join outside for hot roasted chestnuts compliments of Replanting Monson Tree Committee and students from the Tantasqua Chestnut Club.



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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE REVOCATION OF SITE PLAN**

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** on the revocation of the site plan for the property located at **4-8 White Street, Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 15B, Parcel 39)**. Existing site plan is on file in the Planning Department.

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 9, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix  
Chairman  
11/27, 12/04/2024

**LUDLOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE**

The Ludlow Conservation Commission has **RESCHEDULED** a Public Meeting under W.P.A. (M.G.L. Ch. 131, § 40) in Ludlow Town Hall, 3rd floor, Selectmen's Conference Room, for **Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 6:40 p.m.** for the Request for Determination of Applicability application of Joseph Hagopian, for the property located at 31 Batista Circle (Assessors' Map 29, Parcel 26). The subject of the meeting is: replace/repair roof as needed.

If for any reason this meeting is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

Angela Tierney  
Chair  
11/27/2024

**LUDLOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE**

The Ludlow Conservation Commission has scheduled a Public Meeting under W.P.A. (M.G.L. Ch. 131, § 40) in Ludlow Town Hall, 3rd floor, Selectmen's Conference Room, for **Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.** for the Request for Determination of Applicability application of Linda Nawracaj, for the property located at 33 Evergreen Circle (Assessors' Map 11A, Parcel 150). The subject of the meeting is: remove tree limbs from pond/stabilize bank.

If for any reason this meeting is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

Angela Tierney  
Chair  
11/27/2024

**Town of Ludlow LEGAL NOTICE**

In accordance with Chapter 138 of the General Laws, the Board of Selectmen has called a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 6:10 p.m.** in the Selectmen's Conference Room, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA on the application of Selenia Cruz for TCO Party Occasions, LLC located at 40 East Street, Ludlow, MA 01056 for a new wine and malt beverage License. Premises described as follows: Open floor space, which includes (1) bridal suite, (1) one kitchen, (1) bar, restrooms and a storage room for a total of 3,600 square feet, featuring two entrances and two exits with seating capacity of 150.

Derek DeBarge, Chairman  
Ludlow Board of Selectmen  
11/20, 11/27/2024

**LUDLOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE**

The Ludlow Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing under W.P.A. (M.G.L. Ch. 131, § 40) and Town of Ludlow Bylaws, Chapter XV, in Ludlow Town Hall, 3rd floor, Selectmen's Conference Room, on **Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.** on the Notice of Intent application of CA Real Estate Holding, LLC, for the property located at **40 Westover Road (Assessors' Map 3, Parcel 110)**. The subject of the hearing is: Interior renovations of the existing building and a +/-26,000 SF expansion to the rear of the site, including associated earthwork, paved parking & driveways, utility connections, stormwater management system, site lighting, and landscaping.

Angela Tierney  
Chair  
11/27/2024

**LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SITE PLAN**

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 7:25 p.m.** on the application of CA Real Estate Holdings, LLC (Gerald Renaud) for the property located at **40 Westover Road Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 3, Parcel 110) for: proposed +/- 26,000 SF addition to the existing facility with associated site improvements.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 9, 2025.

Raymond Phoenix  
Chairman  
11/27, 12/04/2024

**LUDLOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE**

The Ludlow Conservation Commission will hold a **RESCHEDULED** Public Hearing under W.P.A. (M.G.L. Ch. 131, § 40) and Town of Ludlow Bylaws, Chapter XV, in Ludlow Town Hall, 3rd floor, Selectmen's Conference Room, on **Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 6:50 p.m.** on the Notice of Intent application of Greenfields Inc., for the property located at **Lot 54 Knollwood Drive (Assessors' Map 39, Parcel 54)**. The subject of the hearing is: construction of a single-family house with associated grading and utilities.

