

# Senior & Veteran Tax Work-Off Abatement Program seeks applicants for 2024

WILBRAHAM -- The Town of Wilbraham is accepting applications for 44 positions under the Senior Citizen & Veterans Tax Abatement Program. Senior Citizens and Veterans selected under this program will work during calendar year 2024 to receive an abatement on their property tax bill for fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025).

Basic requirements are that taxpayers must be an assessed owner of property in Wilbraham and must have owned and occupied a home in Wilbraham for at least five years. To be eligible for the Senior Citizens program the resident must be over 60 years of age. To be eligible for the Veterans program the resident must be a Veteran defined by MGL (a copy of your DD 214 is required).

The current compensation is calculated at \$15.00 per hour, and the maximum allowable abatement is \$1,500.00 per property. Abatement workers will need to work 100 hours to receive the full abatement of \$1,500.00 (less federal income tax and Medicare deductions).

### The 44 positions being offered are:

- Clerk's Office: three Office Assistants
- Treasurer/Collector's Office: two Office Assistants
- Public Access Television: five Production Producers
- Library: four Library Pages
- Library: one Local History Assistant
- Senior Center: 12 Office Assistants
- Senior Center: one Building Assistant/Substitute Van Driver
- Senior Center: two Fitness Room Monitors
- Select Board Office: one Office Assistant
- Parks & Recreation: five Assistant Gym Supervisors
- Building Department: one Office Assistant
- Facilities: two Facilities Laborer/Helpers
- Facilities: three Gardeners
- Engineering: one Engineering Assistant
- Fire Department: one Office Assistant

Hours are flexible and will be worked out on an individual basis between the department director and the abatement worker but must be completed by Nov. 30, 2024.

This program is beneficial for both senior and veteran residents and Wilbraham taxpayers. Seniors and Veterans have an opportunity to lower their property tax bill, and taxpayers are benefitting from the superior talent and work experience these individuals bring to the job at a very low cost to the town.

Interested residents can pick up applications and information packets at the senior center, library, or Select Board Office, or print it from our website: [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). Applications should be submitted to the Select Board Office no later than Dec. 15, 2023.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 The Trial Court  
 Hampden Probate and Family Court  
 50 State Street  
 Springfield, MA 01103  
 (413)748-7758  
 Docket No. HD23P1682EA  
 Estate of;  
 Mary Lee Russell  
 Date of Death: 02/12/2005  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Robert W. Russell of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition

from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/27/2023.

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.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: November 24, 2023

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
 Register of Probate  
 12/07/2023

## NOTICE

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

# Visiting Angels approved to provide free in-home care to eligible veterans

REGIONAL — Visiting Angels West Springfield has recently been approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide non-medical home care for eligible veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

VA benefits offer financial assistance for home care to veterans through several programs.

The VA Aid and Attendance program helps to provide access to homecare for veterans and their spouses who need help with daily tasks or who suffer from a disability

or illness. Through Visiting Angels West Springfield, veterans who require help with daily living from another individual can receive help with everyday tasks in their home such as bathing, eating, cleaning, and memory care.

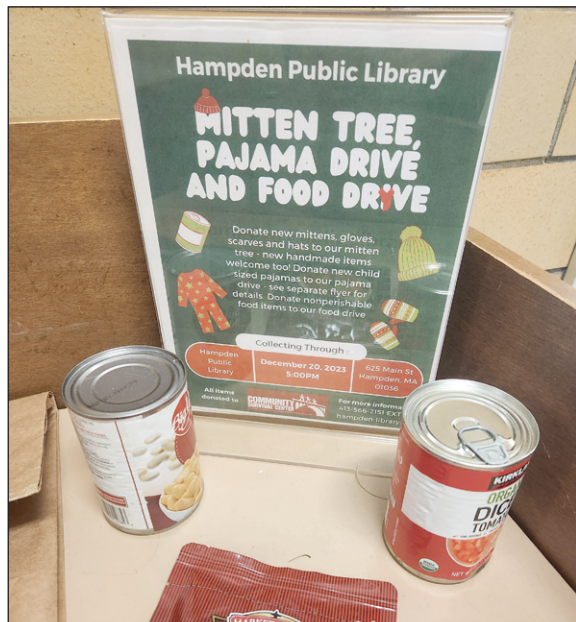
The Homemaker and Home Health Care Aid program helps veterans to receive assistance with everyday tasks with the help of a homemaker or home health aid. Visiting Angels West Springfield helps eligible veterans with in-home tasks

which allows those who prefer to stay in their homes rather than live in a separate facility.

Visiting Angels West Springfield is offering in-home care for veterans who meet specific service, disability, income, and asset criteria in order to be eligible for these VA programs. To figure out if a veteran is eligible to receive assistance from these programs, they can contact the Visiting Angels West Springfield office at (413) 733-6900 for more information and assistance with the application process.



(L to R) Renee McBride, Carol Collins, Anne Marie Matzko, Phebe Niccum, Mary Haseltine and Caryn Greco pose for a group photo as they work on knitting items for the Mitten Tree to support the Mitten Tree, Pajama Drive and Food Drive at Hampden Free Public Library. The women are all members of the Hampden Free Public Library's Knitting Group.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

A photo of the food drive bin for non-perishable food item donations to support the Mitten Tree, Pajama Drive and Food Drive at Hampden Free Public Library.



Submitted photo Ellen Moriarty

A throwback photo of Hampden Free Public Library Director Ellen Moriarty and her daughter, Hannah, with a mitten tree to support the Mitten Tree, Pajama Drive and Food Drive at Hampden Free Public Library.

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Moriarty added she enjoys supporting the Community Survival Center and local organizations.

"They serve Springfield and the surrounding towns, including Hampden, so they're wonderful over there. They do a really good job of distributing the donations, so it's been wonderful to partner with them," Moriarty said.

Moriarty stressed the importance of giving back, especially during the holidays, and having the library be a place to hold fundraising drives so everyone can participate.

"I love giving them the opportunity to have a place to donate to because sometimes there might be seniors who aren't able to drive places to donate things so that covers it for them. They can donate whatever they like, and I'll take care of it for them," Moriarty said.

Moriarty enjoys seeing the children and teens get involved too, including how some come back to volunteer at other events.

"I want the little kids and the teens to know how good it feels to help others so that they can carry that with them throughout their lives to be kind and generous," Moriarty said.

Looking ahead, Moriarty expressed excitement for upcoming events including the Children's Holiday Party on Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Teen Volunteer Council holding their First Annual Free Gift-Wrapping event on Dec. 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and a Holiday Movie Night on Dec. 21 at 6 p.m.

"Everything at the library is always free, so I want people to know that they can come here and take advantage of all the programming that we have," Moriarty said.

Moriarty encourages the com-

munity to support the drive and to also consider a simpler approach to celebrating the holidays, with books.

"To simplify things so that the kids aren't overwhelmed and the parents aren't overwhelmed. Just sit down and read a book," Moriarty said. "So, take time to make sure that you sit down with your family, especially the littles, and read a lovely book and, you know, maybe start a new tradition of reading a holiday story that they look forward to each year."

Also, come check out the library during the holidays.

"Come on down! We got tons of Christmas books, videos, movies, CDs to put you in the spirit," Moriarty said.

To learn more, visit [www.hampden-library.org](http://www.hampden-library.org), call the library at 413-566-2151 EXT 112 or check out their Facebook page.