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Candidates for Selectmen talk about town priorities

By Marcelo Gusmão
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LUDLOW – On March 25, the town will vote for candidates to assume two seats on the Board of Selectmen.

The candidates are James Gennette, Alex Montagna, Manuel Silva, and Dan Valadas. This week, the Register reached out to each of the candidates to ask about their platform, including their plans for the board, what skills they will bring to the position, and what issues they see currently facing the town.

James Gennette Introductions

The candidates shared their backgrounds and qualifications for the positions.

“I am the Vice-Chairman on the Board of Directors for Pioneer Valley Federal Credit Union, which is nice when

combined with my education and experience in Information Technology,” Gennette said. “I work full time at East Coast Tile Imports in Ludlow for the Vice President of Administration. I have owned a small business in Ludlow and I serve many charitable organizations like Brigham Lodge, the CARES Coalition, the Rotary Club, ERC5, and my signature charity the Alzheimer’s Association.”

Inspiration

The candidates were asked what inspired them to run for the Board.

“I wanted to do my part for the community that has supported me throughout my adult life,” said Gennette. “For 30 years, Ludlow has invested in me, Angela and our children, so for me it is a matter of civic responsibility. I owe a debt of gratitude, so I do my best to volunteer my time to my community in an informed, committed, and con-



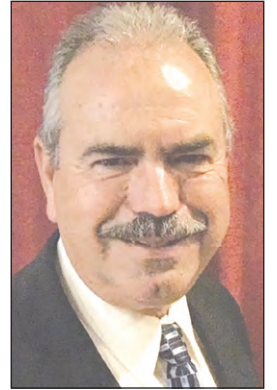
Submitted photos
James Gennette



Alex Montagna



Dan Valadas



Manuel Silva

structive manner, with a focus on the common good.”

Budget priorities

The candidates were asked to identify departments in town that they would prioritize when voting on matters involving the town budget.

“As a Selectman, I do not have the luxury of prioritizing any department,” Gennette said. “The Select Board reviews and

weighs the needs of each department before we recommend an overall budget that we believe to be focused on necessity. To that end, I challenge every department to be more transparent, accountable and to justify their spending.”

Important issues

The candidates were asked what important issues they see currently facing the town.

“The relentless rise in property taxes due to housing assessments is forcing retirees to sell their homes prematurely, disrupting our entire community’s natural economic cycle,” Gennette said. “Ludlow invests in young families, and we anticipate a return on that investment around retirement age.”

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Candidates for School Committee discuss struggles in the school district

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – On March 25, the town will vote for candidates to assume one seat on the School Committee.

The candidates are Sarah Bowler, and Isabel Soares. This week, the Register reached out to each of the candidates to ask about their platform, including their plans for the committee, what skills they will bring to the position, and what issues they see currently facing the schools. Candidates introduced themselves, gave their reasons for wanting to join the committee, current challenges in the schools, and their takes on budget cuts, access to library materials, and their skills and strengths.

Sarah Bowler Introduction

The candidates were asked about their qualifications to serve on the committee.

“I have worked with children almost my entire career,” Bowler said. “I hold a Masters Degree in Psychology, I am a licensed social worker, and hold an initial license in guidance counseling. I have also done post-Masters education in Children and Adolescents. I am constantly educating myself on the newest information available. I have attended the Massachusetts School Committee Conferences to ensure I am representing the district within the limits afforded to the school committee. I am also a listener, and follow

through with issues presented to me by parents and students.”

Inspiration

The candidates were asked what inspired them to join the committee.

“I ran for school Committee three years ago due to how the schools handled the special needs population during COVID,” Bowler said. “Having had two children with IEPs in the district at the time, and friends with many other families who faced similar challenges, I wanted to ensure there was a voice for this population moving forward.”

Current challenges

The candidates were asked about challenges they see the school facing, and how they would address them if elected.

“A group of people are trying to take over the school committee due to a political agenda,” Bowler said. “They present issues that may be present in other districts, but not here in Ludlow, though (they) present them as (if) they are. The unfortunate part is that people believe them. I want parents to feel comfortable coming to the meetings or reaching out to all members to express their concerns. Even if they don’t believe we agree on the same issues. It is okay to disagree and doesn’t mean we won’t assist parents with their issues. Communication is key in working together.”

Budget cuts

The candidates were asked

Please see **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**, Page 8



Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Brian and Doreen Bylicki (back row) visit the table of (from left) Alan and Linda Kipetz and Debbie and Greg Pietras.

Gremio Lusitano Club hosts Cabin Fever fundraiser for 250th Committee

By Marcelo Gusmão
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LUDLOW – Last Saturday, residents, town officials and members of the Gremio Lusitano Club held the Cabin Fever Dinner and Dance Fundraiser to raise money for upcoming 250th Committee events.

On Saturday, March 9, the Lusitano Club’s doors opened at 6 p.m. for cocktails. A dinner buffet, provided by Tony & Penny’s, was served at 7 p.m., with entertainment provided by Cumba Entertainment.

“Back in 1974 they did a bicentennial ball instead of the policeman’s ball, and I thought we should try to keep the tradition with some kind of dinner dance,” said Tony Curto, a

member of the 250th Committee.

A table was set up with old photo albums and newspaper clippings concerning the town. Brian Bylicki and Linda Collette were there to point out documents and clippings relating to things such as the town’s Bicentennial Celebration.

“It was a great time,” Curto said. “We had 225 guests. Tony & Penny’s did an amazing job catering. Nobody left hungry, I can tell you that much.”

Curto said there were 25 raffle prizes, all of which were donated. Cumba Entertainment provided a DJ and photobooth, which featured a template with the 250th logo, which Curto described as “amazing.”

“People from Ludlow really came out, I think everybody

had a really good time,” Curto said. “Everybody I talked to said they had a good time. It really was a nice event, I’m glad that we were able to do this. I’m hoping that people will remember this.”

The revenue from ticket sales all went to the next big 250th event, which is the parade in June.

“All the money we raised is going to go towards the parade,” Curto said. “We raised over \$5,000 towards the Parade Committee.”

The Lusitano Club was first formed to celebrate the town’s Portuguese culture in 1922, and purchased the building where the club currently resides 100

Please see **CABIN FEVER**, Page 8



Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming Events!

Visit us at Ludlowma250.org

Ludlow 250th Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Saturday, May 18

4 Person Scramble
at Westover Municipal Golf Course

Team Total: \$500. Registration due by April 26.

Send team name, contact person, contact person's email and phone, and the four participants names to:

ludlowma250@gmail.com along with a check made out to:

Ludlow 250th Golf Tournament, 488 Chapin St., Ludlow, MA 01056

For more information call Paul Chrzan: 413-636-1527 or Linda Colette 413-427-3072.

For a sponsorship opportunity, please contact ludlowma250@gmail.com. Visit us at ludlowma250.org.



Hole in One Sponsor



Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 27th

Be A Part Of The Parade!

Sign up your organization or business today.
Contact ludlow250parade@gmail.com

250th Celebration Block Party Picnic & Parade

Saturday, June 15th

Volunteer!

We need YOU to help out at the picnic or parade.

Join The Parade!

All are welcome: athletic clubs, businesses, civic organizations, service members, veterans and youth groups. Email: ludlow250parade@gmail.com or contact Bruce Durand at 413-547-8998

Follow us on Facebook Ludlowma250

LUDLOW

Charter Committee discusses compensation for Town Council

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – Compensation for Town Council members was brought forward at last week's Charter Committee meeting.

Committee Chair Marissa Ribeiro Dahan started the meeting by talking about the committee's table at First Night.

"Most of the folks that I talked to were more interested in asking us questions on what we're doing," Ribeiro Dahan said. "They didn't provide, necessarily, feedback, but were really interested in learning about what we're doing."

The meeting then moved to discussing what the new charter will say about compensation for town councilors. Mel Kleckner of the Collins Center provided documents depicting how various municipalities that have adopted Council/Manager form of government compensate their councilors.

"Typically, amounts are never included in a charter language," Kleckner said. "You should probably come up with a baseline or a fundamental decision; are you going to pay or are you going to restrict compensation for councilors?"

"If you choose to provide compensation," Kleckner continued, "then I think we can discuss some of the language that exists in the various charters. Typically, communities set the compensation levels and change them from time to time through ordinance or through bylaw."

The committee was largely in favor of compensating Council members.

"I absolutely think people need to be compensated for at least their time," Brian Bylicki said. "They should have some kind of, I don't know if we want to call it stipend or a payment, for them while they're on the council."

"I think we would, right?" said Judy Breault. "Similar to how we compensate our selectmen, we would want to compensate our councilors."

Selectman Bill Rosenblum announced that he would abstain from voting on Town Council compensation, citing that he saw it as a conflict of interest. Selectman Derek DeBarge did not abstain, however.

"I will tell you all my opinion," DeBarge said. "They absolutely need to be compensated, and it probably should be more than the Board of Selectmen are now, going forward."

Committee member George Costa asked the Selectmen how many hours

they work as members of the Board.

"Every day. I'll be totally truthful," Rosenblum said, and indicated Selectman DeBarge, "this gentleman here does a lot; I mean, he has the time. He's doing something every day. I pretty much would say that he's doing at least five or six hours a day."

Rosenblum said that between committees, events, and preparing for meetings, he is always working via phone or email.

