

TIMES

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

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

ECR-WSS
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

COMMUNITY

YMCA
Health
Fair
Page 4

SPORTS

Chaug
lacrosse
opens up 2-0
Page 11

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

APRIL 2, 2026

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com



Minnechaug's student council delegates attend the MASC Conference.

Photo courtesy of Abigail O'Sullivan

FinComm approves WPL FY27 budget

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Finance Committee approved the library's FY27 budget in a 7-2 vote on March 25, with the total budget at \$867,635.

The decision comes after Director Melissa Harter presented the budget to the committee on Jan. 14, which included a request to fund books and materials at \$128,470.

This amount was later reduced by the Finance Committee to \$75,832, which created a budget shortfall of \$52,638.

Due to that reduction, the library was at risk of losing its Massachusetts library certification, and losing it would have led to the WPL withdrawing from the regional library system, for example.

Many community members spoke out in support of the library at FinCom meetings and, also, recent Select Board meetings.

Judy Cmero, a member of the Classics Book Club and a regular patron, stressed funding the library "at a level that would maintain our full participation in the CWMARS network."

"With our full participation in CWMARS, all Wilbraham residents from children to seniors are free to borrow in-person or by online requests from the rich resources of all 161 CWMARS member libraries in Central and Western Massachusetts. These resources include over eight million physical items such as books, DVDs, periodicals, toys and many other items, and over 65,000 eBooks, e-audiobooks and e-magazines," Cmero said. "And if a needed item was not available at CWMARS, it can be borrowed from the eight library consortia in Massachusetts. This is a collection that no single library could provide its users by itself."

Cmero explained how "each library must pay its fair share of network costs," and many from teachers and students to patrons looking for an interview on a book that may not be available at the library, utilize the system.

"If our library is not funded adequately to maintain our membership in CWMARS, access to all these resources will be cut off for all our residents

Please see **BUDGET**, page 13

Minnechaug's Student Council attends MASC Conference

By Natalie Proulx
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - From March 4 to March 6, Minnechaug Regional High School's Student Council attended the annual Massachusetts Student Council Spring Three-Day Conference in Hyannis, MA at the Emerald Resort and Conference Center.

The conference brings student leaders together from across the state to share their accomplishments and to recognize outstanding members of each council.

Minnechaug's Student Council

received the Gold Council of Excellence Award for the work they did from February 2025 to February 2026 within the community and for their school, participating in and hosting fundraisers to raise money for different causes.

The council has done a lot over the past year to receive this honor.

Minnechaug's Student Council also won the Top 10 Project for the Pickleball Tournament they held last May to raise money for the CJ Cronin Scholarship. The council also plunged into the Atlantic Ocean to raise money for Special Olympics. In total, the council has raised over

\$1,000 for the organization.

At the conference, certain councils are recognized and 10 projects that the councils have worked on are selected as being the best for that year. 24 delegates from Minnechaug's Student Council also met student leaders from all over Massachusetts during their small group workshops, leadership sessions, and speeches, where Student Council delegates could develop skills, share ideas and celebrate their accomplishments.

Please see **MASC**, page 4



Photo courtesy of Lucy Haile

Lucy Haile presents a speech at the Conference.

Selectboard reviews MassDEP administrative consent order

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard reviewed a MassDEP administrative consent order in relation to the town hall building on March 23.

Town Administrator Brian Domina explained this item "has been discussed for a while now" and went back and forth with legal counsel.

"Essentially, what it's doing is it's agreeing to remove, to take one of the wells offline at the new town hall because it's within certain radius of septic disposal system," Domina said. "Once we sign this and we do that, then it will essential-

ly pass Title 5 regulations. The building will pass Title 5 regulations and we're also agreeing to keep the estimated septic discharge or flow from the building under 10,000, which would give the Board of Health jurisdiction over the system. Which, otherwise, the system is too large, so MassDEP would have jurisdiction over the system and there would be an annual permitting process that would happen."

Domina said because there's an agreement "to keep the flow of the septic system low" and agreeing "to take off one of the wells," the town hall building "can keep going as we are."

Chair John Flynn asked

this. "Now, we're taking the well off as a portable water source," Flynn said.

"Correct," Domina said. "We're leaving the option open to use it as a low water input into the heating system and/or irrigation down the road," Flynn said.

"Correct," Domina said. "The requirement is that we separate it from portable water."

"But we don't have to cap it or anything like that?" Flynn said.

"Don't have to cap it. Whether it's future irrigation or whether it's makeup water for the heating system

Please see **ORDER**, page 10



Turley photo by Angelina Acevedo

The Wilbraham Public Library is currently holding a contest for a brand-new logo through April 15.

WPL holding logo contest

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library is taking on a change and asking the community for their help designing their brand-new logo.

The Wilbraham Friends of the Library presents the logo contest for Wilbraham residents aged high school and higher, with a \$250 prize for

the winner. The library hopes to start a new chapter with a new, fresh look.

When asked about what the new logo could represent, Melissa Harter, the library's director of seven months, explained, "Our mission is to provide free and equal access to information in all formats and to encourage literacy and

Please see **CONTEST**, page 13

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

Jesse Rice led the ballot of 1962

Looking through the lens of history

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

Since I seem to specialize in the history of mid-20th century Wilbraham by virtue of my age and my family's experiences of coming of age in our town, it is fun to browse through my mother, Ethel Bennett's, published news articles in the daily newspaper of the time, the Spring-



Charlie Bennett

field Morning Union.

There was also a daily evening newspaper, The Daily News and she competed with its Wilbraham reporter Fred Reidy. The two papers were owned by the same company, so the two staffs shared the same desks, phones, parking spaces and printing presses. When one group went home for the day, the next bunch reported to work.

Anyhow - like looking through the lens of history - going back like that gives you a unique perspective. And it also gives my readers

a first-hand look at our own world; our small part in it, and the exciting newsmakers from that outside world like President John F. Kennedy, Rev. Martin Luther King and Elvis Presley.

All the while, as teens at the new high school we enjoyed our record hops and, we wondered what the future would bring at the beginning of the Space Age. But we also worried if the Cold War would blow up in our faces.

Our Class of 1961 was the first class to graduate from the new Minnechaug. Also, in that class were some of my contemporaries who

Please see **WILBRAHAM**, page 10

64 Years Ago

Academy Aide is Discovered Unconscious

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield "Miss Marion White of West Hartford, Conn., secretary to Wilbraham Academy Head-

master W. Gray Mattern, Jr. was found unconscious about 6:45 Saturday night on the floor of Mattern's garage near her car.

She was discovered by Gilder Jackson, a faculty member. She was taken to

Wessen Memorial Hospital where officials said she is on the Danger List and in poor condition. Police Chief Pollitt said there was no foul play."

COMMUNITY

Fern Valley Market inspection determines future need for hand-washing stations

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Dan and Brooke Fernandes reconnected with the Select Board on March 23 to determine the future of Fern Valley Market.

Chair Michael Squindo noted that the feedback from the building and health inspectors suggested that if the market was able to receive a permit to remain operating within town limits, the Fernandes' would need to adjust some of their facilities to "meet the code."

"Ryan and I have spoken a couple of times over the past week in regards to this," Marc Ducey, the vice chair of the Select Board, said.

Ryan Paxton, the director of Public Health, was in attendance as both a consultant and subject matter expert regarding the inspection results. The initial recommendation outlined a need for a hand-washing station on the premises, which sparked a conversation about what would fulfill that requirement.

"When we made the recommendation, considering that we serve multiple towns, we always make the recommendation of trying to reach maximum code compliance and then we like to leave a lot of the discretionary decisions to the various boards," Paxton said.

He went on to state that there is a code requirement for retail food establishments to have a sink. However, due to the fact that the market doesn't perform food preparation on site, it's a "relatively low scope risk."

Paxton said that he isn't necessarily against the idea of the Select Board giving the tenants extra time to comply, but emphasized that the circumstance was driving a lot of the decision making when it came to the building assessment.

"I would say that if there was a decision to either allow hand washing off site at the other nearby facility or if there was generally not a solid sink we would ask that maybe chemical towelettes be provided," Paxton said.

He suggested that the alternative hand cleaning methods be installed should the sink installation not be possible within a reasonable time frame.

"I'm understanding that it's a very difficult situation in terms of the wastewater compliance that would go hand in hand with the plumbing fixture," Paxton said.

Clerk Sue Bunnell floated the idea of offering a seasonal permit for the market pending further developments.

Paxton responded by stating that a temporary food permit would only last 14 days and that there wouldn't be any point in offering this for the Fernandes' case.

Dan Fernandes, a co-owner of Fern Valley Market LLC along with Brooke Fernandes, questioned if a greywater system would work as a workaround.

Greywater systems recycle lightly used household water from sinks and showers to irrigate landscapes and perform other activities, such as flushing toilets. The goal is to save water, cut sewer output, and protect septic systems.

Paxton confirmed that a greywater system would be allowed under Title 5, but would still require the owners to install the system, the functionality of which the building currently lacks.

"There's a pathway for it," Paxton said.

He added that the process would involve an abutters notice to declare a project to construct said system as well as a formal public hearing by the Select Board to approve it. The inspection also discovered that there wasn't a bathroom installed at the market site, though there was one stationed in a nearby stone house accessible to the public.

"We want a bathroom," Dan Fernandes said when addressing the concerns listed by both the Select Board and the director of public health.

"We want to make sure that this is known and that it's not something we don't want. I don't want to sit here and tell that Board we're going to get there in six months, that it's not going to be a problem. That's not true."

Regarding the hand-washing station issue, Bunnell asked about how food trucks handle this problem. Paxton explained that temporary food events could have trucks with running hot water with a runoff into a wastewater tank, but also stated that it wasn't something that could be permitted to run all year round.

"We want to make sure that we have some sort of path forward," Dan Fernandes said, who also stressed that he didn't want to "muddy the waters" around the logistics of the required hand-washing

station. "I don't want to keep dragging this on forever. We want to come up with a solution."

Fern Valley Market currently has a sani-can as a temporary bathroom measure on site, as well as chemical towelette wipes and hand sanitizer. The sani-can, however, is a standard stall and is not considered an accessible restroom.

Paxton said that the owners could "formalize this as a variance" of Title 5 exception as it would "provide equal protection as the regular options," but that the measures wouldn't meet the food code requirements.

"Summer will be very telling," Brooke Fernandes said when asked by Ducey about how long the owners would need to come up with a long-term plan. "Now that we're a bit more established and people know about us, once we go through another cycle of having all the local stuff available, we're going to learn a lot this summer now that people know about us. So, I think we can have more information for you after the summer."

The Select Board ruled unanimously to give the Fernandes' until June 30 to figure out the technical pieces, with the condition that no prepared food or foods ready to eat would be prepared on the premises.

Squindo said that the two can always amend it later once they had a formal hearing regarding the proposed variance request.

"You've got your work ahead of you," Squindo said.



There will be a raffle winner each day of the month of May. (Charles Bennett photo)

Fundraising raffle to have a winner every day of the month

WILBRAHAM – You can tell it is a sign of Spring when members of the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club start selling raffle tickets that awards a raffle winner every day of the month.

The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club is holding its annual Calendar Raffle sale throughout the month of April with prizes given out every day in May. The raffle will raise money for local community projects and scholarships. Calendars are on sale now through the end of April for \$10 each and are available from any club member.

The raffle is similar to the one held last year in that, in addition to cash prizes, there will also be gift cards to many national chains with outlets in the Greater Springfield area, such as

Home Depot and Dunkin'. But sandwiched around the gift cards are brand new \$100 bills as well as other large amounts of cash.

Thirty prizes will be awarded in the month of May. "The popularity of this raffle is that it has a winner every day," said Raffle co-chair Tim Tracy. "That gives every entry many chances to win," said Tracy.

To purchase a calendar, contact Tracy at 413-682-4094 or co-chair Ann Marie Ottonson at 413-530-5996. Proceeds will be used to support scholarships and other community projects, said Tracy. Look on Facebook for who to contact for the raffle ticket sales.

