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# The REGISTER

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## Volunteers lay wreaths for veterans in Wreaths Across America ceremony

LUDLOW – This Saturday, the town gathered at the Island Pond Cemetery for the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony.

Wreaths Across America is a national event where, on a date set by the organization, a service is held to donate wreaths to cemeteries across over 4,800 locations across the country. These wreaths are donated via sponsorship, with members of the community paying \$15 per wreath.

The ceremony began at noon with Director of Veterans Services, Eric Segundo, thanking the community members in attendance. Following a moment of silence and a prayer, Segundo guided the wreath-laying ceremony.

“This year, across the country, at more than 4,800 participating locations like this one, there are millions of Americans gathering safely as one nation to remember, honor, and teach,” Segundo said. “We are all proud to be Americans that live in a



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Director of Veteran Services Eric Segundo led the ceremony at Island Pond Cemetery on Saturday.

Please see **WREATHS**, Page 7

## School Committee and concerned parents discuss student safety

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
 mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – At last week’s School Committee meeting, concerned parents approached the committee to discuss what they describe as an ongoing bullying epidemic.

The Dec. 10 meeting began with public comments. Chair Sarah Bowler advised the public that committee members are not expected to respond directly to members of the public who choose to make comments, and asked that the comments be limited to topics within the authority of the committee, specifically review and approval of the district’s budget, the performance of the superintendent, and the educational goals and policies of the schools.

The first speaker introduced himself as the step-father of a girl who was “violently attacked” at Baird Middle School.

“This distasteful act of violence on our daughter, it could have been prevented, it should have been prevented,” the speaker said. “I told my step-daughter that day, going into school on Monday and over the weekend, that nothing was going to happen to her. We took our precautions, we dropped her off at school, she went into the

office, and it still happened.”

The parent talked about his child suffering from anxiety and headaches, and struggling to attend a full day of school. He asked the committee what the school is doing to address the issue, and what the plan is for his daughter’s attacker.

Bowler explained that the committee is prohibited from referencing specific children or incidents for the protection of the students, and compared the policy to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which protects medical patients’ privacy.

“In schools, we have what’s called FERPA,” Bowler said. “That’s the equivalent of HIPAA in education, which means we can’t talk about individual children. An incident happens, we can’t talk to another parent about a specific child, or vice versa.”

“It gets frustrating as a parent, I’ve been there,” Bowler continued. “It gets frustrating when you’re involved, it gets frustrating when your child might just be in the same classroom, it gets frustrating when your child is in the same school, in the same district.”

Bowler said that though the committee is sympathetic to the parents’ concerns, it has an obligation to follow the law in or-

der to protect minors.

“If something was to happen to your child, you wouldn’t want your own children’s information put out there,” Bowler said. “Most parents wouldn’t want their own children’s information put out there, so we have to follow the law.”

Superintendent Frank Tiano expressed his sympathies to the parents, but asserted that the district cannot share information related to students in a public forum.

“When you’re talking about a particular family, you feel terrible,” Tiano said. “You don’t want that for any of your students, you don’t want that for your child. But in a forum like this, at our meeting, you’re right, we can’t speak to specific instances, we can’t speak about other people’s children. Not only is that legal, federal law, state law, but it’s also best practice as well.”

Tiano talked about the school’s Emergency Response Plans, which are maintained through collaboration with the municipal departments and local youth organizations.

“We meet monthly with our police and fire and the Boys & Girls Club – we met this

Please see **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**, Page 8



Submitted photo

Officer Isaac Santana (right) helped to arrange this year’s toy drive with PlayNow Toy Store.

## Police Department holds third successful Toy Drive

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
 mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – The Police Department kicked off this holiday season with a toy drive that raised up to \$4,000 in toys for the Toys for Tots campaign.

For the past three years, the department has arranged Stuff-the-Cruiser toy drives every year to benefit Toys for Tots. Officer Isaac Santana and Sergeant Jhon Wielblad arranged this year’s drive with PlayNow Toy Store.

“It was great,” said Santana. “We had a very good showing. The community always gets very excited and supportive of us for this particular event.”

Santana and Wielblad were joined by two members from

the marines, as well as dispatcher Mike Lynch and David Krok. The officers played Christmas music and set out donuts and coffee to provide for free for people who donated, which was provided by Dunkin’ Donuts on Center Street, who Santana said has been a supporter of the drive every year.

“We do other events throughout the year, but this seems a little more special,” Santana said. “There’s a little more excitement for it, knowing that the effort that we’re all putting in together as a team is going to benefit less fortunate children who need a little joy in the holiday season.”

Through connections with local businesses from his time

Please see **TOY DRIVE**, Page 8



# LUDLOW

## Holiday light showtime



Submitted photo

Christmas is in full swing in Winter Haven, Florida. A bright light display for the holiday season that is enjoyed by many in Winter Haven. The festivities include a few Ludlow residents at Santa's House, owned by the Bigda's. The elf is Ron Teixeira of Ludlow, Santa is Bill Bigda formerly of Ludlow, now Winter Haven, Florida, the Grinch is Bill's neighbor. Happy Holidays from this Christmas crew.

## Nomination papers for the March 2025 Annual Town Election

LUDLOW – Nomination papers for the March 24, 2025, Annual Town Election are available through Jan. 31, 2025.

- Two openings for Board of Selectmen (three year terms)
- One opening for Board of Assessors (three year term)
- One opening for Board of Health (three year term)
- One opening for Housing Authority (five year term)
- One opening for Library Trustee (three year term)
- One opening for Planning Board (five year term)
- One opening for Recreation Commission (three year term)
- One opening for Recreation Commission (two year unexpired term)
- Two openings for School Committee (three year terms)
- One opening for School Committee (one year unexpired term)

Town-wide office nomination papers must be signed by at least 50 registered voters in Ludlow. Candidates are advised to collect more than 50 signatures to ensure the requisite number of certified signatures.

Town meeting member nomination papers must be signed by at least ten registered voters of the precinct in which the candidate resides.

Nomination papers for all the above offices must be filed at the Town Clerk's office by 5 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2025.

Voters in each precinct will elect five town meeting members for three years and elect other members as necessary to fill existing vacancies.

Please call the Town Clerk's office with any questions 413-583-5600 Ext. 1.



**BASIL**

This is Basil! He is a 5 year old shih tzu who is full of sass and loves to swim in the pool. His hobbies include torturing us with his groaning if we're not doing what he wants, screaming at everyone that passes by our house and terrorizing our neighbor until he throws a cookie over the fence. He refuses to learn any tricks but has trained himself to come running when he hears the sound of a whipped cream can dispensing. Also gets an A+ in snuggles.  
-Chantal and Jimmy Beauchamp

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).

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



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

**We wish you an informed and fabulous new year!**

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# Baird Middle School recently hosted its First Annual Trot

LUDLOW - A combined total of 18 students and staff members recently participated in Baird Middle School's first annual "Turkey Trot." The one-mile race began on the school's soccer field and brought participants through the woods adjacent to the school before returning to the finish line on the soccer field. The event was organized by Grade 7 World Geography teachers Jennifer Donovan and Kevin DaSilva.

Donovan, who is also an assistant coach to the Ludlow High School track and field team stated, "Both Kevin and I were former runners for the Ludlow High School cross country and track and field team and continue to run today. We both wanted to bring a fun fall event to the middle school that would allow for us to share our love of running with the students and to help be strong and healthy athletes in all sports. In the last district that I worked in, we had a turkey trot and I thought this would be a great idea to bring to Ludlow."