"We generally get the agenda and all materials that go with the agenda by at least 4:30 on Friday, because it has to be posted 48 hours prior to the meeting," Rosenblum said. "Once it comes up, then you go through all the materials, which could be an hour, could be two hours, depends on what you're reading."

Rosenblum said that typically, once he's seen the materials, he googles, researches, and compares other things to find examples, before giving the material a second read-through just before the meeting.

"You know what I tell people that ask me if they're considering running for Board of Selectman or Council?" DeBarge said. "I tell them you can work as much as you want on it. You can work eight hours a day, forty hours a week, if you have the time and you want to, or you can just go to the meetings and read the agenda before the meeting begins. It's really – it's not about the money for anybody that runs, it's just about what they want to do. Everybody has their own agendas, of course, but you can work a lot of hours at this job, you really can."

The committee then discussed which boards should be elected and which should be appointed. There was a consensus that the School Committee and the Town Clerk should be elected positions, and there was some discussion over whether the Planning Board and the Library Board of Trustees should be elected or appointed.

Committee member George Costa suggested having members of some of the boards being discussed, such as the Housing Authority or Recreation Commission, come in to explain what their board does and what responsibilities they have. Judy Breault suggested the committee members visit the town's website to research the other boards.

These discussions will continue at future Charter Committee meetings, which are held on the first and third Thursday of every month.



MAX

Max waiting for one of his friends to come see him.

School Committee schedules another budget hearing after nixing public comment

By **Jim Russell**
Correspondent

LUDLOW – The School Committee did not invite the general public to comment and ask questions during their annual budget hearing last month.

To cure this error, the committee has scheduled another one, to discuss the proposed \$37 million fiscal 2025 spending plan. This will occur March 21, committee Chair Jeffery A. Laing confirmed on Saturday, when the community will be given opportunity to ask questions and comment.

When a member of the public asked if he was “allowed to raise my hand?” to be recognized and comment, during Feb. 27 budget hearing, he was told “no.”

Nonetheless, he was allowed to speak, briefly, but the School Committee did not ask for public comment during that budget hearing, as stipulated by the state law governing school budget hearings. This says in part: “all interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard for or against the whole or any part of the proposed budget.”

To read more about the law, visit

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter71/Section38N>.

Another reason the committee is convening a new budget hearing on March 21 was inadequate public notice for the Feb. 27 hearing.

The committee had given adequate notice for the budget hearing that was originally supposed to occur on Feb. 13; however, a snowstorm forced its cancellation until two weeks later.

In addition to the March 21 budget hearing, Ludlow School Committee Budget Subcommittee is expected to convene March 19.

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- GREEN Asparagus** \$1.99/lb.
- Fresh Strawberries 1 lb Packs** \$2.99 ea.
- GREEN Beans** \$1.99/lb.
- GREEN Granny Smith Apples** \$1.49/lb.
- GREEN Honeydew Melons** \$3.99 ea.
- Boar's Head Deli Sliced CORNED BEEF** \$14.99/lb.
- Boar's Head Imported Swiss Cheese** \$10.99/lb.
- Boar's Head First Cut Lean CORNED BEEF BRISKET Cryopak** ... \$9.99/lb.

~ While They Last! ~

Town boosts employee safety with \$9,999 grant from MIAA

LUDLOW – The town was awarded a \$9,999 grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, the town's property and casualty insurance provider, to fund safety and risk management activities and equipment.

The town used the grant funds to purchase improved safety gear for Department of Public Works employees for enhanced visibility and injury protection.

The town was also able to secure a sewer camera system that will enable efficient diagnosis of infrastructure issues such as line breaks and clogs, as well as to perform routine inspections of sewer, culvert, and catch basins more easily. Municipalities frequently use cable-driven camera systems for inspections to help mitigate damage from flooding and reduce the need for excavation during repairs.

“This MIAA grant will be a tremendous help in providing an enhanced safety environment for the town's employees as well as help us to lower risk,” said DPW Director Jamie Tomas. “We appreciate the opportunity to further ensure safer work practices as well as reduce risk of property and financial losses from sewage backups – without impacting taxpayer dollars.”

For the 2024 fiscal year, MIAA awarded \$1 million to fund over 150 grant requests from members for public safety activities and equipment. Municipalities were able to conduct safety training, procure equipment, purchase infrared cameras and security equipment for schools and public works departments, among many other initiatives.

“MIAA commends Ludlow for its efforts to mitigate risk, protect property and people, and prevent financial losses,” said Stan Corcoran, MIAA Executive Vice President. “Through our grant program, we're proud to partner with our members to identify common areas where we typically see insurance claims and provide solutions that lead to effectively mitigating these losses.”

The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association is the non-profit insurance arm of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. As a member-based organization, MIAA's focus is to provide excellent service and quality risk management solutions to nearly 400 cities, towns, and other public entities in Massachusetts.

For more information, please visit <https://www.emiia.org/> and www.mma.org.

Town of Ludlow announces public comment extension for Ludlow Power Choice Program

LUDLOW -- Town Administrator Marc Strange and the Board of Selectmen would like to announce an extension for the Town of Ludlow's new Power Choice Program public comment period.

The town will now be accepting comments on the proposed aggregation plan until Friday, March 29 at 4:30 p.m.

The Ludlow Power Choice Program is a municipal electricity aggregation, which is a type of group electricity purchasing program for Ludlow residents and businesses.

The program will consist of the Town using the collective buying power of the community to provide new electricity choices that give Ludlow electricity customers better control over the price and environmental impact of the electricity they use.

Eversource will continue to deliver electricity to customers in Ludlow without interruption. While Ludlow Power Choice will not be able to guarantee lower prices compared with Eversource's Basic Service prices, the Town is committed to working toward providing prices that are competitive and stable for the long term.

The program will be integrated into participants' existing Eversource electric bill and it will change the price used to calculate the Supply portion of the bill, which is meant for residents to pay only for what they use. With the program, instead of receiving Eversource's Basic Service price, participants will receive a Ludlow Power Choice price for their electricity supply.

Before launching the program, the Town must develop an Aggregation Plan and submit it to state regulators for review and approval. To ensure the public has an opportunity to be a part of developing this program, the Town is making its draft

Aggregation Plan and associated documents available for review and comment before beginning the regulatory review process.

The draft Aggregation Plan for Ludlow Power Choice will be available for public review until March 29. Those interested in reviewing the Plan and associated documents can view and download them here or by obtaining a copy from the Board of Selectmen's Office.

Ludlow residents and business owners are encouraged to review the plan and submit written comments via email to Selectmen@ludlow.ma.us or via U.S. Mail to 488 Chapin St. Comments sent by mail must be received, and not postmarked, by the end of the comment period in order to be addressed.

Additionally, an overview of the projected plan will be presented at the Board of Selectmen meeting on March 19 at 6 p.m., and residents are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion.

For additional information about Ludlow Power Choice, please visit the new program website at LudlowPowerChoice.com or call customer support with the Town's program consultants at 888-203-6454.



We don't only work here, we live here too!

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pmarta@martalawoffices.com

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Sunday, March 17th

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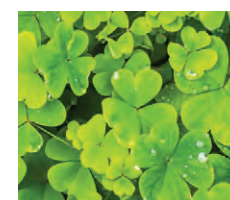
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What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library?

To register for programs or find out more information, visit hubbardlibrary.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

The Solar Eclipse Experience, Thursday, March 7, 6:30 p.m. Get ready for this year's total eclipse on April 8! Total eclipses of the sun are among nature's most breathtaking events. Richard Sanderson will explain why solar eclipses occur, how they differ from lunar eclipses, and describe the profound and unexpected emotional impact they often have on witnesses. He will also look back at several past eclipses, including the "Great American Eclipse" of 2017. Sanderson will also discuss viewing April's eclipse. All ages are welcome. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

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.

Free Streaming Services Available! Use your Hubbard Memorial Library library card to access our streaming services, Hoopla & Kanopy. They're compatible with Android, Apple, Roku, AppleTV, Chromecast, and more. If you are a Ludlow resident with a Hubbard Memorial Library library card and the Libby app, you've already got access to Kanopy in the app! Hoopla provides movies, TV shows, music, eAudiobooks & eBooks, while Kanopy focuses on films, TV shows, and documentaries. Both have a version for kids. Why pay for a streaming service when you can get two for free with your library card?

FOR ADULTS

Mass Center for the Book Monthly Reading Challenge Each month, you'll be challenged to read a book based on a chosen theme. January's challenge is a book you read years ago that you may feel differently about now. Those who participate will be entered to win a free book! For more information and to sign up, please visit massbook.org/readingchallenge.

Chair Volleyball for Seniors, every Thursday starting January 18 until March 28, 1:30 p.m. ave some

fun this winter by joining 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.

Happy Hour Book Club Meeting, last Thursday of the month (3/28), 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.

Who picked this book? Book Club Meeting, first Thursday of the month (4/4), 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.

The True Story of the Lincoln Assassination: The Nest That Hatched Evil, Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.

Many of the commonly-held myths about the murder of our 16th President are utterly false. Although assassin John Wilkes Booth fired the gun that killed the President, there were many fingers on that trigger. Join Honorable Dennis J. Curran, Justice Massachusetts Superior Court (Ret.), as he thrills us with the story of Lincoln's assassination and the conspiracies surrounding the murder. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

FOR TEENS

Nintendo Switch Night, every other Tuesday (3/19, 4/2, 4/16, 4/30) 6:00-7:45 p.m. Play Mario Kart, Smash Bros, or other Nintendo Switch games. For 6th-12th graders, space is limited to 16 people, please register.

