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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Volunteers serve traditional Irish food to attendees during the St. Patrick's Day Dinner hosted by the Knights of Columbus 10195.

## Knights of Columbus hosts St. Patrick's Day Dinner

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Knights of Columbus 10195 hosted their Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the St. Cecilia Parish Center on March 15, raising \$6,544.88 with over 230+ people in attendance.

Throughout the evening, attendees enjoyed a traditional Irish dinner of corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rye and soda bread and cake for dessert, with the opening prayer led by Fr. John Connors.

Irish music and a sing-along were led by George Flanagan, Leo Morrissey and Music Director Dr. Todd Rovelli at the piano.

There were, also, 50 raffle items donated by community members and local businesses including Polish National Credit Union, Creative Touch Hair Design, Wilbraham Flower Shop, LUSO Federal Credit Union, Via Appia, Scatolini Insurance Agency, Tap Room Bar & Grille, Randall's Farm & Greenhouse, Nowak Funeral Home, Granite Creations, Fetters Wine and Spirits, Lenox Tools and many more.



Grand Knight Mike Mazzuca joins volunteers from Minnechaug Regional High School for a group photo as the guests arrive.

A \$500 raffle was also given back to the parish by the winner.

Edward Spear has been part of the Knights for 15 years, enjoying the camaraderie with the members. He hopes more people--especially young people--also check out the church and join the organization.

"The thing is, we have a lot of members, like 130 members at the Knights of St. Cecilia's. So, it's great to see them all, to come together in the camaraderie be it the German Garden, the Italian Night,

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Submitted photo Megan Harrigan

Jeff Smith and Event Chairman Megan Harrigan from the Keep Wilbraham Beautiful Committee pose with signs and examples of trash to promote the Third Annual Earth Day Community Clean Up at Fountain Park on April 12.

## Earth Day Community Clean Up to take place April 12

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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Annual Earth Day Community Clean Up will be taking place at Fountain Park from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 12.

WILBRAHAM - The Third

Please see **EARTH DAY**, page 2

## Selectboard to take action on 48 Scantic Rd. after PFAs concerns

Water District Comm. spot also open

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard announced they will be taking action on 48 Scantic Rd. after PFAs concerns during their March 17 meeting.

PFAs--called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances--are known as a group of chemicals used in many consumer products and industrial processes. PFAs are also known as "forever chemicals," meaning they are difficult to break down in the environment.

Please see **SCANTIC RD**, page 13

## The Wisdom of Plants



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

Juanie Markham leads a free ongoing Herb of the Month Gathering at the Hampden Public Library.

By Patricia Sullivan  
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - Guided by Juanita "Juanie" Markham, 10 women gathered in the Hampden Free Public Library on March 15 to learn how stinging nettles can support our health and to share their knowledge of plants with one another.

It was the library's first free Herb of the Month Gathering. Markham describes herself as an eclectic herbalist who looks at more than just consuming plants and their medicinal value, but also focuses on how they help us emotionally and spiritually.

"I hope community members can deepen their relationship with herbs and explore how they support the body, heart, mind and spirit," Markham said.

The meetings will focus on a

different herb that grows locally each month and may include foraging and salve-making.

Markham's personal struggle with fibromyalgia motivated her to explore how the healing properties of herbs combined with medical guidance and lifestyle changes could improve her health. No longer on medication for fibromyalgia, she finds that many other people share her desire to harness the healing power of herbs.

She moved to Hampden five years ago, where she connected with a large Western Massachusetts community of herbalists and acquired 1,000 hours of training through Commonwealth Holistic Herbalism. She grows many of the plants she uses in her home-based business, Hidden Hollow Holistix.

At the first Herb of the Month Gathering, Markham distributed

Please see **PLANTS**, page 13



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

From the left, Barbara Harrington, social services coordinator, Patrick Renna, director of Veterans Services, Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs, Jen Finnigan, activities/volunteer coordinator, and Paige Mullins, program assistant; the staff at the Wilbraham Senior Center in a group photo during their 1st birthday celebration.

## Senior Center celebrates one year since opening

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The senior center celebrated its first anniversary with a birthday celebration from 9 a.m. to Noon with raffles, refreshments and vendors on March 18.

The vendors were Country Bank, Life Care Center of Wilbraham, JGS Lifecare, Assisted Living Locators and The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, who were raffling off a quilt created by members of the Wilbraham Senior Center's Quilting Club.

That raffle drawing will take place on Friday, May 2 at 3 p.m. at the senior center.

Dee Mitchell, the corresponding secretary for the Friends, was joined by her fellow members for the celebration.

"I can't believe it's one year. It took us over 14 years of fundrais-

ing before we could get it built and they did a fabulous job building it," Mitchell said. "The attendance has just skyrocketed, so we're thrilled about that."

On the quilt, Mitchell explained it's called "Warm Wishes" and the Quilting Club is comprised of "approximately 50 quilters" who meet once a week.

Raffle tickets have been sold at the senior center and the library and can also be found at "busy events" at the senior center ahead of the drawing.

"20 of them prepared the blocks for the quilt. It was designed by Valerie Morton. They donated it generously to the Friends as a raffle prize," Mitchell said. "We're thrilled and the quality of the work is fabulous, so we appreciate their willingness to donate."

Since opening, Mitchell shared the Friends is now focused on

Please see **ONE YEAR**, page 11

## DPW superintendent speaks on difficulties of prioritizing projects

Tonya Capparello presented to the Select Board on March 17

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – During Monday's meeting of the Wilbraham Select Board, Department of Public Works Director Tonya Capparello spoke on a variety of potential projects while touching on how difficult it is to prioritize them.

One positive development shared by Capparello is that the town is in position to purchase three dump trucks at significantly reduced price. She hopes their purchase is approved by residents at this spring's Annual Town Meeting, noting that they could be more expensive down the line.

"It's a pretty hefty savings we have of just under \$300,000 in three years if we buy these trucks now," Capparello said. "For the town, I think it's in their best long-term interests to secure these trucks at this price at a significant cost savings."

The DPW is also looking to trade in one of its trucks that happens to be in poor condition. It's not a done deal yet, but Capparello believes this could bring more money to the table.

"It happens to be one of the newer [trucks]. That might bring some significant dollars to the table that can help our cause," Capparello said.

That cause includes completing several safety projects that Capparello identified on Monday. One of those initiatives involves implementing school zones and flashing beacons on Main



File photo

Department of Public Works Director Tonya Capparello discussed several DPW projects with the Select Board during their March 17 meeting.

Street and Tinkham Road.

"Those are basically \$20,000 per location, so a total of \$40,000. If we don't install those flashing beacons, we still can proceed with a school zone designation, but it will be done through signage, which is certainly possible," Capparello said.

According to Capparello, the town's Traffic Safety Committee is hesitant to approve the project because its members believe the school zones would be too difficult to enforce.

Select Board Clerk Marc Ducey expressed disappointment that the town's Capital Planning Committee chose not to finance the project at the current time.

"Regarding the school zone on Tinkham Road, I'll speak for myself and let my counterparts speak for themselves, but I fully support that project and was surprised they didn't fund that frankly," Ducey said.

As he voiced more support for the project, Ducey added that he is familiar with the Tinkham Road location.

"If it's up to me, I'd be willing to say, 'Yes, we need to do this project.' I drove up and down that road every day during school hours, and it can be difficult at best at times," Ducey said.

He continued to note that it is his opinion that the town shouldn't "shortchange" the school zone projects.

"I'm really worried about that," Ducey said. "I think maybe we should push back and say, 'We really need to figure this out.'"

Capparello responded that she appreciates the support her department gets from the Capital Planning Committee. She emphasized that point but did insinuate that sometimes ideas don't get the money or attention they deserve.

"Sometimes, we're all working on different projects," Capparello said. "So, the struggle is real when I have to pick priorities. I prioritized our equipment over the beacons. I did say, however, I do think the Select Board should have an opportunity to represent their priorities."

On Monday, Capparello also discussed intersection and sidewalk projects, as well as the grant money that could be available to help cover their costs.

She acknowledged that there was a lot to go over and made it known that she attempted to do so carefully, which she accomplished.

"I wanted to be sure that as I present these projects, I present them as, 'This is Project A, this is Project B.' Certainly with maps and diagrams, I can show you where they all are, but I've tried to break them all down into reasonable projects that we can fund over time," Capparello said.

## Hampden Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats

HAMPDEN - A Rabies Clinic will held at the Hampden Veterinary Clinic at 28 Somers Road, on Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 9 a.m. to Noon.

The cost of the rabies vaccination will be \$25.00 for dogs, cats for one-year vaccine will be \$25.00 and cost for a three-year vaccine will be \$50.00.

By Massachusetts state

law, all cats over six months of age should be vaccinated.

A Rabies vaccination is good for one or three years, depending on the dog's or cat's previous vaccination history.

Make sure you bring your two most recent rabies certificates for the doctor to review.

All cats should be in a carrier. All dogs must be on

a leash.

