

TOWN HALL from page 1

later on, had a clinic and police department.

When the building was dedicated in June 1932, a graduation of the combined Hampden Schools were also held that day. As the years and decades went on, many more classes graduated from the consolidated school, plays and performances were held, a special family gathering of the Hatch Family during their 50th wedding anniversary in 1949 took place and even a Mardi Gras Ball was held in 1955.

Other uses included fairs, flower shows, town meetings, special town events, elections, wedding receptions and other festivities.

The school also grew and later led to a new elementary school on North Road in 1957, later renamed Green Meadows Elementary School.

Meals for the seniors in town were also served in the Town House's Melville Room until the senior center's move to Allen Street in 1999.

The Town House celebrated 90 years in 2022 alongside the Hampden Garden Club and by 2025, town office buildings and the library remained, with the auditorium serving as space for rehearsals by the Theatre Guild of Hampden, meetings of varying boards, committees and commissions from the Board of Selectmen--now the Selectboard as of 2024--to the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board and voting in elections.

At this year's Annual Town Meeting on May 12, the town voted to facilitate the transfer of the library, the Parks & Rec Department and the town office buildings to the former TWB, which included changing the property's eminent domain. In 1966, the town-owned land had been declared to be the site of a school.

TWB, meanwhile, was named after children's author and conservationist Thornton W. Burgess and opened in 1967. It served as the town's middle school until 2018, following a lawsuit settlement and reorganization plan by the school district.

The school district then moved students to Green Meadows Elementary School and the building was used for other programs and administrative purposes until the lease ended this summer. Afterward, the town of Hampden regained



possession of the building on July 1.

Readers may also recall TWB was considered for one of four initial options for the school district's reconfiguration plans to address under and over-enrollment issues in the schools. However, all options to keep the school open were eliminated by the Planning Committee.

The regional agreement would have also had to be modified due to a requirement that students are to be educated in their hometown until high school.

In 2023, a conditions assessment of the Town House identified \$4.2 million that would be needed for immediate repairs and \$7.7 million total over the next 10 years. There were also concerns about ADA-compliance, many environmental, structural and mechanical issues and not being large enough to meet space needs for the town's administrative offices and the library, along with the building being in poor condition.

Final Selectboard Meeting at the Town House

During the Selectboard's Nov. 10 meeting--noted as the last time by Chair John Flynn--there was an update ahead of the Nov. 18 opening.

Town Administrator Brian Domina shared the packing and labeling for the move was nearly complete.

"We will have the movers here first thing Wednesday morning. We're anticipating a two to three-day move of trucks shuttling between the Town House and NTH--I think as John calls it--so everything's on schedule as far as I know," Domina said. "Everybody's done a tremendous job packing their offices and



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Boxes and packages mark a new era in Hampden as the town offices are packed up and on the move from the Town House to the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

labeling their boxes and I really have to give credit to everyone involved. It's a stressful process, but everybody's really been working hard."

"And we've had some volunteers helping out as well," Flynn added.

After mentioning some of the volunteers, Domina offered this suggestion.

"I think once this process is all done, we should probably formally recognize all the people that have helped out along the way to make this move possible," Domina said.

On the new sign, Domina said he would check with Highway Superintendent Mark Langone about that.

"It should be coming any time," Domina said.

"Are they changing the green sign at the corner?" Flynn said.

"I don't know. I don't know about any plans to change that at this point," Domina said.

"Would we be adding town hall to that as well?" Flynn said. "The directional sign by the flag pole?"

"Yep," Domina said.

As the move has happened, Domina said many devices and workstations were also disconnected on the Saturday before.

"They'll also be returning next Saturday morning to hook up those devices and

workstations over at the new place. So, again, our intent is to remain closed to the public that following Monday so that staff can get into their offices and move stuff around and get set for a full return to work targeted for next Tuesday," Domina said.

At that final meeting at the Town House, Flynn offered this suggestion to Domina.

"I did mention to Brian today that the 18th is a nice goal. I think it's good. If things snowball a bit, don't make it a hard thing. Get it right and do it," Flynn said. "If you got to push it back a couple days and not open because you're getting everything together, do that. It's more important to try and do it when people aren't there than to have the doors open and you're still connecting things and whatever."

The board also decided they would meet next on Monday, Nov. 24.

On the floor for the board's meeting room, Domina said Abide was reached out to for a discussion and sanitorial was set up.

"He has some ideas that I asked Herb to share with me in an email that I could forward to the board that he wants to explore," Domina said. "Yes, the building will be clean."

More on the new town hall soon.

WSC hosting Senior Bus Trip

WILBRAHAM -- The senior center will be hosting a Senior Bus Trip on Dec. 4.

The trip costs \$50 per person.