Anime Club, Tuesdays 4-5:30 p.m. Meet each week to watch & talk about anime, eat snacks, & try out your cosplay. The group decides what to watch each week. Please register.

Youth Crochet Club, Every other Tuesday (3/12 & 3/26), 5:00-6:00 p.m. For ages 10 & up. For beginners up to experienced crocheters, supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

The 'Fellowship of the Pages' Book Discussion Group, Every Thursday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Meet each week to discuss graphic novels & other books, eat snacks, play games, and make friends. This month the group is reading "Five nights at Freddy's the Graphic Novel: The Silver Eyes" by Scott Cawthon, copies are available in the Youth Room. Please register.

Nametag Bracelets for Tweens and Teens, Thursday, March 21, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Choose from a huge array of beads to design a unique and stylish name bracelet. Please register.

Dungeons & Dragons High School Adventure Ensemble, Fridays 2:30-4:30 p.m. This group is for experienced high school players and currently has room for 1 more player. Please register.

"Read Between the Lines" High School Book Group, April 26, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Book chat and snacks for ages 14 & up. This month's book is "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros; copies of the book are available in the Youth Room. Registration preferred.

FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

Egg Coloring Contest, through March 18th. The annual egg hunt is getting an update & young artists are needed! Pick up a coloring page from the library or download from the website, design & color it, & return it to the library by 3/18. The best & most unique eggs will be laminated & featured in the Eggstravaganza (formally the annual Egg Hunt) on 3/30 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Pokemon Club, Mondays 3:30-5:00 p.m. For 8 & up. Trading, dueling, & gaming on handhelds, phones, or Nintendo Switch. Please have your name on everything you bring to the club. Please register.

Massachusetts Children's Book Award Book Group for 4th-6th Grade, Thursday, April 11, 6:00-6:45 p.m. 4th-6th graders across the state are the ones to decide who wins this award after reading at least 5 of the nominated books. Meet with Youth Services Librarian July each month for 45 fun minutes to discuss, decide, play games, and share snacks. Everyone who has read at least 5 of the books by April 11th will cast their vote, celebrate with an ice cream party, and be featured in an article in the Register! Please register.

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

Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt, Friday, March 15, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. All ages. Help the Leprechaun find the gold they left all over the Youth Room to win a prize. Drop in.

Minecraft Club, Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Minecraft players of all skill levels can bring their own devices, or may use one of the library's eight computers to build, play & create. For upper elementary & up. Drop-in.

Eggstravaganza '24, Saturday, March 30, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Bring your basket & drop in anytime between 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. to

search the library grounds for artwork created by the winners of the egg coloring contest - find everything on your game board to win candy-filled eggs for your basket! Please register.

FOR CHILDREN

Daily Drop-In Crafts. All ages. DIY crafts available in the Youth Room Daily. New craft each week.

Sing With Me, Tuesdays 10:30-11:00 a.m. For ages 0-5. Join Youth Services Librarian July for 30 minutes of favorite children's songs & movement. Drop-in.

Lego Build Challenge, Wednesdays 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.

Sounds of Reading w/ Renee Coro, Wednesdays in March, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For ages 2-5. Run by board-certified music therapist Renee Coro of Harmonious Happenings. Song, sounds, rhythms, rhyme, stories, instruments, & more. Please register.

Grow, Play and Learn, Thursdays, 9:45-10:30 a.m. For babies and toddlers; Thursdays 10:45- 11:30 a.m. for 2-5 year olds. Stories, songs and skill building, led by Kelly Castor, Early Childhood Developmental specialist, who will guide caregivers in strengthening interactions with their children. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

Grandparents Storytime, Thursday March 14, 11:45 a.m. -12:45 p.m. Ages 0-6 In this two-week group, grandparents (or grandfriends) and little ones will enjoy stories and songs and engage in play activities that foster intellectual and social-emotional development, motor skills, language learning, and overall literacy. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

Me, You, & We: Social Emotional Playgroup, Fridays from March 1-April 12, 9:30-10:30 a.m. (no program on 3/29). This playgroup will support 3-5 year olds and their caregivers in developing and practicing social-emotional skills. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

"Me & My Water Bottle" Storytime, Friday, March 22, 2:00 p.m. For ages 4-7 March 22nd is World Water Day! Bring your favorite water bottle and get ready to laugh and learn with a simple intro to water conservation and the water cycle. Go home with new water bottle stickers! Please register.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

INFLATION

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PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

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USDA INSP. FROZEN COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS \$1.49 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CORNED BEEF POINT CUT \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN VARIETY PACK CUT UP CHICKEN 15 LB BOX \$13.99 ea
USDA INSP. SMOKED PORK PICNIC..... \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN FLAT CUT WHOLE BRISKET \$2.99 lb	Lenten Specials
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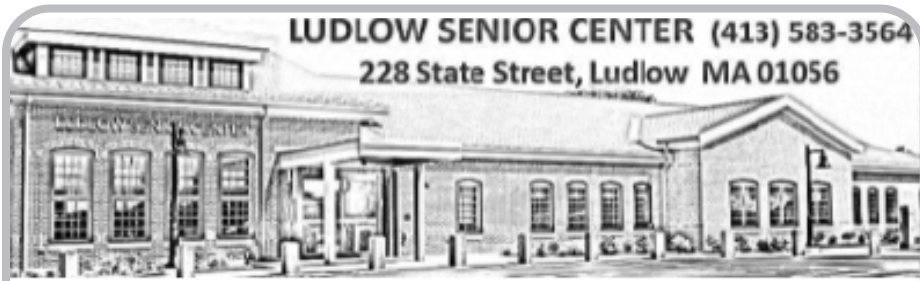
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LUDLOW SENIOR CENTER (413) 583-3564
228 State Street, Ludlow MA 01056

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 full program and activity descriptions and general information about what a senior center is and does go to: 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, March 14

- 8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Dominos
- 10 a.m. Veterans Agent*
- 10:30 a.m. Friends Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Sen. Oliveira Office

Hour

- 1 p.m. Mahjong
- 2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

Friday, March 15

- 8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
- 9 a.m. Reiki*
- 10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
- 10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
- 1 p.m. Ceramics
- 1 p.m. Health Bones & Balance Class*
- 1 p.m. Magic Class

Monday, March 18

- 9 a.m. Knitting
 - 9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
 - 10 a.m. Computer Help*
 - 10 a.m. Charter Committee Talk
 - 10:30 a.m. Rep. Saunders Office
- Hour
- 1 p.m. Scrabble
 - 1:15 p.m. Pitch
 - 2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

Tuesday, March 19

- 9 a.m. Quilting
- 9 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Cribbage
- 10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga
- 12:30 p.m. Blood Pressure Checks
- 1 p.m. Western Dance Class
- 1 p.m. Brown Bag*
- 1 p.m. Better Together*
- 1:30 p.m. Bingo
- 5 p.m. Movie: They Came to You (2020)

- 5 p.m. Trivia
- 5:30 p.m. Power Pump Class
- 5:30 p.m. Volleyball at East Street School

Wednesday, March 20

- 9 a.m. Ceramics
- 9 a.m. Zumba Gold
- 10 a.m. Opera Appreciation
- 10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
- 1 p.m. Movie: They Came to You (2020)
- 1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
- 1:30 p.m. Studebaker & Classic Cars Talk
- 4:30 p.m. COA Board Meeting

Thursday, March 21

- 8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Dominos
- 10:30 a.m. Hearing Clinic*
- 1 p.m. Mahjong
- 1:30 Chair Volleyball at Ludlow Library
- 2 p.m. Writers Block*
- 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, March 14: St. Patrick's Day Lunch, Corned Beef Dinner
- Friday, March 15: Potato Crunch Fish/Tater Tots/Cole Slaw
- Monday, March 18: Chicken Parm/Pasta/Salad
- Tuesday, March 19: French Toast Casserole/Breakfast Sausage
- Wednesday, March 20: Terry Turkey Burger/Pineapple Ring/French Fries
- Thursday, March 21: Birthday Lunch! Shake & Bake Pork Chop/Scalloped Pot/Veggie

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

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

Fashion show held on April 25

WILBRAHAM— A Fashion Show Luncheon featuring Chico's is being sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club, Thursday, April 25, at the St. Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St.

The event begins at 11:30 a.m. with a social hour and lunch will follow at noon. The meal choices are chicken franchise or salmon with dill

sauce. The \$35 donation helps to fund the club's scholarships and community service projects. In addition, there will be a raffle for many prizes.

For reservations please contact Norma Bandarra at 596-8173 by April 17.

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Oliveira and Senate Colleagues pass the Healthy Youth Act

BOSTON - On Thursday, State Senator Jake Oliveira of Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District and the Massachusetts State Senate voted to approve a bill to revise the state's health education guidelines.

S.268, An Act relative to healthy youth aims to ensure that Massachusetts public schools electing to teach health education curriculum use age-appropriate, inclusive, medically accurate, and research-based information on sex, relationships, and consent.

Also known as the Healthy Youth Act and petitioned by Senator Sal DiDomenico of Middlesex and Suffolk district, it establishes thorough guidelines for school districts that include health education in their curriculum. It covers topics such as human anatomy, prevention of sexually transmitted infections, responsible contraceptive use, and healthy relationships, as well as offering age-appropriate education on gender identity and sexual orientation.