Eighth grader Jake Tatro was the overall winner finishing with a time of 6:32. Prizes were also awarded to the top scorers in their respective grades with Jonathan Vermette and Siena Bahgat leading in eighth grade, Samuel Labrie and Ava Martins leading in seventh grade, and Andrew Taggart and Tierney Stratton leading in sixth grade. Baird Middle School Principal Jason Taylor also participated in the race.

Close to a dozen BMS staff members and approximately 20 members of the Ludlow High School cross country team and track and field team along with their coaches Rebecca Gauvin, Brian Walsh, and Amy Walsh assisted with the race.

Taylor stated, "It was so great to see students and staff enjoying such a meaningful and fun experience together. I am especially grateful for Mrs. Donovan and Mr. DaSilva for organizing the event, and members of the community for their support. I am looking forward to the race becoming an annual tradition, and an opportunity for both students and staff to be excited about another part of Baird Middle School. Congratulations to all the runners who participated in the race."



Winners of the first annual Baird Middle School Turkey Trot take time out for a photo with BMS Principal Jason Taylor and event organizers Kevin DaSilva and Jennifer Donovan. Pictured from left to right are Andrew Taggart, Tierney Stratton, BMS Principal Jason Taylor, Jake Tatro, Jon Vermette, Grade 7 World Geography teacher Kevin DaSilva, Sam Labrie, Grade 7 World Geography teacher Jennifer Donovan, and Ava Martins. Missing from the photo is Siena Bahgat.



Ludlow High school runner Tyler Tatri (left) participated in the race with his brother, BMS eighth grader Jake Tatro (right)

Ludlow Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano, State Senator Jacob Oliveira, and State Representative Aaron Saunders joined a crowd of parents, siblings, and BMS staff members who were on hand to cheer on the runners. All students who participated in the Turkey Trot received a commemorative t-shirt donated by Pioneer Valley Financial Group in Ludlow. Snacks for the runners and gift cards for the winners were donated by Big Y, Palermo's Pizza, and the Unity Athletic Club.

Donovan and DaSilva were pleased with the outcome of the



BMS eighth grader Jake Tatro (right), accompanied by his brother Tyler (left) heads toward the finish line in the first annual Baird Middle School Turkey Trot. Tatro was the overall winner of the event with his time of 6:32.

event and hope it will become an annual tradition at Baird Middle School.

"We appreciate all the donations and volunteers and would love to see this be an annual event for the years to come. Kevin and I hope to see this grow within the next few years," Donovan stated.



Participants in the First Annual Baird Middle School Turkey Trot.



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## Co-ed Senior Volleyball is back



Submitted Photo

**Micheal Gallerani, Mike Cronin, Mike Proulx, Mark Powers, Le Ann Hebert, Kevin Laramee, Edward Mucha, Mark Brownell, Alan Wallace, Mickey Wegiel, Ted Skura, Partick Sylvander**

LUDLOW— Co-ed Senior Volleyball is back at the East Street School. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone aged 55 and up to meet others and get some fun exercise at the same time. All skill levels are invited.

We meet every Tuesday and Thurs-

day from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. from winter to mid-April.

For more information, stop by the East Street School on Tuesday or Thursday night or contact Maria Ardolino at the Ludlow Senior Center at 413-583-3564.

## First Responders Dinner to be held Jan. 9

LUDLOW—Pioneer Valley Financial Group & Ludlow Veterans of Foreign Affairs' hosts its 7th Annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner. The event will be held on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Gremio Lusitano Club in Ludlow.

The event is held as a way of recognizing the dedication of our local first responders. It's a night of food, fun, games and prizes. Annual chief games will be hosted; a friendly competition between departments, toys for all the children attending and raffle prizes!

This event is for local first responders and their families who live or work in Ludlow, Wilbraham & Hampden, including Police, Fire, EMTs, Hampden County Sheriff's Dept, State Police, Emergency Dispatchers and all departments' retirees.

There is no registration or charge to attend this event.

If you have any questions, feel free to connect with our Community Outreach Manager, Katherine Ferri, at 413-589-1500.

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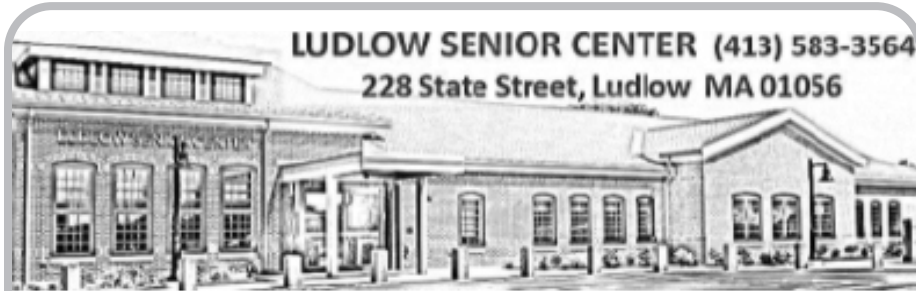
**Christmas Eve Mass of Lessons & Carols**  
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[stbarnabasbelchertown.org](http://stbarnabasbelchertown.org)

~ All Are Welcome ~



LUDLOW SENIOR CENTER (413) 583-3564  
228 State Street, Ludlow MA 01056

## Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

LUDLOW— The calendar is packed with many fitness programs, entertainment, education sessions, and more. Reserve your lunch in the Center's beautiful dining room complete with coffee, tea, and dessert by calling a day in advance at 413-583-3564 (call Friday for lunch on Monday).

For the full program and activity descriptions and general information about what a senior center is and does go to: [Ludlow.ma.us](http://Ludlow.ma.us). Seniors can also "like" the Ludlow Senior Center on Facebook. A paper copy of the Senior Scene newsletter is available at the Center.

### Activities Calendar:

Please register in advance for items with\*

#### Thursday, Dec. 19

8:45 a.m. Foot Care Appointments\*  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
9:30 a.m. Dominos  
10 a.m. SHINE Benefits Counseling\*  
10 a.m. Sunshine Painting Class\*  
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation\*  
10:30 a.m. Potato Pancakes  
1 p.m. Mahjong  
2 p.m. Book Club: The Sun Sets on Singapore  
2 p.m. Writers Block\*  
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

#### Friday, Dec. 20

8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
9 a.m. Fitness Advisor Appointments\*  
9 a.m. Reiki Appointments\*  
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks  
10:30 a.m. Trivia  
1 p.m. Ceramics  
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class\*  
1 p.m. Guidance by Li\*  
1 p.m. Magic Class

#### Monday, Dec. 23

8 a.m. Facials\*  
9:00 a.m. Knitting  
9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
1 p.m. Scrabble

1:15 p.m. Pitch  
2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

#### Tuesday, Dec. 24

9 a.m. Quilting  
9 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Cribbage  
10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga  
Center Closes at 11:30 a.m.

#### Wednesday, Dec. 25

Center Closed for Christmas

#### Thursday, Dec. 26

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
9:30 a.m. Dominos  
10 a.m. SHINE Benefits Counseling\*  
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation\*  
1 p.m. Mahjong  
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

\*PLEASE register for Boomer Boot Camp, Healthy Bones & Balance, Foot Care, and other programs as noted by calling 583-3564

### Daily Events:

Café: Monday – Friday 8-11 a.m.  
Exercise Room: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Open until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.  
Walking Club: Monday – Friday 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., leaving from the parking lot.