For more information or to join the Rotary Club call Brad Sperry at 413-537-4171.

Updated Information

At press time in last week's edition, the upcoming Village Center Public Information and Feedback Session was scheduled for

Apr. 1. Since then, the date has now been set for Apr. 9 at 6 p.m. and will take place at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

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

THINKING ABOUT BUYING OR SELLING? **HELPFUL INFO**

TEXT "GUIDE" TO 866-583-4640

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT A CAREER WITH LANDMARK? **TEXT "CAREER" TO 866-583-4640**

Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

WE'RE LOCAL WE'RE GLOBAL

CAREER IN REAL ESTATE?
Call Us or Visit LandmarkRE.com and Click on Careers

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

 Dawn Rodgers 478-2605	 Nick Ferrara 386-4523	 Kathy Esser 348-3803	 Sue Rheaume 478-0671
 Zoe Czapliski 519-9224	 Dot Lortie 478-1940	 Linda Alston 246-8616	 Sandy Wegryn 519-1056

CALL US FOR DETAILS ON ANY OF THESE PROPERTIES

SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS

STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
NEW	115 Pasadena St., Springfield	Forest Park, 6 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Bungalow	\$289,000	
ACT	Lot 602, Grandview Avenue, Ludlow	8 room, 4 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial	\$650,000	
CTG	325 Allen Street, Hampden,	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath	\$369,000	
UAG	7 Ashbrook St., Springfield	East Forest Park, 10 room, 4 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial	\$379,900	
SLD	31 Canterbury Cir, E. Longmeadow	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 2h bath Colonial	\$639,900	\$634,900
SLD	67 Hill Ter, Ludlow	8 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial, Gambrel/Dutch	\$450,000	\$440,000
SLD	37 Wyndermere Pl, Ludlow	11 room, 4 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial	\$620,000	\$627,000
SLD	178 Penrose St, Springfield	5 room, 2 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch, Bungalow	\$139,900	\$155,000
SLD	80 Jean Dr. Springfield	9 room, 4 bed, 1f 1h bath Cape	\$269,900	\$275,000
SLD	79 Anvilla St., Springfield	East Forest Park, 6 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$289,900	\$292,000

CONDOMINIUM LISTINGS

ACT	140 Chestnut St., U:819 Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f 0h bath Mid-Rise	\$88,499	
UAG	140 Chestnut St., U:816 Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f 0h bath High-Rise	\$84,900	
SLD	119 Blisswood Village, U:119, Ludlow	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Townhouse	\$279,900	\$300,000
SLD	140 Chestnut St., U:210, Springfield,	3 room, 1 bed, 1f 0h bath Mid-Rise	\$84,900	\$81,000
SLD	54 High Pine Cir U:54, Wilbraham	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Townhouse	\$494,500	\$492,000

LAND LISTINGS

ACT	7 Old Reed Rd., Lot:6, Monson	8.50 Residential acres (370,260 SqFt)	\$99,000	
-----	-------------------------------	---------------------------------------	----------	--

Search LandmarkRE.com For All Listings In Western MA

 Eileen O'Sullivan 505-9244	 John Moltenbrey 427-5176	 Shari Lokey 218-8811	 Luci Giguere 575-2837	 Ann Paquette 626-6871	 Maria D'Angelantonio 575-2898	 Ann Marie Martin 206-1161	 Art Ferrara 348-5827	 Alyssa Rhodes 896-9269
-----------------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------------------

Easy Property Search at LandmarkRE.com
Follow us on facebook.com/LandmarkLortie and instagram.com/landmarkrealtorsma

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

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

Keep Wilbraham Beautiful: Annual townwide Earth Day Community Clean-Up returns

WILBRAHAM - Residents are invited to come together in community spirit and hometown pride for the 4th Annual Keep Wilbraham Beautiful Earth Day Community Clean-Up on Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteers of all ages will gather at Memorial School for check-in and registration before heading out across town to help keep Wilbraham clean, green, and beautiful. Participants will receive all necessary supplies, simple instructions, and a designated area to clean.

This beloved annual event is more than just a clean-up—it's a chance to connect with neighbors, enjoy the outdoors, and take pride in the town we all call home.

"We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful community," organizers shared. "This event is about coming together, having fun, and making a visible difference. Every piece of litter picked up helps keep Wilbraham looking its best."

How to Get Involved

Volunteer:

Individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to sign up and participate.

Form a Team:

Gather friends, coworkers, or local organizations to cover more ground.

Support the Cause:

If you're unable to contribute, you can help promote the event by purchasing a Keep Wilbraham Beautiful yard sign for \$50.

Register & Learn More

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/wilbraham-earth-day-cleanup/home>

Volunteer Registration:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRyld_LLANyXgESj2KOWrNeYOGNiHMa3odhNS0Hd_akfIX-TQ/viewform?usp=dialog

Whether you can give an hour or the whole morning, your participation makes a difference. Let's show our pride and keep Wilbraham shining!

Join us, bring your energy, and help make this the best clean-up yet!

BIRTH Announcement



Welcome
Enzo Michael Ford
Born
2/25/26



Wilbraham Women's Club Fashion Show set for April 23

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Women's Club is sponsoring a Fashion Show Luncheon on Thursday, April 23, at the St. Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham.

Clothing from Chico's in the Longmeadow Shops will be featured. The catered luncheon choices are Salmon with dill sauce or Chicken Francaise.

There will also be a raffle for many prizes and gift certificates. Join us at 11:30 for a social time with hors d'oeuvres followed by lunch at Noon. The donation is \$42

and is a fundraiser for the club's scholarships and charitable donations to needy organizations in the area.

For reservations, please make checks payable to Wilbraham Women's Club and mail to Sue Agnew, 7 Aspen Dr., Wilbraham 01095. For questions, call Sue at 596-9480.

Be sure to include meal choice in memo of check. Also, include with whom you wish to sit.

Deadline to register is April 14.

Thank you for your support.

wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

TOP DOLLAR PAID CARS, TRUCKS & SUVs
GOOD OR JUNK
"WE COME WITH THE CASH"
Nate (413) 636-2929
D AND M AUTO
1422 Park St.
Palmer, MA 01069

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

TROMBLEY
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Investment & Retirement Planning

- More than just returns
- Today's thinking. Yesterday's values.
- Friendly, local and professional

2022 Boston Rd.
Wilbraham, MA

Trombleywealth.com
413-596-6992

Securities offered through LPL Financial. Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through Trombley Wealth Management, a registered investment advisor and separate entity from LPL Financial.

THE BEST FRESH FOR SPRING!

BEAUTIFUL BLOOMING SPRING BULBS
Colorful Tulips
Sunny Daffodils
Fragrant Hyacinths
6" Pots **2 for \$16** or \$8.99 ea.

Beautiful White Easter Lilies
TRICOLOR
EASTER EGG MUMS
Dreamy Blue & Pink Hydrangeas

Fresh Flower Bouquets & Arrangements
Tulips, Lilies, Hydrangeas & More!

Fill Your Easter Basket
TEMPTING ASSORTMENT OF EASTER CANDY
Chocolate Bunnies, Gourmet Jelly Beans
Vermont "Nut Free" & "No Whey" Chocolate and Candy

From Randall's Easter Kitchen
Randall's Quiche ~ 8 Varieties
Fresh Baked Fruit Pies & Cream Pies
Apple Cider Donuts • Fresh Fruit Salad

BOAR'S HEAD BONELESS SWEET SLICE HAM HALVES \$8.99/LB

Gluten Free Foods
FRESH & FROZEN
Pies, Desserts, Cupcakes & Cookies

CLOSED Easter Sunday

Specials April 1st - April 7th

Grade A Large White Eggs.....\$2.99 Dozen
Golden Ripe Pineapples.....\$3.99 each
Red Seedless Grapes.....\$2.99/lb
Golden Lemons.....4 For \$2.00
Sweet Red Peppers.....\$2.99/lb
Brussels Sprouts.....\$1.99/lb
Romaine Lettuce Hearts 3 Pack.....\$2.99

ALWAYS FRESH AT

RANDALL'S FARM & GREENHOUSE

631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54
LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net
OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM - 8PM
CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY
Find us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/randallsfarm) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/randallsfarm)

SEND US YOUR EVENT PHOTOS

Scan QR Code

Email items to krivers@turley.com

As a free service for our readers we accept and will print when space allows community event photos and announcements. Just scan the QR code above and send us your photos and any information.

Scantic Valley YMCA hosts annual health fair

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – The community gathered at the Scantic Valley YMCA on March 24 for their annual Interactive Health Fair.

Students, health care professionals, and non-profit organizations shuffled into a high-energy function that included free blood pressure screenings, dietary consultations, and weight management advice complete with a complimentary mason jar filled with super-foods for participants to take out and enjoy.

“We’re very grateful for the Elks for sponsoring this event,” Dawn Lapierre, the healthy living director for the Scantic Valley YMCA, said. “We couldn’t do this without them.”

The Ludlow Elk Lodge has been a close-knit partner with the Y, who has sponsored the health fair since 2019. The event is sponsored by the Beacon Grant, a national grant selected by lodge members that donate proceeds to a cause of their choosing.

The Lodge also provides the resources and manpower for the health fair.

“Community partnerships are super important to the Y, so we’re very happy to collaborate,” Lapierre said. “And make people aware of what we do together.”

Susan Petzold, the grant coordinator of the Ludlow Elks Lodge, reports that her organization does a lot of community outreach. From spaghetti dinners on the first Wednesday every month to health fairs to even car shows, their goal is not only to provide family friendly entertainment but to establish strong community bonds.

“These types of programs go back into the community,”



The Ludlow Elks Lodge, who partner with the Scantic Valley YMCA every year for the Health Fair and sponsor it, pose for a group photo.

Petzold said. “We are a community-based organization.”

Community was the key term during the night’s event. Organ donors, health care services, medical school outreach programs, and even the local fire department gathered with the express goal to increase public health and safety awareness. There were even licensed nutritionists on site.

“We want to support the Ys in the area and also our community,” Kathy Jordan said.

Jordan is a registered consulting dietitian for the Big Y, one of four that that supermarket chain employs for their in-house nutrition outreach program. She conducts both in-person and virtual courses that include cooking lessons, nutrition discovery classes, and in-store food tours that explore international diets among other offerings; all of which can be found on their website at www.bigy.com/page/be-well.

Common threads shared between the presenters were regular exercise and meal preparation, the latter of which is a practice that involves cooking multiple

healthy meals to last the week; which are then stored and refrigerated until ready for consumption. Though working out and eating better appear to be matters of common sense, the implications of it can be very surprising.

“There are a lot of gut health connections with Parkinson’s,” said education and outreach manager Stefany Scliopou from the New England Chapter of the Parkinson’s Foundation.

Scliopou explained that plant-forward Mediterranean diets while avoiding red meats appeared ideal in managing symptoms.

“Right now, the best day-to-day is managing medication with exercise and a healthy diet. Movement and diet really affects the day-to-day. So that’s the best form of prolonging symptoms. Exercise is key,” Scliopou said.

Ella Smith, a student in Springfield College’s physical therapy program, also stressed the importance of exercise and that simply getting into the habit of it when possible is the first step towards an improved quality of life.

“Often the hardest part is initiating the activity and

then, once you’re up and moving, you want to keep moving,” Smith said about getting started with regular exercise. “Just building in small habits and that’ll pile up over time.”

“We do recommend at least 30 minutes a day of walking,” added Dina Ibrahim, a Western New England college student pharmacist and a college representative member of the Western New England chapter of the American Pharmacists Association. “If you look at certain guidelines, some things are very, very minimal that can help with the change.”

Her fellow student and chapter member Liam McKellick stressed that true change comes from within.

“You have to feel empowered to do it,” replied McKellick when asked how to convince someone to make the necessary changes to live a long and healthier life. “A pharmacist is never going to be able to convince you. It’s like telling a smoker to stop smoking. They’re not going to stop smoking. They’ve been doing it their whole life. They have to have the motivation themselves to do it.”



Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Farrow of the Wilbraham Fire Department provided fire prevention tips, including information on lithium ion batteries.



Students from Springfield Technical Community College shared tips on proper dental hygiene.



Students from Western New England University, who also comprised representatives from the Western New England chapter of the American Pharmacists Association, were on hand to inform the community.





EASTER SPECIALS

APPS

LAMB LOLLIPOPS
SHRIMP TACOS

ENTREES

BAKED HAM
LEG OF LAMB
MEATLOAF
PRIME RIB
SALMON HOLLANDAISE


AVAILABLE
STARTING AT NOON


**RESERVATIONS
ARE STRONGLY
RECOMMENDED!**

413-279-1198

Our Famous Brunch: Sat & Sun 9am-Noon

SUN 9:00am-9:00pm
Mon-WED 11:00am-9:00pm
THURS-Fri 11:00am-10:00pm
SAT 9:00am-10:00pm

Get Local at Home with 

TheLocalTableNTap.com  Bar Open Late

(413) 279-1198 • TheLocalTableNTap@gmail.com
2039 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA

MASC from page 1

73 Student Councils from across the state, also, come together for leadership workshops and to elect the new State Board: One President, Vice President and Secretary for the next year.

Lucy Haile, the junior Class Council President at Minnechaug, was recognized with the high honor of being elected the 50th state president of Massachusetts Student Council presidents. This honor allows her to participate in the State Board, to lead the MASC Executive Board, plan workshops and support Student Council delegates across Massachusetts.

“Being elected the 50th state president is an incredible honor for me personally,” Haile said. “It is so meaningful for me to follow in the footsteps of my older sister, Abyssinia Haile.”

Abyssinia Haile served as the president during the 2023-2024 year, the second president from Minnechaug Regional High School to be elected in this position, making Lucy Haile the third and second Black female presi-

dent to receive this honor.

Haile mentioned that her sister has been such a huge inspiration to her and that her family has really shaped her journey.

“My parents immigrated from Ethiopia,” Haile said. “And have sacrificed so much, and their example has motivated me to work hard and aim high.”

Being elected as president also encouraged Haile to step fully into her identity and go by Lucy “Hi-Lay.”

“Up until this point in my life,” Haile said. “I have been going by Lucy “Hail” because I didn’t bother correcting anyone on mispronunciation.”

But the new role and the state conference gave her the confidence to embrace that part of herself. In school, her name was announced on the intercom to recognize her incredible accomplishment and honor in her ethnically accurate name, fully taking on that leadership role in confidence and authenticity.

The principal of Minnechaug, Steve Hale, gave Haile flowers and congratulatory balloons.

“My campaign motto was

“Leave room for one more.”

Haile said. “Leadership is about creating space for others, fostering connection, and making sure every voice is heard.”

In addition to her election, Haile and other members of Minnechaug’s Student Council were given the Commonwealth Service Award for their commitment and service to Minnechaug’s Student Council.

Juniors Kadence Illig, Lucy Haile, and Senior Lila Britton were given the award for their commitment and service to their Student Council.

Nina Semanie, a senior at Minnechaug, was nominated for the Unsung Hero Award. Alongside the students and their recognitions, Abigail O’Sullivan, teacher and student Council Advisor at Minnechaug, was nominated for Advisor of the Year.

Abigail O’Sullivan and Melissa Doe, the advisors, stated how extremely proud they were of Haile and the entire council for working so hard and accomplishing so much to receive this honor in the eyes of the state.

Start your smile journey today!
Scan to book a complimentary consult.



75 Post Office Park
Wilbraham
413-675-7570
www.mypoportho.com

 **Dr. Ana Serrenho**
100% locally owned and operated
Available evenings
and Saturdays

DL&G TREE

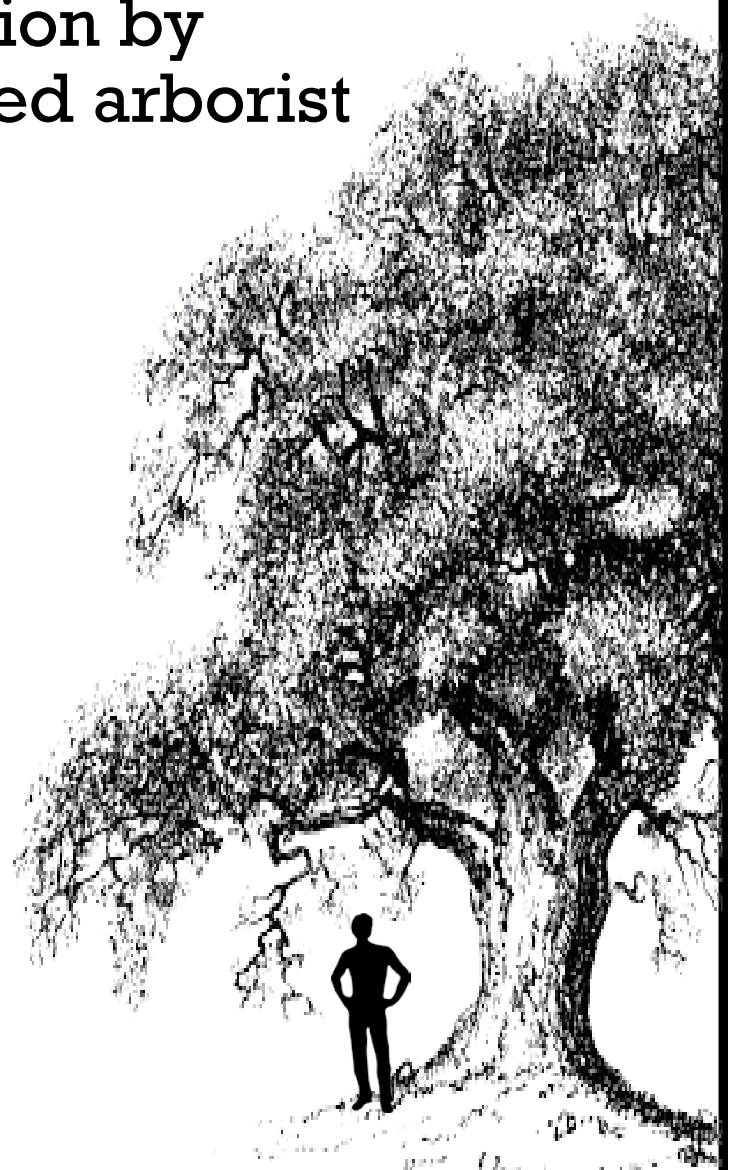


- Tree Removal
- Structural Pruning
- Crane Service
- Storm Damage
- Stump Grinding
- Lot Clearing

Give us a call today for your free estimate and tree evaluation by a ISA certified arborist

DL&G TREE

413-478-4212
dlandgtree.com



INSURED AND CERTIFIED

VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Social Security reduced my monthly payment

Dear Rusty:

My last Social Security payment decreased by about \$400, so I went to my online SS account and found a November 2025 letter explaining that my 2024 tax return showed a greatly enlarged Adjusted Gross Income.

Thus, SSA decided to withdraw monies, as of January 2026, from my bank account because I'd owed far more monies to them. The letter itemized my greatly diminished 2026 SSA monthly payment, explaining should my next tax return show a regular AGI, then SSA would return my SS income to regular amounts and return every prior month's deficits? Said letter also mentioned an optional recourse, that of compiling an "Appeal" to regain my ongoing decreased income. The extra amounts now withdrawn for Medicare Parts A and D alone are outrageously high. I'm a retired senior citizen on a fixed income.

According to SSA, my having sold a piece of land in 2024 allows SSA to decrease my SS income. Has this become a common practice against U.S.A. senior citizens? Thank you in advance for your input.

Signed: Feeling Wronged

Dear Feeling Wronged:

From what you have shared, it appears that your SS benefit amount has been affected by a provision known as Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount. IRMAA isn't really a Social Security issue, rather it is a Medicare premium thing. But when IRMAA applies, it reduces your net Social Security payment because Medicare premiums are automatically taken from your Social Security benefit, thus making your net SS payment less.

If you look at your gross Social Security payment at your online "my Social Security" account you will see that your gross SS payment did not change, but your Medicare premium did, thus affecting your net SS payment. IRMAA, essentially, makes Medicare a "means tested" program, where those with a higher AGI can pay a higher Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium.

However, IRMAA is usually based on AGI from two years prior to the current year because your current AGI information isn't available from the IRS when Medicare premiums are determined in October of each year. FYI, you may have received a notice

in the mail in early December telling you what your 2026 Social Security and Medicare amounts would be.

In a nutshell, the land you sold in 2024 apparently increased your AGI to exceed the base IRMAA thresholds, which are \$109,000 if you file your taxes as a single or \$218,000 if you file your income tax as "married/jointly." And the IRMAA supplements are "progressive" (higher if your AGI is more), so if your Medicare premiums went up by about \$400 about twice the 2026 standard premium, it's likely that your 2024 AGI was over \$137,000 if you filed as a single or over \$274,000 if you filed as "married/jointly. FYI, you can see the 2026 IRMAA brackets/premium amounts at this link: www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/medicare-premiums.html

A couple of additional points:

Your Medicare premiums will, indeed, revert to the standard amounts for 2027, if your 2025 AGI amount is under the IRMAA threshold for your tax filing status.

There is no premium for Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization care, because you are receiving Social Security benefits. However, there is a premium for Part B of Medicare (which is coverage for outpatient medical services) and you must also separately pay a premium for Part D, which is coverage for prescription drugs offered by private insurers. And these IRMAA supplements apply even if you have a Medicare Advantage plan from a private insurer.

Unfortunately, your only "recourse" is, as SSA suggested, to appeal the IRMAA supplement, but that is usually successful only if you can prove you had a "life changing event," which caused (or will cause) your AGI to be less than that used to determine your IRMAA surcharge. Your best option at this point will likely be to appeal using a "Request for Reconsideration" (Form SSA-561) asking that your 2026 Medicare premium be based on a recent year's (e.g., 2025) lower income.

Finally, IRMAA isn't really a new thing - it was enacted in 2003, effective in 2007. But it does have a profound effect on many seniors, as I explained in this article I recently published on the topic: <https://amacfoundation.org/irmaa-a-medicare-surprise/>.

Plants to celebrate Easter and then some

It's hard to believe that in just a little over a week we will be celebrating the Easter holiday!

I am sure that many readers will be either receiving the Easter lily as a gift or purchasing one for someone else. Its pure white, intensely fragrant blooms are emblems of new life and hope for the future - I can think of no better symbol of the holiest day on the Christian calendar than this one.

If you find yourself in the market for an Easter lily this week, select one that is deep green and has more buds than open flowers. It should be proportionate in height and not top heavy.

If outdoor temperatures remain chilly, be sure to cover the plant well upon exiting the store, and don't leave it in the car while you do other errands!

Once home, the Easter lily prefers temperatures around 65 degrees and bright but indirect light. Water thoroughly, but allow the soil to dry out in between waterings.

Be careful for the decorative foil or plastic wrapper - sometimes water will pool in the bottom, keeping the soil too moist. If you like how the wrapper looks, poke some holes at the base and place the pot on a shallow saucer to catch any water that drips out. Dump the saucer as needed. You can also remove the wrapper and allow the pot to drain in the sink for a few minutes after each watering.

To prolong the life of your plant, be sure to remove the anthers before the pollen ripens. This will also prevent the pollen from staining the pure white flowers and your nose!

As flowers start to wither, cut them off - this will keep it looking its best and redirect energy back to the bulb.

Once the soil warms, the Easter lily can be planted outside in full sun and well-drained soil. Sink the bulb with foliage and stem attached, to a depth of three inches and water well.

After the original foliage dies, cut it back to the soil surface. New growth will soon emerge. Lilies benefit from

a layer of mulch to keep their roots cool. Although they are quite hardy, do provide some winter protection in the form of straw, evergreen boughs or the like.

recharge before blooming again.