When discussing the bill, Senator Oliveira highlighted the overwhelming support health education has in Massachusetts and the importance of supporting students' well-being through health education.

"92% of people in our state agree that students should receive comprehensive health education in high school.

That's because when young people have the support of well-trained educators in learning about themselves and their boundaries, they do better. This kind of education protects young people against bullying and abuse, helps them develop healthy relationship skills, and improves their academic performance," said Oliveira.

The updated physical and health education guidelines will also provide more inclusive education regarding the LGBTQ+ community and include teachings on bodily autonomy, mental and emotional health, dating safety, nutrition, and the importance of consent.

"Passing the Healthy Youth Act ensures that our curriculum in Massachusetts public schools is medically accurate, age-appropriate, LGBTQ+ inclusive, and gives young people the tools they need to build healthy relationships," said Oliveira.

Last year, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education independently aligned its health education standards with aspects of the Healthy Youth Act.

This marks the fifth occasion the measure has received approval from the Senate. The previous four approvals have yet to garner the House's support. Currently, 17 states require medically accurate health education, and 26 mandate age-appropriate content.

Freedom Credit Union accepting donations in support of Griffin's Friends

March Month of Giving Campaign focuses on bringing moments of joy to children with cancer

SPRINGFIELD – Freedom Credit Union is collecting cash donations through March 30 at its branches throughout western Massachusetts to benefit Griffin's Friends, a volunteer-led group dedicated to providing relief and support to children with cancer and their families.

"This is a cause we support annually because it is near and dear to the hearts of our members and staff," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "Griffin's Friends is committed to helping ease the hardships of children in treatment for cancer, and the families who love and support them."

All funds raised throughout the March Month of Giving campaign will benefit the Griffin's Friends Children's Cancer Fund at Baystate Health Foundation, Inc.

Established in 1994, Griffin's Friends is named for Griffin D. Kelleher who passed away from cancer when he was 14 months old. This fund is his legacy, uniquely supporting children in treatment for cancer and their families by providing small acts of kindness.

Examples include trips to stage performances and sporting events; in-hospital and outpatient entertainment; massage therapy; and activities such as art, computers and games.

"We encourage our employees, members and community to donate to this worthy cause at any Freedom branch this month," said Welch. "Together, we can help ease the all-consuming burden of a child's cancer diagnosis for local families by providing them with moments of comfort and happiness."

Originally chartered in 1922 as the Western Massachusetts Telephone Workers Credit Union and renamed in 2004, Freedom Credit Union is a 9-branch, full-service financial institution. Today, membership is available to anyone who lives, works or attends school in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin or Berkshire counties in Massachusetts, and Hartford or Tolland counties in Connecticut. Offering a complete range of banking services and loan products, Freedom Credit Union has conveniently located Massachusetts branches in Chicopee, Feeding Hills, Greenfield, Ludlow, Northampton, Turners Falls, West Springfield and two in Springfield, as well as a Loan Production Office in Enfield, Connecticut.

For more information, visit freedom.coop.

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor,

We are writing to unequivocally endorse Sarah Bowler for re-election to her seat on the Ludlow School Committee. Sarah's career with the Department of Children and Families has clearly demonstrated her compassion and dedication to prioritizing children above all else, and her lifetime residency in Ludlow assures her commitment to bettering her community. Sarah's advanced degrees aided in the development of her astute critical thinking skills which allow her to analyze issues and problem solve effectively. She appreciates basic education laws and DESE regulations and knows how to ask the right questions to educate herself further. Sarah has proven herself to be open minded, level-headed, and able to work well with a wide variety of people. She takes the time to do her homework and fully understand the issues that face our school committee. Sarah's investment in public education is cemented in her role as the mom of a recent Ludlow High School graduate and two children who continue to attend Ludlow Public Schools. It is our firm belief that Ludlow's schoolchildren and families are incredibly fortunate for Sarah's willingness to continue to serve during such challenging times, and that if she is re-elected, the community will continue to benefit from her understanding that Ludlow's youth are its best hope for a bright and thriving future.

Michelle D'Amore and Shannon Anderson
Co-Presidents,
Ludlow Education Association
Ludlow, MA

Sarah for School Committee

On March 25, Ludlow has a critical choice to make in the School Committee race.

During the turmoil of the past couple of years, Sarah has stood strong, supporting all of the students and families of Ludlow.

I've been impressed with how she has taken her role seriously, taking the time to learn the roles and responsibilities of the job by attending many educational sessions.

Highly functioning School Committees need members who understand what the job actually entails and are willing to do the hard work, not individuals pushing a narrow political agenda.

Having had the opportunity to serve with Sarah, I know that she will continue to focus on the important work of the School Committee. She will fight for a fair budget that properly supports students. Sarah will listen to all points of view and make decisions in the best interest of the entire district.

Being a member of the School Committee is an important job that needs serious individuals who will work to advocate for the needs of all students and families. Sarah is the obvious choice, and has my enthusiastic support.

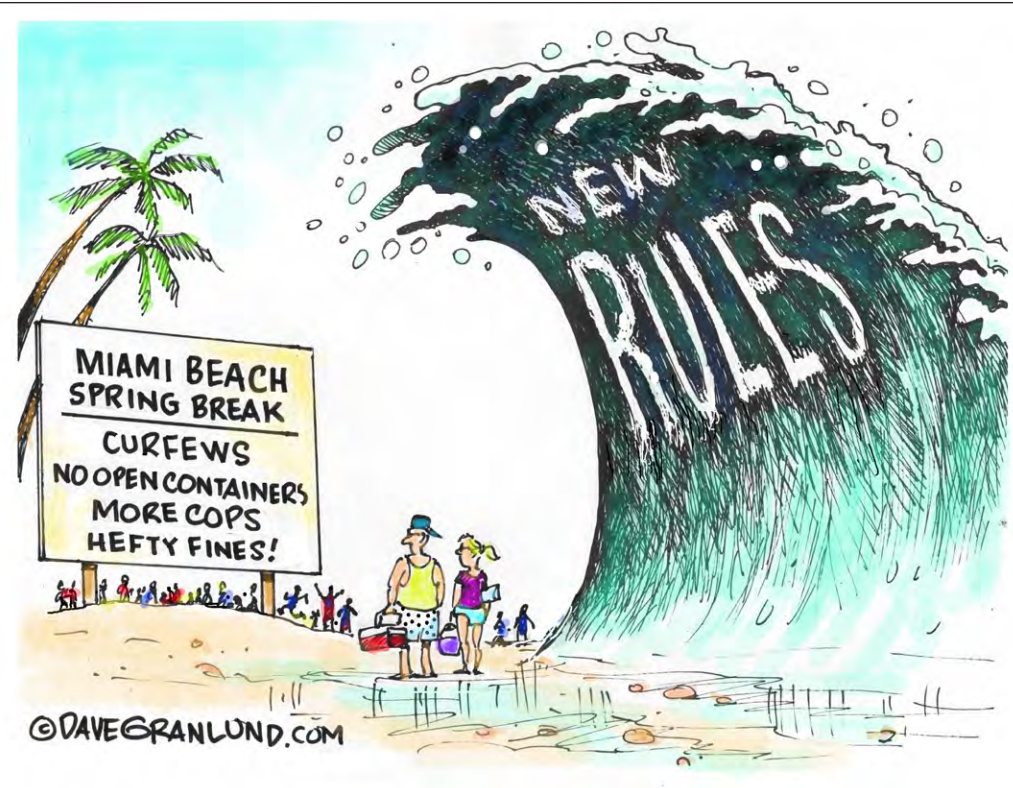
Please vote for Sarah Bowler on March 25.

Mike Kelliher
Ludlow

NEWS & FEATURES

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

For more information on news or community features for The Register, please email register@turley.com.



GUEST COLUMN

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Cindy Sheridan Murphy

I know I have lost loved ones to cancer and in fact I don't know anyone who hasn't, but this story isn't about loss but rather about hope and what one woman has created because of her cancer journey! Just by her unselfishness she has helped so many with what I consider, Random Acts of Kindness as she doesn't always know the recipients of her efforts.

Cindy Sheridan-Murphy was diagnosed with breast cancer for the first time in 2009, she endured all the treatments, was considered cancer-free and then she was diagnosed with her second bout of breast cancer in 2014. For those who know Cindy, you would also know something as I learned when chatting with her, she's a fighter and has a determination to make a difference by helping others. With that determination to make a difference she co-partnered with singer/song-writer Debra Lynn Alt and created a 501(c)3 non-profit in 2019 called 'Each Moment We're Alive'.

Cindy met Debra shortly after her second cancer diagnosis. Debra had written a song in honor of her dear friend Monica who was an incredible photographer that unfortunately lost her battle with cancer in 2012. Monica and Debra were able to collaborate and created a wonderful book that captured many of Monica's photographs and includes a CD of Debra's inspiring song along with other beautiful creations. Because of their collaboration and now Cindy's partnership with Debra, to name their charity after Debra's song was a natural fit.

Cindy has always lived a life of giving back. She was a youth soccer coach plus a high school soccer coach for five years and actually brought her team to their first tournament in ten years. She loved all the coaching but when her daughter became a high school student she knew it was time to stop so her daughter could play sports without mom being the coach.