Our Town Clerk, Eva Wiseman, will be available to sell dog licenses. The license costs \$10.00 for male or female dogs and \$5.00 for neutered or spayed dogs. A rabies certificate is required to obtain a dog license.

For more information, please call the Board of Health office at 566-2151 ext. 102.

## Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens announce upcoming events

HAMPDEN - The Friends of the Hampden Senior Center would like to announce two events coming up - Please Save These Dates.

Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Hartsprings Foundation Truck will be in the parking lot of Bethlehem Church, 123 Allen Street, Hampden, across the street from Hampden Senior Center. This truck event will allow you to bring larger bags of items, or heavier and bulky household donations that would not ordinarily fit in the Purple Bin located in the parking lot of the Senior Center.

We will accept all cloth items, bedding, clothing, shoes, coats, purses, jewelry, books, small kitchen items

such as dishes, toasters, glassware, books, puzzles, small appliances, small tables and sports equipment.

Items that cannot be accepted are: encyclopedias, Library Books, college books, pillows or Baby items such as highchairs, strollers or car seats of any kind. Any questions, please contact Joan Shea at 413-566-8224.

We are looking forward, once again, seeing you. Your support for the Hampden Senior Center is greatly appreciated.

Friday May 16, from Noon to 2 p.m. Pro Shred will be in the parking lot of The Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen Street Hampden.

This event will be FREE to all of you. Please bring your

documents and papers that need to be shredded and they will be taken care of on the premises.

The limit is five small boxes or five small bags from each car.

This event is sponsored by The Friends of The Hampden Senior Citizens and although it is free we will gladly accept any monetary donation. These donations fund the programs and events that are held at the center for all who attend.

Please feel free to contact Joan Shea at 413-566-8224 with any questions or concerns.

Once again thank you for your participation and generosity with all our events.

### EARTH DAY from page 1

The event is organized by the Keep Wilbraham Beautiful Committee in partnership with the Select Board, Department of Public Works, the police department and the Conservation Commission, with a mission of creating a cleaner, greener and more beautiful Wilbraham.

When attendees arrive, they can pick up complimentary donuts from Rice Fruit Farm and at the end of the event, there will be snacks to enjoy.

Flashing signs will be out the day of to warn drivers of people on the road picking up trash. For any large or hazardous items found, volunteers are encouraged to contact a lead volunteer for help disposing of them.

Those planning to help are advised to wear long clothing to avoid ticks.

Potential participants are advised the event is for curbside trash and any trash found in the tree belt, on conservation land and in the parks and schools, not for trash to be found or collected elsewhere and dumped before the event. The police department will be doing extra patrols on this.

To learn more, visit <https://sites.google.com/view/wilbraham-earth-day-cleanup/home?authuser=0> or contact Megan Harrigan, event chairman, at [keepwilbrahambeautiful@gmail.com](mailto:keepwilbrahambeautiful@gmail.com) or call 413-427-3670.

For Harrigan and Jeff Smith, a member of the KWBC, the emphasis is on creating a zero-trash community where everyone properly disposes of their trash, sharing stories of trash picked up in the last few years from empty yogurts with a granola bar wrapper inside to Hazy IPAs found in the woods. Other pieces of trash include nip bottles and caps, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, vaping products and more.

Harrigan and Smith want to see these habits change and those habitual offenders who do it become more responsible.

"That's laziness and I would call that a slob and somebody that's willing to throw trash the Earth and trash our

planet every day. Pick it up.

Figure out a new way, get a new system, leave it in your car until you can dispose of it properly," Harrigan said. "Your breakfast or morning habits shouldn't be left on our roads and it's unfortunate that my son, who's with my husband every year, sees it and it's now--what--our responsibility to pick it up? Because it's not going to decompose, it's not going to go away. It's going to be on the side of the road forever until the habits stop."

"Stop doing it. Just stop throwing your trash out the window. I don't understand how people can think that it's okay to do that," Smith said.

"We want to break the cycle of people thinking it's okay to throw things out the window. It's one thing if trash blows out of a trash can on a windy day and ends up in the woods and that's what we pick up--that kind of stuff happens, it's almost unavoidable--but when people are consciously throwing things out of their car or when they have a trash receptacle at every gas station and they have a trash receptacle at work, out in front of CVS. Throughout their day, they could use this trash receptacle, but instead, they decide to use Stony Hill Road or they decide to use Mountain Road...the gloves are off with this. The next move is getting cameras in those spots and we just submit license plates to the police. It becomes that easy."

Smith stressed instilling responsibility in the younger generations.

"Let's say there's a kid in the car on the way to school and this adult is trying to throw something out the window. We're trying to do the opposite of that. We're trying to get kids involved and have them realize that everything, it doesn't go away. Throw it out the window, somebody has to physically pick that up. It doesn't just disappear," Smith said. "So, we're really targeting the younger generation breaking that cycle and, hopefully, the kids in this town will grow up and understand that they can't throw something out the window because somebody else has to

pick it up."

Smith said the annual clean-up is a "fantastic event" and the committee is happy to do it, but the goal is this.

"The goal would be a you don't have to have a Wilbraham Clean Up Day," Smith said. "Plant some trees, doing some Earth Day stuff."

"We could just be celebrating Earth Day," Harrigan said. "Having some social things, talking about composting. Not outside picking up trash for several hours."

Harrigan encouraged residents to register early to pick a street and that safety vests and gloves, trash bags, buckets and grabbers will be provided.

"At the end of the event this year, as a thank you, an appreciation gift to our volunteers, we're going to be giving out tree saplings so that you can go home and plant it somewhere that makes you happy," Harrigan said. "We appreciate everybody that does come out. We always see more volunteers and there's plenty of trash out there for us to collect."

Smith credited Harrigan for initiating the clean-up and thanked the community for their support.

"We had a huge turnout. I mean, it was amazing. The police jumped on board, full force. They were out painting bridge abutments and escorting the clean-up groups," Smith said. "The DPW has been amazing, all the local businesses that participate and really, nobody has said no when we reached out. So, the outpouring of support from the community has been fantastic."

He added the event can also count as community service for those looking for volunteer hours.

"If anybody is looking for some community service hours, we'd be happy to have you. Come to Wilbraham and pick up some trash and help us out," Smith said.

Harrigan said at the event's end, they also know which roads didn't get done, so more volunteers are encouraged to join.

"We can always use more help," Harrigan said.

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Zaddok (Black sweatshirt) and Ima (Blue sweatshirt) scoop pancake batter to make pancakes.

# Wilbraham United Church hosts Pancake Supper, Community Service Project

By Noelle Hisgen  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On March 8, the Wilbraham United Church hosted a Pancake Supper and service project after their Saturday Mass. Parishioners made care packages for the less fortunate which went to Church World Services.

The Pancake Supper is part of their annual Family Service Night at the church.

For 80 years, CWS aims to build a world where everyone has food, a voice and a safe place to call home. They started after the aftermath of WWII with a mission to feed the hungry and help those in need.

The church has been working with CWS frequently for many years, as they have worked with them for the Vacation Bible Camp.

The night started with Church World Services Representative Adam Smedberg, who discussed the importance of the hygiene kits and period packs that they would make. Discipleship Committee member Shelly Capen also awarded Smedberg a check which would go fund CWS's cause.

From there, the parishioners of the church made the care kits for Church World Services, and in just a short time, all of them were filled to the brim with items for the less fortunate. The night ended with a fun pancake supper that was made.

Smedberg spoke on the importance of making these kits that night.

"We want everyone to know that those who receive these kids know that they are loved, that they are thinking of them, we are here for them, and know that we as a community are here to support those who need us the most," Smedberg said.

This event was organized entirely by the Wilbraham United Church Discipleship Committee.

In attendance was Discipleship Committee member Pamela Byers.

"This is something that we've been doing for quite a few years and I find it's a nice community event. We kind of have the kids getting together and playing some games too, having some pancakes and just kind of hanging out with each other and doing a good community service," Byers said.

Capen was excited about the event.

"We want to show them that it's important to give back to their community, but to the world locally," Capen said. "And with Adam, he gives a little speech about what church means, so they learn about what Church World Services (is) because it's important to the community."

Also a part of the event was Reverend Janet Sandquist Skagerlind, the pastor of Wilbraham United Church.

Skagerlind said the church was happy to support the organization.

"We are here to support them and we welcome anybody and everybody from the larger community," Skagerlind said.

It was a great way for people to come together under a good cause and to be able to do good for others, and it ended it a fun way to socialize with their church community while eating good food made by the members of it.

The Wilbraham United Church Discipleship Committee did a wonderful job organizing this event for parishioners, which benefitted a great cause that loves to give back to others.



Adam Smedberg introduces himself, and discusses the work done by Church World Services



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen  
Various items are on display for people to take and put into care bags.

For more information about Church World Services, please check them out on their website at [cwsglobal.com](http://cwsglobal.com).

Up next for the WUC Community, their residential theater Wilbraham United Players will be performing their spring musical "Cab-

aret" on March 28 through April 6. And in June, they will be hosting their Summer Arts Fair.

