

HAMPDEN
Residents speak out on Solar
Page 4

SPORTS
Girls basketball beat Comp
Page 15

TIMES

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PALMER, MA
PERMIT NO. 22

ECR-WSS
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

Dedicated to Improving the Quality of Life in the Communities We Serve

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

MARCH 7, 2024

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com



Submitted photos by Jess Noonan

A family photo of Brady, Dillon and Ethan Noonan, the brothers behind 3 Brothers Maple in Wilbraham.

3 Brothers Maple forges family bonding and community ties

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Every day after school, three Wilbraham brothers create their own maple syrup while forging bonds between family, community and nature.

The brothers, Brady, Dillon and Ethan Noonan, are part of 3 Brothers Maple, a venture they began five years ago after seeing a neighbor friend up the road making their own. From there, the Noonan brothers

wanted to try it out themselves, with the family investing in an evaporator to boil maple syrup, talking with their neighbor friend for tips and learning the techniques from watching videos of producers in Vermont and Canada.

After making seven gallons of syrup their first year, the brothers have now made 36 gallons as of last year.

Brady Noonan stressed the importance of family, sharing how the three brothers spend 14 or 15 hours together making the syrup.

"We're all together as a family. We're all having conversations, we all love each other and we're all trying to do the best for the environment and try to take care of nature. It truly is nice," he said.

He added how the brothers sell their maple syrup in glass bottles as opposed to plastic "because there's stuff that can get put in plastic that you don't really know where it came from."

The brothers hope to sell their

Please see **3 BROTHERS**, page 9

Retiring Town Administrator Bob Markel honored

Also, information on upcoming public forums

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Retiring Town Administrator Bob Markel was honored for his four and a half years of service to Hampden during his final meeting with the Board of Selectmen on March 4.

During the meeting, State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow) and State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) presented citations from the Massachusetts State House and Senate to celebrate Markel's accomplishments.

Ashe shared how he and Markel used to be neighbors in Springfield and "the cherry on top" was when he ended up in Hampden, a district Ashe represents.

"It really has been a pleasure and honor not only knowing you over the years, but being friends with you. Just watching your work from mayor to ending



Submitted photos John Flynn

From the left, Selectman Craig Rivest, State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Selectmen Chair Donald Davenport, Retiring Town Administrator Bob Markel, State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow) and Selectman John Flynn in a group shot during Markel's final Board of Selectmen meeting in Hampden on March 4.

Please see **MARKEL**, page 12

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

Another look 'Connected Coincidences'

On April 20, 1861 Charles E. Buell, of Wilbraham was the first man to enlist

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

Like we have been known to do, in last month's column, we looked at some well-known Wilbraham folk tales, some true and some exaggerated, and matched them up with what was going on out in the world at the time. We came up with more material than we planned, so we are continuing the effort this March.

A Wilbraham history book

that gets a lot of readership, both at the Wilbraham Library Local History Section and in book sales in the Old Meeting House Museum Gift Shop is "The History of Wilbraham", written by Chauncey Peck at the town's 150th anniversary of incorporation in 1913.

Two Eras

One topic that Peck knows well is the Civil War because, as a young man, he fought in it in the Cavalry at Gettysburg. Peck had two different eras that his Wilbraham generation held fond-



ly: The Revolutionary War Era and then the Civil War period. He said the Revolutionary War could be interpreted as "a war of invasion and independence when Wilbraham names, such as Warriner, Merrick, Bliss and Stebbins, rushed to the battlefield to throw off the yoke of British oppression."

The Civil War period hit home in Wilbraham from 1861 to 1865. The War came just as the town was celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1863. Peck wrote, "Lincoln was president. The War of Rebellion was at its worse then. The Battle of Gettysburg

had not been fought and Vicksburg had not fallen. The tide of battle, of victory and defeat flowed backward and forward in an irregular line across the continent from the Atlantic to beyond the Mississippi, in an awful sea of blood!" We will talk more about Peck and the Civil War later in this story.

By 1913 Peck had become a prominent citizen and property owner in the Center Village and recalled his own war experiences with other young cavalymen in the war. In flowery language in 1913, he wrote in his book: "At that time about a hundred and fifty of the men of Wilbraham, with sword or musket in their hands offered their bodies as a breast-

work to stay the on-rushing forces of disunion and disintegration.

It is no secret that the Underground Railroad ran through Wilbraham and the town was home to Abolitionists; some were connected to what is now Wilbraham & Monson Academy and for years there was evidence that there was a tunnel between the Academy Chapel and what is now The Old Meeting House Museum where escaped slaves were hidden.

On April 12, 1861 forces of the North surrendered to the South at Ft. Sumter, S.C. Only three days later, on April 15, President Lincoln called for

Please see **HISTORICAL**, page 8

Kristin Rivers, the Times' newest editor, shares her welcome message

Hello Wilbraham and Hampden!

It is a true honor and privilege to serve as editor for the Times and I pray I live up to your expectations. I'd like to thank Dalton Zbierski for all that he has taught me and his mentorship as I take on this new responsibility and continue delivering the local news and stories that mean the most to you. Everything done this past year has been a true team effort and it's one that I don't take for granted.



In this last year, I have felt my faith in humanity restored a little at a time: whether covering an event at the libraries or senior centers, sharing the journey behind a cause people care about and utilize to help serve others or attending local government meetings to get a better understanding of what is going on in your towns; the issues and concerns that mean the most to each and every one of you.

There's also been one common thread that's stayed with me in this work and it's two words.

"Thank you."

A thank you for covering an event, a thank you for taking the time to talk about what brings you joy and what you wish more in the community knew about what makes you passionate for your event or story, a thank you for getting the word out about a new venture or business or simply thank you for listening, for responding or for being there and taking the time to understand the importance behind what means the most to you.

It's easy to let the challenges of today's world get us down or wonder if there's still good. I've been there and have had my moments of cynicism. But as I said earlier, this work has lightened my heart in ways I haven't felt in a long time; the writing aspect being part of it of course! But also because of the stories I've had the privilege to tell or share working for this paper in this last year.

I would not be remiss if I didn't share a little about me in this letter. I have a fluffy black cat named Midnight, I love books and music, I enjoy traveling and nature and am also an advocate for mental health and suicide prevention. You might also see me with a giant water jug, pink of course, when I cover a story. Additionally, I love to write and have found the written word as a place to share authenticity, honesty, deeper perspectives and heart. I hope that heart has come through and continues to in this new endeavor.

You all make this paper what it is today. All I simply do is help tell the stories, share the facts, gather the information and research and bring to life the visions you each have.

I hope as your new editor I can continue this work, while also making a bigger impact.

I look forward to getting to know you all even more. We have many more stories to tell.

Kristin Rivers

HB Real Estate officially opens Wilbraham office

Ribbon-cutting and open house celebrate the occasion

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - HB Real Estate celebrated the opening of its new Wilbraham office on Feb. 29 with an open house from 4 - 6 p.m.

The real estate agency, which has another office in Chicopee, serves the Western Massachusetts and Connecticut areas with a mission of buying and selling homes one relationship at a time and giving back to the communities they serve.

HB Real Estate is located at 95 Post Office Park, with hours of operation from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

During the open house, attendees visited and toured the new office space while enjoying the food and bar services provided by The Hotel Northampton.

At 4:35 p.m., the attendees gathered outside for a ribbon-cutting ceremony where Cheryl Spinks, district director for State Rep. Angelo Puppolo Jr. (D-Springfield), and Jennifer Pickering, district director for State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow), presented certificates of recognition from the Massachusetts State House and Senate.

Wilbraham resident Cheryl Malandrinos thanked everyone for coming to celebrate the grand opening.

"Our core values here are to help communities and families all across the Pioneer Valley. Thank you so much, HB Real Estate, for the faith to bring this forward into Wilbraham and to all of you," Malandrinos said.

Owner/Broker Ray Hoess-Brooks, who cut the ribbon during the ceremony, was at a loss for words about the community support.

"We're surrounded by so much support and love from family and friends and community. It was beyond my expectations. Wonderful day!" Hoess-Brooks said.



Cheryl Spinks, district director for State Rep. Angelo Puppolo Jr. (D-Springfield), reads a citation from the Massachusetts State House during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for HB Real Estate in Wilbraham on Feb. 29.



An exterior shot of HB Real Estate, located in Post Office Park in Wilbraham.



An interior shot of office space for HB Real Estate's new office location in Wilbraham. Cheryl Malandrinos, a resident, will be overseeing the Wilbraham office location.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Hoess-Brooks credits Malandrinos for bringing HB Real Estate to Wilbraham.

"She's a Wilbraham girl. Cheryl came to us and, like she said, she's like, 'I really want to be a part of HB' and we said, 'Okay, let's sit

down and figure this out.' All the stars aligned and Cheryl's now with us and we're here in Wilbraham," Hoess-Brooks said.

Fellow owner/broker Karen Kirby and Malandrinos also stressed Please see **HB REAL ESTATE**, page 13

You need it insured - I've got you covered!

HomeTown Insurance LLC
Quality, Integrity, Loyalty
Licensed in MA, CT, FL and SC

CALL TODAY! Angela Goncalves
INSURANCE AGENT AND REALTOR | agoncalves0297@gmail.com
C: 413-552-8309 • F: 413-895-5805

Looking for better insurance with that HomeTown service? Need help listing or buying real estate?

IRG Call for your free quote and/or consultation today!
THE REZ GROUP AT GALLAGHER REAL ESTATE

ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BEHAL SERVICE
413-636-5957

- Overgrown property?
- Excavator Services • Extreme Brush Cutting!
- Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal • Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
- Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand • Storm Clean-up • Small Demo • Insured

JOSH ROZELL 413.636.5957

CENTER STREET AUTO PARTS OF CHICOPEE, INC.

We will pay you top dollar for your car AND we will pick it up! Call us for a price!

- Top-Of-The-Line Auto Salvaging Services
- First-Rate Used Auto Parts
- Top-Grade Auto Body Parts
- Sell Your Old or Used Car to Us

"Serving all of Western Mass."

\$\$\$ Money on the Spot for All Vehicles

centerstreetautoparts.com
651 Center St., Chicopee **413-733-2778**

Solar Bylaw Warrant Article withdrawn during Select Board meeting

But there will be more to come

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - A proposed solar by-law warrant article for Town Meeting was withdrawn during the March 4 Select Board meeting.

Mura Bacon Erickson, joined by Planning Board Chairman John McCloskey, explained the petition concerned a project at 285 Three Rivers Rd.

Bacon Erickson started a petition after she learned most people in the area were unaware of the project, with 20 acres of land disappearing. She looked into it more after seeing photos and obtained a copy of Hampden's town bylaw for more information.

"I'm not anti-solar. Some of the people that actually signed this petition have solar panels on their roofs. I am anti-solar fields in people's backyards," Bacon Erickson said.

Bacon Erickson then wanted to figure out even more information, discovering Mass General Law Chapter 40a, Section Three.

Currently, State Sens. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and Joanne Comerford (D-Northampton), along with State Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown), are supporting bills to amend this law.

"This law is from 1985 and it was for special designation for

schools and churches. They added solar fields to it. So if we can get this passed--the House and the Senate--it will take solar fields back out of it and leave it with low-income housing and special designation for churches and schools," Bacon Erickson said.

She added the bills are stuck in committees and Oliveira is taking testimony on how the project is affecting people.

Town Administrator Nick Breault confirmed a town warrant article on this topic was submitted last Thursday, but not forwarded to the town clerk, pending the conversation with the Select Board.

McCloskey said, as an abutter, he is "living through the construction."

"So speaking on my behalf and of the neighbors, it's awful. It's really not good and I'm not even looking into it. Those that are on the streets that look into the project have to face a really, really big pain in their backyard," McCloskey said.

McCloskey thanked Bacon Erickson for bringing awareness to the issue, also encouraging people to contact their representatives to get the bills' support and passed.

On reviewing Wilbraham's town bylaw article on this, which passed back in 2021, and comparing it to Hampden's, McCloskey and Bacon Erickson also realized the proposed town warrant article could set the town back and would be too late to enact.

"But maybe a better approach would be, I don't know, could it be

withdrawn?" McCloskey said. "And then we work at the Planning Board level with Mura and anyone else that wants to come to a Planning Board meeting or sit with our client director and say, 'Okay, let's compare the two. We've done this quite a bit and are there some weaknesses in there that we want to revise what we have?'"

Bacon Erickson affirmed she was willing to withdraw the proposed town warrant article.

"As I've said, it sort of would be counterintuitive to what I'm trying to get done with this," Bacon Erickson said. "I'm happy to work with our duly-elected Planning Board and fix this. I think there's a lot of people in town that would like to have input as well."