After coaching sports and being diagnosed, Cindy realized coaching was coaching regardless for what and so the non-profit was created. During Covid Cindy wanted to continue to help people by supplying the tools and support to survivors when going through treatments or completing them. She learned how to do Zoom meetings and has captured members from Indiana, Florida, Michigan and New Jersey as well as local audiences.

Cindy has expanded this non-profit to include everyone regardless of their type of cancer. She knows that cancer doesn't just impact that person but their circle of people as well. Her Zoom meetings are every Tuesday and it's an opportunity for survivors to connect for support and inspiration. She

has monthly local gatherings for continued cancer support, and quarterly webinars. Her after cancer support programs include the context of 'Living a new day' and 'I survived cancer, what's next?'

March is the cancer awareness month for colorectal, kidney and multiple myeloma. As we know, cancer knows no season so please do your screenings.

Cindy has a couple of things she uses as her mottos, "Cancer is something that happens to you, it doesn't define you." And she also believes, "We don't walk this earth alone, we have a circle of Angels."

Cindy is the Angel for many and continues finding ways to help others. She offers seminars to educate employers about the needs of a person dealing with cancer. Her charity will be hosting their 5th Canine's Fur Cancer Support walk in West Springfield on June 28th as she knows that dogs are a great support for people on their cancer journey. Cindy holds a position on the Baystate Noble Hospital Patient Family Advisory Council representing the voice between the hospital and the patient. Her charity decorates a tree each year for the Ronald McDonald House to support them. She's involved with Our Lady of Hibernian in Holyoke which is for Irish Catholic Women and with this group once a month makes sandwiches for Kate's Kitchen. She is also a Rotarian and they strive to promote services for the personal, business and community life. She believes in giving back to make a positive impact. So as you can see, Cindy is an inspiration to others by leading the way of doing Random Acts of Kindness.

This past January, Gary Rome's Hyundai Hope on Wheels presented Cindy as the representative of 'Each Moment We're Alive,' a \$10,000 check so she can continue her very important supportive cancer work. What an honor to be chosen for this award! Congratulations Cindy! You truly are making an incredible difference!

If you would like to know more about Cindy's incredible work, please see her website. <https://www.eachmomentwerealive.org> You'll find events happening, how to find help for support and you'll feel the warmth she emits from the pages. Thank you Cindy for all the help you so willingly offer to others.

If you would like to tell me a story about a Random Act of Kindness please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-788-7514. Who knows, you might see your story in this column, 'Just Cause' you witnessed, did or received something nice being done. See you next month with another Random Act of Kindness! ~ Barb

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 mharrison@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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IN THE CLASSROOM

Ludlow Lions Club Scholarship applications are available

LUDLOW—The Ludlow Lions Club is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for the James and Mary O’Neil Scholarship, the S. Louis Marceau and the Paul R. Baird scholarships (\$1,000 each).

Eligible applicants must be residents of Ludlow, regardless of the high school attended, and entering freshman year at an accredited college or technical school in the fall. The James and Mary O’Neil scholarship is available only to students who will be attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus.

Applications may be obtained from the Guidance Departments of Ludlow High School, or Pope Francis Preparatory School, by using the “Scholarship” button on the Ludlow Lions Club Web page.

(https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/ludlow_ma/index.php), by request at LUDLOW-LIONS@yahoo.com or by contacting a Ludlow Lions Club member.

The Scholarship applications must be postmarked by March 30, 2024. Mail applications to the Ludlow Lions Club, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 72, Ludlow, MA 01056-0072.

COLLEGE NOTES

Miranda Balbino named to Dean’s List at Endicott College

BEVERLY - Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Fall 2023 Dean’s List students.

In order to qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below “C,” have

no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

Miranda Balbino of Ludlow is among those named to the Dean’s List at Endicott College for the Fall 2023 semester. Balbino is majoring in Communication. She is the daughter of Renee Balbino and Fred Balbino.

SELECTMEN from Page 1

However, if our seniors are forced out of their homes too soon, it not only diminishes our return on our investment but it increases our debt, creating unexpected volatility. Municipalities that prioritize programs and services enabling seniors to age in place now will experience better long-term financial stability. This further provides us the ability to stay within our expected turnover and regular investment in young families.”

Alex Montagna Introduction

“I graduated from Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts,” Montagna said. “I’ve worked at State Street Bank & Trust and Amazon Logistics, which gives me a sound background in financial and logistical concerns. I have experience organizing for the local community, including serving as a volunteer and treasurer for the Friends of the Ludlow Parks, organizing the standout in opposition to the Brave Books Story Hour where participants planned to read anti-LGBTQ books to children, and assisting in the organization of the Color Ludlow with Love event. I will bring a positive attitude to the board, a forward-thinking vision, and support for small businesses, families, veterans, and seniors.”

Inspiration

“Growing up in this town and being a young father has inspired me to run and advocate for a change in strategy for our town,” Montagna said. “Our focus must be on supporting our children by providing a quality education, well-maintained parks that attract families, and engaging activities for their development. It is crucial to recognize that a town cannot thrive solely on an aging tax base; we must actively work to expand and diversify our demographics. After observing the Board of Selectmen for years, I am convinced that it is time for a change. Ludlow needs a fresh perspective and proactive leadership to ensure this community’s continued growth and prosperity. We do not need another yes man on the board.”

Budget priorities

“I will prioritize funding for the schools, as well as necessary funding for our Department of Public Works to maintain our roads, parks, and public areas,” Montagna said. “We must also be a town that offers competitive salaries to our town workers. We have had an issue keeping talented individuals in key roles in this town when they are able to relocate with the experience gained here. We neglect the budgeting for our schools and community at our own peril. We need to

be more fiscally responsible during budget time, which includes working closely with the Finance Committee to ensure budgets are focused on the most important aspects of their departments. We need an expert in grant writing to make sure we are capturing all available funds at the town’s disposal.”

Important issues

“The most important issue facing this town is our lack of school funding,” Montagna said. “We continue to not provide the schools with a budget capable of sustaining growth in this town. The current budget for 2025 results in a loss of seven core subject teachers at the high school. Year after year, we lose staff and teachers at our public schools with no end in sight. We can sustain a vibrant small business community only by supporting our town. We can transform this town into a community where families can get the best education available by voting for the values we want implemented. I plan to work closely with Senator Jacob Oliveira and State Representative Aaron Saunders in securing needed funding for our town. We cannot allow the School Committee to fall to those pushing the culture war on this town.”

Manual Silva Introduction

“After serving on this same Board and 34 years as an Assessor, I have come to understand the functionality of local government, state General Laws, and the budgetary process,” Silva said. “I have dealt with many concerns and issues throughout the 12 years on the BOS. I have also aided the Towns of Palmer, Monson, and most recently Southbridge these past few years with obtaining certification of their Assessments. I now believe I can take whatever issues come before the BOS.”

Inspiration

“As a local government official for many years as the Assessor for Wilbraham I learned a lot about local Government and how important it plays in our lives,” Silva said. “I decided I would bring good knowledge and assets to Ludlow, the community that’s been my residence my whole life.”

Budget priorities

“I expect the town budget will get much tighter as we move forward,” Silva said. “The constraints of Proposition 2 1/2 requires us to stay under the levy limit, which is getting very difficult. We are going to be faced with contracts that will need to be renegotiated – Trash Removal, Police, Fire, Labor, etc. – while also keeping within our Levy Limit.”

Important issues

“My biggest priority will be maintaining a good sound financial picture

for Ludlow and still giving our seniors, schools, employees, and residents the resources needed to work and live in our community, (and) try to find revenue sources to keep ever increasing taxes as low as possible,” Silva said.

Dan Valadas Introduction

“I’ve always had an interest in civics, municipal development, and even general building projects,” Valadas said. “Watching a healthy community grow as I’ve seen during my career has been enriching. Although my professional field is law enforcement and criminal justice, public service is universal to serving as a Board member. It’s also important to treat people, especially town employees, with respect. It’s not only appropriate but fair. I promise that I will always continue to be a just leader with sincerity and integrity.”

Inspiration

“I’m running for the Board of Selectmen because I feel that I have a valuable perspective that I could bring to the Board,” Valadas said. “The town is going through a transition, and I’d like to have a say in that transition. Being a town employee, town meeting member, and department head, it’s very important to me that any town government change necessitates as many opinions from town citizens as possible. The rest of 2024 will be very important as to how the town evolves from a small-town government to a more appropriate town government structure.”

Budget priorities

“As the Chief of Police, I will be unable to vote directly on any budgetary matters that directly affect my personal interests and that also are tied to the police department’s budget,” Valadas said. “With that said, I’ve been in contact with the State Ethics Commission and the state Police Chiefs Association and if elected, I will solidify a guide to help me navigate any potential conflicts. The Police Department is just a small part (approximately 6%) of the total Town budget. I feel that the town needs a Town Accountant or Financial Director to work with the School Department’s financial staff in a unified effort to have transparency and accountability. Our current fiscal system is divided between two separately elected boards, each with approximately half of the total town budget with the town-side paying for the town employee benefits.

Voting for a lump sum amount at town meetings is also not efficient nor transparent.”

“My last point is the importance of maintaining the quality of our public safety dispatching,” Valadas continued. “The town currently has the best emergency Central Dispatch service encompassing both the Fire and Police Departments. It’s the town’s nerve-center and the real-time in-house dispatching provides the best emergency responses. There’s nothing that compares to this level of service. The town recently completed a \$4.8 million dollar taxpayer funded upgrade to the infrastructure and equipment for this town-wide communications system. It’s the model and envy of many of our surrounding communities. Ludlow Central Dispatch must remain as it is, and I promise to do everything that I can to keep this service.”