For more information about the Wilbraham United Church, please visit [wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](http://wilbrahamunitedchurch.org).

## Cookbook Club at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library Cookbook Club is meeting on Wednesday, April 2, at 6:30 p.m.

This month's selection is "The Pepper Thai Cookbook" by Pepper Teigen.

Please let the library know what you're bringing when registering so we do not duplicate recipes. Cooking is encouraged but not re-

quired for attendance. Copies of the book are available now at the Service Desk.

The Cookbook Club meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public, and registration is required. For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

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# Maloni brothers celebrate 10th anniversary of owning Rice Fruit Farm



A group shot of the staff at Rice Fruit Farm who serve the community every day. Photos courtesy of Anthony Maloni



Anthony Maloni proudly stands on the top of Green Acres Farm, another business endeavor that he has grand plans for.



Anthony Maloni likes to call Rice Fruit Farm the destination spot of Wilbraham, encouraging everyone to stop by and see what they have to offer.



Serving up local with a smile!

By Amanda Munson  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - "We are the heart of Wilbraham." In April 2015, brothers Anthony and Don Maloni became owners of the well-known Rice Fruit Farm, established in 1894.

Celebrating 10 years of ownership and success under the Maloni brothers, Rice Fruit Farm is popular for its breakfast sandwiches, coffee, bakery selection, produce variety and homemade ice cream flavors that will keep your mouth watering all-season long.

When the Maloni brothers became owners a decade ago, Small Business Owner Anthony Maloni originally aspired to create an ice cream spot in the town, so he went to his brother Don for advice on businesses for sale in the area. Settling on the farm and thinking it was going to be solely an ice cream shop with produce and baked goods sold on the side, Maloni never thought Rice Fruit Farm would take off in the direction the public sees now.

"Rice's has evolved into a lot more. When we first started, we didn't have breakfast sandwiches or any grill items. I used to say we're barely open but now I can say, we are open and there's a lot more to come. We are in growth mode now. We're remodeling our backrooms, supersizing our

ice cream operation, adding more ovens and open all year round," Maloni said.

Maloni reflected on the journey to where Rice Fruit Farm is today.

"It took us two and a half years to get it open, we bought it in November of 2012 and opened in April of 2015. We pulled a ton of time and money into it. We had only 15 employees then and now we have over 50. People were waiting for us to open, we had the grand opening and thought it was going to slow down a bit," Maloni said. "Now I look back at what I thought was a busy day then and it's crazy, we've been very fortunate that we have grown every year since we've bought it. Last year was one of the most significant jumps, I was surprised how much it had gone up."

One of Maloni's most common sayings is, "Grow or die," which is his way of always trying to improve in every aspect of his business. Whether it's redoing the floors in the ice cream area and dining room, new restaurant tiles in the back room, building an ice cream deck, constructing a fire pit or an outdoor seating area, he is always striving and building for success.

"We built a fire pit to have live music every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the nicer weather. It's good vibes, I like the acoustics and it's to support the local artists to have

a spot where they can play. It's family friendly and we're immersed in the community. We're a quintessential farm stand and we're expanding our actual farming operations," Maloni said. "We are selling apples that we were selling at The Apple Place in East Longmeadow, peaches and pumpkins that we grew in Green Acres Farm here in town. We want to do more of that, but we are also huge supporters of other farms around the area. From our honey to our corn, we support local businesses and small businesses. It's not easy though, we're open 362 days of the year, it's a lot but I've been very fortunate enough that we are busy."

Maloni spoke highly of his relationship with his brother, Don, who does all the behind the scenes work on the business like payroll and scheduling, where he is happier taking charge of the farming side.

"We communicate effectively, we are fast talkers and we have similar strengths. I am out in the public every day, running the day-to-day operations, while Don prefers doing the books and loves food. He's a foodie. He's able to come up with ice cream recipes and tweak the food to make it perfect. We both care about the business, we care about the customers, and we care about the employees and community," Maloni said.

Maloni also credits his family as a whole for their unwavering support.

"I am fortunate to have a big family that supports me, my mom would make the Rice Krispy treats and she'll run around and do the shopping. Two of my daughters were bakers on the weekends, my brother's daughter will work the register. We're a small business, but also a family business," Maloni said.

Also, thankful for the community's continued support.

"As far as being in the community, we love being here. The town has been super supportive of us and they're always trying to help. We are super grateful," Maloni said. Rice Fruit Farm is located at 757 Main St. in Wilbraham and is open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To learn more, check out ricefruitfarm.com, call 413-596-4002 or visit their Facebook and Instagram pages.



The staff at Rice Fruit Farm always have time for a laugh, as shown here in this photo.



A shot of the entrance of the farm with Anthony Maloni in the background, who's assisting a customer. Turley photos by Amanda Munson

Maryrose, a worker at Rice Fruit Farm, smiles with an iced coffee before heading back to work.



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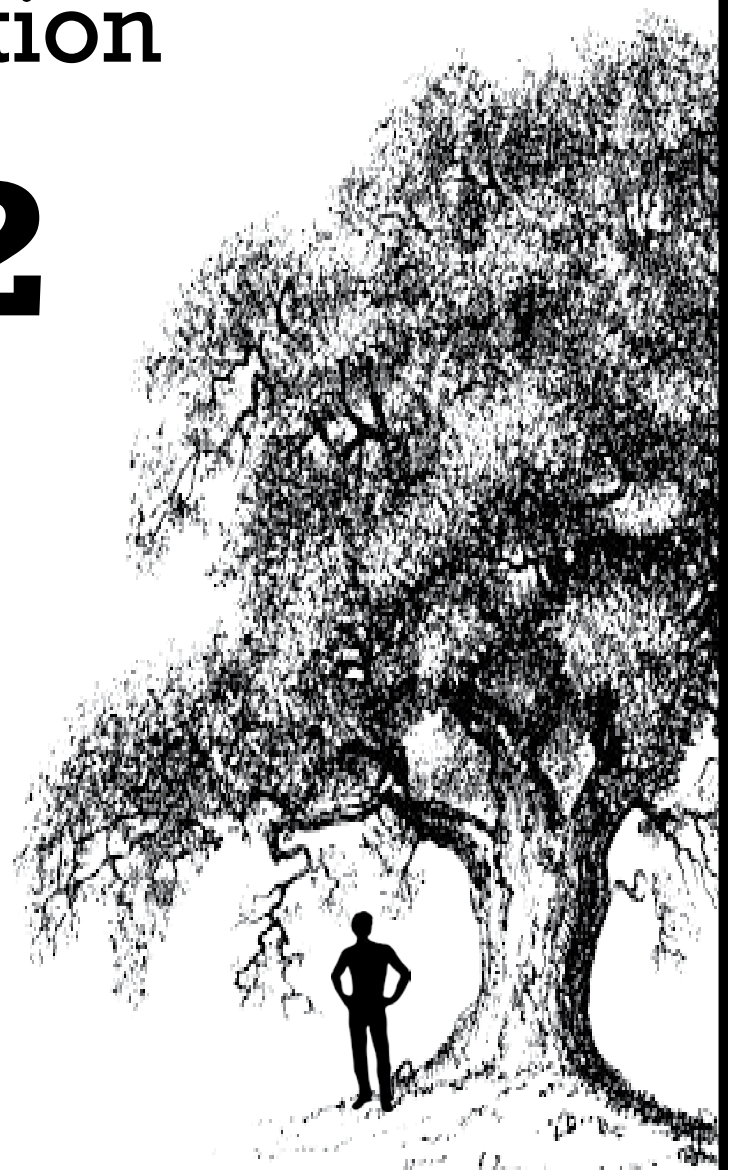
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## VIEWPOINTS



By Ellenor Downer

I received an email from a Worthington resident, who saw two sandhill cranes on Sunday, March 16. It was most likely was just a coincidence. However, the next day March 17, I spotted a pair of sandhill cranes in my hayfield, a first ever sighting at that location.

Several people reported seeing sandhill cranes at various locations in town last year. There is a breeding pair, who successfully raised young, in nearby Hardwick.

The sandhill crane is a tall, 45," gray, heron like bird. It has a dark red patch on its forehead and a black bill. Some of the feathers on the sandhill crane's back are iron stained due possibly to preening from mud rich in that mineral.

Immature cranes are grayish with more rust stained feathers. They keep this plumage for two years. The female sandhill crane lays one to three olive eggs with dark marks in a mound like nest of weeds, grasses and marsh like plants placed on the ground or in shallow water. They migrate in flocks, feed on agricultural fields and roost in the center

of shallow lakes or rivers. They display courtship behavior of jumping off the ground during their migration. They feed on seeds, agricultural grains and small animals.

## Common mergansers

I received reports of seeing common mergansers. My daughter saw common mergansers in Hardwick. A Hubbardston couple also saw common mergansers. A Brimfield resident, who sends bird reports on a regular basis, saw common mergansers at a pond in Warren last week. There was a large section of open water. He also saw lots of mallard, Canada geese, a few black ducks and a hooded merganser.