After Breault asked if she was officially withdrawing the article, Bacon Erickson confirmed yes.

"Under the purview that we work to look at our bylaws and see if they can be even more restrictive," Bacon Erickson said.

The board also agreed to draft and send a letter to Oliveira.

Bacon Erickson also apologized to everyone, adding, "There are good people ahead of us" who are doing the work.

"We just have to keep working on it," Bacon Erickson said.

Residents can look at the bill in question, Bill.2164 at <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S2164/Cosponsor>.

MARCH IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH!



2024 NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH
A CAMPAIGN BY
THE ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

Eat Right Specials March 6 - 12

- Driscoll Blueberries pint size \$2.99
- Fresh Strawberries One Pound Pack .. \$2.99
- Fresh Lemons 4 for \$3
- Cantaloupes large size \$2.99 ea.
- Fresh Asparagus \$1.99 lb.
- Fresh Green Beans \$1.99 lb.
- Sweet Grape Tomatoes pint size \$2.99
- Brussels Sprouts \$1.99 lb.
- Boar's Head EverRoast Chicken \$11.99 lb.
- Boar's Head Wisconsin Cheddar \$9.99 lb.

Sunny Daffodils



Fresh Cut Bunches \$3.99

Mini Daffodils
4" Pots \$3.99

GO GREEN! St. Patrick's Day Favorites



Lucky Clover Shamrock Plants
Four Leaf Oxalis Shamrock Plants

- GREEN CARNATIONS
- BELLS OF IRELAND
- GREEN SHAMROCK
- HYDRANGEAS



Plant Your Way To Spring!

SEED STARTING SOIL SALE
Hoffman 10-quart Seed Starting Soil
SAVE \$4 NOW \$9.99



COW POTS
"The Pots You Plant"
Locally Made With Composted Cow Manure

2024 Garden Seeds!

For Flowers & Vegetables
HEIRLOOM & ORGANIC SEEDS TOO!



ALWAYS FRESH AT



631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54
LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net

WINTER HOURS
OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 7AM - 8PM
OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 7AM - 7PM

Find us on [facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

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.



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.289.1977
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com

Editor

Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

Subscriptions

\$45 per year pre-paid
(\$50 out of state)

WEB

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

@ Wilbraham-Hampden Times

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

 www.richardgreeninsurance.com
Fax: 413-267-3496
Email: richardgreenins@gmail.com

• AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE

- Great Locations • Registry service
- Quotes gladly given • We make housecalls

Please visit our website for an auto, homeowners, or life insurance quotes

Two Locations:


128 Main St., Monson • 267-3495


32 Somers Rd., Hampden • 566-0028

Hampden - Wilbraham Regional School District

The Road to Kindergarten 2024-2025



Parents and Guardians please join us for **The Road to Kindergarten.** This program will address Kindergarten Readiness, Screening, Curriculum, and a typical Kindergarten day.

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Minnechaug Regional High School Auditorium

(In the event of a snow day, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, March 28, 2024.)

Residents speak out on proposed solar panel project in Hampden

The public hearing was continued to April 24

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Residents gathered in the Townhouse Auditorium on Feb. 28 to speak out at a public hearing on a proposed solar project for 530 Glendale Rd.

The hearing centered on a special permit application from Glendale Road Development LLC to allow for construction of a 4.92 megawatt-ac ground-mounted solar facility with energy storage and associated access driveways, with site grading and utilities located at the address.

The facility in question will be an agricultural-mounted system with an interior array of areas maintained as pasture fields for grazing sheep, cattle and chickens to be managed by Ledge Valley Farm.

Planning Board member Patrick Coyne explained no decision will be made that evening as the hearing is part of the site process, with the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission and the Stormwater Committee having their own approval processes, which provide their input to the building inspector and Building Department.

The Conservation Commission will also hear initial findings from Tighe & Bond on this item in a meeting on March 6 at 6 p.m.

"Because there is other information being looked at, specifically peer review, there will be no decision tonight on this project. We're here to kind of move forward with the team that will be presenting this evening and, certainly, there's a lot of additional information that we, as a board, need to look at in addition to other boards that I mentioned that are looking at this same project," Coyne said.

During the presentation, the applicant, Rory Walker, president of ZeroPoint Energy Consultants, broke down the submitted site plan, which includes "approximately 11,300 modules" with inverters, a transformer and battery energy storage units with cabinets with fire suppression systems installed.

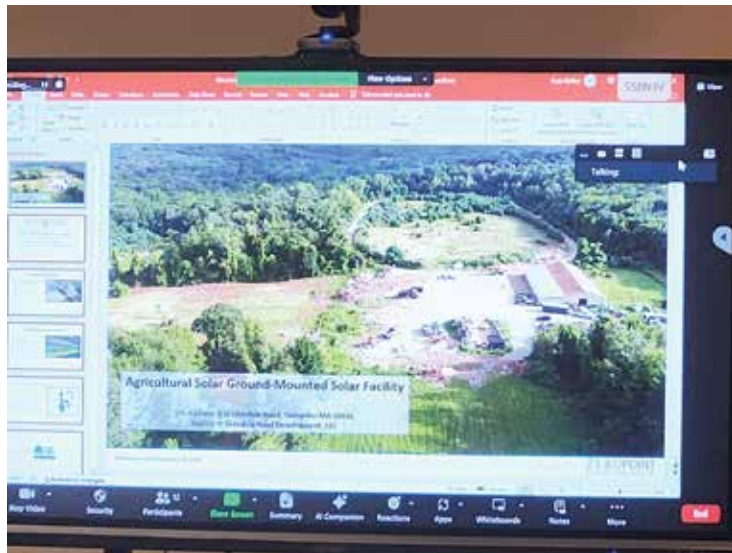
Equipment pads are also in-



Gina Stabilo shares her questions and thoughts on the 530 Glendale Rd. solar project during the public hearing with the Planning Board on Feb. 28.



Planning Board member David Demers asks a question during the public hearing on the 530 Glendale Rd. solar project on Feb. 28.



A photo of the Agricultural Solar-Ground Mounted Solar Facility being proposed at 530 Glendale Rd. during the public hearing with the Planning Board on Feb. 28.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers



Planning Board member Heather Beattie takes down information during the Planning's Board public hearing on the proposed 530 Glendale Rd. solar project on Feb. 28.

cluded.

"These pads will basically combine the electrical generation from array two or array one and have it go to a singular point, so what this line shows is a horizontal directional drill," Walker said. "It is two, four-inch conduits that are dug underneath the ground in order to avoid serving to bring the conduit from that array."

On the agricultural facility site plan, Nick Facendola, principal at Level Design Group, explained the site comprises two parcels and the plans include utilizing a large portion of existing infrastructure, a portion of a horse trotting track and three proposed water management basins with the general site grade as north to south.

Facendola indicated on the map the locations of each item,

including an area set aside for the wetlands.

"The total project encompasses approximately 22 acres, and of that, we're looking at approximately 10 and a half acres of new disturbance, so tree clearing, tree cutting," Facendola said.

Planning Board member Christina Brodeur explained how the applicant had plans to minimize impacts for abutters on the northern edge where they would approach the buffer zone, asking for more information.

"What are your plans for minimizing the impact on residents there who have homes there?" Brodeur said.

The applicant's attorney, Adam Costa, responded "it's really a landscaping proposal."

"Again, the objective of the 50-foot undisturbed buffer is exactly what it sounds like. You want an area of undisturbed vegetation to ensure, aesthetically, that the



Nick Facendola, principal at Level Design Group, explains the design of the Agricultural Solar-Ground Mounted Solar Facility during the Planning Board's Feb. 28 public hearing on the proposed 530 Glendale Rd. solar project.

project is not visible to nearby homes," Costa said. "The closest residence is not 50 feet away or 100 feet away or even 300 feet away. It's 546 feet away. So, not certain that it's going to be all that visible from that residence anyway. Having said that, we

have a planting plan proposed." John Matthews, who served on the Stormwater Committee in the past, asked about the number of acres for the panels, receiving an answer of five and a half acres.

He then asked about the nitrogen levels, citing the Scantic River as a contributor.

"With that said, I would ask that Tighe & Bond include that information," Matthews said.

Mike Fedora mentioned how he and his wife were approached about putting battery storage units on their property with another project.

Fedora said the couple turned down the deal, citing the negative effects on the environment, their quality of life and how "beautifully quiet" the Glendale Road

Please see **HAMPDEN**, page 20

Via Appia 2133 Boston Road, Wilbraham
413.271.1208
 Open Mon.-Thurs. 11am-9pm
 Fri. & Sat. 11am-10pm • Sun. 12-8pm
 ITALIAN CUISINE

 CHARLIE BONGIOVI Saturday, March 9	 FRED MARION Friday, March 15 Friday, March 22
 FRANK SERAFINO Saturday, March 23	 LUTHER Saturday, March 16 Saturday, March 30
 LIVIO GRAVINI Friday, March 8 Friday, March 29	

DINING • LIVE MUSIC • KENO • RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

RTNC AUTOWASH
 "Come shine with us"
 UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP
 LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS
 919 Meadow St., Chicopee
 200 St. James Ave., Chicopee
 410 Cooley St., Springfield

INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Tree Removal



Structural Pruning



Crane Service



Storm Damage



Stump Grinding



Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



VIEWPOINTS



By Ellenor Downer

Brown creeper

A brown creeper regularly visits an oak tree in my yard. The other day I watched the creeper fly to the bottom of the tree and make his way up the tree. A few minutes later a white-breasted nuthatch made its way down the same tree. I think the creeper also grabs some mealworms, which I have out for the bluebirds and any other birds that wants them.

The brown creeper is a small brown bird about 5 ½ inches long. It has brown streak-

ing above and white underneath and a long, downward, curved bill. Noticeable behavior is creeping up a tree trunk, then dropping down to the base of the same tree or another tree to start the process all over again. It probs bark for insects and larvae. Sometimes it visits feeders for chopped nuts or suet.

The brown creeper blends in with the tree bark. When alarmed it will flatten itself against the tree and remain motionless. Its song is a series of high pitched whistles, “see wee see to wee.” The call is a high “tsee.”

The female lays five to six white eggs with dark spots in a hammock style crescent shaped nest of bark, twigs, mosses and lined with feathers. It constructs the nest behind a loose piece of bark on a dead tree or in a natural cavity about five to 15 feet above the ground.

Brimfield resident

I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who keeps me up to date on his bird sightings.

He said in a recent email, “I did a walk yesterday at Quabbin gate 43. A small group walked to the area where people can rent or launch boats. No much about.” He said some folks heard pine siskins and saw a few white-throated sparrows. On the water, there were a few hooded mergansers and black ducks and in the distance some gulls flying about. On the way home he stopped by the ponds in Warren and the water was not open, so no birds.

He also took part in the Great Backyard Bird Count on Feb. 16 and 17. Here are his

results: one red-tailed hawk, four mourning doves, two red-bellied woodpeckers, two downy woodpeckers, one hairy woodpecker, three blue jays, two black-capped chickadees, three tufted titmice, two European starlings, two American robins, three house finches, 97 dark-eyed juncos, four white-throated sparrows, one common grackle and three northern cardinals.

He reported his first sighting on Feb. 16 at 1:40 p.m. and watched for 25 minutes and his second sighting on Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m. was for one hour. On Feb. 17 his sightings were 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., both for 45 minutes at a time. Missed species, ones he has seen before, included pileated woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, American crow and American goldfinch.

Bluebirds

The bluebirds continue to come to my feeder for the mealworms. I am purchasing more mealworms or the bluebirds than when I had chickens. I used to purchase the mealworms as a daily treat to my small flock. One hen would jump up and eat them out of my hand before I could put them in their feeder.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



by Roberta McQuaid

Just about a week ago I was presenting a Seed Starting Workshop for members at Old Sturbridge Village, and someone asked a question about how seedlings would have been pre-started in the mid-1800s.

It was a logical question considering we have heat cables, supplemental light and greenhouses at our disposal these days. We can grow any number of plants pretty much any time of the year.

How then, did innovative gardeners of old get a head start? Cold frames and hot beds, of course! These season extenders continue to be useful today.

Read on to learn how these are constructed and used successfully.

The easiest way to describe a cold frame is this: a rectangular box fitted with a window sash. It can be as simple as an old storm window on top of hay bales.

Better yet would be to construct your cold frame to capture as much passive solar energy as possible. We achieve this by angling the window sash 35 to 45 degrees to catch the sun.

The window sash you obtain will determine the size of the frame. Keep in mind that you have to be able to reach inside to work; therefore, it is recommended that you make the box no deeper than three feet.