Important issues

“Increasingly, I am also hearing more and more concerns about the mental well being of our youth,” Gennette added. “We obviously take the care of our children very seriously, which means we could be facing these new challenges while continuing to battle against the opioid crisis.”

“The most significant challenges facing the Town are the lack of candidates to fill important positions, such as a Town Accountant, and the prospect of what our proposed government structure might look like,” Valadas said. “I do support paying appropriate salaries for town officials and having as many, if not all those officials living in the communities that they serve. I understand that this limits the candidate pool, but I feel it’s important to live where you work, especially for executive positions. The town must have a sound cadre of employees to work and communicate with each other to better serve our town residents. Department and town budgets should be discussed frequently and openly, especially with each department head. Ultimately, ‘where is your money being spent’ should be the prevailing conversation not only amongst town employees but with town residents as well. Ludlow is a healthy and prosperous town, professionals working together to benefit everyone and every department can keep it that way.”

Town elections will be held on March 25. For information about registration and where to go to vote, please call the Town

NOTICE

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Rosa and Selectman Tony Goncalves, Selectman James Gennette and Angela Pratt, Town Administrator Marc Strange and his wife, Kate.

CABIN FEVER from Page 1

years ago, in 1924. Since then, the club has continued to be involved in town events and to make improvements to the site. "The Club has always encouraged the learning of Portuguese culture and started the Portuguese school with classes held at the Grémio," reads the 100 Years of History document available at the club's website. To keep the Portuguese culture alive, the directors of the

Club would hold weekly dances, picnics every month, and annual parties to honor Portuguese traditions. "We will always remember the show that Cold Wind & Super Ritmo performed with additional talent spread by the bands Mil e Quatro, Triple Play Trio, Os Celtas, Ecos de Portugal, Grupo Familiar, Os Capitalista, Coração de Portugal, Contacto, Rhapsodia, Seabreeze, Aguias de Portugal and Flash," the document said.



Residents Lorraine and Larry Goodreau had a table with David and Maureen Beauregard by the dance floor.



Monica Perez, Albert Dubuque, and Tracy and Al Perez waited their turn for the photo booth.



Gertrude Miller, Town Clerk Kim Batista and her husband Ken, took a picture with 250th Committee Co-Chair Linda Collette.



250th Committee Co-Chair Linda Collette visits Vivian and Kevin Vestal at their table.



Town Administrator Marc Strange, Selectman Derek DeBarge, took a picture with Linda Collette while waiting in line.



Bill Koss took a break from working the door for a photo with Chair of the 250th Parade Committee Bruce Durand and Tony Curto.

Sisters Kathy Quimette and Denise Zrakas were busy all night with the event they helped prepare.



A table was set up with photo albums and pamphlets with historical documents.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE from Page 1

what they intend to do about the cuts to school funding.

"I will continue to fight for a fully funded budget," Bowler said. "I don't want teachers cut, but also believe that our schools need the administrators to handle the daily problems in the schools. The children in the schools are not the same as those five, 10 or 15 years ago. Discipline issues have increased, but to take administrators who handle these matters out makes it someone else's responsibility; but whose?"

"It is clear that the push is to dismantle public schools and to privatize them, but who does that benefit?" Bowler added. "There are already alternative options if you don't want to send your child to public school."

Library materials

The candidates were asked about concerns over library materials.

"There are ways to ensure your child is not able to have access to the books you don't want your child to have access to," Bowler said. "It is your right to make this decision for your student. Reach out to the school's librarian to discuss your options. It is up to a child's parent to make that decision, not a group of parents who have nothing to do with other people's children." "Books are not the enemy;

technology is the enemy, and the more we deny that and believe we monitor everything our children access and see, the more we are fooling ourselves," Bowler said. "Every kid has that friend whose device is not restricted or monitored."

Skills and strengths

The candidates were asked to identify any skills and strengths they would bring to the committee.

"I bring experience and the knowledge of the role and responsibilities of the School Committee," Bowler said. "I bring the understanding that all children attend and belong in our schools and deserve to feel welcomed, along with their families. It is important to understand that Ludlow has turned into a beautiful diverse community that has many races, ethnicities and cultures. I understand the importance of acceptance. Without it, we don't feel like we belong."

Isabel Soares Introduction

"I have been a life-long resident of Ludlow for 42 years," Soares said. "I am the mother of a 15-year-old daughter. I attended a bilingual Kindergarten at East Street School in Ludlow and graduated in 1999 from the High School. I attended Holyoke Community College and earned an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. In addition, I also played soccer for HCC and was named Team Cap-

tain, MVP, and All New England in 2001-02. My teaching career began as a Preschool Teacher at Orchard Children's Corner in Springfield in Sept. 2000. I received my lead teaching certificate in 2002 and continued to teach until 2004. I am currently employed at a local company in West Springfield as a Purchasing/Warehouse Manager for a Janitorial and Maintenance Supply company."

Inspiration

"As a parent of a high school daughter, I have been actively attending School Committee meetings since 2020," Soares said. "I have been heavily involved with a group of parents questioning inappropriate books for school-aged children that were brought into our schools by a librarian. I have spoken publicly numerous times about explicit/graphic pornography that has flooded our school system. My goal is to support parental rights and be a voice for all parents and children. Many parents do not speak out, fearful that their children will be retaliated against. The public is limited on how long they can speak and minimal, if any, answers are provided."

Current challenges

"We need to address the rampant allegations of abuse and bullying both at the hands of students and school employees," Soares said. "Parent after parent have voiced concerns about the mental and physical health

of their children as well as their safety. Unfortunately, both administrators and some on the committee have failed to adequately address these issues. Parents have a right to know what is going on in the schools, including what is being taught. Some members of the committee have repeatedly voted down every policy brought forward concerning parental rights. They refused to even send it to the subcommittee and debate it. I will work diligently to ensure that an open and comprehensive dialogue exists, at all times, between schools and parents with no secrets."

Budget cuts

"Schools have always struggled to do more with less," Soares said. "There is no easy solution, but without increasing taxes, cuts must be made. Our teachers are the single greatest resource we have and cutting them will be the last resort. I believe we need to look at possible redundancies that exist in school administration. I would also like to see parents being more involved in their children's education by volunteering their time during school hours to monitor hallways and lunchrooms. This will help mitigate bullying and create a safer environment for all."

Soares also mentioned pitching a "Family Night School," where students and parents would be educated about "improving dialogue and communi-

cation, basic life skills, hobbies, social activities and the resources available in the communities."

"Most importantly, it will be an opportunity to cover more sensitive issues like drug abuse, mental health, gender identity and sexual health," Soares said. "Parents and children will be learning together so the children can feel more comfortable, protected and at ease while parents will know exactly what is being taught."

Library materials

"I would like to address the concerns over the library materials available to students," Soares said. "It would be appropriate to form a subcommittee where we have transparency between concerned parents, teachers, school committee members, and any taxpayers of the town of Ludlow to evaluate all the books that J. Funke brought into the library. That will help us to determine which books are age-appropriate for 11 to 13-year-olds. By doing this, it would help to alleviate the fears expressed by concerned parents."

Skills and strengths

"My vision ultimately is to organize a Bill of Rights with regards to the public school system, with input from parents and taxpayers," Soares said. "If the Bill of Rights were to meet opposition, then it should be brought forward and be submitted to the citizenry for a vote in the next town election."

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Jacoby Voyik sends a pass away.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Peter Szewczyk makes his way around the perimeter.

LUDLOW – In its regular season finale, Ludlow 5/6 Suburban boys basketball fell to Belchertown 34-31.

The game was close throughout and Ludlow's regular season finished at 13-5 with the playoffs in the Suburban League beginning this week.



Jay Willis pivots toward the hoop.



Xzevio Riviera drives around an opponent.



Joey Campora starts his way down the court.



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The first wave of harriers are off in the 2023 St. Patrick's Road Race in Holyoke.

St. Patrick's Road Race set for this Saturday afternoon

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The weekend of St. Patrick's Day is synonymous with the popular parade in the streets of downtown Holyoke. But equally tradition is the 10K St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

The road race was disappointingly cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and again in 2021 when COVID-19 rates rose due to the vaccine not being as widely available at the time.

But last year, the race returned to the joy people throughout the region and beyond and Holyoke once again became a hub of activity beginning with "Race Day."

And the sights and scenes of St. Patrick's Day weekend were also back in the Paper City the past two years as the downtown area around Maple and High Streets were lined with patrons. Bars and restaurants were filled with people going in and out, the Mummers gave their performance,



For the second straight year, Jenna Gigliotti, of Amherst, was the top female finisher. She came in at 35:29.

and children and others were able to participate in the Kids Walk and Fun Run prior to the "main event" taking place at 1 p.m.

This year's race, the 47th

Please see **ROAD RACE**, Page 10

Papermen represent region in new league

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Papermen, an amateur adult hockey team, was in action last Saturday afternoon. The Papermen are brand new adult team participating in the Union Hockey League, a new adult league in the New York and New England region.

The new team got started in January and is playing a 32-game season with seven other teams that joined the league. Home games are played at Fitzpatrick Rink in Holyoke.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Vinnie McAllister sends a pass away.