## Bald eagles

The Brimfield resident in an email on March 8 said, "Yesterday in Ludlow I visited an eagle's nest on the bank of the Chicopee River. Eagles have nested in this area for over ten years with four different nest locations. I first found a nest across the Chicopee River in Springfield that was visible from Ludlow. Then the nest was on the Ludlow side of the river for one year. I lost track of the nest for a few years when it was in a tree that subsequently fell down. I was told about the fourth and current nest three years ago. If the bird on the nest is the female that has been nesting in this area and had at least one young two years ago she is banded and is twenty years old."

Two of my grandchildren and I saw a mature bald eagle perched in a tree at the edge of my hayfield on Saturday, March 15. I stopped the car and my granddaughter, Lizzie, got out of the car to take a photo with her cellphone. I said the eagle will probably fly away. As she approached, the eagle

turned its head to watch her. As she approached it bent down, opened its tail feathers displaying the white feathers and then took off. She got a photo of its white tail.

The Brimfield resident saw two bald eagles at a pond in Warren, an adult and an immature. The immature eagle flushed up some ducks while flying around the pond. On another day he saw four eagles, two adult and two immature. An Oakham resident also saw a bald eagle recently.

## Other birds

The same person saw a great blue heron, hooded mergansers, three ringed bill gulls and a small flock of red-winged blackbirds. Earlier this month, he said, "Two fox sparrows showed in the afternoon, always nice to see them. A pair of blue birds are irregular visitors as are sharp-shinned hawks. Last week an adult chased juncos into a quince bush without success. And this week an immature sharpie was in the yard for awhile."

He said he takes in his feeders at night as bears should be out and about. He read an article that the skunk cabbage is up and is a sign that so are the bears. Black bears eat skunk cabbage leaves in the spring when they first emerge from the dens to "kick start" their digestive system. They also return to their favorite feeding grounds, often back yard bird feeders.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing my-backyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



by Roberta McQuaid

I don't know about you, but those first few warmer days do something to my brain. I begin to expect that we are in for nice weather all the time.

It's easy to start dreaming and scheming, but alas, we are not exactly on a fast track to summer just yet, nor should we be. There is much to enjoy about this time of year.

Here are just a few of my favorite things about March.

First on the list is that my however-many-year-old Gerber daisy houseplant gave me a flower, with a couple more on the way. I had three of these plants last year. I gave a two away in one of my "less is more" moods.

Do they bloom as well as they did when they were a year old? No, but that bright and cheery daisy in sea-shell pink was just the pick-me-up I needed last week.

Soon, you will see Gerber daisies for sale in the grocery stores and plant nurseries. Try overwintering one in a bright but cool window next winter

## Grateful for the March garden

for your own dose of pre-spring happiness.

After the size 10 footprint landed on the corner of my front border, in exactly the spot that I planted some tulip bulbs last fall, I made a fence out of apple tree prunings. What a fun March activity!

I bent each long piece into a U shape and plunged the ends into the ground, starting the next one in the middle of the one prior. That outta keep my husband off the bulbs; I hope at least.

Speaking of prunings, I have started to accumulate "pea brush." I'll be sowing pea seeds in the next few weeks, and although I typically plant the seeds right up against the garden's fence, I am going to need more room this year, and these leftover prunings will be perfect for the tendrils to grab hold of.

I make a wide bed the length of the garden row, insert the prunings in the middle of the row and plant pea seeds four deep up against the branches. In addition to my old stand by, shelling peas, I am going to be sowing sugar snap and snow peas.

My first experience with sugar snap peas came from harvesting some pods while on a weekend getaway at

bed and breakfast. It was a cool little place in southern New Hampshire where you could pick the vegetables from the kitchen garden and eat them for dinner.

It'll be fun to grow my own for fresh eating.

"Pea brush" can also be used to support annual or perennial flowers that tend to have weak or floppy stems. The brush blends into the scenery a little better than stakes and twine, and it's easily dismantled when the time comes.

My favorite March bulb is a harbinger of all harbingers, the Snow-drop (*Galanthus nivalis*). Toughened points on the leaf tips make it possible for the snowdrop to push through the crusty soil of late winter.

Two or three strappy leaves grow from each bulb; most often there is just one flower. You'll notice three white outer petals first and upon closer inspection you'll see green tipped inner petals.

The flowers are held on the stem in a nodding fashion and in my experience they stay in bloom for upwards of three weeks. Reportedly they are well adapted for bees, at least those that are brave enough to venture out of the hive in search of pollen during

the warmest days of late winter!

Snowdrops will naturalize if happy, increasing in numbers both above and below the ground! Although we "deadhead" most bulbs, keeping spent flower heads of this genus in place will allow seeds to ripen and new plants to form.

It is interesting to observe the process of a snowdrop self-sowing. Once the flower has gone by a large seed will form; because of its weight, the stem will bend toward the ground dropping its ripe seed at a perfect distance from the mother plant.

Under no circumstances should the foliage of a bulb be removed until it is brown and dry. It may not be the most beautiful to look at, but all the while that it is green it is making and storing food for next year's flowers.

Enjoy these early days in and around the garden.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.



By Russell Gloor

## Can I avoid paying the Medicare premium?

Dear Rusty:

Is there any way I can get out of paying the \$185 I am told will be taken out of my Social Security for Medicare Part B when I turn 65?

We pay for Medicare all our working lives, and now I have to pay a monthly premium for insurance that only covers 80%.

Signed: Disheartened Senior

Dear Disheartened:

For clarification, the money you paid into Medicare while working during your lifetime was for Medicare Part A, inpatient hospitalization coverage. The Medicare taxes paid while working entitled you to free Medicare coverage for Part A, inpatient hospitalization coverage, but they do not entitle you to Medicare coverage for outpatient services coverage for doctors, medical tests, etc.. For that coverage from Medicare, you must enroll in Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium (\$185 per month for 2025). If you wish to have Medicare Part B coverage, you must enroll in Medicare Part B at age 65, unless

you have other "creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer.

The Medicare Part B premium will be automatically deducted from your Social Security payment when you enroll in Medicare and there is no way to avoid it if you wish to have Medicare healthcare coverage for outpatient medical services. But, if you currently have "creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer, you can delay enrolling in Medicare Part B (thus avoiding the premium) until your employer coverage ends.

If you don't enroll in Medicare Part B during your initial enrollment period at 65 or in a Special Enrollment Period following the end of your creditable employer healthcare coverage, then you will incur a penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B outside of the prescribed enrollment periods. That penalty is a permanent increase in your Medicare Part B premium. FYI, "creditable" is an employer group plan with at least 20

participants.

We do not advise going without outpatient healthcare coverage, so you should carefully consider enrolling in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. If you are already collecting Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled, but you can opt out of Part B if you wish - it's just not advisable, unless you have current creditable healthcare coverage from an employer.

So, to recap: the Medicare taxes you paid while working only entitled you to free Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage. You must enroll in Medicare Part B (for which there is a monthly premium) to have Medicare healthcare coverage for outpatient healthcare services. Both Medicare Part A and Part B have deductibles and copayments, for which you may wish to consider getting ei-

ther a supplemental insurance plan or a Medicare Advantage plan. But, in either case, you must still have both Medicare Part A and Part B to obtain such additional healthcare coverage.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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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 Thursday 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.

## Election letters to the editor welcome

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden Times, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to krivers@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

## Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Wilbraham-Hampden Times.

A COMMUNITY GALLERY

*Life in &*

Readers are encouraged to send in medium to high resolution photos for this page by e-mail to [krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com) or mail to TIMES, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

# 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](mailto:krivers@turley.com)

### Bald eagle sighting in Hampden



Submitted photo Derek Biermann

A rare bald eagle sighting at Mill Pond in Hampden at 4:30 p.m. on March 16 excited residents.

### WMS performs Mean Girls Jr.



Submitted photo Dina Darido

Students at Wilbraham Middle School recently held a performance of their play "Mean Girls Jr." to rousing applause.

### Red Hatters celebrate International Women's Day



Submitted photo and caption Cheryl Phillips

This month the Red Hatters celebrated International Women's Day by hosting an Heirloom Recipe Potluck on March 13. at the Wilbraham Senior Center. We shared recipes that have been passed down from mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends.

### HFD responds to brush fire with assistance from WFD



Photos and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department

On March 19 at 12:30 p.m., Squad-1, Tanker-1, and Rescue-1 responded to North Road for a brush fire. Upon arrival about a half acre of grass was found to be burning. Assistance was requested from Wilbraham Fire Department for a brush truck. Crews rapidly extinguished the fire and thoroughly overhauled the area. While we just had a decent amount of rain this week ground cover, especially dead grass, is extremely dry. Please use caution when outdoor burning and adhere to all burn regulations.



### HFD holds draft operations training

Photos and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department

Our duty crew took advantage of the beautiful spring weather we are having to train on drafting operations on March 14.