### Menu:

Thursday, Dec. 19: Shrimp Scampi/Linguini/Peas  
Friday, Dec. 20: Chicken Patty Sand/Lettuce & Tom/Chips/Pickle  
Monday, Dec. 23: Christmas Lunch, Pot Roast/Mashed Pot/Glazed Carrots (sorry, sold out)  
Tuesday, Dec. 24: No lunch. Center Closes at 11:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, Dec. 25: Center Closed for Christmas  
Thursday, Dec. 26: BBQ Riblet/Sweet Pot. Fries/3 Bean Salad

Reserve a delicious \$2 lunch by calling a day ahead. Call on Friday to reserve lunch on Monday.

For allergy concerns, call the Senior Center to ask about ingredients at 413-583-3564.

### HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

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## 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.

## 250th Book Committee presents book to library archivist

LUDLOW — The 250th Book Committee presented a copy of the 250th Anniversary History Book to Hubbard Memorial Library archivist Olivia Eberli, as thanks for all of her help with research and photos alongside the book committee members.

250th Books are available for purchase at the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall.



Submitted photo

250th Book Committee (from left) Martin Fanning, Sandra Stanek, Brian Bylicki, Olivia Eberli, 250th Committee co-chair Linda Collette, Mary Beth Silva, and Bruce Fenney.



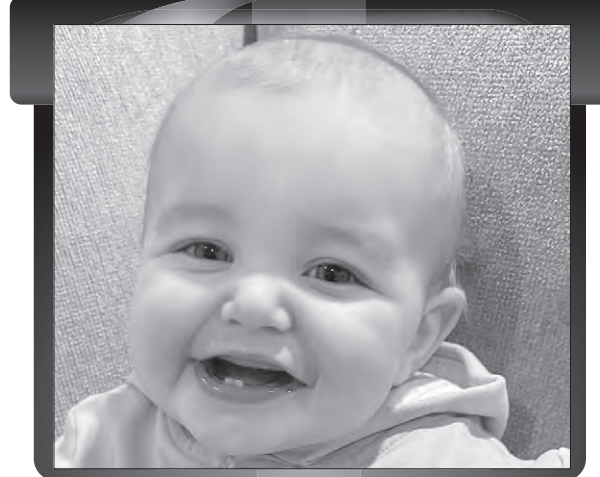
### Payton April Ziemba

March 13, 2024

**Parents:** Zachary & Jaqueline Ziemba, Wilbraham

**Grandparents:** Debbie & Jim Ziemba, Ludlow  
Lisa Benoit, Ludlow

**Great Grandparents:** Maryanne Cierpial, Chicopee  
Barbara Lanzarotto, Chicopee  
Ronald & Margaret Benoit, East Longmeadow



### Brixton Michael Malone

January 8, 2024

**Parents:** Ryan & Melissa Malone, Wilbraham

**Grandparents:** Bob & Ann Blanchard, Chicopee  
Eddy & Debbie Malone, Ludlow



### Henry Thomas Noel

September 9, 2024

**Parents:** Dalton & Lauren Noel, Cummington

**Grandparents:** Lori Wawro, Belchertown  
Mike Skowronek, Palmer  
Karen Landry, Worthington  
Frank Noel, Cummington



### Walker Thomas Dusza

April 6, 2024

**Parents:** Michelle & Joshua Dusza, Ware

**Grandparents:** Mark & Midge D'Entremont, Reading  
Michael & Zoraya Dusza, Ludlow



### Ariella Martins

January 15, 2024

**Parents:** Aaron Martins & Bryanna Lapointe, Monson

**Grandparents:** Mark & Jane Martins, Ludlow  
Bill Lapointe & Tracy Halgas, Springfield



### Thomas Kelly

April 13, 2024

**Parents:** Liza & Russ Kelly, Ludlow  
**Grandparents:** Susan Raymond, Ludlow



# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

### Act of Kindness

Cody Jaramillo asked me the same question I'm often asked, where do I find people to share their Random Acts of Kindness stories. I told him he was a prime example of how people cross my path.

I had a plumbing problem so called Fletcher Sewer & Drain. I was lucky to have Cody be on call and how I met him. He treated me with such respect and dignity I just knew he had stories to be told. Boy was I right, he's an incredible young man!

I'd asked Cody about the tattoos he sported on his arm and quickly found out he'd suffered more losses than someone his age should have had to endure. He's overcome some difficult situations from self-admitted bad choices.

After losing a best friend he considered a brother in 2014, he spiraled into a black hole of drinking causing him to gain approximately a hundred pounds. One day he woke up and knew that's not what his friend would have wanted for him, that's the day he turned his life around. He got sober, started making better choices and then in 2021 shed the extra weight!

Cody has a wonderful support system and though some were doubtful he'd be able to accomplish this transformation, there was always love. His dad and mom were incredible examples that shaped him into the kind and caring core person he is. He is a self-proclaimed Mama's boy but recalled how his dad, who he reiterated numerous times within our conversation was his hero, was at all and his brothers sporting events always encouraging them. His mother who had served in the military when she was younger retired as head nurse for a VA hospital specializing in spinal cord injuries.

He shared that his mother actually introduced her mom and his Grandpa Charlie, then after six months they were married. Those grandparents were other excellent models. Grandpa Charlie, a thirty-five-year military man, was voted New England Marine of the year in 2024! He completed 15 years in the Army, 20 in the Marines and still continues work that supports veterans. He was even nominated for the National Marine honoree. Cody says he's the perfect example of everything and definitely a 'selfless man'.

When I asked Cody to tell me about his Random Acts of Kindness he shared how he'd helped a young woman whose car broke down in the middle of an intersection by pushing her to safety. Once he knew she was safe he left, never giving his name but knowing she'd be okay. He also reflected when younger how he always helped an elderly neighbor with her yard work and shoveling her driveway. His parents were always superior examples of this type of behavior.

As we chatted Cody told me about the wonderful woman he's shared his life with these past four years, describing her as not only beautiful but also his rock. He said though they come from very different backgrounds, they support each other and it works.

He also shared something quite unique, in 2017 he became a lottery winner. He said the money wasn't as important to him as the people in his life and he shared his good fortune with them. He was able to purchase a home for his parents, gave his four siblings a monetary gift as well as a very special aunt and uncle who had supported him through his troubled times. He also was able to help out some friends by giving them items after purchasing new things, such as a truck to one. He explained he was very happy this hadn't happened in his earlier years but rather in his sober and healthier time.

That night he'd been out with friends playing pool and ordered a pizza for everyone. Those who wanted to chip in fine and if not, he was okay with that too. Just another example of his generosity. After, he stopped at a store and was going to buy a \$30 lottery ticket but instead decided to purchase three ten dollar ones. Though on the first he won more than the purchase price, it was the second one that gave him the bigger winnings.

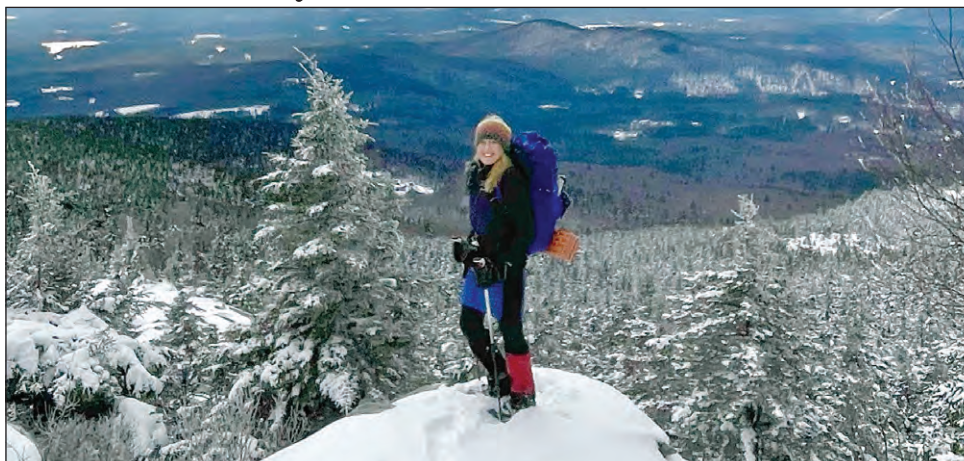
Please see **ACT OF KINDNESS**, Page 12

### Early Christmas shoppers...



## GUEST COLUMN

### A wintry hike on Mt. Monadnock



Julie smiles brightly at the top of Mt. Monadnock.