Construct the frame using rot resistant woods like cedar or redwood. Pine is an inexpensive and readily available option, but should be painted with exterior paint prior to assembly to ensure years of use.

White paint will not only make an attractive cold frame, but one that will reflect light to the plants growing in it. The walls should be at least an inch thick, preferably two inches, to further insulate the plants growing inside.

Locate your cold frame in full sun, facing south or southeast. The soil under the cold frame is a “mini plot” that should be enriched as I would any other part of the garden by incorporating an

Get a head start the old-fashioned way

inch or two of compost and a sprinkling of lime and balanced organic fertilizer into the soil prior to use.

The window sash will likely stay shut on overcast days. On sunny days, however, be sure to prop open the window to ventilate the space – it can get quite hot inside and young seedlings could easily be harmed.

The sash can be opened completely (or removed altogether) on very warm days. Don't forget to provide water within the frame – if it is covered it is exempt from the rain.

The cold frame is a great place to start spring greens. There are other uses as well.

Some plants prefer to germinate at cool temperatures and simply won't grow well inside the house, even off the heat cables. Try growing flats of cole crops like kale, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower right in the cold frame – they'll be the sturdiest plants you ever grew!

Likewise, start small pots of sweet peas, pansies, forget-me-nots and bachelor's buttons inside of it; they germinate better in cool

soil. Many native perennials need to chill for a month before they are able to germinate – “stratify” these seeds in the cold frame and then move them to the border once they are off and growing.

You can also harden off plants that were started indoors inside the cold frame.

What about getting a head start with heat-loving vegetables, such as tomatoes or peppers? Or even herbs like basil or flowers such as celosia, marigold or amaranths? Here is where the hot bed comes in.

If you have access to free, fresh manure, you are all set. The general idea is to build a mound about two feet tall of manure and bedding materials not older than six weeks and top it with soil you will be growing your seedling in, then top that with one of the frame set-ups described above.

The heat generated from the manure will warm the soil and the surrounding air. Seeds

Please see **GARDEN**, page 8

Local fishing holes...



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM



EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



@Wilbraham-Hampden Times

WEB

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Editorial Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 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: Editor, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-682-0013 or via e-mail to krivers@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

Correction Policy

The TIMES will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper and can be substantiated. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on the editorial pages. To request a correction, send information in an e-mail or mailed communication to the editor at the above address listed above.

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc. One year out of town subscriptions are available at \$45, out of state \$50 by calling 800-824-6458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.



Summer Camp

Register Now & Save!

DON'T MISS OUT! REGISTER EARLY! MORE INFO AT BEMENT.ORG/SUMMER

Adventure Awaits You!

Summer camp at The Bement School

Bement camps are a unique day experience for children entering grades k-8.

Arts and crafts, swimming, nature programs, hiking and more. **Lunch is included. Before and after care is available.**



ENROLL IN ALL WEEKS AND GET 7TH WEEK FREE!

SESSION 1: JUNE 17-21
SESSION 2: JUNE 24-28
SESSION 3: JULY 8-12
SESSION 4: JULY 15-19
SESSION 5: JULY 22-26
SESSION 6: JULY 29-AUG 2
SESSION 7: AUG 5-9

Visit Bement.org/summer for more information and to register. Register early!

Enrichment Camps!

Led by faculty and staff from Bement as well as local area experts, enrichment camps are open to campers in a variety of grades. Check the website for specific offerings each week.

Digital Storytelling • Studio Arts & Crafts • Flag Football
Book Blasters & Word Wizards • Bement Does Broadway & more!

Please contact eoneal@bement.org with questions.

Stoneleigh-Burnham School

Summer Camps

in Performing Arts, Debate & Public Speaking

day & residential options available
sbschool.org/summer



Greene Acres Equestrian Center L.L.C.

April Vacation Riding Camp - April 16-18

2024 Summer Riding Sessions

June 25-28 • July 22-25 • July 29-Aug 2
Aug 5-9 • Aug 12-16 • Aug 19-22

9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up

Call to Register (413) 813-9291
53 Ware Road, Belchertown
Email: Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com



Belchertown Kidz Club

TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • SCHOOL AGE

Offering Flexible Care Programs For Kids Ages 18 mo. - 12 yrs.

Open 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. / MONDAY - FRIDAY
Both Full Time & Sibling Discounts

Providing Childcare for 30 years!

NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING/SUMMER/FALL PROGRAMS


KIDZ SUMMER PROGRAM
Ages 5 - 12 yrs. • JUNE 17TH*-AUG. 23RD
10 Themed Weeks • Full & Part Time Options/Single Weeks or All Summer!
Swimming • Field Trips • Close walk to Playgrounds & CHCS Pool
Daily Creative & Educational Indoor/Outdoor Activities!
**Start of camp based on Belchertown School Schedule*


BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE
K-6th Grade • Full & Part-Time • Homework Support
School Bus Pick Up & Drop Off • Indoor & Outdoor Activities

PRESCHOOL Year round program for Ages 3-5 yrs.
Full & Part Time • Choose from Full Day or 3/4 Day Options
Creative Educational Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum

TODDLER Year round program for Ages 2-3 yrs.
Choice of Full Day 7:00-5:00 or 3/4 day option 8:30-2:30
Come Grow, Learn, and Play!

4 Stadler Street • (413) 323-5439
belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com

Follow Us  EEC LICENSED PROGRAM #177446




Co-ed • Grades 1-8
July 1 - August 16

Race into summer at Camp MacDuffie!

Be part of this year's camps and discover the true meaning of summer...having fun and making friends!

Space is limited so don't wait!

Camp MacDuffie offers seven weeks of exciting camp experiences:

Week 1: July 1 - 5	Week 3: July 15 - 19	Week 6: August 5 - 9
Week 2: July 8 - 12	Week 4: July 22 - 26	Week 7: August 12 - 16
Week 5: July 29 - Aug. 2		

Camp programs include:
Arts • Athletics • Coding • Science • Dance • Lego's • And More!

Monday-Friday 9am-3pm • Area fields trips and lunch included
Extended care available if needed 7:30am-5pm

Register now for summertime fun at MacDuffie.org/summer-camp

The MacDuffie School • 66 School Street • Granby, MA 01033 • 413.255.0000 Ext.110



SUMMER STREAMS AT PVCA

A STATE OF THE ART SUMMER PROGRAM IN WESTERN MA SERVING THE COMMUNITY WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

- SPORTS CLINICS
- COOKING & NUTRITION
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- CODING AND ROBOTICS
- WORSHIP SONGWRITING
- CARTOONING/COMICS
- STOP MOTION ANIMATION
- DANCE & MUSIC
- CRAFTS AND MORE!

WEEKLY FIELD TRIPS AND LUNCH ARE INCLUDED FOR OUR FULL DAY PROGRAM FOR GRADES K-8

INTRODUCING OUR PRESCHOOL 1/2 DAY PROGRAM!

SPACES ARE LIMITED! LEARN MORE AND REGISTER TODAY AT:
413-782-8031
PVCAMA.ORG/STREAMS




THOMPSONS QUALITY INSTRUCTION SINCE 1981

SUMMER GYMNASTICS

WWW.THOMPSONSGYM.COM



Fun Summer Programs

FOR 3 YEAR OLDS AND UP

p:413-532-0374 e:tgymnastic@aol.com

200 OLD LYMAN RD., SOUTH HADLEY

HISTORICAL from page 1

75,000 volunteers for three months. On April 20, 1861 Charles E. Buell, of Wilbraham was the first man to answer the call and enlisted. And when his three months were completed, he re-enlisted into the 10th Massachusetts Infantry.

The Peach Industry

It has been a while since the heyday of the Peach Festivals but it is good to remember that Wilbraham was a farming town, raising dairy cattle, turkeys, chickens, market gardens and, of course, peaches.

As the population of town grew with the post-war baby boom, former farmland became home to housing developments as land for farming shrank. No one knew this more than Jesse Rice of Rice's Fruit Farm who started to see some land that had been orchards become home to new houses.

A look through town archives shows just how strong growing peaches has been for the town.

The beginning of peaches grown in town has been attributed to 1876 when Albert Bliss and his son, Ethelbert set out 100 peach trees to see if they could take root. There were some up and down years for the Bliss family and fellow peach farmer William R. Sessions.

Ethelbert tried again in 1894, but this time he was more successful according to the "History of Wilbraham" edited by Charles Merrick. In a few years, Ethelbert had 25 thriving acres of peach trees. Wilbraham became known for its succulent peaches. Ethelbert was long-lived, born in 1852 he died Dec. 19, 1951 at the age of 99 and is buried in Adams Cemetery.

In his book Peck pointed out that grower Lee Rice had the largest crop in town in 1911 selling 9,600 baskets. But,

**64 Years Ago
Riding Stables
Damaged by Fire**

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From a March 12, 1960 edition: "A tack building was badly damaged and its contents was destroyed at Martin's Riding Stables, 553 Springfield St., Wilbraham Friday afternoon as firemen worked two and a half hours in freezing temperatures to bring a roaring hayloft blaze under control.

Harry Martin, operator of the stables, led 14 horses to safety after calling firefighters to the scene. The blaze apparently started near an overheated coal stove. Heavy traffic snarled Springfield St. traffic for 30 minutes as firemen battled the stubborn blaze."

there were more good times and bad times. The devastating 1938 Hurricane wrought havoc on the peach orchards. In the Merrick book, author S. Edward Ronk tells a story about Lee Rice, who, just prior to the hurricane, was attending a meeting of fruit growers and listening to a professor lecture about peach agriculture.

"The professor asked Mr. Rice how much it cost him to produce a basket of peaches. Mr. Rice replied: "Anywhere from a few cents to \$500. Three years ago I had a heavy crop and it cost me only a few cents a basket. Last year it cost me

\$3,000 to care for the orchards and I had just six baskets of peaches."

In 1894 when Ethelbert Bliss was struggling, trying to get the peach crop off the ground there was another coincidence in the Center Village going on at the same time. The Soldier's Monument, also known as the Civil War Statue, was erected in 1894 in Crane Park.

Soldiers Monument

After the Civil War ended and the surviving soldiers from Wilbraham came home, prominent physician Dr. Stebbins Foskit thought of the idea of erecting a monument to preserve their memory for future generations.

Foskit died before he could complete the process but his widow, Lucia S. Foskit, was able to make it happen. Witnessed by 300 citizens, it was dedicated on the Fourth of July, 1894, a full 29 years after the war ended, by the Springfield Grand Army of the Republic Post. After the ceremonies Peck wrote, there was, "a collation (light meal) served in the Congregational Church."

A few years ago I did some research on why towns in the North waited so long to erect memorial statues to their fallen Civil War dead after the war was over. The closest answer I came to was that in the North, and the South, Civil War veterans were starting to die off as cities and towns prepared to enter the 20th century. Many of the memorials to them, erected in town squares like Crane Park, were urged on by Confederate veterans' widows in the South as well as those wives and girlfriends left behind by fallen soldiers of the Union Army.

Peck maintained that Crane Park was the exact geographic center of the town. He wrote that it is the site of the birthplace of Lucinda Brewer Crane who was married to Zenas Crane of the famous Crane

Paper Company of Dalton, Mass.; which provides the paper for U.S. currency bills for centuries.

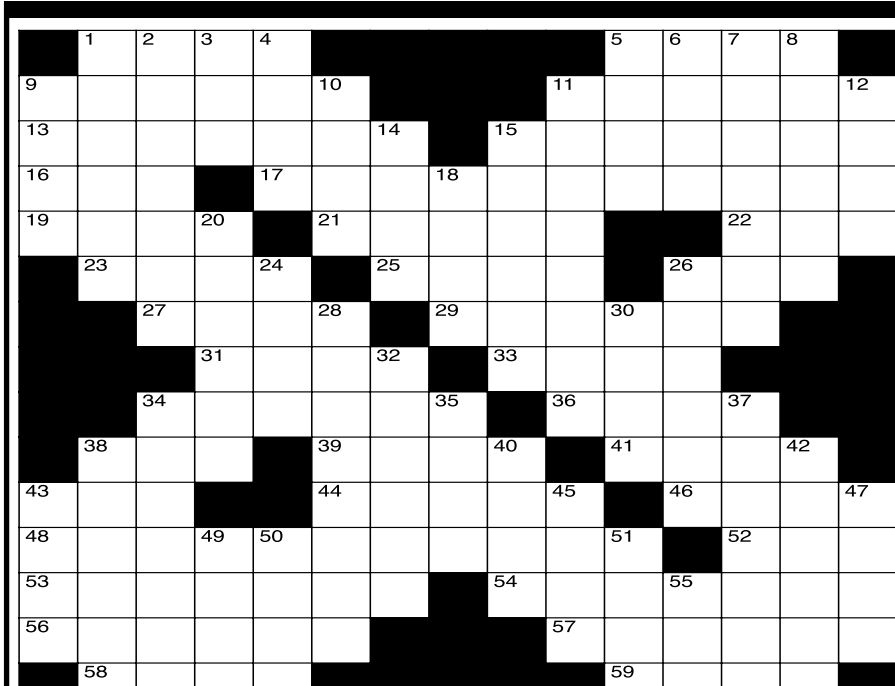
The inscription on the monument reads: "To the men of Wilbraham who served their country in the war which preserved the Union and destroyed slavery. This monument is erected to perpetuate the memory of their patriotic service. 1861 - 1865. Erected by Lucia Stebbins in the name of her husband, S. Foskit M.D. 1894."