If you wish to plant your bulbs outside, remove spent flowers as they wither and allow the foliage to brown. At this point stop watering and let the bulbs dry out. They can be planted outdoors in spring, or saved until the fall for planting as you normally would.

Sometimes I get the job done in spring, although it does feel odd to be doing it then, simply so I won't forget to plant them in the fall!

Primroses are plentiful at florist shops and nurseries this time of year as well, and they too make great Easter gifts. Even though they are usually sold in small pots, it's hard to miss their brightly colored flowers poking up through basal foliage.

They come in almost every color of the rainbow.

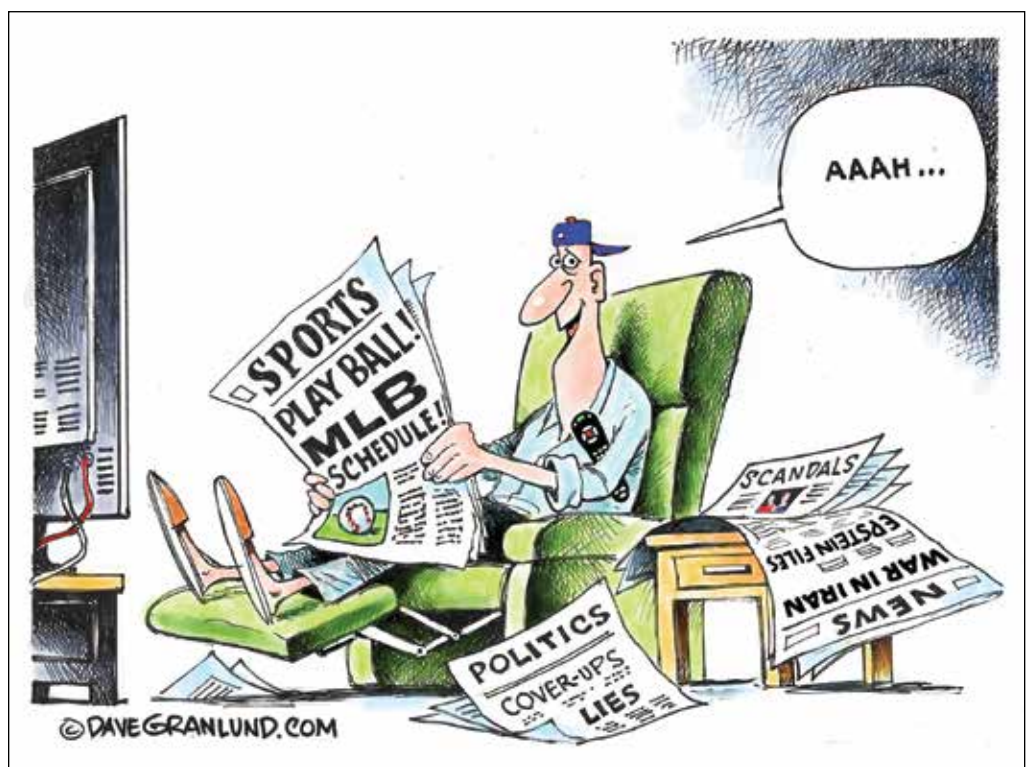
Many types of primrose make great garden plants; check the label to make sure the one you purchase is hardy before planting it outdoors. I have had a clump of primroses blooming for years now that started out as a potted plant.

An inexpensive but cute gift idea is to insert a pot of primroses into a basket and fill in around it with Easter "grass," this way it can be enjoyed as a centerpiece before it makes its way to the garden.

These days I prefer green paper "grass" purchased at the craft store, or make your own by use of a shredder. It is less problematic for pets.

As you plan for Easter, make these plants part of your celebration, and enjoy them in the garden thereafter!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.



in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

An Oakham resident saw a yellow-bellied sapsucker also known as yellow-bellied woodpecker at her suet feeder earlier this month.

They have a long pointed bill and the typical black and white feather pattern of the downy and hairy woodpeck-



ers. Sapsuckers are larger than downy woodpeckers and smaller than hairy woodpeckers. The yellow feathers are muted and not that visible

as the resident noted. They also have vertical, white wing patches. Both adult males and females have a red forehead. However the male has

a red throat and the female, a white throat. Their young have brownish coloration, but they do have the white wing patches

As the name sapsucker implies, these woodpecker drill holes, row after row, to get at the sap found in many native species of trees such as aspen, birch (paper and yellow), elm, eastern hemlock, sugar maple, etc. in springtime. Other birds such as ruby-throated hummingbirds, bats and insects also drink from these "sap taps."

People who burn wood most likely have seen the neat rows of holes drilled by the sapsucker in some of the wood from their pile.

The drumming of the yellow-bellied sapsucker is very distinctive, consisting of a roll with clearly separated taps at the end and sometimes at the beginning "tap-tap trrrrrrrrrr ta-ta-tat-tat-tat." Both sexes drum. Ritual tapping at the lower rim of the nest hole is a rather common acoustic signal.

The yellow-bellied is the only sapsucker seen in the eastern half of the U.S. and across the northern forests. These sapsuckers are migratory, which is a fairly rare trait for woodpeckers. They live in a variety of habitats

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 13

The Wilbraham-Hampden **TIMES TEAM**

EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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

WEB
www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

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

Editorial Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Editor, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-682-0013 or via e-mail to krivers@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is 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.

Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Happy 8th Birthday
BRENNA!



We love you!
Love, Dad, Mom, Ethan,
Jace, Maeve and Troy



WFD and HFD take part in annual live fire training

Photos courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department



On March 24, members of the Wilbraham Fire Department, Wilbraham Regional Emergency Communications Center along with our mutual partners Hampden Fire Department and Three Rivers Fire Department participated in our annual live fire training. Through realistic scenarios, our teams practiced crucial techniques in fire suppression, rescue operations, and teamwork.

THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:



Spring is Here!
HOME SALES ARE BLOOMING!
Call Heidi Today!



Heidi Pafumi
Realtor®

(413) 687-4339

Licensed MA & CT



136 Dwight Road
Longmeadow, MA

Input sought on future of Old Town House

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Old Town House Committee announced it has launched a survey to assess resident sentiment regarding the future of the Old Town House which was recently vacated when Town Offices moved to the former Thornton W. Burgess School. Residents can share their thoughts about the future of the building by completing the survey which is available on the Hampden Town Website or by picking up a paper survey at the Hampden Free Public Library, the Hampden Senior Center, or at Hampden Town Hall.

Professional engineering studies determined it would

cost more than \$7 million to remove hazardous materials, modernize the heating, plumbing and electrical systems, make structural repairs and bring the nearly 100-year-old Town House into compliance with accessibility codes. It was determined that should those costly renovations be undertaken the Old Town House building would still not provide enough suitable space to accommodate the current and future Town Hall offices' needs and to service the public adequately. Town meeting voters approved moving the Town offices and library out of the Old Town House and into the former Thornton

W. Burgess school.

The Hampden Selectboard then appointed a committee to "evaluate, envision, and recommend potential future uses or other actions regarding the vacated Old Town House and to gather input from Town residents, study various options and make recommendations to the Selectboard and the Town Meeting. Selectboard member Donald Davenport who serves as the non-voting Chairperson of the Old Town House Study Committee stated, "Public input is essential for the Committee to gauge the sentiment of residents regarding not only the potential future use of the

Old Town House and the potential for economic development at the site but also to consider the financial impact of any decision to the taxpayers. On behalf of the Old Town House Study Committee, I urge residents to participate in the survey, attend one of the planned Community Forums and submit any thoughts, comments or ideas they may have regarding the Old Town House's future."

Survey deadline is April 10. Check the Town Website for further information on Community Forums to be held April 7 and April 24. Comments can be directed by e-mail to townadministrator@hampdenma.gov.

Hampden Rabies Clinic is April 4

HAMPDEN - A rabies clinic will held at the Hampden Veterinary Clinic at 28 Somers Road, on Saturday, April 4, 2026 from 9 a.m. to Noon.

The cost will be \$25 per cat or dog for a one (1) year.

You may have heard rumors of rabies vaccine causing cancer in cats. The Hampden Veterinary Clinic carries the Purevax Rabies vaccination. It is the only nonadjuvanted rabies vaccine available for cats and kittens and is specifically designed for cats. The cost for a three-year vaccine is \$50 and the cost for a one-year vaccine is \$25.

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 for male or female dogs and \$5 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.

PET PAGE



PET OF THE MONTH Meet Enzo!

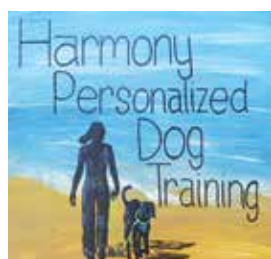


He is an eight year-old rescue from the Houston floods in Texas who is now happy to call Wilbraham home with the Mannion family. Enzo's hobbies include long leisurely walks to the Fern Valley Farm stand (where he expects a treat for his efforts) and to shamelessly beg for pup cups at Rice's Fruit Farm. While we aren't sure what breed he is (likely a Pyrenees lab mix) he's 100% a good boy in our books.

ATTENTION READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our "Pet of the Month" and receive a FREE weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care.

Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet's name.



PACK WALKS

- Every Saturday in Post Office Park Wilbraham at Noon.
- Every Sunday in Bechertown behind the Police Dept. at 10 a.m.
All Ages And Breeds Welcome
\$20 Each - Weather Permitting

NEW CLASSES!

- Starting April 6th: Basics in Obedience & Socialization Group Class at Belchertown Rec Dept. 5:30 p.m.*
- Starting April 15th: Obedience & Confidence Building Group Class (Noncommittal) at the common area in front of the Belchertown Day School & Christopher Heights at 5:30 p.m.
- Starting June 1st: Life Skills at the Belchertown Rec. Dept.*
*Sign Up Online for these classes at the Belchertown Rec Dept.

413-246-0859 • AKC Certified



Porter Road Pet Care

141 Porter Road
East Longmeadow MA
413-525-3532

www.porterroadpetcare.com

- Day Care
- Boarding
- Web Cams
- Heated
- Large
- Indoor/Outdoor
- Accommodations
- Playtime Available - Fenced in
- 1/4 Acre Lot

Save \$5 on Daycare, Grooming or Boarding Services
Limit 1 coupon per pet. Expires 4/30/26



ELDOTC East Longmeadow Dog Obedience Training Club

Classes held at
546 Main Street, Hampden, MA
Classes held every Monday-Thursday evenings



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

Obedience Training - Beginner to Utility

[Facebook.com/eastlongmeadowdogobedience](https://www.facebook.com/eastlongmeadowdogobedience)
For Information or to Register
Call (413) 355-0553
eastlongmeadowdogobedience.com
We Teach You How to Train Your Dog!

WILBRAHAM Animal Hospital

Welcome, Caitlin Vaughn DVM!
She fits right in with the team!

2 Offices and 9 Veterinarians!

Wilbraham Animal Hospital
2424 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA
413.596.8395

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



Speaking Your Cat's Language

Scientists agree that meowing is a form of cat language. Cats in feral colonies rarely, if ever, meow at each other. So, if a pet cat is meowing away, you can be reasonably sure it's directed toward her humans. Understanding the meaning behind your cat's meows allows you to respond appropriately, which can strengthen the bond you share.

Meows

Understanding the meaning behind different types

of meows is important. Conversational meows tend to be at a regular volume and vary in pattern and pitch. Demand meows are louder and more repetitive. Distress meows are not only loud, but longer, often with a drawn out 'owwwwwww' at the end.

Body Language

Interpreting cat body language involves understanding the various positions of their ears, eyes, nose, mouth and

whiskers and other body parts. The carriage and movement of a cat's tail says a lot. Cats will loosely wave their tail if they are relaxed but will more quickly or sternly flick their tail if irritated. A fearful cat will crouch while lowering her tail, while a focused cat will flick just the tip of his tail. Also consider their posture. Cats that are standing comfortably are likely content. Crouching with a flat body and feet underneath means your

cat is ready to pounce, while lying on her side could indicate she's ready to scratch with all four feet! These postures mean the cat is frightened or agitated, and you should give the cat her space. A feline who looks like she's kneading dough is a super relaxed kitty! When a cat rubs her nose or body on you, she is often marking you with her scent, but the action could be a sign of affection or anxiety, depending on the circumstances.