By Julie Midura

"I don't think we're on the trail anymore."

Tom and I drove to Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire last week following a recent snowstorm. After parking our car at the trailhead, we made quick work of the road



Submitted photos

Tom takes in the beautiful snow covered view.

walk to the old Halfway House site, where we had a choice to make. We could continue straight ahead onto the well packed out and very popular White Arrow Trail, or hang a sharp right onto the lesser used and more difficult to follow Hello Rock Trail.

We paused when we reached the junction. One look in the direction of Hello Rock Trail told us that we would have our work cut out for us if we chose that route. Not only was the snow much deeper than we expected, but there were no other boot prints in sight. We would be breaking trail.

After not hiking anything strenuous in weeks and feeling less than confident in our ability to tackle some moderate trail breaking, I hesitated for a fraction of a second. I took a deep breath, exhaled slowly, then turned right towards Hello Rock Trail. No time like the present to see just how out of shape we were!

As we broke through the calf-deep, thick blanket of white that covered the tread-way, the path was fairly obvious- four feet wide and slightly lower than the earth on either side. But We continued forward, undaunted by the fact that we were fairly certain we were no longer on the actual trail. After all, if we couldn't locate the path, we'd just follow our footprints in the snow back to where the trail was more obvious, and then attempt

Please see **HIKING**, Page 12

### 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.

## The REGISTER TEAM

### EDITORIAL

register@turley.com



### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Marcelo Gusmao  
mgusmao@turley.com



### ADVERTISING SALES

Jocelyn Walker  
jwalker@turley.com



### SPORTS EDITOR

Greg Scibelli  
sports@turley.com

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KEITH TURLEY  
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Eric Segundo made a speech about the importance of remembering, honoring, and teaching about the sacrifices of veterans.



American Legion Post Commander Ryan Howe and a Scout placed a wreath as part of the ceremony.



Select Board Chair Derek DeBarge and a BSA member saluted the wreath they laid for veterans.

**WREATHS**

from Page 1

free society made up of many people, from many walks of life.”

Members of the community presented wreaths for each branch of the military, laying them one-by-one as part of the ceremony. After that, volunteers took the wreaths collected by Wreaths Across America to be laid on veterans’ graves all over the cemetery.

“We encourage every volunteer here today who places a wreath on a veteran’s grave to say the veteran’s name out loud and thank them for their service to our country,” Segundo said. “It’s a small act that goes a long way towards keeping the memory of our veterans.”

“As we say their names, they will never be forgotten,” Segundo said.

Among the volunteers were a team from Pioneer Valley Financial Group, who attended the ceremony, and also laid wreaths at cemeteries not featured in the ceremony, on Center Street and Fuller Street.

“Wreaths Across America at Island Pond Cemetery is a cherished Pioneer Valley tradition that we love to be a part of, as we honor the brave men and wom-



Residents braved the cold Saturday morning to remember, honor, and teach about veterans laid to rest in our town. en who served,” a post on the PVFG Facebook page said. “Laying these wreaths with gratitude and respect, we remember and honor their memory and service.”



The town successfully met its goal of collecting 1,000 wreaths for this weekend's ceremony.

“These live blossom wreaths symbolize our honor to those who have served and are serving in the armed forces of our great nation,” Segundo said, “to their families who endure the sacrifices every

day on our behalf.” To learn more about the organization that collects for and arranges this ceremony every year, visit their website at [WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://WreathsAcrossAmerica.org).



The last of the wreaths were laid down before a recording of “Amazing Grace” was played.



Wreaths were laid as part of the ceremony, and then volunteers took to the cemetery to place wreaths on the graves of the veterans laid to rest.

**EARLY DEADLINE For All Advertising & CLASSIFIEDS**

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# Ludlow Police to Participate in 'Drive Sober Get Pulled Over' Campaign

Submitted by the Ludlow Police Department



LUDLOW — Chief Daniel Valadas is pleased to share that Ludlow Police Department is teaming up with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to remind drivers to Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over this holiday season.

NHTSA and local law enforcement agencies are launching a high-visibility impaired driving awareness campaign that runs from Dec. 11 through Jan. 1, 2025, and want all drivers to remember: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. In support of law enforcement's dedication to protecting the lives of residents in their communities, drivers will see officers working together during the holiday season to take drunk drivers off the roads.

This initiative is part of the Winter Impaired Driving Campaign, which is active throughout December. Ludlow Police will have extra patrols throughout the month to detect and apprehend drivers and operators who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The additional patrols are funded through a portion of a \$20,000 Municipal Road Safety Grant through the Massachusetts Office of Grants and Research. The grant was awarded to Ludlow Police to staff extra patrols for six national traffic safety campaigns

throughout the year, with December being the first of these campaigns.

Alcohol-impaired driving is deadly and continues to be a factor in fatal traffic crashes in the United States, especially during the holidays. During the 2018-2022 December months, there were 4,759 people killed in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes. In December 2022 alone, 1,062 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes. Unfortunately, males and young people are at greatest risk for injury or fatality: In December 2022, drunk male drivers were involved in fatal crashes at a much higher rate (22 percent) compared to female drivers (16 percent), and young drivers ages 21-34 accounted for the highest percentage (25 percent) of alcohol-impaired drivers involved in fatal traffic crashes.

Drivers should remain safe during the holidays by planning ahead if they intend to drink. They shouldn't wait until after drinking to plan how to get somewhere, as being under the influence of alcohol or other substances can cloud a person's

judgment. Individuals should secure a designated sober driver or call a taxi or rideshare service to ensure they get home safely. Those who are designated drivers should refrain from consuming alcohol or other substances.

Community members should also look out for their friends and family by ensuring they have a sober ride home, and by not letting them get behind the wheel while impaired.

Residents and community members are reminded to contact Ludlow Central Dispatch if they observe an impaired driver on the road.

Over the past 10 years, Ludlow Police has seen an increase in impaired driving, including a 100 percent increase in driving under the influence of drugs and a 50 percent increase in drunk driving.

"Drunk driving is illegal and deadly and no one should get behind the wheel if impaired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs," said Chief Valadas. "We want our community to have a fun-filled holiday season, but also want residents to be responsible, use sensible judgment, and remain safe, and that means refraining from drinking and using impairing substances before or while driving. Make the right choice for a safe and sober ride home."

For more information on impaired driving, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving](http://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving).



Submitted photo

The toy drive filled two vans with around 300 toys, donated by the community and the Police Department.

## TOY DRIVE

from Page 1

working as a police officer and in the private sector, Santana is able to receive donations of money from local businesses, which this year totaled about \$1,000. Santana then used that money to purchase 130 toys.

"From the generosity of the community, we probably doubled that number," Santana said. "We raised 300 toys, so I would guesstimate the total monetary value is probably close to \$3-4,000."