The expense of the monument, which cost \$2,500, was borne by the veteran soldiers themselves. The names of all the Wilbraham soldiers were engraved on three panels. Peck is one of the soldiers whose name is engraved with four others under the listing of the 1st Mass. Cavalry on one of the four panels. But like many American veterans who saw combat in battles from World War I to Afghanistan, he didn't want to talk about his experiences of the 34 recorded battles he was in.

Peck only wrote about riding and camping with his "chum" and their horses with his cavalry unit 30 miles south of Gettysburg. He said, "I shall not attempt to give any account of that dreadful war between the states..."

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; Chauncey Peck who wrote "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913. Wikipedia. "Historical Address, Centennial Celebration, Town of Wilbraham" by Rufus P. Stebbins, D.D., 1864. "The Timetables of History" by Bernard Grun, a Touchstone Book published by Simon & Schuster.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbennett4765@charter.net.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chaps
- 5. Currently fashionable
- 9. Collision
- 11. More slim
- 13. European city
- 15. Implicitly
- 16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
- 17. The Mount Rushmore State
- 19. Gold or silver wire cord
- 21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
- 22. Trent Reznor's band
- 23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
- 25. Broken branch
- 26. Indicates ten
- 27. Expression of annoyance
- 29. Brings together
- 31. Ancient city in Thrace
- 33. Sailors' spirit
- 34. Looked into
- 36. Muckraking woman
- 38. A type of cast journalist Rheta
- 39. One's responsibility
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 48. Beheaded
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Unwise
- 54. Most supernatural
- 56. "Dennis" is a famous one

CLUES DOWN

- 57. Ointments
- 58. Exam
- 59. Leaked blood
- 20. Embellished with expressions
- 24. Infrequent
- 26. Temperature unit
- 28. Hydrophilic amino acid
- 30. Honk
- 32. Legislative body
- 34. Swinish
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Take over for
- 38. Put in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Dutch cheese
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Strong insects
- 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 50. Ancient people of Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Sick

GARDEN from page 6

should germinate easily and readily.

It's important not to set up your hot bed too early - mid April to early May is perfect because you will still need to be past the frost free date before planting the seedlings you've grown into the garden. Hot beds take a little trial and error, but are worth the experiment.

When we used them at OSV, the seedlings grown within were always greener and sturdier than those I provided from our fancy greenhouse!

It was fun to think about getting a head start. Soon enough, soon enough!

Over the last decade, tremendous gains have been made in rose breeding, resulting in rose bushes that blend well

into landscape plantings and require less maintenance for the homeowner. I still enjoy my heirlooms, and grow the Rugosa to remind me of the beach.

Still others prefer climbers or hybrid teas. Whatever your sweetheart may fancy, indulge this Valentine's Day in a gift that will keep on giving!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

ROBERTS ROOFS
SPECIALIZING IN
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing
Snow Removal
Snow/Ice Damage Repair
Tel. 413-283-4395
Cell 413-237-9434
www.RobertsRoofsInc.com Trusted Name Since 1982

LOCAL KETONE PROMOTER
Call For Information
413-813-2391
Leave Message
Check Out Facebook at
Denise Dubowski
Save Up To 25% OFF
Retail Prices

Wilbraham-Hampden Times
OBITUARY POLICY
Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.
Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.
Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



Dillon and Brady Noonan of 3 Brothers Maple working on a new batch of maple syrup inside their shack in Wilbraham.



A close-up shot of 3 Brothers Maple Syrup created by brothers Brady, Dillon and Ethan Noonan of Wilbraham.



Dillon Noonan checks buckets to see how much sap has been collected from maple trees as part of the maple syrup making process for 3 Brothers Maple.



Brady Noonan adds firewood inside the firebox as he and his brothers work on their maple syrup.



Ethan Noonan with the evaporator inside the 3 Brothers Maple shack in Wilbraham.

3 BROTHERS from page 1

maple syrup in local restaurants and stores.

“So the glass is, you can see what your product is. You can’t see in a plastic container. So, we’re able to see into the glass containers to go, ‘Okay, look it. That’s all that’s in there. There’s nothing being added, nothing to hide,’” he said.

Ethan Noonan’s favorite part of making syrup is seeing the wild animals while collecting the buckets.

“It’s just so fun to see them and see how they’ll react to you by seeing you and just see how big they are actually in person,” Ethan Noonan said. “That’s something I really love.”

For Dillon Noonan, being out in nature also provides an opportunity for education.

“Phones and technology can be fun, but you can be

outside and you’ll learn a bunch of things. I’m just fascinated by everything outside, absolutely everything. You never stop learning, especially when you’re in nature,” he said.

Jess Noonan, the brothers’ mom, expressed pride at her sons’ endeavor, explaining they also open the shack to family, friends, neighbors and the community to watch the maple syrup get boiled.

She stressed the importance of roots, whether rooted in nature, the community or in the room while making the maple syrup.

“I think there’s a comforting feeling to doing something or experiencing something that our grandparents experienced or our family who came before us experienced,” she said. “And so we find that it’s more of a gathering activity than anything. Traditionally, when our ancestors’ syrup and did sugaring, it was pretty much a community and family experience anyway because it

was all hands on deck. They need all those hands to do all those steps of the process. So, I find it interesting that now, when we do this, people tend to draw back into that experience.”

Dillon Noonan hopes residents understand how amazing fresh maple syrup is.

“It’s natural. It’s a healthier alternative. It comes straight from the trees and all you have to do is boil it and you get syrup. I think it’s really amazing,” he said.

He also wants people to see the beauty that’s right in front of them.

“The message I want for Wilbraham is if you just take the time to open your eyes and look at what’s in front of you, a lot of opportunities will come your way,” he said.

To learn more, check out their Facebook page at @3BrothersMaple.



A close-up shot of maple syrup going into a bucket after its been processed in an evaporator the brothers behind 3 Brothers Maple use to create their maple syrup.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!		INFLATION	PRICE BUSTERS	PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!		
USDA INSP. BONE-IN CHULETA KAN KAN	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIB EYE	CUT FREE \$8.29 lb	WHOLE OR HALF	USDA INSP. FROZEN CORNED BEEF \$1.99 lb	
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS	\$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS	\$8.88 lb		USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 TURKEY BREAST	\$1.29 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER-CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS	\$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN 80% LEAN GROUND FRESH DAILY GROUND BEEF	\$3.66 lb	7 LB BAG	Lenten Specials	
SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN HOG MAW (PORK STOMACH)	\$2.99 lb		USDA INSP. 12 OZ BAG ORANGE ROUGHY FILLET	\$2.99 ea
USDA INSP. FRESH SOUP (FOWL) CHICKEN.....	\$1.49 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF SOUP BONES.....	\$2.29 lb		USDA INSP. FROZEN TRADE WINDS CALAMARI TUBE & TENTACLES 2 LB BOX	\$6.99 ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN HOG MAW (PORK STOMACH)	\$2.99 lb				USDA INSP. FROZEN 21/25 CT. COOKED SHRIMP 1 LB BAG.....	\$6.99 ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF SOUP BONES.....	\$2.29 lb				90 Meat Outlet	
					90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com	
					HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3	
					SALE DATES: 3/7/24-3/13/24 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE We reserve the right to limit quantities.	

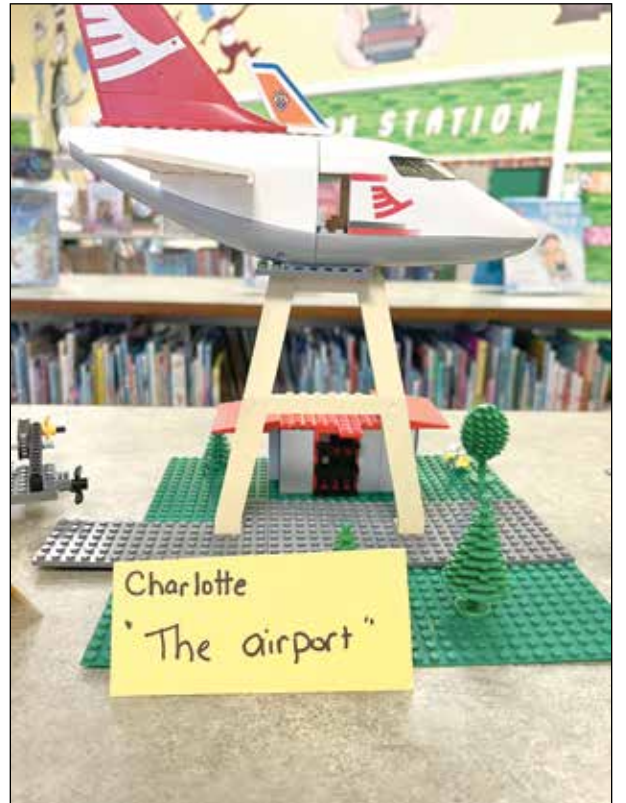
A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club President Don Flannery (left) presents a gift to Prasad Menon, a longtime Rotarian from the Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club in Connecticut, who spoke at the club's Feb. 28 meeting at La Cucina in Hampden. Menon is a Past District Governor and Chair of Rotary's Peace Efforts, having served the District as Community Service Chair, Finance Committee Chair, Finance Oversight Committee Chair and District Polio Plus Chair. Also, Menon has been serving as District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair and is the recipient of the Rotary's highest "Service Above Self" Award.
Photo submitted by Don Flannery

Life in & WILBRAHAM

Readers are encouraged to send in medium to high resolution photos for this page by e-mail to krivers@turley.com or mail to TIMES, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Please note that if you send us a photo of the Times in different parts of the world, please include a recognizable landmark in the background. Examples: Eiffel Tower; castle in Spain.



The Lego Club got imaginative during their Feb. 15 meeting where they created their own miniature Lego buildings including a police station, jungle, a museum, airport and many more. The club meets again on March 14. Photos courtesy of Hampden Free Public Library

THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU



THE WILBRAHAM SHOPS • 2341 BO

TUESDAY – FRIDAY: 10AM – 5PM
SATURDAY: 10AM – 4PM

413-599-1717

www.scentedgardengifts.com

Like us on Facebook: @TheScentedGarden

Instagram: @ScentedGardenWilbraham

Come shop locally at the Scented Garden Gift Shoppe in Wilbraham.

We have unique and thoughtful gifts for all your spring occasions.

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Community Bulletin Board

.....

**Send us in
your announcements!**
Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.

**We will pick one each week to run here free of charge,
please keep it to less than 50 words.
Please send to krivers@turley.com**



A Creation Station event on Feb. 22 during February school vacation week was a big hit with children creating their own fun creations through a drop-in art studio or Legos. The event was presented by the Green Meadows Elementary School PTO. Photos courtesy of Hampden Free Public Library

AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:

BOSTON ROAD, WILBRAHAM, MA



- New Spring Apparel & Accessories
- Easter Gifts
- Mother's Day
- Graduations
- Weddings, Birthdays & More



**Complimentary
Gift Wrapping
Provided**

MARKEL from page 1

up here and having your knowledge such an asset for our local community and is so greatly appreciated," Ashe said.

Ashe added Markel served the town of Hampden and Hampden County well during his tenure.

"We're thrilled to be here for you," Ashe said.

Oliveira echoed Ashe's sentiments in his reflections.

"When you find a good town manager or administrator, you want to do everything that you can to keep them and, clearly, Bob, coming here and wanting to spend just a few months, originally, and sticking out for four and a half years is a testament of not just how well you mesh with the community and understand it, but also because of the fact that you bring a whole significant experience under your belt coming into the job," Oliveira said.

Oliveira said Markel's prior experience as mayor of Springfield helped him "understand the challenges facing municipalities from both a city level, a suburban level and here at the smaller scale in a community of just under 5,000 people."

"It's important that you work with a good board and having three members on the Select Board that want to work with you, that understand the concerns and want to keep you here is a testament to your work ethic," Oliveira said.

Selectmen Chair Donald Davenport told Markel, "It was wonderful having you here."