Mark Lavolette, of Ludlow makes his way up the right side of the ice.



Nick McNally comes into the ice and immediately takes control of the puck.



Zach Paisley heads up the left side of the ice.



Nick Cambria looks to center the puck.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – March has arrived for the Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League.

The standings as of Feb. 27 had Acres and Blue B's tied for first place at 6-2. In third place, Team BK has a record of 5-3. The Champs R Here, Compression and Last in Line are tied for fourth place with a record of 4-4.

Life is Good is in last place at 2-6.

Compression won in the first round and Life is Good won the second round. One more team is aiming to join them in the playoffs at the end of the season.

The Champs R Here bowled against Compression on this Tuesday night of March. In game one, The Champs prevailed with a commanding lead over Compression and won by a score of 423-378. Filling in for the Champs is Bryan Surprise starting off the evening with a 111.

John Colkos also bowled well over his average scoring 113.

In game two, Champs R Here won again by a score of 387-370. Surprise had the high score of game two out of both teams with a 102. In game three, The Champs won 395-368 for a three-game sweep over Compression.

Surprise finished strong with a 118 and a series of 331. Total pinfall was won by The Champs R Here with a score of 1205 with Compression hav-

ing a total pinfall score of 1116.

Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League is several weeks away from wrapping up their season.

With a couple weeks left, several teams are aiming to win the second and final round. As of Feb. 29, Team Six, the winners of round one, are leading in round two at 25-15. Team One is in second place at 23.5-16.5. In third place, just one point behind Team One, Team Four is at 22.5-17.5.

In one match, Team Six bowled against Team Three. In game one, Team Six took the first game by a score of 412-400. Dan Mahoney of Team Six started off the evening with a 110.

In game two, Team Six won again by a score of 421-375. Josh Gorham of Team Six bowled well scoring 105.

In game three, Team Six won for a three-game sweep by a score of 430-422. Team Six won total pinfall by a score of 1263-1197.

Team One bowled against Team Five and attempted to take first place from Team Six. In game one, Team Five took the first game by a score of 427-401. Mike Wadas of Team Five led the team starting off with a 108.

In game two, Team Five won again by a score of 408-386. In game three, Team One managed to win the last game by a score of 422-400. Team Five was the winner of total pinfall by a score of 1235-1209. Team One only managed to win one point where Team Six won four points.

The Thursday Night Mixed League will conclude on Thursday, March 28.



T-Birds suffer shutout against Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (26-26-3-2) threw everything they could at the net of the Providence Bruins (35-17-3-2) without success in a 5-0 defeat on Sunday at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

It was evident from the onset that the goaltenders were not going to allow anything easily, as both Colten Ellis of Springfield and Brandon Bussi of Providence came out with laser-like focus.

Bussi was exceptional from the get-go, as he turned away a trio of point-blank chances in the opening 10 minutes off of Will Bitten, Joey Duszak, and Zach Dean.

Operating on the first power play of the afternoon, the T-Birds instead saw the scoreless deadlock broken when Jayson Megna intercepted a pass and beat everyone up ice to beat Ellis on a backhand breakaway, giving the P-Bruins a 1-0 lead at 11:23 of the first period.

Megna's tally, which began Providence's Teddy Bear Toss, proved to be

the only shot to beat Bussi or Ellis for the next period and a half. The T-Birds peppered the Providence net from all angles and in all situations, but Bussi continued to bamboozle his division foes.

With Springfield still pushing hard to equalize, Oskar Steen finally afforded Bussi and his defense some insurance when he elevated a wrist shot past Ellis 3:58 into the final period. Joey Abate and John Beecher would follow

suit, setting each other up for odd-man rush goals at 13:45 and 15:37 respectively. With the game well in hand, the Bruins' top power play unit added one more for good measure as Georgii Merkulov potted the Bruins' 5th goal at 19:28.

The T-Birds get some well-deserved rest before a crucial two-game series in Charlotte next Saturday and Sunday against the Checkers inside Bojangles' Coliseum. Puck drop on Saturday is set for 4 p.m., with a 1 p.m. matinee on tap for Sunday.



Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on Feb. 18 to discuss plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 11:40 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining.

Pioneers 2024 schedule released

LUDLOW – Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19. The Pioneers have won an Open Cup match in the past.

Later, the Pioneers have their "friendly" exhibition game scheduled

for May 10. They will face 3rd Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule. Their opener for the regular season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York. The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.

ROAD RACE from Page 9

running of the tradition, will take place this Saturday, March 16. Once again, many will be looking to add their name to the list of winners of the 10K.

In 2023, it was the ideal day for Jenna Gigliotti, an Amherst woman who won the 10K Road Race for the second consecutive year. She crossed the finish line at 35:29.

This year's male and overall winner was Michael Norberg, who also is from Amherst. He finished with a time 30:50. He was more than 30 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher, Bradley Mish, of Hadley.

There were more than 5,000 participants in this year's event, which is part of a big weekend in Holyoke, going along with the parade that took place on Sunday. It also is viewed as a practice course for runners participating in

more races later in the year, including the Boston Marathon. There are harriers who will run 6.2-mile course multiple times to simulate 26.2-mile marathon distance, including participating in the main race.

Of the more than 5,000 harriers signed up, 3,813 registered finishes.

Benjamin Lasky, of Ludlow, was a top local finisher, coming in 14th at 33:41. Lasky has been a top 10 finisher in the past.

The race continued traditions of participants running for various charities and other causes, in honor of deceased loved ones, and of course, the running of the race in costume.

The current cost, as of press time, to enter the race, is \$35. The two-mile walk price was \$25 as of press time, but was expected to rise on March 13.

The weather, as of press time, is expected to be warmer than in previous years, near 60 and sunny.



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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.

COMING SOON

THE ST. CECILIA WOMEN'S CLUB March meeting takes place on Tuesday, March 12, beginning with a liturgy at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Soup & Sandwich at 6 p.m. The guest speaker will be Deacon Michael Forrest who will intrigue the meeting with his miraculous story. A **FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON** featuring CHICO'S is being sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club, Thursday, April 25, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. A social hour begins at 11:30 a.m. with luncheon served at noon. The meal choices are Chicken Francoise and salmon with dill sauce. The \$35 donation for the luncheon also helps to fund the club's scholarships and community service projects. In addition, there will be a raffle for many prizes. For reservations, please contact Norma Bandarra, 413-596-8173, by April 17.

ONGOING

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. Gen-

tly-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.

CHESSE 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 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 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.

Pastel Workshop to be held at the Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM - Award-winning pastel artist Gregory Maichack will return to the Wilbraham Public Library to teach his new workshop, Seascapes inspired by Winslow Homer, on Monday, March 18 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

This pastel painting workshop is designed for beginners to experienced artists. Participants ages 18+ will experiment with the artist's professional-grade pastels, pencils and paper. Materials will be provided and all attendees will get to take their artwork home.

Registration opens Monday, Feb. 26, and space is limited. To register, please contact the library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Funding is also provided by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

To learn more, contact Emilie Lang at 413-596-6141 or elang@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Wilbraham Women's Club hosting Fashion Show Luncheon

WILBRAHAM - A Fashion Show Luncheon featuring CHICO'S is being sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club, Thursday, April 25, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. The social hour begins at 11:30 a.m. with luncheon served at Noon.

The meal choices are chicken fraise and salmon with dill sauce. The \$35 donation for the luncheon also helps to fund the club's scholarships and community service projects. In addition, there will be a raffle for many prizes.

For reservations, please contact Norma Bandarra at 413-596-8173 by April 17.

Hampden Senior Center to host Pie Sale

The Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen St., is having another great Pie Sale. This year, the fundraiser is offering juicy Apple, delicious Fruit of the Forest and mouth-watering Blueberry. Orders for pies at \$19 each will be taken at the senior center starting March 1, paid in full in advance.

Pies will be boxed and bagged and available for drive-up pick up at the center on Saturday, April 27 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. Call 413-566-8271 with any questions.

Wilbraham Public Library holding Teen Makers: Diamond Painting event

WILBRAHAM - On Tuesday, March 26 from 5 - 6:30 p.m., teens in grades six through 12 can join us for Teen Makers: Diamond Painting. Teens will relax through creativity and feel the stress melt away as they craft beautiful shiny wall art. Each teen will choose one design from PaintGem's "Ocean Edition" or "Fruits Edition" to make their very own masterpiece. This is a good project for beginners interested in trying diamond painting for the first time. All materials will be provided. Online registration is required at wilbrahamlibrary.org or call 413-596-6141, as space is limited.

Church DIRECTORY

FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL
A Church of the Nazarene
485 East St. Ludlow, MA 01056 413-583-7875
Email: faithcommunitychapel8@gmail.com
faith-communitychapel.org
Lead Pastor: Reverend Lisa Morrison
Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs
Sunday Services:
Discipline Groups 9:45 a.m. WorshipService11 a.m. and Facebook Live Stream
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 WEDNESDAYS at 7 p.m. Ludlow Christian Fellowship Meeting Hank Bastos, Leader, 413-348-6487
SMC and Facebook Live Stream ludlowfellowship.org
FRIDAYS Children's After School Club (pre K through teens) 5-6:30 p.m.
Church Fellowship Hall
SATURDAYS at 10 a.m. Ecumenical Prayer Meeting

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
584 West St., Ludlow
413-583-8454
S Sunday services
Sacrament Meeting 10-11 a.m.
Sunday school for adults, Young single adults (18-30) and teens (11-18) - 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Classes for Single Adults(18-30)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -11-12 noon
Classes for Young Men(11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon
Classes for Young Women (11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month - 11-12 noon
Children's classes: Sunday school & singing time every Sunday(3-10) 11-12 noon
Nursery provided for ages 18 months- 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.