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

Angela Tierney  
Chair  
11/27/2024

**Town of Ludlow LEGAL NOTICE**

The Ludlow Board of Selectmen has scheduled a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 6:25 p.m.** in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall, 488 Chapin Street Ludlow, MA on the application of Matthew Jensen for a new Class II Motor Vehicle License for Matt's Auto Mall to be located at 447 Center

Street, Ludlow, MA 01056.  
Derek DeBarge, Chairman  
Ludlow Board of Selectmen  
11/20, 11/27/2024

**LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SPECIAL PERMIT / HOME OCCUPATION**

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 7:15 p.m.** on the application of Ryan Leveille of **519 Moore Street Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 33, Parcel 52K) for: custom wood crafts & trophies.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 9, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix  
Chairman  
11/27, 12/04/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD24P2379GD In the matter of: Daniel Balula Of: Ludlow, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person**

**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Luisa M Balula** of Ludlow, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Daniel Balula** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Luisa M Balula** of Ludlow, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **12/11/2024**.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named

person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 13, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/27/2024

**Ludlow Housing Authority Request for Proposals Purchase of Family Housing Unit**

The Ludlow Housing Authority (LHA) is seeking to purchase a housing unit in the Town of Ludlow, MA. Housing units that meet the requirements of this Request for Proposals (RFP) will be considered. Beginning November 13, 2024 interested parties may request a copy of the RFP package by

- a) email [Robin@ludlowhousing.com](mailto:Robin@ludlowhousing.com)
- b) in person at the LHA office at 114 Wilson Street, Ludlow, MA 01056 or
- c) in person from Mike Parker, the LHA's broker at Coldwell Banker at 413-427-4130.

The LHA office is open Monday through Thursday, between 9 am and 3 pm. All parties will need to provide their name, address, phone and email address to ensure the LHA has an accurate list of RFP holders in the event it needs to distribute any addenda. Responses must be received no later than **10:15 am on Tuesday, December 17, 2024**, in the LHA office at 114 Wilson Street, Ludlow, MA 01056. Responses should be mailed or delivered in a SEALED envelope clearly marked: **"Proposal to sell Housing - Attention: Robin Carvide, Executive Director"** on the outside of your response package. Email proposals WILL NOT be accepted.

The LHA reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the proposals received or to reject any and all submissions when doing so is deemed to be in the best interest of the LHA.

The LHA Board intends to recommend purchase of property to EOHLIC. The Commissioners' recommendation is subject to approval by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. (EOHLC)  
11/13, 11/20, 11/27/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD24P2195GD In the interests of Nyeemah N Rodriguez of Indian Orchard, MA Minor NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES**

**1. Hearing Date/Time:**  
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **10/21/2024** by **Zaida I Govan** of Indian Orchard, MA will be held **12/17/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **4th Floor, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103.**

**2. Response to Petition:**  
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing

in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

**3. Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

**4. Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

**5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.  
Date: November 19, 2024

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/27/2024

**LUDLOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE**

The Ludlow Conservation Commission will hold a **RESCHEDULED** Public Hearing under W.P.A. (M.G.L. Ch. 131, § 40) and Town of Ludlow Bylaws, Chapter XV, in Ludlow Town Hall, 3rd floor, Selectmen's Conference Room, on **Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 7:05 p.m.** on the Notice of Intent application of **Ralph Capua, Sodi, Inc.**, for the property located at **Santina Drive (Assessors' Map 11D, Parcels 115M, 115N, 115P, 115Q, 115R, 115S, 115T, 115U, 115V)**. The subject of the hearing is: construction of eight (8) single-family homes and a stormwater parcel within the buffer zone.

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

Angela Tierney  
Chair  
11/27/2024

**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. HD24P2420EA Estate of: Salvatore Luigi Silvestri Also known as: Salvatore L Silvestri Date of Death: 09/24/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Louise G Corcoran of Palmer 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: **Louise G Corcoran of Palmer MA** be appointed as

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

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/18/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

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

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

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

Date: November 20, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
11/27/2024

**Town of Ludlow LEGAL NOTICE**

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Ludlow will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 5:35 p.m.** in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA. The hearing has been scheduled for the proposed adoption of percentages of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for the taxable year ending June 30, 2025.