"You've done great for the town," Davenport said. "I'm going to miss you."

Craig Rivest also shared his thanks.

"Thank you for getting us through the difficult times," Rivest said.



State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Retiring Town Administrator Bob Markel and State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow) with citations from the Massachusetts State House and Senate recognizing Markel's four and a half years of service to Hampden.

Markel later expressed his gratitude.

"I leave with a good feeling towards the town and its people and those who are in government, the department heads as well as the elected people," Markel said. "I think things worked pretty well here."

Another item of note was an update from Senior Center Building Committee member Gary Weiner.

Weiner explained the update followed up from last week's meeting, where the committee explained the status of renovation costs, having finalized a design with a consultant.

"The committee is in a position where they felt that we need to go out to the community and to basically let the community as a whole know what's going with regard to the senior center," Weiner said.

Weiner said the committee

would like to hold two public forums at the senior center with a presentation and tour.

The first public forum is tentatively scheduled for March 21 at 6 p.m. at the senior center.

"What we would request from the Selectmen...to the town administrator, that we get a robocall done to inform the citizens of that meeting. Hopefully, the Monday before, so that it gives them a little bit of time to get themselves scheduled if they're going to attend," Weiner said.

Weiner also suggested inviting the town's department and committee heads to attend "to know what we're doing and why we're doing it" and "discuss the dollars and cents."

"Hopefully we get a great turnout," Weiner said.

No vote took place as the item was an update and request.

PET OF THE MONTH Meet Dory!

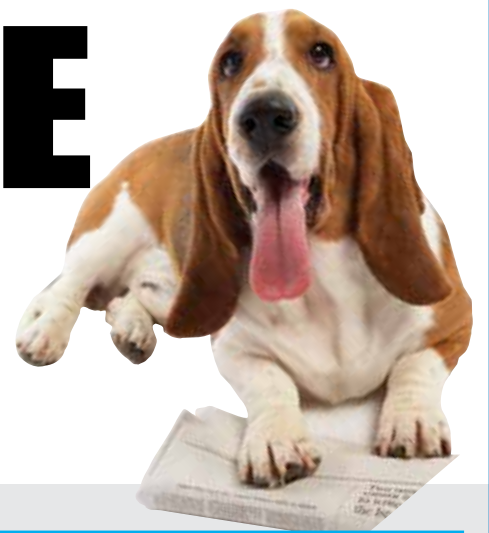
She is a Miniature Australian Shepherd. She was 14 weeks old in this picture and is now 1 year old. She enjoys chewing things and playing with her sister Riley. She is loved by Guy and Ann Egan of Springfield.



PET PAGE

READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our "Pet of the Month" and receive a free weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care. Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet's name.



Porter Road Pet Care
141 Porter Road
East Longmeadow MA
413-525-3532

www.porterroadpetcare.com

- Day Care
- Boarding
- Web Cams
- Air Conditioning
- Large Indoor/Outdoor Accommodations
- Playtime Available-fenced in 1/4 acre lot
- SPA Services Available
- Bathing
- Haircuts
- Maincures

Save \$5 on Daycare, Grooming or Boarding Services

Limit 1 coupon per pet. Expires 3/31/24



Serving Wilbraham & Surrounding Area
Private & Small Group Classes Available
AKC Certified
413-246-0859

Spring Classes For Obedience & Structured Socialization Starting Now! Call For Details.

- Private training in your home or my Wilbraham facility
- Socialization classes
- Intro to your puppy or new rescue training
- Basic obedience, life and manners training
- Environmental training



6 Things Cats Hate

PART 2

What's bothering your cat could very well be something that bothers you, too. You could unknowingly be making some mistakes regarding these things cats hate.

Cats Hate Overly Aggressive Petting There are only certain areas a cat will allow you to pet—and if you pet the wrong part, it will hiss, scratch, or bite. Cats can be extremely sensitive to tactile stimuli, so it's important to be aware of where and how you're petting them. Cats groom each other on the head and neck—and dislike "full-body" pets down the length of their backs. Stick to the areas around its head and neck only. Pay close attention to its behavior and body signals to understand acceptable and unacceptable petting.

Cats Hate Loud Noises Thunderstorms, arguments, fireworks, loud noises, and commotion can seriously stress your cat out. Chronic stress from loud noises can cause a number of behavioral and health issues, including skittishness, aggression, or depression, as well as hair loss, lack of appetite, and over-grooming. Try to limit your cat's exposure to loud noises. Keep it in a quiet, safe space when guests are over or during bad weather and avoid playing very loud music or cranking up the volume on the TV.

Cats Hate Yucky Medicine When feeling lousy, the last thing a cat wants is to be force fed some yucky tasting medicine. It is much easier for both of you to make the experience a bit more palatable. First, train your cat to be comfortable having its face and mouth handled; associate the sensations with something positive by rewarding it with a small treat. Then, establish a medication schedule, so it knows what to expect and when. If you're still having issues with administering pills, there are lots of soft treats with pockets designed for holding pills.



ELDOTC
East Longmeadow Dog Obedience Training Club
Classes held at

546 Main Street, Hampden, MA

Classes held every Monday-Thursday evenings



Start Your Puppy or Rescue Off Right With Obedience Training at ELDOTC!

Obedience Training - Beginner to Utility

[Facebook.com/eastlongmeadowdogobedience](https://www.facebook.com/eastlongmeadowdogobedience)

For Information or to Register

Call (413) 355-0553

eastlongmeadowdogobedience.com

We Teach You How to Train Your Dog!

WILBRAHAM Animal Hospital

- Andrew R. Hersman, DVM
- Lynn Dgetluck, DVM
- William D. Anderson, DVM
- Hannah Belcher-Timme, DVM
- Denise Chiminiello, DVM
- Leah Guidry, DVM
- Madison Harris, DVM
- Nicholas Schipper, DVM



Now Accepting New Patients!

Wilbraham Animal Hospital
2424 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA
413.596.8395

wilbrahamanimalhospital.com

East Springfield Veterinary Hospital
525 Page Blvd., Springfield, MA
413.739.6389 • esvhospital.com
(Less than 1 mile from Rt. 291)
Open Evenings & Saturdays



Ray Hoess-Brooks, owner/broker at HB Real Estate, cuts the ribbon in excitement to celebrate the opening of the HB Real Estate Wilbraham office on Feb. 29.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

From the left, Jeff Hoess-Brooks, Ray Hoess-Brooks, owner/broker at HB Real Estate, Cheryl Spinks, district director for State Rep. Angelo Puppulo Jr. (D-Springfield), Cheryl Malandrinos, realtor at HB Real Estate, Jennifer Pickering, district director for State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Karen Kirby, owner/broker at HB Real Estate, and Alan Catrett, owner/broker at HB Real Estate, in a group photo during the grand opening of the HB Real Estate Wilbraham office on Feb. 29.

HB REAL ESTATE from page 2

the importance of embracing community and giving back as part of their business's mission.

Malandrinos is part of the board for Rick's Place, a social service organization providing free grief support services named in honor of Rick Thorpe, a Wilbraham resident who died on 9/11.

"The great thing about HB Real Estate is they're so supportive of community organizations like Rick's Place," Malandrinos said.

"Kane's Crusade," Kirby added.

Hoess-Brooks added the realtors at HB hold random pop-up meetings at local restaurants and businesses to support them too.

"We're looking forward to that also," Hoess-Brooks said.

Kirby said connecting with first-time home buyers fulfills her work at HB.

"Those are always the most exciting at the end, because you're helping somebody start their life. Start to build generational wealth, wealth within themselves. It's rewarding," Kirby said.

Malandrinos shared the office's goals for the first six months include adding more seasoned agents, getting

more involved in the community and spreading the word about HB.

"It needs to be understood that real estate professionals bring a lot of value and that's what we always display every day and help to educate the public, to let them know that we're here for them, to answer their questions," Malandrinos said.

Hoess-Brooks, Kirby and Malandrinos thanked the community for welcoming them and encouraged them to stop by.

"We're here," Kirby said.

"We're super excited to be here and we cannot wait to get our hands in this community and it's going to be fabulous," Hoess-Brooks said.

"The support here was amazing. We've had such a huge crowd and we are so blessed and humbled by the support coming into Wilbraham," Malandrinos said.

To learn more, contact Malandrinos at 413-676-5751, visit HBRealEstate.net or check them out on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.



A crowd shot of the many realtors of HB Real Estate raising their hands in celebration as their Wilbraham office location officially opens on Feb. 29.

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

Affordable Waste Solutions
Your Hometown Provider for
Rolloff and Front Load Dumpster Service

413-244-1943

A portion of every rental is donated to Breast Cancer Research

Get To Know
Our
Great Service

Family
Owned And Operated
Since 1935

Pretty Picky People Pick Park Cleaners

- We now offer Wash & Fold service on premise.
- Comforters & Draperies
- Dry Cleaning
- Tablecloths & Napkins
- Laundered Shirts
- Minor Repairs & Alterations
- Fancy Dresses & Gowns
- Pick-up & Delivery to home or office.

"We get stains out like it never happened."

Ask about special pricing for first responders and our pre-pay discount

2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

262 Allen St., Springfield
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am-6 pm, Sat. 9 am - 3 pm

464 Main Street, Wilbraham
Mon. - Fri. 8am - 5pm, Sat. 9am - 1pm

413-279-3222 • parkcleaners413.com

POST Computer Systems

Repairs • Upgrades
New & Used Equipment • Trade-ins

Where Technology Has Met It's Match

Expert support beyond the sale for small businesses, home offices, family systems, mobile professionals and everyone in between is what separates POST from all the rest.

2785 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095
413-596-5177 • www.pocosys.com

Edward Jones

Christopher O'Connor
Financial Advisor
2141 Boston Rd Suite G
Wilbraham, MA 01095
413-596-6875

MKT-5894N-A > edwardjones.com

Your Hometown Dry Cleaners
Family owned and operated since 1935

GET TO KNOW OUR GREAT SERVICE

Ask about special pricing for first responders

15% OFF DRY CLEANING when you pre-pay!

262 Allen St., Springfield
Mon.-Fri. 8am-6pm, Sat. 8am-3pm
Sun. 9am-2pm

2 Convenient Locations

464 Main St., Wilbraham
Mon.-Fri. 8am-4pm, Sat. 9am-1pm
Sun. closed

413-736-5476 • parkcleaners413.com

Events & announcements schedule

Gentle Flow Yoga Class at Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM - Certified Instructor Michelle Bouchard will lead a light and rejuvenating yoga class at the Wilbraham Public Library on Saturday, March 9 at 10 a.m. Participants ages 18+ will explore breathing practices, mindfulness and meditation techniques and a physical approach to sustainable exercise. All skill levels are welcome. Please bring your own yoga mat and dress comfortably. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, please contact the library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org. This free program is sponsored 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 to meet March 14

WILBRAHAM - The March meeting of the Wilbraham Women's Club will be held on March 14 at Noon in the Parish

Center at St. Cecilia Church on Main Street. Sandwiches and dessert will be served.

The speaker for the day will be Jen, who is the owner of the Flower Shed in Wilbraham's Post Office Park. Jen will be holding a workshop for us at this meeting. She will teach us how to make a lovely succulent to enjoy in our homes. The cost for this meeting will be \$10 and reservations are needed. Please call Michele Axtmann at 413-596-3325 or Linda Raffa at 413-596-8245.

Wilbraham history books available at Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM - A limited number of copies of the Wilbraham History and Culture Volume IV, 1963-2013 Sestercentennial Edition are available free of charge while supplies last. Copies can be picked up at the Wilbraham Public Library's service desk. Please call 596-6141 if you wish to reserve a copy. This edition of Wilbraham's history was published in 2015 as a part of the town's 250th Anniversary Celebration.

Wilbraham Junior Women's Club Scholarship

WILBRAHAM - The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. In keeping with who we are, The Wilbraham Junior Women's Club is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a Minnechaug High School graduating senior who will be attending a two-year, four-year or other accredited institution of higher learning.

Applications are available in the Minnechaug Regional High School Guidance Office.

Completed applications must be postmarked by March 25 and mailed to: Wilbraham Junior Women's Club, Attention Scholarship committee, PO Box 14, Wilbraham, MA 01095

Rotary Scholarship applications now available

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club Scholarship Committee, has announced that applications for the 2024 Rotary Club scholarships are now available in the Guidance Departments of Minnechaug Regional High School, Wilbraham & Monson Academy and Pope Francis Preparatory School.

Applications are due no later than April 1, 2024. The scholarships are available to qualified high school students who are residents of Wilbraham or Hampden.

The club will again award nine scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,500. Applications may also be obtained from Brad Sperry by calling 413-537-4171.