Community celebrates St. Patrick's Day at parade



A sea of green was found along the parade route.



St. Patrick making an appearance.



Anna O'Toole of Wilbraham, who's a current student at Minnechaug Regional High School, was this year's Springfield Colleen.

Turley photos by Kara Walsh-Vey

REGION – Despite pouring rain and wind, the community ventured out to enjoy the 73rd Annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke.

Among the community contingents, there was also representation from the town of Wilbraham as Anna O'Toole, a resident and current student at

Minnechaug Regional High School, was crowned as this year's Springfield Colleen. O'Toole got to ride on the Colleen float with her Court Members Anna Flanagan, Siobhan MacDonnell, Emma Westbrooks, and Sophia Dow.

The Springfield contingent, as O'Toole shared when inter-

viewed at this year's Colleen Gathering on March 8, not only represents Wilbraham but also Longmeadow and East Longmeadow.

Enjoy these snapshots from this year's parade, which had something for everyone to enjoy from performers and entertainers to Irish pride and everything in-between.



Here's the Noonan Energy truck.



The Melha Shriners, as always, wrapped up the parade with their appearance.



The Mummers out in full force.



This little guy enjoying some bubbles walking during the parade.



A step back in time with this American Revolution Band. America also will be celebrating its 250th birthday this year.

HootTheHandyman.com 413-636-9181
Hoot the Handyman
 Todd Huhtanen | Belchertown • MA
 Todd@HootTheHandyman.com

"Meticulous, Efficient & Reliable"

Interior and Exterior Maintenance and Repairs
 Rental Property Maintenance • Carpentry • Tiling
 Light Plumbing & Electrical • Computer Networks
 Smart Home Systems • Appliance Installations • Assembly
 Dryer Vents Cleaned/Installed • Screens Replaced
 Closet Systems • General Home Maintenance & Repairs
 ...AND MORE...

FULLY INSURED • HIC LICENSE #197767
 FREE Estimates by Phone / Email

ROZELL'S
LANDSCAPING & Boreal Service
 413-636-5957

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

JOSH ROZELL 413.636.5957

Messages Edit

JOB ALERT

Turley Publications, Inc.
 www.turley.com

Send writing samples with resume to:
 GREG SCIBELLI
 24 Water Street
 Palmer, MA 01069

or email directly to
 gscibelli@turley.com

NOW HIRING Writers/Journalists

- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo

• Produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. BONELESS CENTER-CUT PORK LOIN CUT FREE \$2.09 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE FOR ROAST CUT FREE \$9.89 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SARA LEE CHOCOLATE CREAM PIE 19.6 OZ \$4.99 EA
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK HAM (LEG) \$1.89 ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEY \$1.33 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN KING FISH STEAKS W/ HEAD OR TAIL \$5.99 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN PREMIUM CLEANED PORK CHITTERING 5 LB BAG \$8.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LEG OF LAMB \$6.67 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CONCH MEAT CLEANED 5 LB BOX \$5.99 ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTIONS BUTT or SHANK \$1.09 lb	USDA INSP. CHICOPEE PROVISIONS BLUE SEAL KIELBASA FOR EASTER \$5.55 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SKINLESS SKINLESS HADDOCK FILLETS 2 LB BOX \$9.99 ea
USDA INSP. KAYEM BUDABALL WHOLE BONELESS PIT HAM \$3.69 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS HOLIDAY PORK ROAST STUFFED W/ HAM, CHEESE, PEPPERS, BACON, OLIVES \$4.49 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 21/25 COUNT 2 LB BAG \$16.99 ea
USDA INSP. MCKENZIES 1/2 SPIRAL HAM W/GLAZE PAK \$1.39 lb	USDA INSP. SKINLESS & SHANKLESS KAYEM OLD TIME WHOLE HAM HARDWOOD SMOKED \$1.99 lb	

Lenten Specials

Happy Easter

90 Meat Outlet
 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com
 We reserve the right to limit quantities.

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

SALE DATES: 4/1-4/7/26

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

Vote by mail

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026, 6:30 p.m. and the Annual Town Election will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026,

from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., both at Minnechaug Regional High School.

If you are a Wilbraham resident, but not a registered voter and would like to vote in the

meeting or election, you must register by Friday, May 1, 2026, 5 p.m. The Wilbraham Town Clerk's office would like to remind voters that Vote by Mail Applications for the town election are available on the town's website and at the Town Clerk's office. Alternatively, you can apply for a vote by mail ballot online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailInBallot.aspx>, to have a ballot mailed to you.

The last day to request a vote by mail ballot for the Annual Town Election is Monday, May 11, 2026, 5 p.m. The ballot will be finalized Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 5 p.m. A sample copy of the ballot will be posted to the town's website and at the Town Hall. Any questions can be directed to the Town Clerk's office, (413) 596-2800 x 200.

WILBRAHAM from page 1

still remain friends, like inventor-engineer, Dr. Walter Presz, Open Space Committee member and Historic Commissioner Judy Theocles and the person who won the contest naming the new high school, Minnechaug, in a contest, Judy Cmero. They all still live in town and remain active. In this column, I will reminisce and take my readers along on a trip through Wilbraham in the month of March of 1962.

Jesse Rice

"I am asking the voters of Wilbraham to re-elect me to the office of selectman for another three-year term, I feel that my lifetime residency, my familiarity with the problems of the town, my interest and continued participation in town affairs, and particularly my experience during the past six years command my qualifications for this office," stated fruit grower Jesse L. Rice as he prepared to run for office again that March.

In hindsight Rice proved to be a very good selectman, always having the best interest of the town heart. The growth of the town continued in 1962. Probably one of the most important projects that Rice oversaw was the straightening of Monson Road the next year. Monson Road wasn't always straight downhill like we see at the Hill Climb in May. It was very curvy.

The reconstruction of Monson Road, with State and

Hampden County assistance under the Chapter 90 program, was completed from Ridge Road to the Glendale four corners. Monson Road was well-known to young and old alike as the road over the Mountain to Monson that featured the famous "S Curve" in the shape of an "S". Young bicyclists did not come of age until they rode their bikes down Monson Road starting at the top where the "Drug House" is now.

Dr. Sigsbee

I was a victim of the topography when I attempted the ride down. I skidded off the road at the curve and lay there until an egg customer of my grandmother, named "Joe", found me beside the road and brought me down to Dr. John Sigsbee's office on Springfield Street. Dr. Sigsbee said I had a concussion which I had never heard of before.

Young Dr. Sigsbee, a childhood friend of my father Francis Bennett of the Bennett Turkey Farm, returned to his hometown after serving in World War II. He had settled down with a new house and office on Springfield Street, a large change from the frantic life and death situations I'm sure he had to endure during the war.

Following service during the war, he was a member of the first post-war class at Boston University Medical School, graduating in 1950. He had a 23-year practice of general medicine and became our family doctor. One day, as a student at Memorial School I came down very sick so my Mom put me in my parents' bed. A few hours later she brought a pleasant-looking young man with a leather case into the bedroom. It turned out to be Dr. Sigsbee who gave me some pills to take. And, yes he remembered me when I showed up that day I fell off my bike on Monson Road.

Dr. Sigsbee also coached football at Wilbraham Academy and served as the town's fire chief for eight years, said his obituary.

That same year, 1962, he became the first physician to specialize in emergency medicine at Wesson Memorial Hospital in Springfield, and from 1975 to 1987 he lived

in Brewster, practicing emergency medicine and serving as department chief at Cape Cod Hospital. He passed in 1997 and was survived by his wife, Dorothy Milliken Sigsbee; two sons, Bruce and Carl, and a daughter, Anne, who are all doctors; and eight grandchildren.

Sigsbee was not the only family doctor in town. It seemed that if you weren't being treated by Dr. Sigsbee, your family would probably be taken care of by Dr. Arthur Goodwin, who used to have both his house and office to the left of the Memorial School athletic field.

Dipping Hole Road

That was also the year that Dipping Hole Road came to prominence. The construction converted a rural, narrow, winding lane by a large bog that kept filling in, to a modern suburban neighborhood. More houses were built in that area after the reconstruction.

The Wilbraham Annual Report read "Dipping Hole Road bears considerable traffic and is at present hazardous because of its narrow width and several sharp curves where visibility is poor."

We don't know if Jesse Rice liked music so we don't know if he and his wife Winnie attended the Minnechaug Regional High School Swing Band Concert Friday March 9 but the concert was a big success according to a review in the Morning Union.

The songs including "The Woodchoppers Ball" and "Little Brown Jug" were performed by The Swing Band. A piano duel was given by James Riley and Didrah Golding. A dance was given by a friend who we still see around town these days, Holly Putnam, who is now married to Paul Murray. (The Murrays live in the historic house across the street from Gazebo Park.)

Other tunes followed like, "Deep Purple", "Nice 'n Easy" sung by Penny Ward and then a skit featuring Carol Brown, Betsy Anderson, Marcia Hall, Laura Mushenko and Joyce McGuill.

Sock Dance

By 1962 the first graduating class from Minnechaug



The early 1960s brought new music and movies from Elvis, including some of his most successful work. They always played his music at Wilbraham record hops. Elvis celebrated his 27th birthday in Las Vegas on January 8, 1962.

were now off to college into the service or at work in a full time job. So, Class of 1962 were the "top dogs" and now in charge. They held their annual "Sock Dance" from 8 to 11 p.m. March 16. It was a novelty to have a swimming pool in a high school back in those days so dance-goers were allowed to have a swim if they wished and since Minnechaug had already won some gymnastics championships, they were also allowed to take a jump on the in-house trampolines.

Behavior was expected to stay in line. "The affair is for students and their guests. Those attending are expected to dress in sport clothes with the focal point in attire directed toward original styles in hosiery. A "limbo" contest will be conducted," read the notice.

At the Same Time

What was going on out in the world while Jesse Rice was running for selectman and Minnechaug students were swinging at The Sock Dance?

President Kennedy announces the installation of a Russian (USSR) missile base in Cuba. Khrushchev offers to withdraw it if U.S. removes bases from Turkey. Kennedy rejects offer and announces that USSR will dismantle bases in Cuba and withdraw bombers; blockade ends.

James Meredith, Black applicant, is denied admission to University of Mississippi by Gov. Barnett. U.S. Court of Appeals finds Barnett guilty of civil contempt and threatens him with arrest and fines; U. S. Marshals and 3,000 soldiers suppress riots when Meredith arrives on campus to begin classes.

The Nobel Peace Prize for Literature is given to John Steinbeck for "Travels with Charley: In Search of America."

Could they hear the drum-beat? Were Wilbraham Republican Women seeing a change coming in politics? Did they know a change was coming in small town American in 1962? Mrs. Larry Lewis, organizational chairman of the Republican Campaign Committee stated that the amount of interest shown by women in local politics is at an all-time high.

She said women are volunteering to aid candidates by holding coffee hours, attending precinct meetings and, most important, getting out the vote. They must have made an important impression in town.

Led by candidate for Selectman Jesse Rice, all GOP candidates swept their posts in that 1962 election and Mrs. Lewis said that was because a whopping 84 Republican women were street Captains that year.

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913 by Chauncey E. Peck "Glendale Stories" by Henry Edson. Page Dr. Sigsbee obit info by Gedpage Version 2.20 ©2000 on 18 February 2010. Sources: Various issues of the Springfield Morning Union. "Timeline of History" by Bernard Grun, Touchstone Publishing.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett enjoys providing town history for our readers. He is a member of the Historical Commission and liaison to the Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbennett4765@charter.net.

