

St. Cecilia Catholic Women's Club December Meeting

WILBRAHAM - The St. Cecilia Catholic Women's Club December meeting takes place on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Holiday Music with Todd & Carol

Liturgy at 5:30 p.m. with dinner to follow in the Parish Center. Following our Christmas Liturgy we'll enjoy a delicious catered meal accompanied by seasonal music from our very own Dr. Todd Rovelli and Carol Adamski-Maggi! The meal cost is \$26.

Please send check in by Dec. 8.

Please bring sweatshirts to this meeting for children in need.

HSC from page 17

Friday, Dec. 27.

Shopping Hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and

Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, from 9 a.m. to Noon. Cash or checks only.

All proceeds benefit the needs of the senior center.

You'll find lots of great gifts for those special people in your life.

All are welcome and encouraged to come in and shop at the Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen Street.

"Come What May" Boutique... is open in our lobby for all to shop during normal business hours,

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We accept donations of new or gently used clothing, outerwear, accessories, and footwear.

YEAR END Boutique Sale in the Great Room

All clothes on the \$5 rack will be \$3 through Dec. 31.

All proceeds from Boutique sales will benefit the needs of The Senior Center.

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Toothpaste!

Thank you to those who donated liquid dish soap last month. Every month we will target a different item to help fill our shelves to provide non-food items to SNAP recipients.

AARP Tax-Aide Program Volunteer Opportunity

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is the nation's largest volunteer-run tax preparation and assistance service. And we want you to join us. Please volunteer as a Tax Counselor and work with area residents in preparing their tax returns on the computer. Basic computer skills and some experience in filing your tax returns are helpful, along with a willingness to make a one-day-per-week time commitment during our 10-week tax season. Hands-on training is provided in the classroom, and we have experienced Counselors to assist at all sites. Please consider volunteering your time for the Tax-Aide Program this year. For questions or additional information, please email Director, at: D5Taxaide@comcast.net

The Hampden Senior Center will be taking calls to set-up appointments for anyone who would like their taxes done through this complimentary AARP Tax-Aide Program starting Monday, Jan. 6.

Tax Work-Off Program

The town of Hampden will begin accepting applications for the 2025 Tax Work Off Program starting on December 2, 2024. Applications will be available at the Hampden Senior Center starting on November 27, 2024, and completed applications are due back by December 20, 2024.

The town currently has 14 tax work-off positions in various departments within the town including the Senior Center, the Hampden Public Library and the Hampden Police Department and provides up to a \$2,000 tax abatement. Due to the popularity of this program, all positions will be filled using a lottery system.

Department heads may choose to interview potential tax work off employees to make sure the employees

skills meet the specific needs of the department. Applications and more details will be available at the senior center front desk starting on November 27, 2024. If you have questions about this program, please contact Becky at the senior center at 413-566-5588.

We need your Vote!

The Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens has an opportunity to receive a donation through the

Monson Savings Bank Community Giving Initiative.

Each year, Monson Savings Bank asks the community to help plan the Bank's community-giving activities by inviting people to vote for organizations they would like the Bank to support during the upcoming year.

Please visit their link at, www.monsonsavings.bank/CGI and click "VOTE NOW"

Where it says Organization Name*, type in

"Friends of Hampden Seniors" and Submit

If you have any questions, please call the Senior Center at 566-5588.

Memorial School a topic of conversation at Wilbraham Select Board meeting

A long discussion was held regarding the former building on Main Street.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Recreation was a subject of conversation for nearly an hour during Monday's Select Board meeting in Wilbraham.

Much of that time was spent discussing the old Memorial School on Main Street and what its future uses might entail.

Parks & Recreation Director Bryan Litz joined the meeting, as did representatives of the Wilbraham Friends of Recreation and the Wilbraham Playground and Recreation Commission.

A smaller item was brought to the table first by Litz - the need for new wrestling mats in the wrestling area that has been implemented inside some of the building's former classroom space.

Litz pointed out that high school students have begun practicing there. The group agreed that 17-year-old wrestlers beat up the mats a bit more than their peers who are six or seven years younger.

"With the high school program in there, there's a lot more wear and tear. So, that's something that probably should have been done this season because it's not in great shape," Litz said. "That's on the horizon because we didn't have enough money to fix the mats, but again it's something that needs to be done for the program."