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
Like us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram
Check out our Parish App
Wednesday, March 13, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Youth Group - 3:30 p.m. (JR), Holy Mother Choir - 5:15 p.m. (C), Confirmation Class - 5:30 (JR), Scouts - 6 p.m. (FLBH), Parish Reconciliation Service - 6:30 p.m. (C), Scouts - 7 p.m. (JR)
Thursday, March 14, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C) Friday, March 15, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C) Saturday, March 16, - Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C), Mass - 4 p.m. (C)
Sunday, March 17, - Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C), Mass - 11 a.m. (C), Mass - 5 p.m. (C),
Take & Eat - 8 a.m. (FLBH & K), Confirmation Class - 8 a.m. (JR), Faith Formation - 10:15 a.m. (All Rooms)
Monday March 18, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Faith Formation - 6 p.m. (JR/ER), Bible Study - 6 p.m. (ZR), Parish Lenten Mission with Fr. James Savage - 6:30 p.m. (C)
Tuesday, March 19, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Friends of St. Elizabeth - 10 a.m. (ZR), St. Rita Choir - 2:30 p.m. (C), Parish Lenten Mission with Fr. James Savage - 6:30 p.m. (C)

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.

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.

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438 Winsor St., Ludlow
413-583-2312
Father Pedro DeOliveira
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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.

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for complete schedule and events

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See our website for more information: orchardcovenant.org.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P0402EA
Estate of:
Jacqueline B Scyocurka
Also known as:
Jacqueline Scyocurka, Jacqueline Boucher Scyocurka
Date of Death: 09/22/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Todd M Scyocurka of Ludlow,

MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Todd M Scyocurka of Ludlow, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/25/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you

must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration

directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 26, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/13/2024

LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SPECIAL PERMIT / HOME OCCUPATION
The Ludlow Planning

Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:45 p.m.** on the application of Jan Wojcik of 827 Poole Street Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 41, Parcel 32-1) for: **home-based photography studio.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
03/13, 03/20/2024

See more legals on Page 15

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

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The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for 16 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at **www.huntingtonma.us** or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE SPECIAL PERMIT HOME OCCUPATION

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:35 p.m.** on the application of Daniel B. Moore of 77 Yale Street Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 15D, Parcel 202) for: **map for landscaping business.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman

03/13, 03/20/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD24P0486EA
Estate of:

Sa'Nai Kalis Carabellro

Date of Death: 10/28/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Tamiya Coleman of Indian Orchard, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Tamiya Coleman of Indian Orchard, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **un-supervised administration.**
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/03/2024.** This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a **deadline** by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: March 06, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/13/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street

Springfield MA, 01103 Docket No. HD22P1472PM

In the matter of:
Marion Kusek
Of: Ludlow, 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 **Alison Bartlett-O'Donald** of Holyoke, 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 **04/08/2024.** 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: March 04, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/13/2024

Town of Ludlow LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Board of Selectmen has called a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 5:35 p.m.** in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA on the application of Ludlow Country Club, 1 Tony Lema Drive, Ludlow, MA Annual and Seasonal Liquor License for Change of Directors.

James Gennette, Chairman
Ludlow Board of Selectmen
03/13, 03/20/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden
The Superior Court
CIVIL DOCKET
#2479CV0096

RE: Florence Bank f/k/a Florence Savings Bank v. Candace L. Palaia
ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: Candace L. Palaia, has an address of 53 Waters Edge Drive, Ludlow, MA

01056, in the County of Hampden; all in said Commonwealth;

AND TO ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SERVICE MEMBERS' CIVIL RELIEF ACT OF 1940 AS AMENDED 2003 as amended:

Florence Bank f/k/a Florence Savings Bank, a banking institution with its principal office located at 85 Main Street, Florence, MA 01062

claiming to be the holder of a mortgage covering property known as 53 Waters Edge Drive, Ludlow, Hampden County, Massachusetts 01056 given by Defendant, Candace L. Palaia to the Plaintiff dated June 26, 2009

recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 17872, Page 65, has filed with said court a Complaint for authority to foreclose said mortgage in the manner following: by entry on and possession of the premises therein described and by exercise of the power of sale contained in said mortgage.

If you are entitled to the benefits of the Service Members' Civil Relief Act of 1940 as amended, and you object to such foreclosure you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said court at **Springfield** in said County on or before **04/15/2024** or you may be forever barred from claiming that such foreclosure is invalid under said Act.

Witness, Michael D. Ricciuti, Esquire, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, at Springfield, Massachusetts, this 4th day of March, 2024.

Laura S. Gentile
Clerk of the Courts

By:
Alyson Yorlano
Assistant Clerk
03/13/2024

Town of Ludlow Public Schools

Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 71, Section 38N, the Ludlow School Committee will hold a Public Hearing on the Ludlow Public Schools proposed budget for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., in the Harris Brook Library, 209 Fuller St., Ludlow, MA 01056.

Jeff Laing, Chair
Ludlow School Committee
03/13/2024

Town of Ludlow LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 138 of the General Laws, the Board of Selectmen has called a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 6:15 p.m.** in the Selectmen's Conference Room, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA on the application of Awais Kamran Mir for USAVE Food Store, LLC. Oba USA VE Food Store, located at 546A Center Street, Ludlow, MA 01056 for a Transfer of an off-premises wine and malt beverages license from Tahir Humayun dba E-Z Shop Convenience to be located at 546A Center Street, Ludlow, MA and a Change of Manager to Tahira Khatoun on the following described premises: Retail store 30' x 28' which contains a cooler 20' x 10' with storage space to the rear.

James Gennette, Chairman
Ludlow Board of Selectmen
03/13, 03/20/2024



Ludlow High School inducts new Honor Society members

LUDLOW — Ludlow High School inducted the newest members of the National Honor Society on Wednesday, Mar. 5 at Gregory Wrinn Auditorium. Each new member was initiated by a current member who announced their respective accomplishments.

The National Honor Society recognizes students that exhibit academic excellence, service, leadership and character. Each new student signed a book and then received a pin to commemorate the honor.

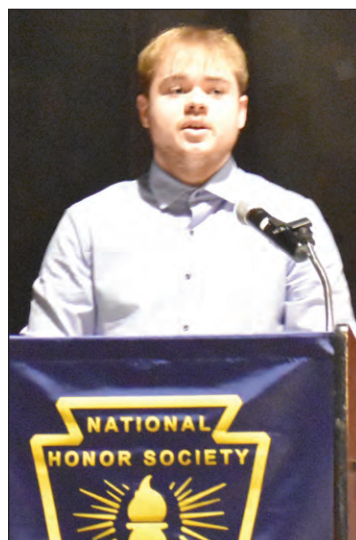
The newly accepted members include Ariana Adrien, Ava Augusto, Kelsie Blazjowski, Peyton Brennan, Mia Bulatewicz, Delores Calvao, Mia Carvalho, Anabella Castro, Esther Coelho, Juliana Coelho, Lucas Costa, Isabel Cruz, Caitlyn Day, Ela Dias, Kailey Dominique, Jack Favata, Savanna Ferrabelo, Calleigh Foley, Sonny Freitas, Ava Gabriello, Michael Gomes, Ryan Gomes, Alexis Leab, Katharina Lipior, Rowan Mateus, Griffin McCarthy, Owen McCarthy, Ashlyn Moquin, Jacob Moquin, Mary Morris, William Poirier, Ariana Quaglia, Kylie Roach, Kyle Rodrigues, Bridget Schneider, Keely Smyth, Abigail Toomey, Alexis Urban, Gavin Vala, Caden Vilinskis, Thomas Wadas, Logan Walsh, Michele Winslow, Aleksander Wojcik and Elizabeth Zucco.



Evan Jaworsski, President of the National Honor Society leads the ceremony with the pledge of allegiance.



Piotr Budzyna, Vice President



Austin Moorehouse, Secretary



Theryn Pelletier, Treasurer



Melia Pirog, Historian lights a candle.



Principal Lisa Nemeth welcomes the new members of the National Honor Society at the induction ceremony held at Ludlow High School on March 5.



IRISH SPECIALS
ALL DAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY

CORNEBEEF & CABBAGE
Guinness Beef Stew
Irish Meat Pie
Shivering Shamrock Drink Special
Harp, Guinness & Wormtown
Irish Red on tap!

OPEN
St. Patrick's Day
10 a.m. - Midnight

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Starting with the **ROAD RACE RECOVERY PARTY** the right way at

Specials Available Sunday 10am-Noon
Fried Egg served on Corned Beef Hash,
with Grilled Cornbread,
Bloody Marys, Mimosas & More!

Saturday, March 16
Moody Creek
7-10pm

Sunday, March 17
St. Patricks Day
Arwen King
The Piping Plover
4, 6 & 8 pm

The Willies
7-10pm

5 East Walnut St., Belchertown
413-323-6420
mccarthyspub.net

McCarthy's Pub

Take a chance to win our **Wagon of Cheer** to support **SPRINGFIELD SHRINERS**

For Our Menu and Events check us out on 