**Health & Wellness**

**Summer worker surveying the health needs of Wilbraham**

WILBRAHAM - This summer University of Massachusetts public health student Molly Totman is working with Wilbraham’s Department of Public Health Nurse - Lee Giglietti, based at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

Totman is a student intern under the mentorship of Giglietti. Throughout her education, Totman says she has been passionate about public health, wellbeing, disease prevention, and health education.

As an intern with the Department of Public Health, Totman is seeing firsthand what local public health entails and is putting her education to practice. This summer she is conducting a needs assessment. “The assessment will examine the needs of the community while identifying community health programs, resources and current initiatives,” she said.

Totman will also identify any needs and barriers that may be present in the community. She will be interviewing and surveying community members as well as attending relevant meetings and events to understand the public health needs and experiences of elders in Wilbraham.

“The valuable internship will allow public health to grow within our community and anticipate the needs of our residents,” commented Giglietti.

Totman completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology in 2011 at UMass-Amherst. In 2011-2012 she served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer where she worked mainly in Holyoke. She is currently completing her Master’s degree in Public Health at UMass. She plans to graduate in 2014.

If interested in the public health of the Wilbraham community and wish to help Totman in her research, go to www.tinyurl.com/wilbrahamsurvey to fill out the survey. You can also fill out a survey at the Wilbraham Senior Center and other locations around town.

Residents’ input is needed in understanding and addressing the public health needs of the community.

The results of Totman’s assessment will be presented to the Council on Aging and the Wilbraham Board of Selectmen later this summer.

Molly Totman (right), working for the summer with Public Health Nurse Lee Giglietti, is interviewing and surveying members of the community about their health needs.