NOTICE

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



Besides the new Minnechaug Regional High School, Wilbraham saw some structural changes in 1962 under the leadership of Selectman Jesse Rice. (Times file photo)

April teen programs at Hampden library

HAMPDEN - April Teen Programs at the Hampden Library

Saturday, April 4 at Noon Teen Book Bedazzling
We have a variety of bedazzling materials, just bring a book to jazz up and make unique!

Saturday, April 11 at Noon Teen Silent Book Club
Bring your own book, audiobook, graphic novel, etc., or borrow one of ours! We will read quietly for the first 45 minutes and then talk about our books!

Saturday, April 18 at Noon Teen Stitch and Sip
Do you like to crochet, knit, or embroider? Bring your project to work on while you enjoy a tasty mocktail! All skill levels welcome.
All programs are for grades 5-12. To see our upcoming programs, visit hampden-library.org/events.

ORDER from page 1

or some other future purpose, they're okay with that," Domina said. "It just needs to be disconnected from portable water."

After Flynn asked if the location of the well had changed in 20 years, Domina replied that it has not. The septic field also, had not changed in 20 years.

"So, this has been going on and, for decades, they didn't care," Flynn said.

"Decades," Domina said. "Okay, just want to make that point," Flynn said.

Selectboard Member Don Davenport said this about the discharge.

"I mean, at one point, there were 600 kids in the school, and now we got 30 people maybe on a given day?" Davenport said.

"On a good day," Domina said.

"Everybody shows up," Davenport said.

"Now it's a problem," Flynn said.

After another question from Davenport, Domina clarified this was "a nitrogen-sensitive area."

"We don't need to do anything else in addition to that. But, it is a nitrogen-sensitive area," Domina said.

Flynn noted this was "an easy solution."

"The ACL remains in effect forever?" Flynn said.

"As long as the building's here," Domina said.

"Is there anything we have to do in terms of, like, reporting on it for future or they can just walk in any time they want, verify it's in effect, it's being adhered to?" Flynn said.

Domina said one of the things being agreed to is having the Title 5 done once assigned.

"Those are the two main things. We need to have Title 5 done and we need to, in different order, we need to disconnect the well from the portable water and then have a Title 5 done," Domina said.

"I mean, they always reserve the right to come inspect if they want to..."

After Davenport reviewed what made the area a nitrogen-sensitive area and which well would be removed, he agreed to the proposal.

Flynn then said this after Davenport proposed approv-

ing the item.

"In the interest of getting everything done, I would agree with that. I'm still not crazy that they still refer all the way through as Thornton Burgess Middle School and I think this is an ongoing consent order," Flynn said. "I think the town hall should be town hall."

Domina said that language could be changed, which met Flynn's approval.

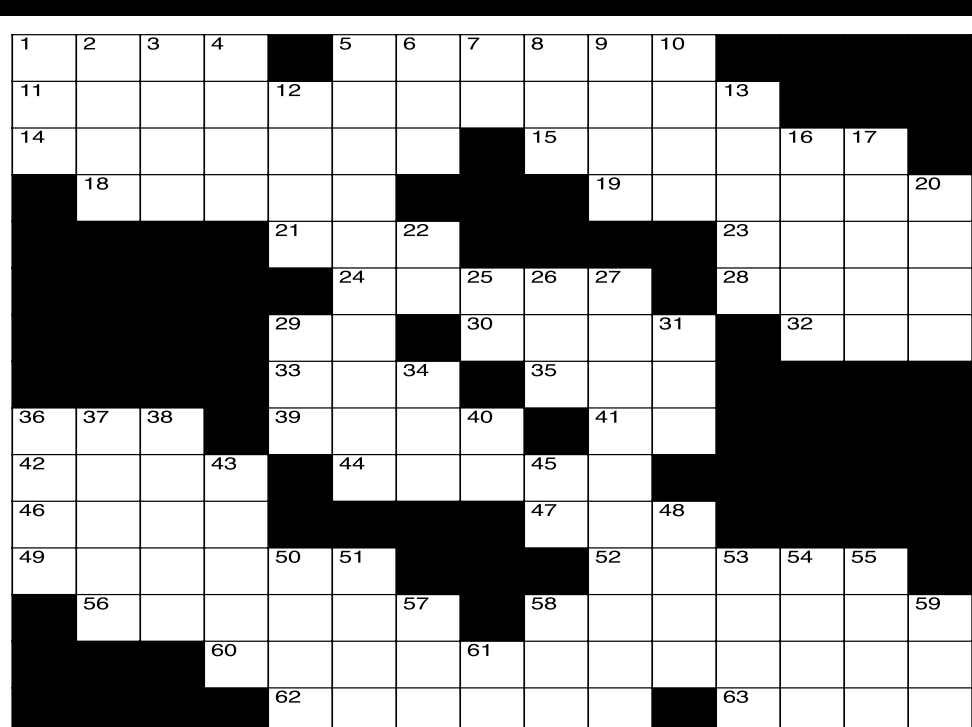
"That would be good. If we can get that changed and then the board authorized me to sign it on that. But, I mean, I think the title should be correct. The consent sent to the town hall location?" Flynn said.

Davenport agreed.

"Even if they put in former," Davenport said.

Domina also noted that was one of the requests to address, adding that the 10,000 gallons item was noted because if that was over 10,000 it would become "an automatic threat to nitrogen everywhere."

The board unanimously approved for Flynn to sign the consent order after editing was completed.



- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| CLUES ACROSS | 35. Electronic data processing | CLUES DOWN | 29. Woman (French) |
| 1. Absence of difficulty | 36. Drivers' licenses and passports are two | 1. Body part | 31. Sunscreen rating |
| 5. Preserve a dead body | 39. Snake-like fishes | 2. Mimics | 34. Brew |
| 11. Gratitude | 41. Air Force | 3. Expel or eject (variant sp.) | 36. Leader |
| 14. The act of coming together again | 42. Popular personal computers | 4. Sea eagle | 37. Indigo bush genus |
| 15. More cushy | 44. Stages in ecological succession | 5. Taxonomic category | 38. Burn with a hot liquid |
| 18. Visionaries | 46. Wings | 6. Chinese languages | 40. Junior's father |
| 19. Large fish-eating bird | 47. In the center | 7. Mr. T's "A-Team" character | 43. Mackerel genus |
| 21. Indicates near | 49. Pleasantly smooth | 8. Consumed | 45. Morning |
| 23. Former CIA and CIA critic | 52. Jeweled headress | 9. Chinese dynasty | 48. Straight line from side to side (abbr.) |
| 24. Icelandic poems | 56. In slow tempo | 10. NFL legend Randy | 50. Type of molding |
| 28. Pop | 58. ___ Falls | 12. Ireland | 51. Small, thin or twisted bunch |
| 29. Hammer is one | 60. Reiterations | 13. Palm trees with creeping roots | 53. Worn by exposure to the weather |
| 30. Sells | 62. Eras | 16. Fungal disease | 54. Mars crater |
| 32. Thyroid-stimulating hormone | 63. Hyphen | 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants | 55. Humanities |
| 33. Nowhere to be found | | 20. Affirmative! (slang) | 57. Relating to the ears |
| | | 25. Atlantic coast state | 58. "To the ___ degree" |
| | | 26. Grow older | 59. Residue when something is burned |
| | | 27. Associations | 61. It cools a home |

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com



Liam Faneuff tries to avoid a defending players stick.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Kelly Balog prepares to receive the ball.

Falcons open season with pair of wins

WILBRAHAM – While several sports teams have not been able to get their season going with the cold temperatures or bad field conditions, Minnechaug boys lacrosse has managed to get two games in. The Falcons defeated Tantasqua by a narrow 9-8 score, then managed another one-goal victory with a 6-5 win last Saturday morning against Framingham. In the very cold and windy, but sunny conditions at Minnechaug Regional High School's turf field, The Falcons were able to score it second win of the season and continue with two games this week. The Falcons face Grafton, then Amherst Regional on Thursday, Apr. 2 at 5 p.m.



Joey Woytowicz picks up a ground ball.



Drew Jennings and Jacob Moore try to keep an opponent from getting to the offensive end of the field.



Thomas Hutcheson tries to get a loose ball near the goal.



Jacob Moore is pressured by an opposing defender.

Safety first: Extra bag coming to baseball

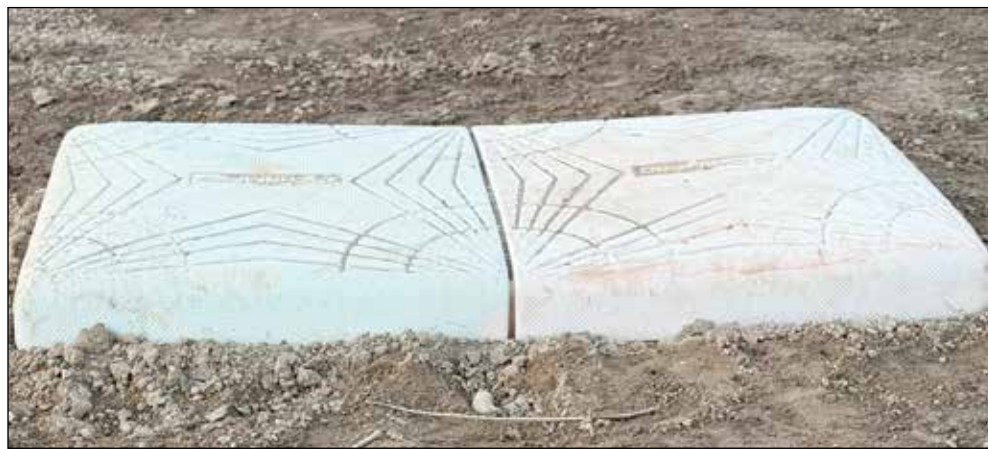
By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Over the past decade, safety has been a key theme for many of the rule changes that come through either the National Federation of High Schools, or the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Rule changes have centered around taking care of athletes, limiting unsafe play, and especially anything that can result in concussions.

Years ago, softball implemented an orange bag, a safety bag, at first base. It's more commonly known as a double bag since there are literally two. The orange bag is directly to the right of first base and is mostly for the runner's use.

Any runner running out a ground ball in a way where they would run through first base, utilize the second bag, typically colored orange. The runner is required to step on the orange bag while the fielder can use the standard white bag. The purpose has



Softball has utilized the double first base bags for safety for many years.

been to avoid collisions between a hustling runner and the first baseman, who could get carried in a different direction by an errant through. The second bag puts a little space between the runner and the fielder.

After seeing success with safety in softball, the double bag is coming to high school baseball. The NFHS is making the base a requirement for high schools beginning in 2027. However, several high schools, including Agawam and South Hadley, have opt-

ed to install the double bags this season and implement the new rules to help high school students get used to playing with them before the rule is fully implemented.

Some schools will wait until next year depending on the time it takes to install another anchor for the double bag.

High school umpires are also being educated on the new rules concerning using the double bag in a baseball game. Andy Rogers, who is the coordinator and assignor

Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

for high school games, said it has been a part of recent meetings with umpires to prepare for this year. There are nuances to the double bag rule that umpires will need to enforce.

Among them, while the standard practice is that runners running through first base such as in the situation of trying to beat out a ground ball will use the orange bag and fielders trying to record

Please see **SAFETY**, page 12

Bay State Games announces new leadership changes

BOSTON – Bay State Games has announced new staff appointments and board leadership changes leading into the 2026 Summer Games.

Alanis Tirabassi has been promoted to deputy executive director. Alanis has been with Bay State Games since 2017, when she began as an intern while attending Salem State University. She was hired full-time as sports coordinator in 2020 and later promoted to director of operations before her recent promotion.

She joins Kevin Cummings, who has been with the Bay State Games since 1984 and has served as executive director since 1999, as part of the organization's two-person full-time staff.

In addition to her role

with Bay State Games, Tirabassi serves as a committee chairperson for the National Congress of State Games.

She also works as a consultant for Dave McGillis Enterprises and Communications & Marketing.