Wilbraham Women's Club to Award Scholarships

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Women's Club will be awarding several \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors who are residents of Wilbraham or Hampden and who will be attending a four-year college or university.

The criteria considered are academic achievement, character and leadership. Applications are available in the Guidance Office at Minnechaug Regional High School. For those attending other high schools, please email Mrs. Teed, at rae.teed@gmail.com. All applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 26, 2024, to be considered.

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.

Town Clerk: Nomination papers are available

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Town Clerk Carole J. Tardif is announcing that nomination papers are available in her office by calling 596-2800 ext. 200 and setting up an appointment. The last day to obtain nomination papers is Wednesday, March 27, 2024, for the Annual Town Election scheduled for May 18, 2024.

The positions being voted that day are Selectman for three years, Town Clerk for three years, Moderator for three years, Assessor for three years, two Regional School Committee members for three years, Cemetery Commissioner for three years, Water Commissioner for three years, two Library Trustees for three years, one Planning Board Member for five years.

The deadline for submission to the Registrars for certification is Friday, March 29, 2024, at 5 p.m. Town Clerk's office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 50 signatures from registered Wilbraham voters are required to have a name listed on the ballot as a candidate. A letter stating the candidate's name, address and the office being sought must be submitted at the time of the request to the Town Clerk. Contact the Town Clerk's Office at 596-2800, ext. 200 if you have any questions.

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 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 francaise 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.



In my last article, I wrote about how our immune response changes as we age, and about using nutrition and supplements to enhance it. There are other steps we can take to strengthen our immune systems besides vitamins and eating a healthy diet.

In general, the rules we want to follow to live a long, productive life are the same rules that strengthen your immune system. Don't smoke; maintain a healthy weight; drink alcohol in moderation or not at all; exercise; get enough sleep, reduce stress; and see your doctor regularly to keep up to date on vaccines. Let's look at some of these in more detail.

Smoking and increased use of alcohol affect our immune system by disrupting the cells that give us immunity and fight off infection. Both affect the lungs - smoking directly by causing damage to the lung tissue itself and drinking by reducing the ability of the cells in our lungs to remove germ cells before they cause disease. Both also affect our digestive system, (gut health is a current term seen in ads) by reducing the amount of "good bacteria" in our colons. There are cells in the lining of our intestines that regulate what gets absorbed instead of passed through and they are affected by the balance and types of bacteria in our colons.

How exercise helps immunity has been studied less, but there are theories as to why it helps. Physical activity may help flush bacteria and viruses out of our airways. It causes changes in antibodies and white blood cells, which help fight disease. Exercise slows down the release of stress hormones. Stress hormones increase inflammation. It doesn't have to be rigorous to help. Taking a 20-30 minute walk most days is more effective than a three hour hike once a week. There is a recent study from Harvard University that seems to show certain cells in muscles that fight inflammation there and elsewhere in the body are increased and work more quickly in mice who were exercised regularly. Though

it hasn't yet been studied in humans, it goes along with the idea of folks who stay more active tend to be healthier than those who are sedentary.

Stress can affect our immune system in a couple of ways. When we are stressed, our bodies produce a chemical called cortisol, which can increase inflammation. It decreases the number of lymphocytes, or white blood cells that help fight off infection. The effects of stress are seen most often in chronic diseases such as lupus, IBS and fibromyalgia. But often when we are stressed, we eat poorly, or drink more or don't get enough sleep and all those things affect immune response.

Finally, sleep. Sleep deprivation, whether chronic or short-term, is a serious health problem which seems to be growing. We know that sleep helps our brains retain learning and memory, but studies are showing that sleep helps with "immune memory" as well. Different parts of the immune system interact during sleep, and this interaction helps our immune system recognize dangerous cells and fight them off. Experts don't know exactly how it works, but one idea is that since breathing and muscle activity slows down, it frees up energy in our body so the immune system can do its work. Our bodies produce a chemical during sleep that causes inflammation; it seems to be that this "teaches" our bodies how to react to the inflammation caused by infections. Not getting enough sleep, or poor sleep, disturbs the process. Our bodies don't learn to react well, or it may be that our bodies don't have enough time to lower the inflammation to normal and so we wake up with some inflammation present. This type of inflammation, like stress, is seen to be a factor in developing many chronic diseases.

I will be talking more about sleep in the next article. As always, I can be reached at seniorinfo2021@gmail.com.

Diane Weston, RN, BSN
Senior Center Building Committee

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com



Brayden O'Sullivan follows through on a shot.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Falcons falls to Brownies in state tournament opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD—David Newsome took his time getting off the ice following the Division 2 state preliminary round game between the 33rd-seeded Agawam Brownies and the 32nd-seeded Minnechaug Regional Falcons on February 25.

A few minutes earlier the senior defenseman scored a goal in overtime giving the Brownies a thrilling 3-2 victory over the Falcons before a large crowd at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

“This was my last high school hockey game here at Olympia, and I just wanted to take it all in one final time,” Newsome said. “It’s a great feeling, especially scoring my first game-winning goal in a state tournament game. We’re looking forward to moving on to the next round now.”

A year ago, the Brownies season came to an end following a road loss to Medford in the preliminary round.

“This is my first postseason victory as

a varsity hockey coach, which feels very good,” said Agawam head coach Todd Rowley. “We did win a Western Mass. and a state title about ten years ago. It was an outstanding hockey game tonight.”

Agawam won a postseason game for the first time since defeating Westfield, 3-1, in the 2015 Western Mass. Division 3 finals. The Brownies beat South Hadley in the 2013 Division 3A Western Mass. championship game before capturing the state title with a 3-1 win against Grafton High School which was held at Olympia.

The Brownies (12-9) 2023-24 season came to an end four days later following a 7-0 loss at top seeded Tewksbury Memorial in the round of 32.

Newsome, who’s a four year member of the Agawam hockey team, scored his third goal of the season in overtime against Minnechaug. The other six Brownies seniors are Hayden Dupre, Peyton Buffum, Anthony Buoniconti, Brett Eggleston, Drew Scherban, Jake Parolo.

“The seven seniors have been phenomenal this season,” Rowley said. “I’m

Please see **HOCKEY**, page 16

Falcons open state tournament by beating Comp



Kelly Cronin gets the open layup.

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School girls basketball team picked up their 17th win of the season overall as they beat Chicopee Comprehensive in the Round of 32 of the Division 2 State Tournament. In the win, Chaug jumped out to a 14-4 lead and did not look back. Minnechaug got scoring from 10 different players in the game, with Kelly Cronin leading the way with 15 points. The Falcons moved forward in the tournament to the Round of 16 held earlier this week.

Alani Botas attempts a long jump shot.



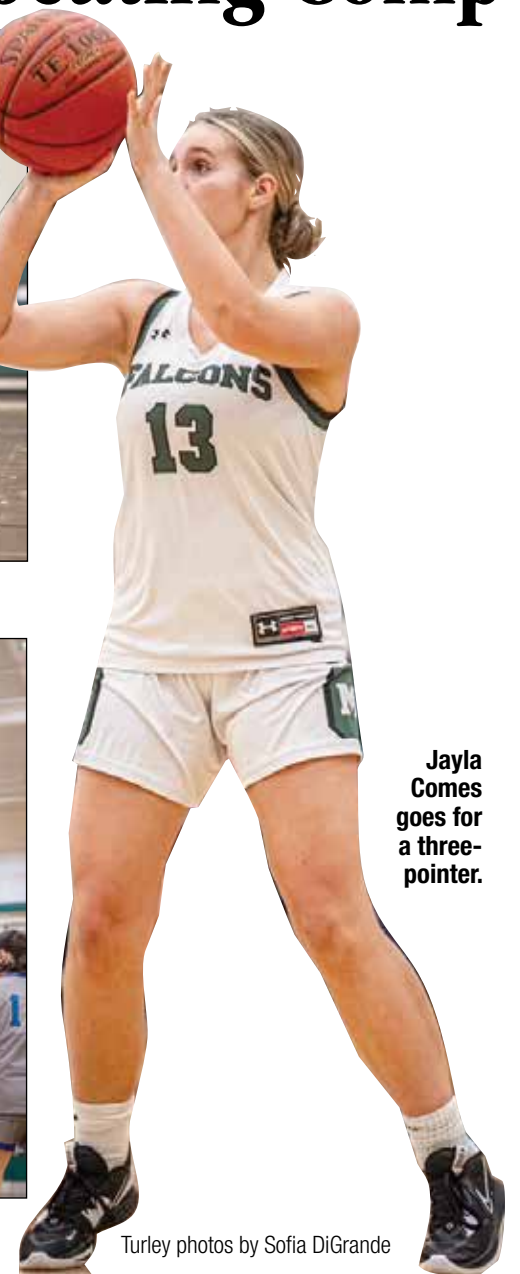
Callin O'Brien picks up a low loose ball.



Elizabeth Woytowicz heads for the left side.



Lylah Jeannotte goes for the layup with a Comp player blocking.



Jayla Comes goes for a three-pointer.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Lawsuit changes brackets in basketball tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

FRANKLIN – Over the years, there have been issues with ineligible player use or other rule-breaking that has led to high school teams being left out of sectional or state tournaments.

This year, however, a school took action and it ended up halting the state tournament and changed opponents for several teams involved.

Oliver Ames High School, which competes in Division 2 in many sports, appealed it being left out of the State Division 2 Boys Basketball tournament due to a paperwork.

According to a representative from the MIAA, schools are required to submit certain paperwork for entrance into the tournament, and Oliver Ames failed to meet the requirement. They were thusly removed from the tournament and did not have a spot when seeds were released on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Some preliminary games in the tournament, of which Oliver Ames would have been a part of due to their projected lower seed, were scheduled to start on Monday, Feb. 26, but the tournament had to be halted due to an injunction being filed by Oliver Ames in a court. The injunction went through and the MIAA was ordered by a judge to include the ousted school in this year's tournament.

"One team from Eastern Mass. was headed for Amherst and had to be turned around because of this," Eric Castonguay, athletic director at South Hadley High School said. "It stopped the whole thing."

While it only affected a handful of teams in Western Mass. Division 2, Amherst and Agawam were among the teams that were locally affected.

Karen Gomez, athletic director at Agawam High School, had to wait until a new opponent was announced in order to schedule her game.

She was originally scheduled to play Tuesday, Feb. 27 and host Bay Path Vocational Technical. That opponent changed when Oliver Ames was inserted into the tournament. Masaconomet ended up visiting Agawam, and luckily, at short notice, agreed to come to Agawam and played at the same time the Bay Path-Agawam game was scheduled for.

Amherst was forced to postpone its game from Monday. One team unaffected was Chicopee Comprehensive, which did not see an opponent change and traveled to Scituate in the Round of 32.

The rest of the tournament went on as scheduled and was in the quarterfinals as of press time.

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.



Ben Daniels tries to corral the puck.



Derek Semanie makes a stop.

HOCKEY from page 15

very happy that they'll be playing another game."

Agawam and Minnechaug didn't face each other during the regular season. Neither team qualified for the Western Mass. tournament.

"We played Minnechaug last year, but we didn't match-up against them during the regular season this year, which is a shame," Rowley said. "They're an outstanding hockey team and they never quit. I know this game would come down to the wire and it could've gone either way."

The Brownies finished the regular season ranked ninth in goals against per game in Division 2.

A lot of credit for that goes to junior goaltender Frankie Disanti and the Brownies defensemen.

Disanti made a total of 22 saves in the preliminary round match.

"I thought Frankie played another great game just like he has all season," Rowley said. "Our defensemen also played very well."

Minnechaug finished their season with an 11-10 overall record.

The Falcons seniors, who played in their final high school game, are Gage Vedovelli, Tim Harrigan, Derek Semanie, Tristen Hottin, Jake Klakotskiy, Mike Roy, Elijah Arel, and Gabe Tassinari, who was the starting goaltender.

"This was the senior's last high school hockey game, which is tough," said Minnechaug head coach Kyle Bousquet. "We kept battling back and anything can happen in overtime."

Newsome, who's an assistant captain, described his first game winning goal.

"It came off a faceoff, and I just shot it at the net from the top of the circle," he said. "I've never scored a game winning goal before."

Rowley gave a lot of credit to junior Landon Ashford for winning the draw in the faceoff.

"It all started with Landon Ashford winning the faceoff," Rowley said. "Then David took a shot, and the puck went into the net."

Agawam juniors Evan Connery and A.J. Robbins were credited with assists on the game winning goal.

Peyton Buffum, who's the Brownies captain, fired a shot into the net past Vedovelli (30 saves) giving his team a 1-0 lead with 6:37 remaining in the first period. Buffum's team leading eleventh goal of the season was assisted by Eggleston and sophomore Tommy Connery.