Santana said that the location near PlayNow is mutually beneficial, as passersby who want to donate can buy them right from the toy store. "It benefits local small businesses in town to help them get some traffic into the store and helps them be successful," Santana said.

"For the last three years since I became a Ludlow police officer, I've gotten pretty invested in the Toys for Tots campaign,"

Santana said. "As a child, I was raised in a Jehova's Witness home, and they don't celebrate Xmas, so I wasn't given that opportunity as a child. During Christmastime, I get really invested, and take it personally that the toy drives are so successful."

Police Chief Dan Valadas praised the work done by Wielblad and Santana to collect for the toy drive.

"They got the Police Association to donate about \$600," Valadas said. "They did a Stuff-the-Cruiser yesterday in combination with PlayNow Toy Store, they did a great job. They collected at least six bins of toys."

In addition to PlayNow, the department thanked People's Bank, Marcotte Ford Sales Inc., and The Spoke in Amherst.

Santana thanked PlayNow for hosting the toy drive, the marines for supporting and sending members to the event, and the community for its support, "and not only for the toy drive."

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

from Page 1

morning – and not only is that forward-thinking in terms of drills, but in terms of recent issues, Becky Bouchard brings in if there's a change in the law or changes in regulations," Tiano said. "It's important for all of our admin team and the police, our

Senior Resource Officer, and the fire department to be on the same page."

Tiano took some time to explain the difference between "lockdowns" and "shelter in place" orders, to address confusion that had been expressed to him.

"'Shelter in place' is when there's an individual, usually in

need of some type of attention, typically medical attention," Tiano said. "In order to provide access for emergency personnel for staff to deal with that particular individual without disrupting instruction, 'Shelter in Place' is called."

Tiano said that this typically means that access to a room or office will be limited or the

bell may be held for a minute. "That happened the other day at Baird," Tiano said.

Tiano compared this to a lockdown, which is used when there's an intruder in the school and involves barricading doors.

"Our police department has worked with our staff for ALICE training and all our ALICE drills," Tiano said.

Bowler then asked Tiano to clarify what the administration's response would be in the case of a fight between students, in terms of breaking up the fight and notifying the families.

"Depending on where it is, typically this is why we have staff in the hallways," Tiano said. "If students get involved physically with each other, staff intervene to get in between and to separate. Once the combatants are separated, an investigation would follow."

After the students have been provided with any necessary medical attention, Tiano said the in-

vestigation would be conducted "on the spot" to determine what happened beforehand, and from there, administrators go into histories and collaborate with student support teams.

"Our principals have a good handle," Tiano said. "They meet weekly with counselors, the nurse and so forth, in terms of students who are struggling in the building, so they might have an immediate background."

Tiano said that from there, it could go a lot of different ways. Students may be sent home and their families notified, and discipline is meted out according to due process.

Committee Member Jeff Stratton asked, in the event that a parent is dissatisfied with the disciplinary response to an incident, what would be the best way to address it.

"If it's classroom discipline and they speak directly to the teacher and they're dissatisfied, then they speak to the principal," Tiano said. "If they speak to the principal and they're dissatisfied, then they speak to the superintendent."

After discussing the school's safety policies with the superintendent, the committee moved to other business.

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# SPORTS

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## Ludlow-Belchertown co-op wins first game

WEST SPRINGFIELD – While Agawam was able to spread its scoring around during its season opener last Thursday night, Ludlow's new co-op with Belchertown got three goals from Sean Kefalas, including a game-winner in overtime as the Lions prevailed 5-4. Ludlow got on the board first early in the first period on a Tanner Severyn goal, but Agawam stayed in the game throughout. Kefalas had two goals in regulation and Evan Dias also had a goal for the Lions. Andy Holton, Cole Buffum, Zach Hollister, and Landon Ashford scored for Agawam. Charlie Fijal, of Belchertown, had two assists for the Lions. Ludlow and Belchertown are a co-op this season using the Ludlow High School name. The Lions face Minnechaug this weekend and Agawam will face Taconic in a special 10 a.m. game on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24.



Sean Kefalas circles around the Ludlow goal.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Ryan Goodwin makes a backhand play on defense.



Nick Staeb heads up the left side of the ice.



J Stupak checks his opponent as he advances up the ice.



Noah Simard wrestles against Holyoke's Johann Lopez in a 150-pound match.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

## Lions place second in season-opening tournament

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday, the Ludlow High School wrestling team placed second in the Knight-Hawk Classic hosted by Holyoke High School. Ludlow scored 186.5 points, which was a distant second to tournament winner

West Springfield, which had 304.5 points. Lucas Alvan at 190 pounds and Samantha Bertini at 106 pounds were the two champions crowned by Ludlow. Tristin Stephens at 215 pounds and Ryan Gomes at 126 pounds were runners up.



Anthony Grimm grapples at 157 pounds.



Heavyweight Andrew Ray goes for the pin.

## Ludlow boys basketball seek tourney appearance

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The only remaining member of the 2022-23 Ludlow boys' basketball team listed on this year's varsity roster is junior Jackson Mateus.

When Mateus was a freshman, the Lions won 14 games and qualified for the Division 2 state tournament for the second consecutive year. They

were also the Tri-County North League champions.

The other 10 members of this year's varsity squad are looking to play in both the Western Mass. tournament and the state tournament for the first time.

"We just missed qualifying for the postseason tournament last season after making it the previous two years. It would be awesome if we're able to make it back there again

this year," said Ludlow head coach C.W. Zimmer, who graduated from Minnechaug Regional. "We do have a very young basketball team with no seniors and only four returning varsity players. Inexperienced is certainly one of our weaknesses, but it's a close knit group."

Ludlow, who lost six players to graduation, finished the 2023-24 campaign with an 8-12 overall record. The six

seniors on last year's team helped the Lions post a 25-16 record when they were sophomores and juniors.

The Lions leading scorer last season was Dan McKenney Jr., who recently wrapped up his freshman season as a member of the Nichols College football team.

"Anytime that we needed a big basket, Danny would come through for us. He was an outstanding three-sport

athlete in high school," Zimmer said. "All the other seniors on last year's team helped move our program forward."

Mateus was the Lions point guard a year ago, but he'll be picking up the slack offensively this winter. He's also a co-captain.

"Jackson has come a long

Please see **LUDLOW BOYS**,  
Page 10



# T-Birds grab point in Wilkes-Barre

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

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

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

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

Thanks to their top offensive unit, the T-Birds quelled

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

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

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

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

to make it a 4-2 contest. Less than four minutes later, crashing in for a rebound in the slot area, former Penguin Scott Harrington notched his first as a Thunderbird at 4:08 to cut the margin to 4-3.

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

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

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

# Coaching classes available

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

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

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

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

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

Additional requirements for all coaches:

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

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

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email [dharrington@miaa.net](mailto:dharrington@miaa.net).

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

## LUDLOW BOYS

from Page 9

way since his freshman season. He's always working to improve his game," Zimmer said. "He set up our offense last year, but he's going to be a shooting guard this year. We're looking for him to score a little bit more. He's a very good role model."

Junior Ethan Love, who's a first-year varsity basketball player, is the Lions' other co-captain. He was a member of the j.v. basketball team the past two seasons.

"Ethan is a natural leader," Zimmer said. "The players swarm around him and he's a glue guy. He's also going to be our starting point guard."

Ludlow's other three returning varsity players are juniors Mason Morace, who was the starting quarterback for the football team this past fall, Giovanni Acevedo, and Cameron Lyman.

