

NEWS ABOUT TOWN

Sheriff's Department launches 'Freedom Pups' program

LUDLOW – During "National Dog Week," Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi announced the creation of a new program integrating dogs with the minimum security inmate population at the Hampden County House of Corrections.

The program, called the Freedom Pups Good Dog program, pairs rescued dogs with inmate handlers who will work with the canines to teach basic obedience training in order to make them more adoptable.

"This is a unique opportunity to provide our residents with the chance to improve their lives by affording them interactive experiences with canines," Cocchi said in a press release. "The benefits for our residents and the dogs will be exceptional. Having these dogs here will help foster empathy, relieve stress and learn responsibility for our residents."

To implement the program,

the department is partnering with Second Chance Animal Services out of East Brookfield. Second Chance will provide food, bedding and medical care to the animals at no cost. The dogs will be medically screened, spayed or neutered, and up to date on all vaccines.

"This program is instrumental in helping to prepare animals for adoption that need a little extra help with socialization or training and helps open up space at the shelter for more pets in need," Lindsay Doray, Second Chance development manager, said.

Cocchi said the facility will likely start with a few dogs at a time, slowly growing the program. He said he would like to one day develop a vocational training program around Freedom Pups to afford inmates the opportunity to learn new skills before reentering the community.

MRCs offering weather spotter training

MONSON – The National Weather Service office in Taunton is sponsoring a severe weather spotter training session, part of its SKYWARN program, in Monson on Monday, Oct. 16 from 6:45 to 9 p.m. at Memorial Hall, 198 Main St.

All are welcome to participate and the program is being offered by the six Hampden County Medical Reserve Corps units in honor of National Preparedness Month. Amateur radio operators, emergency managers, police, fire, and other first responders are encouraged to attend. Everyone age 16 and older who completes the training will be eligible to

become trained NWS weather spotters.

The free training session includes a computer-based presentation covering various topics including the development of thunderstorms, "severe" thunderstorm criteria, as well as the cloud features associated with severe thunderstorms and tornados; winter storms and proper snow measurement; reporting of coastal flooding, river, stream, and urban flooding and rainfall measurements as well the procedure for reporting weather information to the National Weather Service. Safety procedures for the various forms of summer severe weather

(severe thunderstorms, tornados and lightning), winter storms, and flooding will also be covered. Bringing a notebook with pen or pencil is optional.

The Medical Reserve Corps, federally recognized since 2002 following the 9/11 attacks, is comprised of both medical and non-medical volunteers from the community. Its mission is to support public health as well as emergency management during emergencies and non-emergencies.

To register for this event, visit wmmrc.org and look for the SKYWARN brochure on the home page.

Students inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society

SPRINGFIELD – More than 150 students were inducted into the Western New England University chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta National Freshman Honor Society during a ceremony Aug. 25.

Hampden students are Nick-olaus Dion, Nathan Smith Epaul

and James Martin.

Wilbraham students are Olivia Barber, Gina Barillaro, Jeffrey Dufour and Alyssa Galenski.

Founded in 1924, Alpha Lambda Delta is a national honor society for first year students that encourages and recognizes superior academic achievement.

Members pledge to use their education to benefit the community, college, the nation and world. Acceptance is based on students attaining a minimum GPA of 3.50 in their first semester of study or a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 at the end of their first year.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, October 19, 2017** at 5:45 PM in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the petition of John & Joy Crane and George & Elizabeth Ann Fontaine for a special permit and/or variance under the provisions of Sections 3.3 and 4.4.11 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the common boundary line of adjacent pre-existing non-conforming properties to be reconfigured in order to rectify an existing driveway and shed encroachment by conveying a parcel of land consisting of approximately 1,000 square feet of the Fontaine property located at 17V Bungalow Point to be combined with and made an integral part of the adjacent Crane property located at 18 Bungalow Point. The petitioners are also requesting a variance from section 4.4.10 of the Zoning By-Law to allow the existing shed to remain in its current location and set back approximately 1

foot from the proposed new property line as further specified in the application and plans on file with the Board of Appeals and available for inspection during normal business hours.

Edward Kivari, Jr.
Chairman

10/05, 10/12/17

Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

The Hampden Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, October 24, 2017** at 7:30 PM in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA, on the petition of Earthlight Technologies, LLC. for a **Special Permit/Variance** under the provisions of Section 7.16 – Solar Energy System(s) of the Hampden Zoning Bylaws to install a ground-mount solar array on property located at 96 Carmody Road owned by Mr. Harold Alston, Jr. The petition and related materials are on file in the Town Clerk's office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

For the Board,
L. Jed Berliner, Chair.
10/05, 10/12/17



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