After more than 22 years as chair of the Bay State Games Board of Directors, Phil Gloudemans will step down this spring. Under his leadership, Bay State Games has grown into one of the largest multi-sport nonprofit organizations in New England. He joined the Board of Directors in 1987 and he will continue to serve on the board

Please see **CHANGES**, page 12



More players wanted for new team in Pioneer Valley League

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, is now fully open for registration for the 2026 season.

New players are especially wanted for the new sixth team. There are several spots open for that sixth team, so players interested in joining the league should get signed up

as soon as possible to claim a spot.

The adult league will be administered by the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, and a registration link is on the home page of the league's website www.quabbinvalley-baseball.org. Thought it will be under the Quabbin umbrella, there will be no major changes in how the league is operated.

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular season schedule followed by a double-elimination playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to utilize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this season.

The league is a wood-bat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball rules though all players do bat. The

league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule. Games are played on Saturday mornings with 10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m. range. The league will start play in late April and run through the end of August. There are slots open for both full-time players and part-time players. The fee for full-time players will be \$260 with

part-time players getting up to 11 games for \$130. Fees paid go toward the operation of the league, paying for insurance, umpires, fields, and baseballs. No one profits in any way.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limited open roster spots on the other teams in the league, so get your registration in as soon as possible to participate in this season.

Games are played at

ballfields throughout the region from as far south as Southwick's Whalley Field, through South Hadley's Beachgrounds and up north at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information. The league hopes interested players will come out and join the fun this spring and summer.

SPORTS

Railers suffer loss to Wheeling

WHEELING, WV — The Worcester Railers HC (27-28-5-2, 61 pts) fell short to the Wheeling Nailers (41-16-3-3, 88 pts) in a narrow 2-1 loss on Saturday, March 28th at WesBanco Arena, in front of a crowd of 3,588. The Railers will wrap up their weekend road trip in Wheeling with a final match-up against the Nailers on Sunday, March 29th, with a 4:10 p.m. EDT puck drop.

Anthony Repaci (1-0-1) got things going for Worcester as he collected a chance bounce off a Nailers' skate at 7:16 in the first. Wheeling evened the score with a bar-down tally ten minutes later from Connor Lockhart (1-0-1)(1-1). A tip from Matty De St. Phalle (1-0-1) at 19:20 closed out scoring for the first period and put the Nailers ahead by one (2-1). There were no other goals scored for the remainder of the game for

a narrow 2-1 final.

Worcester got themselves on the board early in the first as Anthony Repaci (20th) lit the lamp unassisted at 7:16. Repaci maneuvered the puck out in front after a ricochet off the heel of a Nailers' skate kept the game alive in the zone. Connor Lockhart (20th) erased the one-goal lead ten minutes later with a bar-down shot sent sailing high over netminder Parker Gahagen. A shot from Brent Johnson was tipped along the way by Matty De St. Phalle (10th) at 19:20 and sent the puck wide of Gahagen to put the Nailers in the lead as the game transitioned into its second frame. Wheeling narrowly led in shots on goal with 14 to Worcester's 13. The sole penalty of the period was called on Wheeling's De St. Phalle for tripping at 12:55.

The middle frame was an action-packed affair of

shed gloves and flying fists. Tensions ran high between Max Dorrington and Matt Quercia, who kicked off the stream of penalties to follow. Dorrington and Quercia squared off at center ice and put on a show for the onlooking crowd. The pair skated to their respective penalty boxes for a five-minute stretch as play returned. Lincoln Hatten and Aidan Sutter eagerly kept things going and soon joined their teammates in the box for roughing 25 seconds later. Cole Donhauser and Brent Johnson would complete the trifectas for each side as well, with less than a minute gone from the clock. As the boxes emptied, Riley Piercey and Max Graham took their turn in the ring at 14:08, and much like Dorrington and Quercia, would remain there for the next five minutes. Gleb Veremyev capped off the second period rap sheet with a hold-

ing call at 18:36, which handed Wheeling their only power play opportunity of the evening. Shots in the period were 20-10 in favor of Worcester.

Veremyev's call from the close of the second carried over for 36 seconds into the third and gave the Nailers an extra man advantage in the final frame. Worcester put on another offensively-dominated performance with three consecutive power play chances that bracketed the split of the period. Neither side found the back of the net, which left the Railers down by one at the close as the Nailers clinched the first spot in the Kelly Cup Playoffs for the North Division. Worcester's shots on goal totaled 50 across the evening to Wheeling's 27. Worcester skated away clean with no penalties in the final frame, while Wheeling collected three.

T-Birds grab win over Lehigh Phantoms

ALLENTOWN, PA — The Springfield Thunderbirds (26-29-6-2) got big performances from their leadership group en route to a 5-3 win over the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (27-30-3-3) on Friday night in a pivotal Atlantic Division battle inside the PPL Center. With the win, the T-Birds jumped back into the sixth and final playoff position in the Atlantic Division with nine games remaining.

Veteran leaders helped set the early tone for Springfield as captain Chris Wagner dropped a pass inside the blue line to Dillon Dube, who wired a wrister past Aleksei Kolosov at 7:28 of the first to hand the T-Birds the 1-0 advantage.

Lehigh Valley got a response courtesy of one of their veteran leaders 4:17 later as Anthony Richard finished a backhand bid past Vadim Zherenko off a set-up pass by pro debutant Cole Knuble to tie the score, 1-1.

Numerous scoring chances and one power play for each team also came up empty as Zherenko finished a busy first with nine saves, while Kolosov stopped the other 11 offerings that came into his crease.

The T-Birds' leadership group was not finished putting their stamp on the contest, as Dube created a turnover deep in the Lehigh Valley zone, nudging the puck into the slot for Wagner, who rifled a forehand through Kolosov at 7:09 of the second, extending the Springfield advantage to 2-1.

Zherenko barely had to lift a finger in the middle period as the T-Birds allowed a season-low two shots in the frame. However, the Phantoms' penalty kill, which had been struggling mightily

against the T-Birds, answered the bell with two man-down successes to keep their deficit at a single goal heading into the final period. After failing to equalize on a power play to begin the third, the Phantoms eventually got the game squared up again at 6:32 when David Jiricek found Zayde Wisdom crashing the net to make it a 2-2 score.

Unruffled, the T-Birds then turned the game on its head with three goals in a 4:28 blitz, beginning with Alek Kaskimaki scooping up a rebound in the blue paint at 9:08 to restore the Springfield lead, 3-2. Wagner and Dube each picked up their third points of the night on the helpers.

Just 2:10 later, Marc-Andre Gaudet made an alert read up on the right-wing wall to steal a puck off a Phantoms defender before setting up Juraj Pekarcik for an insurance making tally and a 4-2 lead. Pekarcik also drew a Springfield power play following a post-goal cross-check by Sawyer Boulton.

The T-Birds did not score on the ensuing power play, but it set the table for Hugh McGing to join the party at 13:36, firing a perfect shot into the top shelf from the left circle and giving Springfield the 5-2 advantage.

Oscar Eklind finally halted the T-Birds scoring run at 17:44, but it proved to be too little, too late for Lehigh Valley. Zherenko needed to make just 18 saves for his 14th win of the season, while Kolosov had 27 stops in the losing effort for the Phantoms.

SAFETY from page 11

a force out will utilize will use the white bag, there are couple of exceptions.

One is the dropped third strike. If there is a dropped third strike and a catcher throwing on the outside of the baseline to first base, the first baseman is allowed to utilize the orange bag to field the throw and record the out. The runner, in this situation, can use either base.

After a runner has run through first base, typically after beating out a ground ball, that runner must come back and touch the white

bag. If the runner comes back and touches the orange bag, that runners is in play once they touch the orange bag and can be tagged out.

On situations like a clean base hit, a batter/runner who heads for first and rounds the bag, will utilize the white bag. But a runner running out a ground ball who touches the white bag instead of the orange bag could be called out on appeal because it can be treated like missing a base.

While the normal white base is the border of fair territory, the orange bag is in foul territory. If a batted

ball hits the orange bag, the ball will be called foul. A ball that hits the white bag or rolls over it is still fair.

The second bag at first base is orange in most cases, but can be another color.

For 2026, players playing on fields that have the double first base bag will use them with the rules that come with them. Adult leagues in the region have pledged to observe the rules of the double bag if they play on fields that have them. Most adult leagues go by MLB rules, which do not require a double bag at first base.

CHANGES from page 11

and its executive committee.

Gloudemans is the associate director of media relations at Boston College. Prior to his BC position, he held senior media relations roles at Brown University and Boston University, as well as with three international public relations firms in Boston.

The Board of Directors has elected Dan Adams of Polsinelli PC Law Firm in Boston as its new board chair. Adams has served on the Bay State Games board for nearly 20 years and is head of sports and entertainment at Polsinelli PC. He holds a bachelor's degree from Boston College, a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an MBA from Harvard University.

In addition to his volunteer work with Bay State Games, Adams serves on the Board of Directors of the East Greenbush Miracle League. His experience with state games spans decades, including as a three-time participant in the Empire State Summer Games of New York.

Registration for the 2026 Bay State Summer Games will begin in early March. The 2026 Summer Games will feature events from May 9 through July 25 across 30 different sports throughout eastern and central Massachusetts.

Players from Western and Central Massachusetts schools have consistently participated in the Bay State Games during the summer, especially in sports like soccer, field hockey, and volleyball.

COLLEGE NEWS

Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students for the 2025 Fall Semester

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2025 Fall Semester.

Springfield College has named Amir Ardolino from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Ardolino has a primary major of Sport Management.

Springfield College has named Kelsey Brennan from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Brennan has a primary major of Psychology.

Springfield College has named Adrianna Britton from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Britton has a primary major of Education.

Springfield College has named Kaelin Cerasuolo from Hampden, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Cerasuolo has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PT.

Springfield College has named Joshua Disa from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Disa has a primary major of Health Science.

Springfield College has named Olivia Dragon from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Dragon has a primary major of Health Science.

Springfield College has named David Franco from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Franco has a primary major of Human Services.

Springfield College has named Logan Gould from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Gould has a primary major of Business Management.

Springfield College has named Connor Joyce from Hampden, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence

for the 2025 fall semester.

Joyce has a primary major of Exercise Science / Applied ES.

Springfield College has named Olivia Long from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Long has a primary major of Sport Management.

Springfield College has named Isabelle Manning from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Manning has a primary major of Communication Sci & Disorders.

Springfield College has named Taylor Meunier from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Meunier has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PT.

Springfield College has named John Pollard from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Pollard has a primary major of Exercise Science / Applied ES.

Springfield College has named Jaclin Robinson from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Robinson has a primary major of Psychology.

Springfield College has named Gianna Sciliano from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Sciliano has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-OT.

Springfield College has named Sophia Varelakis from Hampden, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Varelakis has a primary major of Business Management.

Springfield College has named Xavier Villanueva from Wilbraham, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Villanueva has a primary major of Computer & Information Science.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Fall 2025 Dean's List

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced its Dean's List for academic excellence for the Fall 2025 semester.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on real-world, open-ended problems on campus and in communities around the globe. Far from being simple academic exercises, the projects students complete have genuine and lasting impacts in our partner communities," said Provost Andrew Sears.

"Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering, science, business, and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

The following students were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List:

William Bao of Wilbraham, class of 2029, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Siena Dansereau of Wilbraham, class of 2028, majoring in Chemical Engineering

Samuel Manteria of Wilbraham class of 2027, majoring in Chemical Engineering

Maggie Michels of Wilbraham, class of 2029, majoring in Computer Science

Molly Olsen of Wilbraham, class of 2027, majoring in Computer Science and Data Science

 Send Us Your Sports Photos!
sports@turley.com

 **ROBINSON**
TREE SERVICE
LLC

Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

CONTEST from page 1

the love for reading.”

“By encouraging residents of Wilbraham in this community project, we are hoping to bring together ideas for what the WPL means for the town. I have a feeling there are amazing artists here and we are very excited to see the creativity that the contest will bring,” Harter said. “The library is Wilbraham’s library. It’s fitting that an artist from Wilbraham designs the logo that will represent what the library means.”