Rounding out the junior class are Brandon Hanifin, Spencer Huntley, and Filipe Fernandes.

"The entire junior class are very talented basketball

players and there is something very special about them," Zimmer said. "It's also the largest class that I've coached here. Hopefully, they'll be able to get us back to the post-season tournament again."

The three sophomores listed on the Lions varsity basketball roster are Jadiel Rodriguez, Tyler Tatro, and Kobe McKay.

Tatro was expected to be the starting center in the season opening home game against Hampden Charter on December 16.

The Lions will most likely

be moving into a different league after this season.

"They'll be a realignment next year and we're ready to take the next step," Zimmer said. "Our basketball program has grown a lot since I first came here as Tom Cebula's assistant varsity coach nine years ago."

Zimmer, who replaced Cebula as the varsity coach prior to the start of the 2020-21 regular season, entered this season with a 37-35 career record. He would like his team to be put in the same league as teams like Belchertown, Granby, Palmer, and Amherst.

Duggan Academy, who's the defending Tri-County North League champions, will most likely be the top team in the league once again this year.

"Duggan Academy is a buzzsaw," Zimmer said. "Allen Miranda was the best player in

our league last season, and he might be the best player in Western Mass. this year. We'll have our handful against them."

The other four Tri-County North League teams are McCann Tech, Mount Everett, Hampden Charter School of Science East, and Westfield Tech.

Ludlow has moved down to Division 3. All the other Tri-County North teams are in Division 5, which affects the Lions power rankings. They'll most likely need to finish the regular season with a .500 or better record to qualify for the postseason tournament.

The Lions are scheduled to play non-league games against St. Mary's of Westfield, East Longmeadow, Smith Academy, Pathfinder Tech, Westfield, Smith Vocational, and Monson.

The Lions junior varsity coach is David D'Agostino. The two assistant varsity coaches are Tyler Goncalves, and Todd Holloway, who were outstanding athletes at Ludlow High School.

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## Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

<p>All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 19 at Noon for Publication Dec. 23-27</p>	<p><i>Happy New Year!</i></p> <p>All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 27 at Noon for Publication Dec. 30-Jan. 3</p>
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Happy Holidays!



# OBITUARIES

## Joan Elizabeth (St. John) McGrady

LUDLOW—Joan Elizabeth (St. John) McGrady of Ludlow, age 81, passed away on Dec. 9, 2024.



Joan was born on Nov. 19, 1943, a daughter of her late parents, David and Leona (Sorell) St. John. She was a lifelong resident of Ludlow, graduating from Ludlow High School and was a member of St. John the Baptist.

In 1973 Joan married the love of her life, John Patrick McGrady Jr. and they remained married for 41 years until John's passing in 2014. Joan made friends everywhere she worked over the years: Two Guys, St. Johnsbury, DDI, and Mass Mutual.

In her free time, she enjoyed reading, gardening, and word search puzzles. Joan was predeceased by her parents and her

husband, as well as her brothers Donald and Kenneth St. John and her sisters Charlene St. John and Barbara Nevue.

She is survived by her daughter Darcie Reid and her husband Jamaal Reid, her sisters Shirley and Cynthia St. John, sisters-in-law Nancy and Donna St. John, and two grandchildren.

Visitation was held Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, at the Ratell Funeral Home at 200 Main Street, Indian Orchard. A Funeral Home Service was held on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024. Rites of Committal followed at Island Pond Cemetery on Center Street in Ludlow. Please visit [ratellfuneralhome.com](http://ratellfuneralhome.com) to leave remembrances and expressions of sympathy for the family.

## Walter Scott Coon Jr., 98



Walter Scott Coon Jr., a World War II veteran and educator of more than 40 years, died peacefully on Dec. 8, 2024. He was 98.



His parents, Walter Sr. and Marjorie (née McDonough), welcomed him to a lovely and loving childhood in Ludlow, MA on April 5, 1926. After graduating from Cathedral High School in Springfield, he served in the U.S. Army across Western Europe with the 44th Infantry Division, eventually working with the Army Intelligence Corps to arrest Nazis. While on furlough in August 1945, he learned the war had ended when a theater manager interrupted the show to make the announcement. Soon after, he was deployed to Fort Smith, AR where he completed his service in June 1946.

After the war, Walter went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Saint Michael's College. Following a few years in politics and working for several companies, Walter embraced his longtime calling to teach. He earned master's degrees from Bridgewater State and Westfield State, respectively, and went on to teach history and geography at Birchland Park in East Longmeadow for 31

years until "retiring." What followed was over a decade as the librarian at Our Lady of Hope School in Springfield, where the principal was his wife and, technically, his boss. After actually retiring, they moved to Cape Cod, where Walter enjoyed his family, dog(s), and being a lifelong learner.

Walter was predeceased by his parents, as well as his brother Shaun and sister Debbie (Moraes). He is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Joan (née Rafferty), his son Michael ("Milt"), his son Brendan and his wife Nicole, his grandchildren Max, Amelia, and Otis, and many nephews, nieces, cousins and neighbors who will never forget his heroism, kindness, or humor. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Foundation to Advance Catholic Education. Visiting hours and a funeral mass were held at Our Lady of the Assumption in Osterville on Dec. 16, with a reception to follow. Burial will be privately held at Massachusetts National Cemetery later in the week. To share a memory or leave a condolence, please visit [www.doane-bealameshyanis.com](http://www.doane-bealameshyanis.com)

## Shirley C. Sweeney, 90

LUDLOW - Shirley C. Sweeney, 90, of 43 Bluegrass Lane, Ludlow, peacefully passed into God's care on Sept. 30, 2024. Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, daughter of Anthony



and Mary Pallotta, Shirley resided in Ludlow for over 63 years and was a beloved teacher who retired from Baird Middle School.

Shirley was predeceased by her devoted husband of 47 years, Thomas F. Sweeney, Sr. and her brother, James Pallotta. Shirley is survived by her children: Thomas and his wife Carrie of Ludlow, MA; Stephen of San Diego, CA; Ann of Auburn, CA; Daniel and his wife Nathaly of Poway, CA. She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren: Julius, Abigail, Emma, and Aine, as well as her brother George Pallotta, sister Judith Palin, Aunt Theresa and Uncle Thomas Kulig.

A graduate of Classical High School, Shirley earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education from the College of Our Lady of the Elms. Throughout her career, she held various educational licenses and taught Math, English, Social Studies, and Science at all grade levels. Shirley was respected by students and colleagues alike for her dedication and passion for education, leaving a lasting impact on countless young minds.

Shirley instilled a sense of curiosity and wonder in her children. During the summer months, her classroom was a Ford County Squire Station wagon towing a Layton Travel Trailer, as she and her family explored North America. The Cape Cod National Seashore and Wells, Maine were among her favorite destinations.

Beyond her adventurous spirit, Shirley treasured the simple joys of family life, especially holiday gatherings and Sunday dinners, which were filled with warmth and laughter. She had a vibrant social life and pursued many interests with enthusiasm. An avid reader, she passed this love of books on to her children, especially Stephen, who has like-

ly read every historical book ever written. Shirley found joy in long walks along the beach, collecting seashells, and in the quiet creativity of painting classes with her friends. She also enjoyed participating in her parish book

club and spending evenings by the fireplace doing crossword puzzles.