The Falcons tied the score for the first time a little more than five minutes into the second period when junior Ben Daniels netted his ninth goal of the season. The assist was given to junior Brayden O'Sullivan.

A goal by Tommy Connery, which was assisted by Ashford, gave the Brownies the lead back with less than four minutes remaining in the middle period.

Minnechaug freshman Liam Faneuff, who netted a pair of regular season goals, tied the score for the second time at 2-2 with a breakaway goal five minutes into the third period.

DiSanti made a couple of saves late in the third period, which sent the contest into the eight minute sudden victory overtime period, which is 4-on-4, tied at 2-2.



Nick Garib looks to shoot.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande
Jake Moore sends a wrist shot away.

"I was a little bit nervous during the overtime period," DiSanti said. "It was a back-and-forth game but I'm just glad that my team was able to win it."

The Brownies also had a couple of scoring chances early in the extra session before Newsome became the hero.

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.

Railers lead early, but fall to Lions

WORCESTER – With 21st Century technology being what it is there are letters, numbers and abbreviations for almost everything that happens in hockey.

Almost everything, anyway. There is nothing on the stat sheets for an M.O. That is what the Railers would have registered here Sunday afternoon, a Missed Opportunity.

Worcester led the Trois-Rivieres Lions, 2-0, after the first period then gave up five straight goals over the final 40 minutes and was beaten, 5-2.

The Railers remain in fourth place in the North Division, both in terms of points and winning percentage. They have no cushion, though, and will play at Maine Tuesday morning with a one-point lead on Reading and a two-point edge on the Mariners.

Trois-Rivieres is four points out, not eight, thanks to its victory Sunday.

Worcester got goals from Zach White and Reece Newkirk. It also got 41 saves from John Muse, third most for a Railers goaltender this season.

Nolan Yaremko led the Lions with a hat trick, the second of the season against Worcester. He scored two goals 1:24 apart in the second period then converted a 5 on 3 power play chance at 19:01 of the third period. Jakov Novak and Nicolas Lariviere had the other goals for the visitors.

Joe Vrbetic made 25 saves for Trois-Rivieres in posting his first win in four starts against the Railers this season.

The four Trois-Rivieres goals in the second were scored by, in order:

Novak at 3:18, Lariviere at 4:17, and Yaremko at 11:26 and 12:50. Yaremko’s first goal was on a power play.

The Lions had the better of play in the game’s early going as the Railers were careless in their own zone. With the first period nine minutes old, Trois-Rivieres had an 11-3 edge in shots on goal.

Muse kept it scoreless.

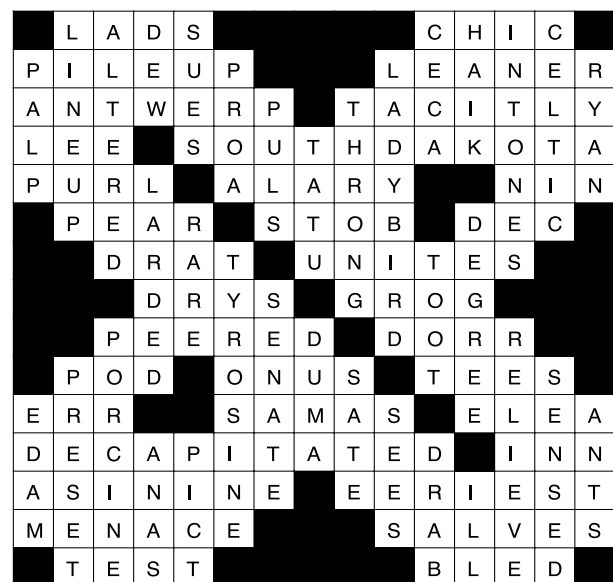
Worcester finally broke through at 17:35 with White scoring his seventh goal of the season. He had been flying throughout the period and outbattled a Lions defenseman in the left corner, then skated into the circle and beat Vrbetic along the ice.

It was White’s first point after an eight-game scoreless drought.

With 1:47 to go in the period, the Lions’ Anthony Beaugard was called for interference by referee Hunter Mottinger. Teammate Brycen Martin was apparently uncivil in his remarks to Mottinger and wound up with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Newkirk made it 2-0 with 21 seconds left in the period, 34 seconds left on the 5-on-3. It was just the Railers’ second 5-on-3 goal of the season.

Worcester was held to nine shots the rest of the way and wound up with a game, and opportunity, lost.



This Week in Rec Spring Sports Registration

WILBRAHAM - As the saying goes, “In like a lion and out like a lamb” spring is definitely on its way. As the weather warms, registrations for spring sports will be up and running. Lacrosse and Track and Field registrations just wrapped up, but Tennis, Volleyball, Pre-K Baseball, and Sport Explorers are approaching soon. Registration for our four-week Pickleball lessons for beginner and intermediate players are also open as well as for the upcoming Doubles Pickleball Tournaments to be held on Saturday March 23 at Memorial School. Additionally, the much-anticipated Spec Day Camp lottery registration runs March 4 – 19. Our 20th Annual Spec-Tacular Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 30 and registration is now open. Also, don’t forget the Annual Falcon 5k Trail Race hosted by the Friends of Rec-

reation on April 14. Registration is on Active.com. Lastly, looking to host a work party, birthday party, or family reunion? Reserve Pinney Pavilion at Spec Pond for your summer event. Dates are filling up quickly! Grab your spring weather gear, and head outside to enjoy the beautiful outdoors.

Furthermore, we have several spring and summer job openings for youth 16 and over. Our seasonal summer employment opportunities include Admissions/Concession workers at Spec Pond, Spec Day Camp Counselors and Junior Counselors, Lifeguards, Program Director and Counselor for Fenway Golf Camp and Baseball/Softball Umpire. Also, we are hiring for Summer Basketball Scorekeepers for those 14 and older. We are also looking to hire a new Spec Day Camp Director and Assistant Director for this coming

summer. If interested, please visit the Town of Wilbraham’s website for more information on all of the current job openings. To apply, print an application from the Town website and drop it off to WPRD before the application deadline listed for each job posting.

Looking ahead to April, all of our summer one-week programs will start registrations on April 2. We offer a variety of different programs from sports, art, science, animation, LEGO, gardening and many more for all ages. You’ll be sure to find something for everyone! Be on the lookout for our one-page insert coming soon in *The Times*.

Please visit WilbrahamRec.com for more details on all of our programs, to register, and to download necessary registration forms.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The third and final round of the candlepin league season rolls on for the Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League.

As of Feb. 20, The Champs R Here, Acres, Compression and the Blue B’s started off the third round at 3-1. Life is Good, Team BK and Last in Line started off the round at 1-3. Compression was the winning team of round one and Life is Good was the winning team of round two.

The Champs R Here bowled against Last in Line on the league night of Feb. 27. In game one, Last in Line won the first game by a score of 364-360. In game two, The Champs got a win of their own by a score of 377-369. Taylor Colkos led the Champs R Here in game two by scoring 107.

In game three, Last in Line won the last game by a score of 394-368. Last in Line won total pinfall by a final score of 1127-1105.

The winners of round two, Life is Good, bowled against the Blue B’s.

In game one, Life is Good defeated Blue B’s by a score of 344-318. In game two, the Blue B’s won by a score 368-348. In game three, Blue B’s won the last game by a score of 379-341.

Mike Zwirecki of Blue B’s bowled a 128 to lead his team to victory.

Blue B’s won total pinfall by a final score of 1065-1033.

Acres bowled against Compression. In game one, Acres won the first game 399-371. Dave Cobleigh of Acres started off the evening with a 113. In game two, Acres won again by a score of 430-333. Cobleigh bested his first game by scoring 136 in game two, his best game of the season.

In game three, Compression won the last game 385-372. Acres won total pinfall by a final score of 1201-1089. Cobleigh’s three game series for the evening totaled 329. Cobleigh’s teammate Matt Bertelli had a consistent night of bowling. Bertelli scored 102, 106 and 106.

Thursday Night Mixed League
The Thursday Night Mixed League bowled their last league night in the month of February.

Team Two bowled against the round one winning team, Team Six. In game one, Team Two defeated

Team Six in a close first game, 397-390. In game two, Team Six returned the favor and won game two by one pin, 394-393. In game three, Team Six won the last game by a score of 412-399.

Team Six won total pinfall by a final score of 1196-1189.

Team Three bowled against Team Five. In game one, Team Five won the first game 421-367. In game two, Team Three won the second game by a score of 418-403. Tyler Moore of Team Three led the team by scoring 110.

In game three, Team Three won the last game of the evening 408-372. Moore repeated his second game by scoring 110 in game three.

Thanks to a big lead after game one, Team Five managed to win total pinfall by a final score of 1196-1193.

Team Four bowled against Team One. In game one, Team Four won the first game by a score of 395-393. In game two both teams tied at 403. In game three, Team Four won the last game by a score of 420-417. Sean Comerford and Kris Rickson of Team One finished strong by scoring 112 and 113.

Team Four won total pinfall by a final score of 1218-1213.

T-Birds suffer loss to Isles

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (25-24-3-2) could not overcome a 3-0 hole in the opening period as the Bridgeport Islanders (18-29-6-1) skated off as 4-1 winners at the MassMutual Center on Sunday before a seventh straight sellout crowd of 6,793.

Not even a minute into the festivities, both Sam Bitten & Will Bitten got the Thunderdome engaged in the game with a pair of fighting majors in bouts against Seth Helgeson and Eetu Liukas respectively. However, the Islanders held a sizable edge in offensive zone time, and that translated into an early lead for the visitors.

At the 9:10 mark, Ruslan Iskhakov artfully slipped the puck to Matt Maggio in the left-wing circle, where the rookie swiftly moved the puck from backhand to forehand and uncorked a perfect wrist shot under the crossbar past Colten Ellis to make it

1-0 for Bridgeport.

The penalty parade continued as two separate Springfield players were whistled for penalties just 45 seconds apart, opening the door for Bridgeport’s power play. On the ensuing two-man advantage, Ellis made a save on an initial try by William Dufour, but Carsen Twarynski was positioned perfectly to slide the rebound home to make it a 2-0 score at 11:18.

In the final minute of the period, Brian Pinho further bolstered the Islander lead when he sidestepped a hit attempt before beating Ellis between the legs with a snapper at 19:23.

After being outshot 18-5 in the first, the T-Birds responded with some pushback in the second, but rookie Bridgeport goalie Henrik Tikkanen was steady in the crease. Mikhail Abramov finally dented the young goaltender at 12:11 when he deposited a loose puck in the blue

paint after a Jakub Vrana slapper squeaked through Tikkanen’s equipment. Abramov’s second goal in as many days cut the margin to 3-1.

The T-Birds’ best chance to get closer came in the middle portions of the third period, when back-to-back Bridgeport penalties handed Springfield a 5-on-3 advantage. However, Tikkanen and the gutsy Isles’ PK unit stood up to the challenge, and a Springfield penalty would then nullify the advantage.

Karson Kuhlman put the game away at 16:48 with an empty-net goal to seal the visitors’ seventh win in 11 tries this season against the T-Birds.

The T-Birds and Islanders complete their season series on Friday night for one final installment between the rivals inside the MassMutual Center. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

BUY LOCALLY
support our community!

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

FOR SALE

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

MISCELLANEOUS

30" MICROWAVE, over-the-range. Like new. \$200 or best reasonable offer. Ask for Ken **413-544-2074**.

FOR SALE

4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW, 3 sets of tires with rims 15" '94 Jeep Wrangler for parts only. Call **413-967-7118** or **413-658-8513**.

WANTED

MILITARY ITEMS
USA. German. Japanese Collections & Small Items
(413) 207-3054

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN? Look no further! **PJ's Electrical** offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a **FREE** estimate! **(413) 366-1703**

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413) 246-2783** Ron.

HOME REPAIR & REMODELING for all your interior & exterior needs. Carpentry, woodworking, porches, patios, windows, doors, painting, drywall, siding, landscaping, clean-outs. Competitive pricing, References. Please call Brendan **(413) 687-5552**

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL
Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868**.

CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

HOME REPAIRS AND REMODELING. Quality work. Carpentry, sheetrock, flooring, tile, etc. Fully licensed and insured. Call Chris **413-426-5160** for free estimates.

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

DAVE MAZ LANDSCAPING
Lawn mowing, Spring thru Fall clean-ups, mulching, pruning. Holyoke, South Hadley, Chicopee, Hadley and Amherst. Call **413-536-3697**.