The dialogue then shifted focus to greater needs, and the need for direction regarding the building's future was considered most significant. Litz said improvements to the building's roof are coming, but there are other problems that must be addressed as well.

He noted that about 40% of the building is being actively used, while other areas are left in the dark.

"Right now, you have safety issues...doors that don't lock, bathrooms that don't work," Litz said. "And the response I get from the town is we're not putting a single dollar into it... There was one weekend where anyone could have gotten into that building."

By speaking to the Facilities Department, Litz said he learned the town does not currently have greater plans to improve the building, which numerous recreation programs and dozens of residents use regularly.

"To clarify, the Facilities Director has told me that with his budget, he is not going to do anything to the building. My point is that conversation needs to happen," Litz said. "We take people on tours of the building and [have to say], 'This wing has no heat and no bathrooms.'"

Marc Ducey, a Select Board member, agreed that the building needs to be made safe for those who use it.

"We want to make sure the envelope is secure, and the building is safe," Ducey said. "I think we'll do what we can to try to make the envelope as secure and as safe as possible, definitely within the confines of the budget."

Ducey stressed the importance of having a plan, and the group agreed that a broader plan for future use should have been established when the school closed more than a decade ago. He compared the Memorial School to Spec Pond.

"To me, I think we did an amazing job at Spec Pond. And there was a plan at the beginning. It was a very clear plan. I don't know if we followed it to a tee, but there was a plan," Ducey said. "I'd like to see a similar thing, and I think the townspeople need to see that before they start voting on [projects]. They need to understand the costs."

Litz responded that "every project we've done has had a plan associated with it."

He continued to note that a document with a plan exists.

"We have a document that has immediate needs, mid-term, long-term. It's very easy to put together that document, at least on my end. It's not a \$50 million ask," Litz said.

It was noted by the group that a lot of time and effort have gone into identifying how the building can be best used going forward.

Currently, the Parks & Rec Department has an office in the old Memorial School. Litz said the department would even move that office if it were best for the town.

"We love our office there. I don't want to leave our office, but if it's for the greater good, we would," Litz said.

The group agreed that the future of the building should ultimately be decided by residents at a town meeting. It is unclear when that item will be brought to the table; it could take several years.

Sarah Quinn, a member of the Friends of Recreation, said a "dream or idea" exists regarding a five-year plan and a 10-year plan, but currently progress seems to have halted.

"What we want to do is give Wilbraham their Disney World so to speak where everyone can do what they feel they want to do," Quinn said.

Quinn said that there is currently a "standstill" that has been ongoing for about two years as the town figures out how to best use the old school.

"If we can utilize this space, it's kind of like the world is our oyster. We can create an opportunity for everyone in this community to feel welcome. Without that, we don't know where we're going. We don't have a current direction other than just status quo," Quinn said.

Heritage "Pops" Orchestra Christmas Party Dinner & Dance

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

Includes Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner & Dessert.

Advance Tickets are \$25 per person

There will be a Giant Wood Dance Floor and 50/50 Raffle and Cash Bar

Polish American Citizens Club
355 East Street, Ludlow, MA

Friday, December 13, 2024

Hors d'oeuvres 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Grand Buffet Dinner by John Diotalevi at 6:30 p.m.

Music and Dancing from 7 to 10 p.m.

Tickets Available at the PACC bar or call Bob at 413-636-7588 or call Paul at 413-800-4164.

PUBLIC NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Department

HAMPDEN, Division
Docket No. HD21P2070PM

To all persons interested in the estate of Josephine Carabello, of Wilbraham, in said County. A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell at private sale - public auction certain real estate of said Josephine Carabello for her maintenance.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at 50 State Street, Springfield, MA before 10:00 in the forenoon on the **20th day of December 2024**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First

Judge of said Court, this 21st day of November 2024.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register

12/05/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P2214EA
Estate of:

PAUL DANIEL PIRRO
Date of Death: 9/19/2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Lisa Manuell of Newton, NH.**

Lisa Manuell of Newton, NH 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.
12/05/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

R & S Assoc. Inc
PO Box 543
Wilbraham MA 01095
413-596-4374
11/21, 11/28, 12/5/2024