The Board of Assessors will be available at this hearing to provide information and data relevant to the fiscal effect of "Classification and Taxation of the Property According to Use".

Derek DeBarge, Chairman  
Ludlow Board of Selectmen  
11/20, 11/27/2024

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



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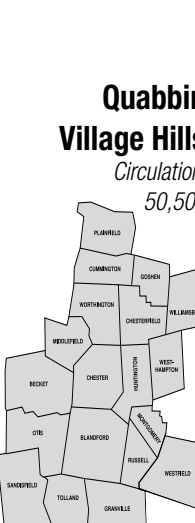
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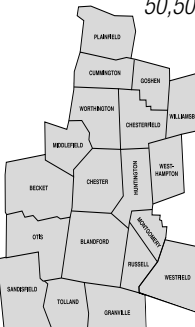
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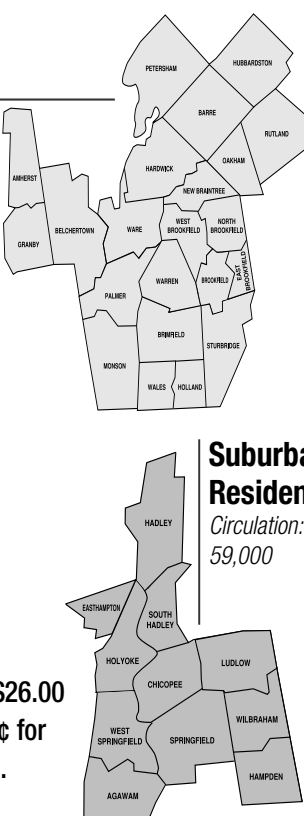
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**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**



# 'Tis the Season for Giving Back! A Local Charitable Giving Guide

## Indian Orchard Citizen's Council

### Toy Drive

Now through December 9th  
New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at  
117 Main Street, Indian Orchard  
Mon - Fri 10 -2  
Or mail checks to  
IOCC  
PO Box 51593  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

## The Local Table-n-Tap Restaurant

2039 Boston Road, Wilbraham  
(In front of Big Y)

### Dine-In to Benefit the Community Survival Center

Monday, December 9th 5-8pm  
We will be donating 20% of food sales to support the  
Community Survival Center

### Collecting Food & Personal Care Items

To Benefit the Community Survival Center  
donations can be dropped off at The Local  
throughout the holiday season.

#### Food Items:

- Peanut Butter
- Corned Beef Hash
- Breakfast Cereal
- Chunky Soups
- Canned Stews
- Canned Ham
- Canned Tuna
- Spam
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Pasta Sauce

#### Personal Care Items:

- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Toilet Tissue
- Deodorant
- Dish detergent
- Laundry detergent

## Route 20 Bar & Grille

2341 Boston Rd, Wilbraham  
(The Wilbraham Shops)

### Annual Stuff the Truck Event!

Saturday, Dec 14th 11:30am - 5:00 pm  
Collecting NEW warm winter coats, hats, gloves, etc  
And NEW unwrapped toys for kids ages 5-15.  
Donate and receive a FREE pasta dinner!  
(Donations can be dropped off anytime up until Dec. 14)

## Spartan Auto Care Center

2714 Boston Road, Wilbraham

### 12th Annual Toys for Tots Campaign

New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off in their waiting room  
now through mid- December.  
Toys will be distributed to local charities and local families.

## Luso Federal Credit Union

Two Locations:  
599 East Street, Ludlow  
1 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham

### Letters to the Troops

Annual Letters to the Troops campaign. We will collect letters now  
through December 2nd during school banking or at one of our branch  
locations. In return, LUSO will donate one toy to our annual toy drive  
charities for every 20 letters/cards received, up to 50 toys!