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### Wilbraham Women's Club Fashion Show April 24

WILBRAHAM - Step into spring with fashions from the J Jill collection (Longmeadow Shops). The Fashion Show sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club, will be held April 24 at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham.

A Social Hour begins at 11:30 followed by lunch at Noon. The meal choices

are salmon with dill sauce or chicken francaise for \$35. There will also be a raffle for many prizes and gift cards.

For reservations, please call Sue Agnew, 596-9480, by April 17. This event helps to fund the club's scholarships and donations to charitable organizations in the area.



Judy Cmero and Kate Belsky pose for a photo in their festive green and St. Patrick's Day garb.



Members of the Knights of Columbus 10195 smile for a group photo as the dinner gets underway.



Dennis Lankowski serves as coffee server for his fellow guests.



A crowd shot of the many attendees at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner.



With Music Director Dr. Todd Rovelli at the piano, Leo Morrissey and George Flanagan entertain attendees with traditional Irish songs and a sing-along.

#### K O F C from page 1

the St. Patrick's Day, to bring them all together," Spear said. "So, these are all good things to bring everybody together."

Spear also enjoyed the Minnechaug Regional High School students volunteering with the Knights.

"I think it's very important to get the young people involved because they're the next generation before us," Spear said. "We have to get more young people involved to keep it going on to do events like this."

Rose Langone was one of those volunteers, helping serve the meal to attendees.

"It was really fun, honestly. There were so many nice people that I saw that I haven't seen in a while and I just love watching people enjoy themselves and this really brought everybody together and I love that because this church is right by my house," Langone said. "I just love how communal everything is, especially involving the church."

Langone said it was her first time volunteering and Rosemary Oldread, director

of religious education, mentioned it to her.

"I wanted to get involved because I needed hours for my confirmation as well as I love seeing people enjoy food," Langone said. "I just love seeing people happy so I thought this would be fun."

Her favorite part of the event was seeing the kids play and everyone taking part in the Irish sing-along.

"It was such a sentimental moment the kids will remember," Langone said.

Todd Lisowski was the dinner's chairman, crediting

everyone from those who sold raffle tickets to the volunteers who gave their time to make the event a huge success.

"It's the people in the kitchen, they've been in the kitchen for 48 hours straight, the people doing the raffle which is such a huge success-- I mean, you look they have 50 prizes--that takes multiple phone calls, it takes multiple visits, it takes multiple just reaching out. Giving the amount of time there, people working the bar," Lisowski said. "It's across the board when every time that we have an event we have to summarize, 'Hey, how much money did you make? Also, how much time did you invest?' When you see the hundreds of hundreds of hours that people put in, it's heartwarming. It's amazing when people are willing to donate that much time to help out. So, it's awesome, it's excellent."

Lisowski explained besides bringing the community together, the event helps raise more awareness about the Knights, adding kudos to Deputy Grand Knight Josh Mitchell for enhancing the organization's social media presence.

"It just brings awareness. So, multiple benefits, right? It generates money for all our charitable causes because the St. Patrick's Dinner--as opposed to other events--is to fund the Knights. It's to give



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
Frank Barbaro, chancellor for the Knights of Columbus 10195, joins his family members for a multi-generational family photo during the dinner.

to the other charitable organizations," Lisowski said. "The other benefit is when you got 230 people in a room that are like, 'Oh the Knights. This is what they do, we had a good time, we know it's going to good causes,' so a double benefit there, so that's great."

Lisowski wants the community to know how thankful the Knights are for their support.

"I mean yes, the Knights held the event, but it was--I keep saying--230 people supporting it. So, it's the community that's helping give back to the community," Lisowski said. "The underlying message is just thank you for coming out and supporting what we do. We feel

very strongly in what we do, we feel strong in the organizations that we support for that many people to come out and say, 'We're with ya.' It's heartwarming. It feels good that they share the same goal of trying to do good."

Langone also encourages her generation to get involved and volunteer at future events.

"I would 100% recommend it because I feel like they would very much enjoy it. They could make friends and I just think it'll open their eyes more and I think make them want to do it more," Langone said.

To learn more about the Knights, visit [kofcwilbraham.com](http://kofcwilbraham.com).

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# SPORTS

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## Spring preseason underway



Dylan Secon throws outside in the bullpen.



Jacob Fahey catches a pitch during practice.



The Falcons take outdoor batting practice last week.



The Falcons work on pop-ups during infield.

WILBRAHAM – The spring season is underway in high school sports with many teams set to open up the season later this week. More teams will get going early next week, weather permitting as well as if baseball and softball fields are ready for play.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Sun shines bright on 48th Road Race



Samuel Whittaker crosses the first line first overall.



Female winner Angelia Rafter crosses the finish line at 34:13.



Mackenzie Sinnott of Wilbraham comes in at 35:12.



Reese Laviolette comes in at 42:50.



Evan Kennedy makes it to the end with a time of 44:51.



Alan Barr, a Hampden resident, finishes at 43:45.

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – For the first time in several years, it was gorgeous weather for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race last Saturday afternoon the city streets.

More than 6,000 people participated in this year's event, with nearly 5,000 participants finishing the 10K, or 6.2-mile course.

This year, it was Samuel Whittaker of Salem, CT, who finished the race in 31:24. Alex Corbett, who placed second in last year's race, came in 23 seconds later at 31:47.

The top female finisher was Angelia Rafter at 34:13 and she placed 12th overall. Rafter is from Glastonbury, CT.

Among local finishers, Matt Provost of Monson was



Jaden Desmarais gets through with the race at 45:05.



Alex Corbett takes second in the race for the second year in a row.

19th overall at 35:09. Ryan Davis of South Hadley was a

close 20th at 35:10. Lindsay Smith of South Hadley finished 22nd at 35:12.

## Suburban League starts new award in honor of deceased coach

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE— The Pioneer Valley Girls Suburban Basketball League was always very special to Eileen Monaghan.

Growing up in Chicopee, Monaghan played for a Suburban League basketball team. She then coached her daughter's Suburban League teams. In recent years, Monaghan was one of the referees in the league.

Monaghan most likely would've been back on the basketball court refereeing Suburban League games this winter, but she was tragically killed last April.

Suburban League Commissioner Joe Ciejka, who's from Ware, couldn't recall another person who played, coached and was a referee in the Suburban League during the past 40 years.

"I believe Eileen is the first person to play, coach, and has been a referee in the Suburban league," Ciejka said. "Eileen brought an incredible spirit to the Suburban League and the kindness of hearts. Even though her heart has been silenced, we're not going to let her spirit ever die."

The inaugural Eileen Monaghan Sportsmanship Award was given to the Gateway 5/6th grade basketball team prior to the start of the 5/6th grade Division 2 championship game between Easthampton and Hampshire, which took place at Chicopee Comp on March 9.

"I think the sportsmanship award is very special because it shows how many lives that my mom touched," said Kathleen Brooks, who is Eileen's youngest daughter. "She just loved girls sports, especially basketball. She probably would've been very proud of this award."

Brooks, who presented the sportsmanship award to Gateway, graduated from Chicopee Comp in 2019 where she played soccer, basketball, and

lacrosse.

Her older sister, Ashley Rouleau, played two sports at Comp.

The Gateway Suburban League basketball team didn't win any games this season, but the players celebrated small victories and kept a positive attitude on the court.

"Being selected as the first sportsmanship award winner in the Suburban League is very special," said Gateway head coach Peter Sadler. "We didn't have a lot of experienced players this year, but we kept improving throughout the season. We came close to winning a couple of games. We just focused on doing one thing to get better in each game. The girls never gave up and kept a positive attitude."

The members of the Gateway girls' basketball team are Victoria Barnes, Riley Chornyar, Liv Dulude, Lila Castro, Senavieve Rosseau, Fiona Hallowell, Faith Chretien, Evelyln Sadler, Abigail Sadler, Emma Johnson, and Alyvia Kaynowski.

The Suburban League referees voted for the Sportsmanship Award.

Unlike her daughters, Monaghan graduated from Chicopee High School. She played soccer and basketball for the Lady Pacers. She was inducted into the Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013. Monaghan also played soccer and basketball at Western New England College. She was inducted into the WNEC Hall of Fame in 2006.

"My mom was always very humble, but she always told us that she loved playing sports," Brooks said. "She didn't score 1,000 career point in high school, but she did at WNEC. She always worked very hard and that's what she wanted everyone else to do."

Monaghan graduated from college with a bachelor's degree in management. She was the Chief-of-Staff for

Please see **RACE**, page 10

Please see **LEAGUE**, page 10

## T-Birds suffer loss as they pursue playoff spot

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (30-26-2-4) stumbled on the road and fell to the Bridgeport Islanders (14-40-4-3) by a final score of 4-1 on Saturday inside Total Mortgage Arena.

For a ninth straight game, the T-Birds spotted their opponent a 1-0 lead as 35-year-old Chris Terry cleaned up a rebound off the pads of Vadim Zherenko at 4:36 of the first to give Bridgeport the lead.