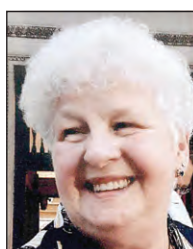
After Saturday night mass, Shirley and her husband Thomas would engage in the time honored tradition of playing cards with their neighbors, the Decaros. A devoted member of both St. Mary of the Assumption and Christ the King church communities, she was also a frequent volunteer, supporting her children's many teams, clubs, and activities. Later in life, she extended her generosity to the Community Survival Center and the Chicopee Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, always finding ways to help others.

Shirley had a sweet tooth and a special love for peppermint ice cream sundaes topped with marshmallow and hot fudge, a treat that became a staple in her home and a fond memory for those who knew her best. She will be remembered for her compassion, intelligence, quick wit, sense of humor, and her corned beef and cabbage with snowflake rolls. Most of all, she will be cherished as a loving, kind, and empathetic daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and colleague. Her warmth and kindness touched many lives, and she will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her throughout her remarkable life.

Visiting hours for Shirley will be held on Friday, Jan. 3 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Ludlow Funeral Home. Family and friends may then gather on Saturday, January 4th directly at Christ the King Parish in Ludlow for Liturgy of Christian Burial beginning at 10 a.m. followed by procession to Island Pond Cemetery for burial. Memorial gifts may be made to Community Survival Center at: <https://communitysurvivalcenter.org/donate/>, or to the charity of one's choice.

## Patricia H. Madden, 78

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



She was a graduate of Ludlow High School. Pat was a 57 year member of St Cecilia's women's club and along with her late husband Larry they coordinated numerous church celebrations and auctions. She worked in sales, marketing and customer service positions over the years at Janlynn Corp., Halmar, Lechmere and the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club. She opened her own silk-screen business, K&K Lettering, in 1978 and helped establish the Madden Insurance Agency with whom she was a partner with her daughter Karen for over 35 years. Pat enjoyed playing and watching basketball and also enjoyed going on many trips to see the Red Sox, Celtics and Duke Blue Devils. She was the matriarch of the family in every sense, she hosted every holiday and would make sure when anyone left, they would not leave without a care package. Pat loved playing cards with her family, especially pitch, where she really impressed Steve who will forever be her partner. She loved collecting stamps and coins and especially spending time with her Gandpuppy, Sadie. Pat enjoyed the simple things like a good meal and great company. Her love of crafts was extensive including knitting, scrapbooking, cake decorating, and sewing which she shared with

her daughter, Kathy. Her happiest times were spent with her family at the National Seashore at the Cape. She loved to spend hours riding the waves, watching the surfers and the spectacular sunsets. Pat leaves her two daughters, Karen Madden of Wilbraham and Kathleen DeMorriss and her husband Stephen of Wilbraham; one brother, Robert Dvorchak of Arizona and many nieces, nephews, cousins and in laws. She was predeceased by her husband Larry Madden who passed away in 2019; two brothers, Michael Dvorchak and Tom Dvorchak and one sister, Evelyn Pilon. The family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Legacy Hospice and Baystate Wing ICU for all their compassionate care. A Funeral Service was held on Sat, Dec 14, 2024 at Sampson Chapel of the Acres, 21 Tinkham Rd. Springfield with a Mass of Christian Liturgy at St Cecilia's Church, Wilbraham. Burial followed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Legacy Life-care VNA & Hospice West, 770 Converse St. Longmeadow, MA 01106, St Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Walter Scott Coon Jr.**  
Died Dec. 8, 2024  
Services Dec. 16, 2024  
Doane Beal & Ames  
Funeral Home

**Patricia H. Madden**  
Died Dec. 11, 2024  
Services Dec. 14, 2024  
Sampson Funeral  
Home

**Joan Elizabeth (St. John) McGrady**  
Died Dec. 9, 2024  
Services Dec. 18, 2024  
Ratell Funeral Home

**Shirley C. Sweeney, 90**  
Died Sept. 30, 2024  
Services Jan. 3, 2025  
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.*

## NOTICE

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

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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).

**BIBLE STUDY** – The Christmas Story A four-week Bible Study begins Monday, Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. to noon, at First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St. All are welcome to join us as we examine this wonderful story. Led by Reverend Darcy Borden. Attend all the sessions or any you can. December 2, 9, 16 and 23. Call or text 413-285-3069 for more information.

## ONGOING

**FOOD DRIVE BI-MONTHLY** On the first Saturday of each even month (December, February, April, June, August, October) First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St, collects non-perishable foods. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., drive through the back parking lot. Donations will be taken out of the car and brought to the Community Survival Center to be distributed to those in need. Save your extra food items to drop off at our next Food Drive on Dec. 7.

**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 Saturday 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.

## ACT OF KINDNESS

from Page 6

Cody still works, loves meeting the various people with his job and just one more thing that impressed me was, this never changed who he is. He's also now a youth wrestling coach in Wilbraham, kindergarten through eighth grade. What a wonderful mentor these kids have in Cody!

I know I've dreamed of what I'd do if I ever won the lottery and you probably have too, but what a wonderful story to be able share about someone this actually happened to. With your genuine lifetime of kindness, Cody you're an inspiration to others in so many ways, thank you!

If 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

## HIKING from Page 6

to find the spot where we had made a wrong turn. In the meantime, we enjoyed moving through the Narnia-like forest of white.

I was in the lead when I stopped suddenly at the base of a very steep rock outcropping. The thought of going up the hill made my heart rate soar. However, the hope that we might be able to catch sight of the trail from the top and reconnect with the path we were supposed to be on helped assuage my fear. I ignored my rapidly beating heart, slammed my trekking poles into the snow-covered rock, kicked my spike-clad boots into the snow, and hauled myself up.

Only to realize that "You can't get there from here."

Upon reaching the top of the snow covered ledge, we discovered that we were mere feet from a sheer vertical drop-off. At this point, we had three options. Well, in reality, just two, since plunging off the ledge onto the jagged rocks below was never really a viable option to begin with.

1- Continue bushwhacking upwards in an attempt to see where we would end up. The hope being that we'd eventually find Cliff Walk Trail. (Tom's idea)

2- Turn back and try to find where we zigged when we should have zagged, and get back on the actual trail. (My idea)

One of the great things about hiking with a partner is that when one of you has a harebrained, cockamamie, dare I say utterly ridiculous idea, the more rational one can help you dial back the crazy, so to speak

Now I'm not saying that I'm always the logical part of the equation. Quite the contrary. I'm usually the one who likes to push the envelope when we hike together. You know- find out just how much we are capable of.

In those instances, Tom graciously offers his unsolicited advice, both for the betterment of our marriage, as well as to ensure that we aren't put into a perilous situation by my occasionally wacky ideas.

On Saturday, however, it was my turn to be the sensible half of our partnership. With temperatures in the teens, I had no desire to continue bushwhacking in an area where a magnitude of snow had effectively erased the crevices and deep holes surrounding the enormous boulders which were lying in wait to swallow a leg or twist an ankle. And after only mild persuasion on my part, Tom agreed. Needless to say, 'self preservation' won out over 'adrenaline rush' and we turned back, eventually finding the sharp right turn we had missed earlier.

And at the end of the day, the summit was reached, views were had, pizza was consumed, hot cider was enjoyed, joy was found. And we lived to hike another day.

Honestly, what more could we possibly ask for?

See you in the wintry wild places, my friends!

Follow Julie and Tom on Instagram @ morethanthemountain for more of their hiking adventures.