Here are the details:

Depart: Memorial School at 9 a.m. (310 Main Street, Wilbraham); arrive by 8:45 a.m. and estimated drive time is one hour.

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Yankee Candle; enjoy 2.5 hours of shopping at your leisure. Guests should be back on the bus by 12:30 p.m. for

a 12:45 p.m. departure.

1 to 3 p.m. at Treehouse Brewing; one mile down the road is Treehouse Brewing Company. Each guest will receive a voucher good for one drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) and a slice of Treehouse pizza. Guests will board the bus at 3 p.m. for the ride home. Expected arrival time at Memorial School is 4 p.m.

Limited space available. Call 413-596-8379 to reserve your spot!

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reporting problem bills -- the residents had different levels of income and education. But these factors did affect a person's willingness to call about their medical bill.

"Those who were uninsured, Medicare insured, and less educated were less likely to reach out to the billing office," Duffy reported. "These differences in self-advocacy may be widening the gap in financial burden of health care between those with higher and lower socioeconomic status."

Self-advocacy is not easy, and challenging a medical bill can be time-consuming and frustrating. Some of the people in Duffy's study said they had spent five hours or more contesting a bill, and quite a few said they didn't feel the people in charge were respectful to them.

But if the outcome is a reduced bill or a payment plan, it can be worth the effort. It's estimated that Americans are carrying more than \$200 billion in medical debt, the majority of it by people who owe \$10,000 or more. While the three major credit agencies no longer include medical debts under \$500 on credit reports, it can still impact credit scores if the health organization reports it to the credit agencies.

Tellingly, only 3.5 percent of the respondents sought help from an advocacy organization to contact the billing office, Duffy said. The time burden plus the fact that many of the people surveyed didn't reach out at all indicates "there may be an unmet need for formal

assistance navigating bills," she wrote.

Patient advocates are one source of such formal assistance. They navigate the intricacies of the health-care system itself and its mind-boggling billing systems, too. A medically trained patient advocate can look at an itemized medical bill and spot duplications and inconsistencies that a lay advocate may miss.

To avoid mistakes and misunderstandings, understand your health insurance coverage; ask questions when you don't. Know what your deductibles, coinsurance, copays and out-of-pocket maximums are. Ask why your doctor is ordering certain tests or procedures. Call your insurer in advance to find out how much you'll be asked to pay. Always document the answers you receive, who you spoke to, and when. Get promises in writing. And if you're uninsured, be upfront about it.

After all that, if you still receive a bill you think has errors, advocate for yourself and you may save yourself some money.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**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.
HD25P2419EA
Estate of:
Harvey A. Smith
Date of Death: 10/07/2025
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 **Edward C. Smith of Warren, 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: **Edward C. Smith of Warren,**

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 12/18/2025.** 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: November 20, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
11/27/2025

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.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular wine ___ Spumante

5. Greatly impressed

11. ___ and that

12. Uttered with passion

16. Boats

17. Veteran actor Harris

18. Casserole with game

19. Reprehensible acts

24. They precede C

25. Says under one's breath

26. Taxis

27. It transfers genetic info

28. NFL great Randy

29. Where college students sleep

30. Major European river

31. Taco condiment

33. -frutti

34. Polish city

38. Astronomy unit

39. Khoikhoi peoples

40. Bears QB Williams

43. Scrambled, fried, boiled

44. Price indicators

45. One-time world power

49. When you hope to get somewhere

50. Farm building

51. Choose carefully

53. Magnum was one

54. One who combines

56. Nursemaids

58. Partner to Pa

59. Notable river

60. Officially honors

63. Colorless compound

64. A fancy chair

65. Email function

CLUES DOWN

1. The central area in a building

33. The bill in a restaurant

2. Religion of Japan

3. Leggings

4. Officially distributes

5. Arabian Sea seaport

6. Spanish doctors

7. It cools your house

8. Currency of Poland

9. Slowly moves into

10. Days (Spanish)

13. Unit of volume

14. Emit

15. With two replaceable hydrogens

20. Title for a man

21. Equally

22. Scarlett's home

23. One-time tech titan

27. Subway dwellers

29. One-tenth of a liter

30. Central European river

31. Distress signal

32. Expression of sympathy

34. Football equipment

35. Dance music

36. Russian river

37. Cosmetics giant Mary ___

38. Gym class

40. Automobiles

41. Roman honorific

42. Losses in sports

44. Skin tone in summer

45. Distant planet

46. Critical humor

47. Illegally obtained

48. Go back over

50. Home appliance brand

51. Unit of radioactivity

52. Home of the Flyers

54. Short official note

55. Emit coherent radiation

57. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)

61. Most common noble gas (abbr.)

62. Toward