The T-Birds answered back thanks to their red-hot power play at 8:21, as Matthew Peca led a streaking Nikita Alexandrov to the blue paint for a backhand that found its way through

Henrik Tikkanen to even the game, 1-1.

Zherenko and Tikkanen dealt with some chaos near their creases early in the second, but the 1-1 tie carried into the midpoint of the game before a costly too-many-men penalty hurt Springfield.

With their first power play of the night, the Islanders struck as Adam Beckman fired a wrist to the top shelf just moments after he clanged one off the post, and Bridgeport had the 2-1 lead at 11:27 of the second.

Beckman was not finished with his exploits either, as the newly-acquired Islanders cashed in on 2-on-1 setup from Brian Pinho at

17:09 to give Bridgeport an insurance tally heading into the third, 3-1.

Cam Thiesing added further to the lead just 1:37 into the third, intercepting a puck in the Springfield zone and backhanding a chance past Zherenko to make it a 4-1 game. Springfield managed only seven shots in the final period, and Tikkanen finished a relatively stress-free night with 21 saves in the Bridgeport win.

The T-Birds return home on Friday and Saturday for the first-ever matchups on home ice against the Iowa Wild, with 7:05 p.m. puck drops slated for both nights inside the Thunderdome.

## Railers scored big sweep of Lions

WORCESTER — The Worcester Railers HC (30-27-2-4 68pts) take down the Trois-Rivières Lions (41-13-5-2, 89pts), on Sunday afternoon by a final score of 5-4 in front of a crowd of 6,047 at the DCU Center. The Railers are back on the ice next at the Colisée Vidéotron in Quebec on Friday March 28th at 7pm where they take on the Trois-Rivières Lions again for a three game away series.

The Railers stayed hot after last night's when they grabbed a 1-0 lead over the Lions off of a tipped goal from captain Anthony Repaci (1-1-2). Just eleven seconds into the second period Anthony Callin deked his way through the defense and finds the back of the net for a short handed goal extending the Railers lead to 2-0. Lincoln Hatten(1-0-1) and Connor Welsh (1-0-1) picked up goals of their own just a minute and one second apart from each other extending the Railers lead to 4-0 over the Lions

early into the second period. Trois-Rivières got back within two with goals from Logan Nijhoff (3-1-4) and Tyler Hylland(1-1-2). The third period was quiet until Cole Donhauser (1-1-2) scored an empty net goal increasing the Railers lead to 5-2. Logan Nijhoff scored two more goals to give him a hat trick on the night. The Railers prevailed and defeated Trois-Rivières 5-4 in the weekend finale.

Anthony Repaci (26th) deflected Anthony Callin's shot past Cavallin in net for the Lions to give the Railers a 1-0 lead 7:52 into the first period. The Railers out shot Trois-Rivières 9-7, ending the period with a one goal lead.

The Railers got back to work quickly in the second period. Just 11 seconds after the puck dropped, Anthony Callin (20th) dangled through Trois-Rivières defenders and finished it off with a goal to give the Railers a 2-0 lead. 4:12 into the second period the Railers

kept on their scoring frenzy with a goal from Lincoln Hatten (7th) and just a minute and one second after that Connor Welsh (8th) nets one for Worcester to set a career high for the defender. Trois-Rivières responded after 8 unanswered goals within the last 24 hours from Worcester by making it a 4-1 game off a goal from Logan Nijhoff (21st). Trois-Rivières took advantage of their power play with a goal from Tyler Hylland (13th) cutting the score down to 4-2 at exactly 14:00 into the 2nd period to wrap up the scoring in the second period.

The third period was a quiet one compared to the second period. But the Railers were able to extend their lead to 5-2 with an open net goal from Cole Donhauser (9th). Trois-Rivières kept fighting as Logan Nijhoff (22nd, 23rd) scored two more goals giving him a hat trick. The Railers held them off and won 5-4 over the Lions to end the weekend series.

## Quabbin League holding open practice for new players this weekend

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2025 season.

Coming up this Sunday, March 30, and Sunday, April 6. Both practices are scheduled to be held at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley and are weather-permitting. Both practices will begin at 10 a.m. and following the April 6 practice, new players will be drafted to teams in the league as the league works to fill its open roster spots.

Registration for the 2025 season is now open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://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 2025 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 27. The league plays most Sunday from late April

through mid-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 2025.

## This Week in Rec Wilbraham Pickleball Association

WILBRAHAM - With warmer weather comes outdoor pickleball! We are so excited to have 6 brand new state-of-the-art outdoor courts located behind Memorial School on Main Street. Thank you Wilbraham residents for this addition-making our town a premier pickleball community! Everything is coming together to make our inaugural year an exciting one!

Wilbraham Parks and Rec are busy getting the courts springtime ready and we have enlisted current pickleball enthusiasts from town to form the Wilbraham Pickleball Association "WPA".

"WPA" will be supporting the rec department with pickleball programming. They will be introducing a jam-packed schedule of events that will appeal to everyone, whether you've never picked up a paddle or are a 4.0 DUPR rated player- Memorial Outdoor Courts will be the place to play!

Follow us on Facebook and Team Reach

Parks and Rec will continue to manage all registrations for lessons, clinics and events. All this can be

found on the Wilbraham-rec.com website. WPA has launched a Facebook account (Wilbraham Pickleball Association) follow us for up to the minute updates and social events information. In addition, please join Team Reach by downloading the app and joining the group: Memorial Outside code: MemOut02

To kick off our season, we have a soft open with nets now up and ready for play. In the next few weeks, we will introduce our Daily (seven days a week) OPEN PLAY format from 8 to 11 a.m. No need to sign up, just show up and you are in! We use a whiteboard system that makes play rotation fair for everyone. Open play is a great social format open to all levels of ability and you can come by yourself or with family or friends and either way be guaranteed great games and a fun time! (see website for full description of open play format). Beginning each day at 11 a.m. all six courts will be designated as OPEN COURT time, just pick a court and play. If courts are full, play one game to 11 and rotate off.

FREE "ADULT LEARN TO PLAY DAY"

Save the date for WPA's first event on Saturday May 3 from 9 to 11 a.m. Open to all Wilbraham residents, this is a great time to come out, check out the courts and get a quick lesson on the basics including serving and scoring. Local pickle ball players will be on hand for instruction. This will be a very fun and informal clinic with the objective of introducing you to the fastest growing game in America! Please make sure to register on the Wilbraham Parks and Rec website, [Wilbrahamrec.com](http://Wilbrahamrec.com).

Lastly, all level of players can continue to watch the Parks and Rec website for new player instructional lessons as well as intermediate and advanced clinics offered indoors several times throughout the year by our local pros. In addition, WPA will be introducing pizza socials, vendor pop-ups, round robins and the first annual Wilbraham Pickleball Championship tournament this Fall. So stay tuned for a busy and fun season!

## Valley Wheel tryouts set for next month

Players looking to join the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League can attend the tryouts beginning Sunday April 6. The time and location of the tryout is to be determined.

The league, which plays its games in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, makes sure that everyone gets a fair share of the action. Everyone plays a minimum of 4 innings in the field, and everyone bats. The league follows MLB rules with some

modified rules adapted with safety in mind.

The Valley Wheel stands apart from other leagues across the country for this reason:

Their league charter and one of their main goals, is to work toward having a league with teams of equal strength.

The league is now seeking new players to fill open roster slots. Enjoy the competition and camaraderie with a great group of guys who enjoy the game as much as you do.

Stay in shape and make new friends. Be part of something that happens once a year, and with luck, win a championship that might be once in a lifetime. Grab your glove and cleats and join a team for a great adventure. It's not too late don't miss out; opening day is just around the corner. For more information, contact Jim Nason at 413-433-4308 or visit the website [www.ValleyWheelBaseball.org](http://www.ValleyWheelBaseball.org)

### LEAGUE from page 9

Chicopee State Representative Joseph Wagner for twenty-one years. She was also the Executive Assistant to Sheriff Nick Cocchi at the Hampden County Sheriff's Department.

Monaghan was also a summer league soccer coach. Her older brother, John, coached the girls' summer league soccer team at that same time. The two siblings battled against each other several times.

"It was a lot of fun coaching against my sister's sum-

mer league soccer team," John Monaghan said. "Having the Suburban League name their sportsmanship award in her honor really means a lot to the family. She put a lot of time and effort into sports. She just wanted to help the kids get better."

A high school girls varsity basketball team will also be receiving the Eileen Monaghan Sportsmanship Award on March 20.

"We had high school Sportsmanship Award for

about six or seven years, but then it stopped due to the COVID-19 Pandemic," Ciejka said. "We're going to be bringing the high school sportsmanship award back in Eileen's name at our referee's banquet on March 20."

The Gateway players didn't get to play in the Suburban League finals this year, but it was still a very special day for them.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The first wave of harriers starts the course on Maple St.

### RACE from page 9

helped to prepare several participants in this year's event for future races in the coming months, including the Boston Marathon, which will take place on Monday, April 21.