### Annual Holiday Coloring Contest

For students in grades Pre-K through 8. If you would like a chance  
for your child to win one of our prize-filled holiday gift bags, please  
have them complete the coloring sheet for their grade level (Pre-K  
to 8th Grade). Then return the coloring sheet entry to the credit  
union by Saturday, December 14, 2024. One winner from each of the  
different grade levels will be selected on Wednesday, December 18,  
2024. Coloring sheets may be picked up at our branch locations or  
downloaded from our website. Students may drop off their coloring  
entry to a LUSO staff member on your school banking day or bring the  
entry to either branch location.

### Holiday Toy Drive

Collecting new, unwrapped toy donations for children in need within  
our community. Drop off your toys at either of our branch locations by  
Saturday, December 14th. In the spirit of the season, for each toy  
donated, you will receive an entry to win a gift card wreath  
valued at \$150.

## HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics

2378 Boston Road, Wilbraham

### One Day Holiday Toy Drive!

Sunday December 8th from noon to 4pm

Hosted by Rik Alvarez (owner of HasBeen and former Creative Manager  
of the Transformers/GI Joe Brands) and local comic book YouTube  
channel, Lunch Money Comics. Attendees are asked to bring a new,  
unwrapped toy to be donated to local children in need. Receive a raffle  
ticket for each item donated. Purchase an item with a value of \$10 or  
more at HasBeen to be donated and receive 2 raffle tickets. Several  
raffles will be held throughout the day with some fabulous prizes  
ranging from toys, art and comics! Lunch Money Comics t-shirts will  
be available for purchase with all proceeds going towards charity.  
Refreshments and holiday treats will also be available.  
Join us for a day of holiday fun and giving!

## Pioneer Valley Financial Group

535 East Street, Ludlow

### Ludlow Teachers Supply Drive

We have partnered with the Ludlow VFW to collect classroom supplies  
to help teachers in the second half of the school year.  
Drop off supplies now through January 3rd.

PV Financial Group

535 East St, Ludlow  
Ludlow Veterans Center  
487 Holyoke St, Ludlow

#### Classroom supplies:

- Colored copy paper
- Colored & white card stock
- Sharpies
- Expo Markers
- Index cards
- Pre-sharpened
- Ticonderoga pencils
- 2 pocket folders
- Gift cards to
- Amazon or Staples

#### Cleaning supplies:

- Cleaning/disinfectant wipes
- Alcohol wipes
- Baby wipes
- Paper towels
- Hand sanitizer
- Liquid soap
- Microfiber cloths

### PV Financial Annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner

Inviting all law enforcement officers and first responders,  
current and retired veterans to attend a fun night of dinner, games,  
and prizes.  
January 9, 2025 at the Gremio Lusitano Club, 385 Winsor St, Ludlow.

## Richard R. Green Insurance Agency, Inc.

2 locations:  
32 Somers Road, Hampden  
128 Main Street, Monson

### 20th Annual Collection for Children and Veterans.

Collecting new, unwrapped toys to benefit the "I Found Light  
Foundation". Also collecting gifts for veterans, a project we are working  
on with the Hampden Senior Center. For our veterans project we need  
individually wrapped snacks, cookies, crackers, granola bars, hard  
candy & chocolates, mini hand sanitizers, hot chocolate packets, and  
word search /puzzle type books.

### Cash Donations for the Monson Senior Center

We are collecting cash donations to benefit the Monson Senior Center.  
We will match up to the first \$1,000 in donations!  
Collecting gifts for all three through December 15th.  
Please call 566-0028 or 267-3495 for more information.

## Town of Ludlow - Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

Ludlow Town Hall  
Sunday, December, 1st at 4:30pm

### Toys For Tots Collection

Collecting new, unwrapped toy donations at the tree lighting  
ceremony.

## La Cucina di Hampden House

1 Allen Street, Hampden

### 13th Annual Toy Drive!

Tuesday, December 10th, 3- 8 pm  
Receive 50% Off your entrée  
With your donation of a new, unwrapped toy!

### Food Drive in Partnership with Girl Scout Troop 65374

Excepting donations of non-perishable food items  
Now through Dec. 7th