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING
Serving Wilbraham & Ludlow
Weekly lawn care
Landscape design and installation
Hedge trimming, pruning, and mulching.
Now scheduling spring cleanup
For more services visit **mattguertinlandscaping.com**
Call or text **413-266-9975**
Insured - Commercial - Residential

MASONRY

PAUL DOWD MASONRY
Design, build, restore, repair. All types of stone, brick, concrete, masonry. Free estimate. Call **978-257-8237**. **Pauldowd51@gmail.com**

STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

TAX SERVICES

2024 TAX TIME

CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES
For Full Accounting & Tax Service
Registered Tax Return Preparer
228 West St., Ware, MA 01082
413-967-8364
Call For An Appointment
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

AJE FINANCIAL SERVICES
588 Center Street
Ludlow, MA 01056
www.ajefinancial.com
(413)589-1671
Personal, Business, Corporate and Partnership Tax Filing
Bookkeeping and Accounting Services
Trusted Experts Since 1995

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States

FAST TAX USA TAX PREPARATION SERVICE
413-348-2279
IRS Certified Tax Preparers
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.
1622 B North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069
www.FastTax-MA.com
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

TAX-TIME SURVIVAL GUIDE

Call your local Turley Publications sales representative for information and rates on advertising your tax service here!
413-283-8393

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here
CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

SCHOOLS

Teachers recognized with Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards

WILBRAHAM - The Hampden - Wilbraham Regional School District proudly announces the recipients for school year 2023 - 2024.

The awardees were selected by a committee of local administrators and past recipients based on criteria related to excellence in teaching, professional development, contributions beyond the classroom, and respect by peers, parents, and students.

The award recipients are Alison Balag, special education teacher for grades three through four at Green Meadows Elementary School, Leslie O'Connor, grade three teacher at Stony

Hilly Elementary School, Isabella Whitehead, grade five teacher at Soule Road Elementary School and

Kimberly Nowicki, grade five math teacher at Wilbraham Middle School, who was the "Beginning Teacher Award" recipient.

The Excellence in Teaching Awards program is made possible by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in partnership with MassMutual and the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation. The Award was created to honor teachers in Western Massachusetts who demonstrate enthusiasm about and excellence in the teaching profession.

Kathryn Quinn inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, L.A. - Kathryn Quinn was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Quinn was initiated at Fordham University.

Quinn is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by

invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Polish Plate Dinner to be held March 9 at Immaculate Conception Church

INDIAN ORCHARD - A Polish Plate Dinner (Four Pierogi, one Golumbki, Kielbasa, Kapusta, Rye Bread) will be held on Saturday, March 9, from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church Hall 25 Parker St., Indian

Orchard. Eat In or Take Out. \$20. per plate. For Tickets please call: Maria Kowalski at 413-222-6229, Irena Wurszt at 413-427-5846 and Maryla Bukowski at 413-427-9464.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM** on the application of ASD Three Rivers MA Solar, LLC for a special permit (ZBA24-03) under section 10.4 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow removal of approximately 5,000 cubic yards of rock from the construction site on the property owned by ASL Three Rivers Land Holding, LLC located at 285 Three Rivers Road as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/902233709> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 902-233-709).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman
03/07, 03/14/2024

file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/902233709> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 902-233-709).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman
03/07, 03/14/2024

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:45 PM** on the application of Christopher Arillotta for a special permit (ZBA24-02) under sections 3.4.5.17 and 3.9.3.3 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow an existing food service establishment (The Local Table n Tap) to add a 466± square foot addition to the existing outdoor patio dining area on the property owned by Maxine N Dunitz Trustee located at 2039 Boston Road as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/902233709> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 902-233-709).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman
03/07, 03/14/2024

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:30 PM** on the application of Antigone Panidis for a special permit (ZBA24-01) under section 3.4.5.5 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the operation of a medical spa on a portion of the property owned by Executive Home Offices LLC, located at 380 Main Street as further specified in the application on

Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 6:30 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA on the application of Theresa Allen for a Special Permit under Section 6, Use 4.20, Business or Professional Offices or Banks, to operate Champs Fighting and Fitness, a multi-purpose fitness studio within the Commercial District located at 106 East Longmeadow Road and owned by David J. Henry of 9 Commercial Drive, Hampden, MA. Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours.

For the Board,
Madison Pixley, Chair
Hampden Planning Board
03/07, 03/14/2024

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.

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

SERVICES

TREE WORK

AAA - TROM'S TREE SERVICE Let me save you money. Tree removal, hazard tree removal, cordwood, stump grinding. We're fully insured and **workmen's comp.** for your protection. Free estimates. Mon-Sun Call Jason (413)283-6374

DL & G TREE SERVICE- Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

DRAGONWORKS SERVICES. Chain saw work, climb, trim or cut. Rooted in Excellence. Fully insured. Call Jacob LaDue for free estimate, 413-544-2898.

H & H TREE SERVICE All phases of tree care. Call Dave 413-668-6560 day/night.

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

AUTO FOR SALE

2019 CHEVY SPARK LS, \$9,500. Excellent condition, well maintained, original owner, 75,000 miles. No accidents, never any problems, non-smoker. Florida car. 413-769-3127.

AUTO PARTS

4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW, 3 sets of tires with rims 15" '94 Jeep Wrangler for parts only. Call 413-967-7118 or 413-658-8513.

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

PETS

WEST HIGHLAND TERRIER MIX PUPPY, 3 months, current on shots, well socialized. 3 yr old Beagle female, \$200. 413-596-8190, 413-782-2305

HELP WANTED

CLASS A DRIVER. Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC. Construction equipment and trucks. Experience required, full time. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

SQUIER & CO. is looking to hire an oil truck driver. \$40,000-\$60,000 full time. Squire will provide CDL school for the right candidate! Email: squeroil@verizon.net. Call 413-267-3184 or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 1

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill two Heavy Equipment Operator 1 positions. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Open until filled. EOE

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

SHOP/STORAGE/MECHANIC FOR RENT.

3,000 ft. 2 plus garage for rent in Gilbertville. Two lifts, compressor, office, bathroom/washroom. Large 10 ft. overhead electric garage door. Oil heat, 3 phase electric. Room for 5 vehicles plus inside and outside parking. Located right on Rt 32. Perfect for a business or? \$2,000/month. Call Don @ (413) 758-3039.

REAL ESTATE

ROOMMATES

BRIMFIELD: Own kitchen, bath, bedroom, living room, basement apartment. No pets or smoking. Heat, elect. included. \$800 per month. Call 413-355-0209.

LOOKING FOR ROOMMATE TO SHARE HOUSE in Palmer. \$300 per month. 413-342-3049.

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.



STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!

Subscribe Today!

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069



Cynthia Galavotti and Attorney Adam Costa chat about the proposed 530 Glendale Rd. solar project during the Feb. 28 public hearing with the Planning Board in Hampden.



Mike Fedora shares his thoughts during the Planning Board's Feb. 28 public hearing on the proposed 530 Glendale Rd. solar project.

HAMPDEN from page 4

and Ames Road valley is. "It's a quality of life that we all appreciate, we all enjoy and we all strive to protect, and no one lives out there with the hopes and dreams that, someday, we'd be able to see and hear someone's commercial endeavor," Fedora said. "Hampden is our town. We love this town and we love the quality of life that exists for us in this town. We have enough solar. We don't need any more solar, and God forbid, batteries. We don't need it and we don't want it." Gina Stabilo said noise is also a problem, especially for those who

live on Ames Road in Hampden, citing how residents can hear noise from football games at Minnechaug Regional High School, deliveries on Glendale Road and a train from Wilbraham when it goes by. Stabilo suggested having an acoustic evaluation performed with modeling pre-construction and she has two firms interested in working with the town. "They basically go into the property...they measure the decibel level, two to four hours a day, seven days a week for approximately a week. They take all the equipment that's proposed for these projects, put it into a computer model," Stabilo

said. "It requires equipment specification, the decibel levels, all of that stuff and they basically model how much sound is going to come off of this array." Stabilo said for a project "that's projected to be 25 to 40 years as the applicant stated in the paperwork," the request is not unreasonable. "We shouldn't have to listen to it. We may have to look at it, which I don't agree with, but no one should have to listen to it," Stabilo said. "I'm hoping that we can get this done." The public hearing was continued to a second hearing to take place on April 24 at 6 p.m. in the Townhouse Auditorium.



A shot of some of the residents in attendance during the Planning Board's public hearing on the proposed 530 Glendale Rd. solar project on Feb. 28.

Put Our Team To Work For You. 4 Local Offices - Global Network

FREE SELLER AND BUYER E-GUIDES

These guides provide valuable information to help you start the buying and/or seller process. For your guide - email: sarahsupport@landmarkre.com

Ready for an in person consultation? Call any agent listed below for a Free, no obligation consultation.

CALL US FOR DETAILS ON ANY OF THESE PROPERTIES

SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS			
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE / SOLD PRICE
NEW	34 Bayberry Rd., Hampden	10 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath Contemporary	\$409,900
ACT	174 Wilbraham Rd., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Colonial, Farmhouse	\$320,000
ACT	52 Skyridge St., Ludlow	5 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Ranch	\$260,000
ACT	12 Cedar Oak Dr., Wilbraham	10 room, 6 bed, 2f, 1h bath Colonial	\$496,800
UAG	37 Vadnais St., East Longmeadow	4 room, 2 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$269,900
UAG	1205 Page Blvd., Springfield	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$232,000
UAG	4 Brows Beach Rd., Wales	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Contemporary, Cottage	\$349,900
SLD	1222 Dunhamtown Brimfield Rd., Brimfield	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Contemporary	\$449,900 \$475,000
SLD	9 Melody Ln., East Longmeadow	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$349,900 \$370,000
SLD	66 Chapin Rd., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$254,900 \$250,100
SLD	200 Poole St., Ludlow	8 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial	\$269,000 \$250,000
SLD	14 Hampden Ct., Monson	10 room, 5 bed, 2f 0h bath Colonial	\$295,000 \$300,000
SLD	139 Stafford Rd., Monson	6 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Cape	\$327,500 \$326,000
SLD	51 Squier St., Palmer	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$334,000 \$333,000
SLD	63 Magnolia Terrace, Springfield	12 room, 6 bed, 2f 2h bath Colonial	\$425,000 \$400,000
SLD	2 Oakland St., Wilbraham	9 room, 5 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial, Gambrel /Dutch	\$449,999 \$450,000

CONDOMINIUM LISTINGS			
UAG / SLD	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE / SOLD PRICE
UAG	319 Blisswood Village Dr., U:319, Ludlow	4 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Townhouse	\$243,900
SLD	39 Regency Park Dr U:39, Agawam	4 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Garden	\$180,000 \$172,500
SLD	117 Nassau Dr U:117, Springfield	4 room, 2 bed, 2f 0h bath Garden	\$209,900 \$196,000

MULTI FAMILY LISTINGS			
SLD	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE / SOLD PRICE
SLD	44-46 Lexington St., Springfield	3 unit, 14 total rooms, 7 total bedrooms 3 Family	\$320,000 \$322,000

LAND LISTINGS			
CTG / SLD	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE / SOLD PRICE
CTG	Lot 1 Silver, Monson	2.50 Residential acres (108,900 SqFt)	\$84,900
SLD	0 Poole St., Ludlow	0.94 Agricultural acres (41,075 SqFt)	\$55,000 \$54,000

Search LandmarkRE.com For All Listings In Western MA

WE'RE LOCAL WE'RE GLOBAL

CAREER IN REAL ESTATE? Call Us or Visit [Landmark RE.com](http://LandmarkRE.com) and Click on Careers

HIRING ASSOCIATES FOR OFFICES IN: Wilbraham, E. Longmeadow, Monson, and Springfield

Dawn Rodgers
478-2605

Maria D'Angelantonio
575-2898

Eileen O'Sullivan
505-9244

John Mollenbrey
427-5176

Tom Avezzie
218-7991

Nick Ferrara
386-4523

Luci Giguere
575-2837

Ann Paquette
626-6871

Kathy Esser
348-3803

Sue Rheume
478-0671

Dot Lortie
478-1940

Zoe Czaplicki
519-9224

Linda Alston
246-8616

Steve Lortie
427-4122

Kathi Calabrese
374-5867

Shari Lokoy
218-8811

Ann Marie Martin
206-1161

Sandy Wegrzyn
519-1056

Art Ferrara
348-5827

Alyssa Rhodes
896-9269

Susan Raimer
374-3348

Easy Property Search at LandmarkRE.com

Follow us on facebook.com/LandmarkLortie and instagram.com/landmarkrealtorsma

Ask Us For A Highest Price Analysis On Your Home
Relocation Across The Country or Around The World

Sales Positions Available - Licensing Course
Market Leader -Serving Our Communities Since 1987