With the weather being much warmer, there were less participants in costumes, though plenty of harriers were wearing the green tutus that are often a part of each



The participants are off in the 48th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race.

year's race.

The city also had excellent cooperation from the Holyoke Police Department, Holyoke Fire Department, the Massachusetts State Police, and

Cataldo Ambulance, which provided public safety services for the event this year.

The race was kicked with a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner sung

by Kate Caligaris and JFK Award winner and celebrity Bridget Moynahan shot the opening gun.

This year, there were four waves of runners followed by

the fifth wave, which included walkers on the course.

Among the participants, there were nearly 400 participants in the race who were under 18-years-old.



Attendees check out the Country Bank table during the birthday celebration at the Wilbraham Senior Center.



Barbara Harrington, social services coordinator at the Wilbraham Senior Center, and Mary-Anne Schelb, director of business development, Western MA Market, at JGS Lifecare, smile for a photo.



From the left, Jan Garneau, director of admissions at Life Care Center of Wilbraham, Arsalan Khawaja, banking center specialist at Country Bank, Tracey Perry, assistant vice president and retail banking officer at Country Bank, and Katie Krupka, certified senior advisor at Assisted Living Locators, in a group photo during the birthday celebration.



Dee Mitchell, corresponding secretary for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, shows off the quilt made by the Quilting Club at the Wilbraham Senior Center. The quilt is a raffle prize.

**ONE YEAR** from page 1

supporting programs and services at the senior center.

"We're always looking for volunteers that can help us, but we're thrilled. We're absolutely thrilled and everybody seems to enjoy it," Mitchell said.

Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs, explained the birthday celebration was the senior center's way of thanking the community and seniors for their support.

Dubord said the daily average of people coming to the senior center is "about 160 to 170 people a day," with some days having as many as 250 people.

"We have served so many more people. Our numbers have quadrupled from our old spot and have continued to. We're adding new programming and services, activities. Every week we got new stuff going on, which is great. We're just getting great feedback from people," Dubord said. "The seniors, really, are letting us know what they want and we're doing our best to make all those things come to fruition, so it's just been a wonderful year."

Dubord said the vendors at the celebration were some of the places that have supported the senior center throughout the years with fundraising and since they opened.

"It's been wonderful. They all have raffles for folks and they were able to share their information, so it's been a great day," Dubord said.

She also credited the Friends for their support.

"They were just so important in getting this senior center built and all the fundraising they did," Dubord said. "They're very good friends."

Reflecting on the last year, Dubord said, "Everything has gone so smoothly" since moving into the new space and her favorite thing was implementing a lunch program on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

"It's just been a whole community-wide effort. Everybody in the town, all the different town departments, the residents, the businesses have all come to support us and it just shows," Dubord said. "It makes the seniors feel good that they have a place, that people are supportive of them and realize they are an important part of the community and this is a great place that they can come in and enjoy."

Mitchell also encourages the community to keep coming by.

"I hope they'll continue to support the senior center, partake in the senior center and the Friends are looking for ideas that we can help to work with the seniors in town meeting their needs," Mitchell said.

Dubord's message was this.

"It's just one of many years to come. This will be a great space for many, many years for the seniors to enjoy," Dubord said. "If you're not a senior now, in 10 years you will be, you got a great space to come hang out in, have activities, socialization, all the stuff to keep you busy."

# Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

Michelle Shattuck wasn't aware of her humble beginnings until her high school years when unkind peers were only too ready to inform her of that. Perhaps that's one reason she is such an amazing woman now with such incredible qualities and heartfelt nature.

Michelle knows about giving back and has done this her whole life without allowing it much thought or thinking it was anything special, but as you'll learn, this is definitely not the case.

Michelle's husband of 30 years also grew up in humble beginnings, therefore sharing her values of helping others less fortunate because as she explained, "They've both been there". They've instilled in their two children this importance, not only by example, but by having them participate with distributing meals to the underserved and filling care bags as well. They wanted their children to appreciate and realize that though not millionaires, because of the choices they've made, they do live a privileged life.

Michelle is a two-time breast cancer survivor, the first time being diagnosed when she was just thirty-seven and the second time at thirty-eight. Her children who are now young adults, were just two and six at the time of her first diagnosis. As she recovered she was intro-

duced to Rays of Hope, the breast cancer charity through Baystate Health Foundation. She devoted about fifteen years in various roles, from fundraiser, to being the Chair person at both the Greenfield and Springfield walks for a total of five years and in addition to working a five-year stint at the Foundation. Though no longer volunteering nor working for the Foundation she continues to support the charity because she believes in the cause and is grateful for the help she received when going through her journey. She conveyed that not only did she receive that support but also from friends and relatives who would bring meals for the family, help with child care, offered help with shopping and were always there for moral support.

Michelle is just a giving person and always tries to help others in need. When a family in her town lost their home to fire, she set up a Go-Fund Me page to help the family get back on their feet. She volunteered many hours at the hospital gift shop, again her way of giving back. She was also a Big Sister for three years to a young girl who needed a little extra guidance in life. When the cold weather arrives, Michelle goes through her family's closets and donates winter clothing to shelters,

another generous Random Act of Kindness.

She's done these things while maintaining her own marketing business, OMNI Consulting, using her twenty-five years as a marketing specialist. So she's helping people in yet another way, by guiding them to create a successful business with her expertise.

But the reason I really wanted to write about Michelle, is though all these things and more are pretty remarkable, it's her dedication of being a secret elf to as many as five families at Christmas time. She has done this for more than 10 years through references from friends, her church and even a local agency now reaches out to her. She then solicits help from people she knows and since they know it's legitimate, the outpouring is amazing. She is given the ages, sizes and wishes of each child and though the parents generally say they want nothing, she doesn't eliminate them from the Christmas joy of gifts. Each member of each family has an individual box of presents and she makes sure each family member has the same amount of gifts. Most people drop off their donations but if they can't she goes and collects them. This takes a huge amount of time and organization as you can imagine, but she loves every minute of it!

But it doesn't stop there! She supplies all the wrapping necessities then wraps each item and labels them with the recipient's name. And again, it still doesn't stop because she and her husband add to the donations with a substantial amount of their own money to create these beautiful holidays for those who are temporarily struggling.

It creates such a wonderful feeling within yourself when you can help someone in need and do an unexpected kindness or even an expected one. Random Acts of Kindness don't always have to be for strangers! What a difference your gesture can make in someone's life. We all have things we have to deal with and to be able to help someone in their time of need with a simple deed, what a great way to promote positivity. Please be a part of that positivity and do your own Random Act of Kindness.

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, you did or maybe received something nice being done for you. See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness! ~ Barb

## Wilbraham Garden Club meets April 3

WILBRAHAM - The April meeting of the Wilbraham Garden Club will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at St. Cecilia Parish Center at Noon. A sandwich lunch and dessert will be served.

The speaker for the meeting will be Tracey

Trombly, owner of The Plant Lounge, in Suffield Ct.

If you want a plant whose flowers bloom for months? Then, you will love orchids!

Tracey will share her methods for keeping orchids healthy and

blooming multiple times. Having problems with an orchid? Bring in your "problem" orchid and you may be one of the lucky ones Tracey selects to demonstrate common orchid problems.

## National Vietnam War Veterans Day Chat

WILBRAHAM - The Department of Veterans Services will be hosting a Vet Chat on National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 28.

The Vet Chat will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Wilbraham Senior Center in recognition of National Vietnam Veteran's Day, which falls on March 29.

All veterans, their families and community members are welcome to attend.

Coffee, snacks and light refreshments will be available. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Wilbraham Earth Day 2025

WILBRAHAM - Keep Wilbraham Beautiful is excited to announce this year's Wilbraham Earth Day Clean Up Event.

The event will take place on April 12 at Fountain Park from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and everyone is welcome to attend.

Volunteers are also needed! To learn more, visit <https://sites.google.com/view/wilbraham-earth-day-cleanup/home?authuser=0>.

## Boston Marathon Stories & History at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM- Bestselling author Paul Clerici will share stories about the iconic Boston Marathon at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, April 7 at 6 p.m. He will describe traditions such as the race's connection between the Greek god Zeus, the evolution of media coverage and cultural exchange, the statues and monuments along the course, including the first woman to finish the Boston Marathon, and much more. Clerici's storytelling is supplemented with a multimedia presentation of images from his books, including some from rare collections and some never seen before.

This free event is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library. Registration is encouraged as space is limited. Sign up at [wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://wilbrahamlibrary.org), or call the library at 413-596-6141.

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**SCANTIC ROAD** from page 1

The health effects of PFAs include pollution of drinking water and PFAs in soil contaminating groundwater and surface water. Exposure to PFAs may, also, increase the risk of developing long-term health problems.

Addressing the PFAs at this address is in relation to the Scantic Valley Water District, a registered community-based public water system with 16 active water services and providing drinking water to 13 homes in Hampden.

Selectboard Member John Flynn explained the board received a notice from the water tester for this property, with the test showing it "exceeded the mandated limit" for PFAs and action will need to be taken.