# 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 providedfor 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 Calik  
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, Dec. 18, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Prayer Group- 9:30 a.m. (JR), SJB School Christmas Concert-12:30 p.m. (FLBH), Holy Mother Choir – 5:15 p.m. (C), Scouts – 6:30 p.m. (FLBH/JR)  
Thursday, Dec. 19, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), SJB Nursery School Concert – (FLBH) 9 a.m.  
Friday, Dec. 20, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m.(C)  
Saturday, Dec. 21, - Confessions - 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. (C), Saturday Mass - 4 p.m. (C),  
Sunday Dec. 22, - 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), Take & Eat Program - 8 a.m. (FLBH/K), Confirmation Class - 8 a.m. (ZR),  
Monday Dec.23, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C)  
Tuesday, Dec. 24, - Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Mass – 4 p.m.(C), Mass – 4 p.m. Fr. Larry Boucher Hall

### 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](mailto: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.



# 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, Wednesday, January 15, 11:00 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

**Annual Giving Tree, November 26 - January 2.** The library is now accepting donations of warm winter clothing items such as hats, gloves, mittens, scarfs, and socks! All donations benefit local charity.

**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.

**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.

## FOR TEENS

**Chess Club, every other Monday (December 30 and January 13) 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.** All experience levels are welcome for an hour of chess, some instruction provided. For ages 9-17, please register.

**Mario Kart Tournament for YAs, Monday (December 30) 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.** For middle and high schoolers. Limited to 16 people and there will be free pizza! Use the library Switch or feel free to bring your own. Please register.

**Youth Crochet Club, every other Tuesday (January 14) 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.** No meeting December 31. For ages 10-17. For beginners up to experienced crocheters, supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

**Tabletop RPG Club, every Tuesday, Tuesday (December 31) 3:30 p.m. until 4:50 p.m. Tuesday (January 7) 3:30 p.m.-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.

**"Sun and Snow" Beaded Beauties for YAs, Tuesday (January 14) 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.** For tweens and teens. Sandy brings a HUGE selection of beads and will teach how to make beaded snowflakes and sparkling suncatchers. Please register.

**Magic the Gathering Club, Monthly, Thursday (January 2) 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.** For middle and high school. Bring your cards or use our decks. Please register.

**"Read Between the Lines" High School Book Group, once a month, Friday (December 20 and January 24) 3:00-4:00 p.m.** Monthly book chat for ages 14-17. For December the group is reading "So, This is Christmas" by Tracy Andreen; copies of the book are available in the Youth Room. Registration preferred.

## FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

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

**STEM for Kids: The Science of Sound, Monday (December 23) 11:00 a.m.** For ages 8-11. Explore the science of sound by making straw pan flutes and cup phones! Please register.

**Winter Scavenger Hunt, Monday (December 30) 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.** All ages. Win a prize for finding signs of winter in the Youth Room! Drop-in.

**Storytime for 3-5s: Time, Time for Storytime, Mondays 10:00 a.m.** Starts (January 6) through (February 24) No storytime January 20 or February 17. Stories, songs, games and crafts about different times of the day, with a snack at

the end. Please register.

**New Year Resolution Jars, Tuesday (December 31) 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** For all ages. Decorate a sparkly, colorful jar to save your New Year's resolutions and then open the jar next New Year's Eve to see how you did! Drop-in.

**Storytime for 2-3s: Time, Time for Storytime, Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.** Starts (January 8) through (February 12) 6 weeks of stories, songs, games and crafts about different times of the day tailored for 2-3 year olds, with free play at the beginning and craft and snack at the end. Please register.

**"True Tales" Storytime for Homeschoolers, Wednesdays 12:30 p.m.-1:15 p.m. Starts (January 8) through (February 12)** For 5-8 year olds. A fun, gently educational storytime about real people and historical events. Please register.

**Pokemon Club, every other Wednesday (January 8 and January 22) 3:30 p.m.- 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 (December 26) 1:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m. Note December time change. (January 23) 5:00-5:45 p.m.** For ages 9-13. Meet each month with other graphic novel lovers to discuss and share books, play games, make crafts, and eat snacks. December's book is "Queen of the Sea" by Dylan Meconis. Copies are available in the Youth Room. Please register.

**Mass. Children's Book Award Book Group, second Thursday of the month (January 9) 6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.** For 4th-6th graders. Kids decide who wins this award after reading at least 5 nominated books. For January the club is reading "The One Thing You'd Save" by Linda Sue Park. Copies are available in the youth room. 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.

**Third Thursday Sewing Club for YAs: Make iPad/Tablet Cases, Thursday (January 16) 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** For ages 9-17. Learn how to sew a cool, protective case for a tablet, all materials provided. Please register.

**New Tech Toy Expo, Thursday (December 26) 11 a.m.** All ages. Try out all the great new tech toys in the youth room donated by the Friends of the Library from a grant from the Joseph and Anna C. Dias Jr. Family Foundation! Drop-in.

**Friday Online Club, previously Roblox Club, every Friday, 3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.** Play Roblox, Minecraft or other online group games. Meet new friends or play with old ones. Feel free

to use one of the library Minecraft accounts: please sign up for your own Roblox or other accounts. For ages 8-15. Please register.

**Saturday Online Club, previously Minecraft Club, every Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.** Play Minecraft, Roblox, or other online group games. Use the library's Minecraft accounts but please register for your own Roblox or other accounts. For grades 3-8. Please register.

**Open Sew Saturday (January 18) 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** For tweens, teens, and adults. Extra help for the Sewing Club project or bring your own project, with expert seamstress Janet Foy on hand to provide advice and support. Drop-in.

**Milk and Cookies with Santa, Saturday (December 21) 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** All ages. Decorate a cookie, meet Santa, help find the missing reindeer in the Youth Room and make a snowman cup craft and cute ornament. Please register.

**Snow Slime, Saturday (December 28) 10:00 a.m.** For 5 and up. Make sparkly, snow white slime! Please register.

**Drop-in Book Cover Collaging, Saturday (January 4) 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.** Turn the covers of your favorite picture books into your own unique artistic creations! 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 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** For ages 0-5. Join Youth Services Librarian July for 30 minutes of favorite children's songs and movement. Drop-in.

**Holiday Movie and Craft: "Winnie the Pooh, A Very Merry Pooh Year" and Hunny Jar craft, Tuesday (December 31) 11:30 a.m.** Rated G. Enjoy free popcorn and drinks with this 1 hour movie, then make a New Year's Resolution "Hunny" jar afterwards! Drop in.

**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 a.m. - 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.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
Docket No. HD24P2561EA  
Estate of:  
Ronald Forte, Sr.  
Date of Death: 11/05/2024  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Ronald Forte, Jr. of Wilbraham, MA.

Ronald Forte, Jr. of Wilbraham, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the

Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
12/18/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD14P0331PM  
In the matter of:  
Maria Martins  
of Franklin, MA  
Protected Person/  
Disabled Person/  
Respondent  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF  
CONSERVATOR'S  
ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the First account(s) of Susan

McCoy of Springfield, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/17/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as

the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

## 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: December 13, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccamoni  
Register of Probate  
12/18/2024





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## TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

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

## TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

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## TOWN OF WORTHINGTON Highway Position Opening

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill a part-time (six hours a week) **Administrative Assistant** position in the Town Highway Department. Duties include providing customer service, handling department's incoming and outgoing correspondence, processing payroll and maintaining records.

The pay rate range for this position is \$18.16/hour to \$26.26/hour  
A more in-depth job description can be found on the Town's website: [www.worthington-ma.us](http://www.worthington-ma.us)

Questions will be answered by Highway Superintendent Devon Wolf - telephone number 413-685-5949. Please send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: [worthingtonhighway@gmail.com](mailto:worthingtonhighway@gmail.com) or to **Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098.** This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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