"The choices are hook them up immediately to the one we bid for and awarded or do the individual one like we did for down the road," Flynn said. "We're still waiting for a quote, I believe John Plaster is waiting for a quote on that...somebody should go check."

When Selectboard Member Craig Rivest wondered about the last test, Flynn confirmed that came out to "just under 10."

"If we get lucky and it comes out again, it doesn't trigger a 30b because the bottom limit is 10 just for the quote part, and then, I think, it's 10 to 25 requires you to make three attempts for quotes. Over that, you need three written responses," Flynn said.

Flynn added Town Administrator Brian Domina has "a couple options" if a water meter was bought.

"Craig, that might be something--just consideration--at this point, we're up to how many homes? Maybe if we do buy it, maybe we should buy a second one just

to have a spare," Flynn said. "So, we're at the point where--and I think this was in your plans for in the future anyhow to build up a little spare thing--anyhow, that's the report on that. We'll know more when we get the quote and the Water Commission will come back with and pretty much work with Brian on what has to be done. We don't have a lot of options."

"It has to be done," Chair Don Davenport said.

"It has to be done, exactly," Flynn said.

Next, Flynn mentioned advertising for an available spot on the Water District Commission.

"Don, I know we want to put that out there and see if we get (anyone). We do have one individual that's interested, I believe, but we should be putting it out like any other position in town," Flynn said. "Let them beat down the doors. I mean, that might take a whole meeting, all the candidates. Special meeting for all the candidates."

When Domina asked how long the board would like to advertise that for, Flynn replied, "Two weeks tops."

After Davenport asked if there was an opening, Rivest confirmed yes as he will be resigning from the Water District Commission.

The motion to accept and approve Rivest's resignation from the Water District Commission was unanimously approved.

Flynn thanked Rivest for his service to the commission, with Davenport and Domina also expressing their thanks.

"Make a motion to accept the resignation of Craig from the Water Commission with our sincere thanks, our acknowledgment of the hard work he's put in, the digging of test pits, just everything," Flynn said. "There's really been nobody like you, Craig."

# 2024-2026 Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Inc. Board of Directors

**WILBRAHAM - At a recent Annual Friends Membership meeting, the following were elected to two-year terms for 2024-2026.**  
**Seated L to R - Dee Mitchell (Corresponding Secretary), Ann Marie Gaudette (Director), Lee Tyrrell (Treasurer). Standing L to R - Matt Villamaino (President), Lisa Coolidge (Vice President & Fundraising Director), Kate Belsky (Recording Secretary), Deb Gornley (Membership Director), Pam Sonnefeld (Director).**  
**A nonprofit 501 (c)(3) the Friends was founded in 1985 as a fundraising organization whose mission is to support Wilbraham Seniors and programs and services. For more information, visit their website at FriendsOfWilbrahamSeniors.org**



Submitted photo by Charlie Bennett

**PLANTS** from page 1

an information sheet filled with facts about stinging nettles. The powerful plant is known for its high mineral content and support for the kidneys.

"As winter turns to spring, nettles can help with a sort of spring cleaning for the body," Markham said.

Markham discussed the ancient practice of urtication, in which you lightly sting your skin with fresh nettles. This stimulates circulation and provides arthritis and allergy relief, she said.

"Nettles can also help with emotional blockages," Markham said. "They have invigorating properties."

Participants in the herbal workshop sampled Markham's piping hot nettle tea (made with a cup of dried nettles and a gallon of hot water) and nettle tincture. The tincture tasted earthy and slightly salty, indicating its high mineral content.

Markham herself drinks four to five cups of nettle tea a week and puts cooked nettles into mashed potatoes and other dishes. She urged the group to be cautious when utilizing herbs.

"Herbs are potent. They are powerful medicines. Understand what you are working with and talk to both a doctor and a herbalist before you use any herbal preparations," Markham said.

Maureen Liquori of Hampden, a nurse, came to the meeting to satisfy her curiosity about herbal medicine and learn about how she might utilize the plants in her yard. She found Markham's presentation fascinating.

"I'll definitely be back," Liquori said.

Sue Bellows of Hampden, who has consulted with Markham, sung her praises after the gathering.

"Juanie gave me a salve for knee pain that helped me like nothing else ever has," Bellows said. "I've never seen such dramatic results. She is an incredibly valuable community resource."

Ellen Moriarty, director of the Hampden Free Pub-

lic Library, was more than pleased with the strong turnout for the event and with Markham's presentation.

"I love learning anything about how we can live in better harmony with nature," Moriarty said.

The next Herb of the Month Gathering will focus on violets and will take place on April 5 from 11 a.m. to Noon in the Rochford Reading Room of the Hampden Free Public Library. The event is free and registration is not required.

For more information on Hidden Hollow Holistix, go to welcome.hiddenhol-lowholistix.com, or contact Juanie Markham at 678-265-2556.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing**  
 The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 16, at 6:30 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA to Amend the Town of Hampden Zoning Bylaw to establish a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Bylaw. 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 of the  
 Hampden Planning Board  
 03/27, 04/23/2025

Madison Pixley,  
 Chair of the  
 Hampden Planning Board  
 03/27, 04/03/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD19P2090GD**  
**In the interests of: David Ferriter of West Springfield, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person**  
**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN**  
 To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dept. of Developmental Services** of Worcester, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:  
 Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.  
 The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since

the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.  
**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **04/10/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: March 13, 2025  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
 Register of Probate  
 03/27/2025  
**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE**  
 This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **March 28, 2025** the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:  
 Vehicle : 2009 Nissan Frontier  
 VIN#: 1N6AA07C29N317650  
 COLOR: Gray  
 LKO: Jarrett Kirsche  
 52 Hilltop Dr  
 Manchester CT 06043  
 R & S Assoc. Inc  
 PO Box 543  
 Wilbraham MA 01095  
 413-596-4374  
 03/13, 03/20, 03/27/2025

in **Wilbraham** Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **Hill Engineers, Architects, Planners, Inc.**  
 The Project consists of: **Re-configuring and replacing the existing asphalt entrance drive and parking area.**  
 The work is estimated to cost **\$89,920.00**  
 Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30 §39M & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.  
 General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., Friday April 18, 2025** and publicly opened, forthwith.  
 This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at Projectdog.com and received no later than the date & time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 978.499.9014.  
 General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates) and made payable to the **Wilbraham** Housing Authority.  
 Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available in electronic form and without cost or charge at Projectdog.com,

project code **867432**, beginning **March 26, 2025**. Persons desiring hard copies of the documents shall be solely responsible for all printing costs.  
 The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection between **1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. on April 11, 2025**.  
 For an appointment call **Jeanne Tyrone at 413-543-1700**.  
 03/27/2025

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

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# GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club to hold Annual Bunny Breakfast

WILBRAHAM - The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club will be holding its Annual Bunny Breakfast on Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 8 to 11 a.m. at St Cecilia's Church Parish Center located at 41 Main Street in Wilbraham.

Attendees will enjoy a "Bunnylicious" Breakfast of freshly prepared pancakes and sausage, fresh fruits and their choice of orange or apple juice, coffee, tea, milk or water.

The Easter Bunny will be in attendance to visit and take photos with the kids. Guests can enjoy Face painting, Temporary Tattoos and lots of Arts and Crafts activities!

Raffle tickets will be available for purchase for a chance to win child and adult themed raffle baskets!

The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club would like to thank our sponsor Luso Federal Credit Union! Their representatives will be

distributing Easter-themed items to all of the children!

The Bunny Breakfast is a long-standing, cherished community event. Be sure to Hop on over! Tickets: \$8 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under, can be purchased at the door via cash, check or Venmo or online at [Wilbrahamjuniorwomens.org](http://Wilbrahamjuniorwomens.org) via PayPal or Venmo.

For more information, please contact Brenda Willard at [Brendaswillard@aol.com](mailto:Brendaswillard@aol.com) or (413) 279-1394.

# OPRO hosting spring concert April 4

WILBRAHAM - The Old Post Road Orchestra will present our spring concert, under the direction of Alexandria Black, on Friday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. at Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main St, in Wilbraham.

The program, titled "Italian Soundscapes", will feature selections from Italian composers including Rossini's William Tell Overture and promises to be an evening of memorable music.

Our concerts are FREE and family-friendly, thanks in part to the generosity of the

Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Members of the Minnechaug Key Club will also assist concert goers at the door.

Please join OPRO on this musical journey across Italy!

# Stay safe with home utilities

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - In the event of an emergency, it's crucial to know the location of your home utilities.

Please familiarize yourself with the locations of your oil burner shut-off switch, gas shut-off valve, electrical meter, and water valve. This knowledge can significantly assist firefighters upon their arrival and enhance safety for everyone.

A message from your Wilbraham and Hampden fire & life safety educators.



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OPEN TUES-WED 3-9PM, THURS 3-10PM, FRI 12-10PM, SAT 12-10PM, SUN 12-8PM

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Eagle Eyes  
Saturday 3/9  
Deanna Rae

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