There are three requirements for the contest: the logo must include at least one adorable animal reading a book, it must be original artwork, and include the words “Wilbraham Public Library”, and the use of generative AI is prohibited. To enter, you bring your entry as an original scannable logo on an 8.5 x11 paper to the Service Desk of the library by April 15.

“In effect we hope the logo has a mascot that can be associated with the library and a love of reading, and it becomes synonymous in people’s minds with the library,” Harter said. “This library is so special to so many residents of Wilbraham and I love that they are the ones who will determine the future of this place.”

The contest has already garnered interest from residents in the community, such as Elijah Webster, a Minnechaug Senior who plans on participating in the event.

“The new logo is a great way for the community to reconnect with the library and help give back with the design. The redesign marks a new era of the library, one that hopefully will be very fruitful,” Webster said.

Webster also expressed excitement about the com-



Turley photo y Angelina Acevedo

The winning entry will receive \$250 and the community is encouraged to submit their entries soon.

munity involvement.

“I think the library hosting the contest is a great way to get the community involved, and bring more attention to the library itself. It’s also an amazing opportunity for youth and emerging artists to get themselves out there,” Webster said. “The contest is a great way for me to possibly leave my mark in this town before I leave for college, and where better than one of my favorite places?”

Webster has been coming to the public library ever since he was young and is excited to have the chance to give back to them.

“Ever since I was a little kid, my mom and I would attend the youth activities here, which just shows the library is one of the most welcoming places to everyone and anyone,” Webster said.

He encouraged the community to submit their entries and participate.

“If anyone is thinking about participating, I’d say just do it. The guidelines are simple requirements, but the majority of the design is open to interpretation. I know there’s going to be a wide, diverse spread of ideas when submissions roll in. I’m excited to see what the new logo will be, and wish good luck to any other participants!” Webster said.

The winner of the contest will be announced on April 25 at the library’s Volunteer Breakfast and receive the prize of \$250. The WPL is looking forward to seeing what ideas people across town bring to represent this new chapter of reading, community, and fun.

BUDGET from page 1

throughout the entire network,” Cmero said. “I put this into action myself when I was the manager of Borrower Services in Springfield City Library. This was in the aftermath of the Great Recession, and several network towns did not—or could not—adequately fund their libraries, and as a consequence, their users’ cards were blocked in the entire network.”

Dr. Michael Tirabassi said the library is especially utilized for the schools’ educational missions, “to fill in major gaps,” as there’s only one certified librarian servicing the high school, no librarian for grades K through eight and no physical library space, currently, at the middle school. Also, the library runs many programs during school breaks.

“I’m further concerned when I heard suggestions that the library bridge funding gaps from the town by calling on the Friends of the Library. This wonderful, hardworking, volunteer organization raises funds that make many of the programming activities that our residents enjoy possible. They don’t command enough funds to bridge a funding shortfall from the town, and if the town insists this funding is diverted to the operating budget, many of the activities that we’ve come to grow and love simply disappear,” Tirabassi said.

Library Trustees Chair Barbara Galanek understands first-hand what the library has to offer as a resource, saying, “It concerns me greatly we’re in danger of losing our certification,” also noting the gaps in the school district.

“Our library—the public library—has been trying to pick up that slack, has tried diligently to expand what we do, but we were faced with cuts last year, and now we’re being asked to cut again. We cannot sustain it. There is not the money. We do not have it, and at this point, we

are in danger of decertifying if we do not get the funding that we need,” Galanek said. “We wouldn’t be coming here with such a group of people, with such support, if people did not value the library and know what it has to offer.”

Chair Todd Schneider shared at the Library Trustees meeting the night before he learned how 16.5% for MAR—which stands for Municipal Appropriation Requirement—needs to be used on periodicals and the overall budget over the past four years was up 17.5%, with salary lines raised at 6.5% a year for the past three years.

“That’s all good, but when you can only raise the MAR by 2.5%, it’s eating away at the rest of the money that could be spent in the library. This year, currently, they’re doing an excellent job. If you look at the periodicals line, it’s \$75,000 be the required amount to spend. It’s about \$128,000 for this year. They are using their grant money that they get for MARS, which should be used, in my opinion, for fans, a little bit of upkeep, for tables, for laptops, for that kind of stuff,” Schneider said. “Also, they’re using the grant money from last year, which was scheduled for before the library could be changed and some other kind of media stuff could be changed. So, they have to say, in my opinion—and this is for the Finance Group—they have hauled all of their savings away, so they can’t do it again next year.”

The three choices, Schneider added, would be to become decertified with MAR, ask for an exception or lay off and cancel service.

Also on the table was adding about \$1.1 million in salary lines to the overall town budget due to expanding the fire department by four firefighters and adding someone to facilities.

“My personal opinion, I don’t feel this is a year where we should cut the library budget,” Schneider said.

After Xiomara Albán DeLobato expressed support for the budget and Joe Lawless asked questions about the state side and grant money, Jeff Farnsworth said, “There’s no dispute about the value of the library.”

“The issue is the way the MAR’s set up with the 2.5%. Because if we replicated that across every town department that requires that increase, we’d be bankrupt in the blink of an eye. So, when we hit a rough spot, what do we do? And so again, we’re coming up to a time that’s very difficult,” Farnsworth said.

After explaining that adding the firefighters is to address documented periods of time where the town doesn’t have an ambulance available, Farnsworth said this.

“We’re being put in the position, do we value the library or do we value our residents having an ambulance? We’re getting kind of boxed into a corner that there are no good decisions at all,” Farnsworth said.

Farnsworth summarized his overall thoughts as “we’re backing ourselves into a position here that I’m not sure what the right answer is.”

“We have a lot of very, very difficult choices on hand. Right now, we’re okay, but the consensus—not only here, but across the state—is next year we’re going to be in some dire straits and what we do this year impacts greatly what we do next year,” Farnsworth said.

Diane Diehl said, “It would be irresponsible to not fund the library” at the amount presented, also offering this suggestion.

“I would encourage the library, trustees and Friends to be looking for as many grants as possible to fill gaps for next year, and for the coming years because it is going to get worse,” Diehl said. “But, I am in full support of fully funding.”

After further discussion, the budget was approved.

Wilbraham Women’s Club April general meeting

WILBRAHAM - A special general meeting featuring an engaging presentation on beekeeping will be held on Thursday, April 9, at Noon at the St. Cecilia Parish Center.

Local expert Sue Kendrick will lead an informative session exploring the fascinating world of bees. Attendees will gain insight into the critical role bees play in the environment and learn practical ways to help protect these essential pollinators.

Following the presentation, guests will have the opportunity to browse and purchase handmade products created by Kendrick, including items made from her own honey and beeswax—perfect for gifts or personal enjoyment.

The event will also feature a lighthearted “Make Your Own Sundaes” activity, adding a fun and social element to the gathering.

- Date: Thursday, April 9, 2026
- Time: Noon Luncheon
- Location: St. Cecilia Parish Center
- Program: Beekeeping presentation by Sue Kendrick

This week in recreation

Alex Soares
Recreation Clerk



WILBRAHAM - Every year the Friends of Recreation hosts the Annual 5K Falcon Trail Race to support improvements at Town of Wilbraham Recreational Facilities. The race is held at McDonald Nature Preserve on Washington Road in Wilbraham. This year the race is scheduled for Sunday, April 12 with a start time of 10 a.m., rain or shine. All ages are welcome to run, but please leave strollers and dogs at home. Prizes will be awarded for all age groups and all pre-registered participants

will receive a custom designed moisture-wicking long sleeve shirt. Registration is available online through active.com or the day of the race at the registration table.

Grab a family member, friend, or neighbor and join others at the 11th Annual Falcon Trail Race on Sunday, April 12!

Wilbraham Senior Center’s Armchair Travel Series: Mexico

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Senior Center’s Armchair Travel Series will take an adventure through Mexico to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

Join us for a virtual adventure fueled by authentic cuisine (light appetizers), mariachi music and festive

fun! We’ll kick things off with a brief presentation, then settle in for a laid-back celebration everyone can enjoy.

The event takes place on Wednesday, May 6 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Call 596-8379 to register, walk-ins also welcome.

Hampden Senior Center’s Shred Day Fundraiser set for April 24

HAMPDEN - SAVE THE DATE: Friday, April 24, from Noon to 2 p.m., Pro Shred will be at the Hampden Senior Center Parking Lot, located at 104 Allen Street in Hampden.

Once again, The Friends of The Hampden Senior Cit-

izens will hold this fundraiser to assist you in disposing of your documents that need to be shredded. This notice will allow you time to gather all those important papers and place in a box or bag.

We can allow only five boxes (paper copier size) per

car or five kitchen size trash bags. Limit is total of five per car. Pro Shred is not charging for this event but the Friends of The Hampden Seniors will appreciate any monetary donation that you would like to donate. We look forward to seeing you all there.

BACKYARD from page 6

from low-lying floodplains to mountainous forests at 10,000 feet. Their breeding range extends from Alaska to Newfoundland and south along the Appalachians. They winter across the East from New Jersey west to Texas and all the way south to Panama.

A common breeding display involves males pointing their bills skyward as they showcase their red throat patch for an interested female. Though both sexes are involved with excavating nesting cavities; males do most of the work. Occasionally, sapsuckers visit bird feeders for suet.

Bald eagle and turkey vultures

Early this month, a Worthington resident sent an email. He said he had a “lucky and thrilling sighting of an eagle, white tail obvious, circling on high with three turkey vultures and he called it “intra species cooperation” or more likely, the eagle using the vulture’s ability to find carrion.

I saw three turkey vultures along Route 122 in Barre near Vernon Avenue on March 16. I saw two turkey vultures in Oakham on St. Patrick’s Day. Their return is a sign of spring.

Robins

Huge flock of robins. Last week, I saw a huge flock of

robins, probably close to 100 birds fly over head along Route 32 in Gilbertville. Robins overwinter in this area, but large flocks are the returning robins that migrate.

Canada geese

The Canada geese are also returning. I saw quite a few geese in a cornfield in Spencer last week. I also saw about a dozen or saw fly overhead.

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

Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers plus more! The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

LET’S WORK TOGETHER

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

NOW HIRING: Advertising Representative

Join Our Team!
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

Turley Publications
Send resume & cover letter to:
Jamie Joslyn
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

Offering a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$225.00
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!**
New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MISCELLANEOUS

TROY-BILT 8-HORSE ROTOTILLER
Econo-horse. Very good condition.
\$750.00. Call 617-306-3066.

WANTED

WANTED! CASH for:

- Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
- Electronics & Audio Equipment.
- Sports Cards.
- 70s/80s/90s Toys.
- Antiques & Collectibles.

Much, much more!
Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.
Call Paul 413-206-8688

WANTED

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

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

JUNK REMOVAL

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

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

OPPORTUNITY

BUSINESS FOR SALE

BIOLINKS OF NEW ENGLAND
Grease trap pumping business.
Ninety customers, two pump trucks.
Call Les 413-297-1513

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

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

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

BOAT FOR SALE

17' STARCRAFT ALUMINUM BOAT.
1994 w/90HP 2-stroke Evinrude motor. Trailer w/spare tire, in great shape. \$4000.
Verne, 413-539-8246.

SERVICES

ONE CALL DOES IT ALL HANDYMAN SERVICES.
No job too small. Call for all your household and property maintenance needs.
413-563-6993

ELECTRICIAN

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured.
Master Elec. #20773A.
Text/call Luis 413-218-3301.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.
Call John at (413)206-6509
Every customer gets a free gem stone.

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HANDYMAN SERVICES. 30 years experience, replacement windows, painting, patching, laminate flooring, carpet installation/repair, and storage solutions. Call/text 413-777-3376.

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

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

LANDSCAPING

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

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789.

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING
Landscape Design and Installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit
mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text 413-266-9975
Insured - Commercial - Residential

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

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

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

SERVICES

PAINTING

PRO PAINTING
Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering.
Also minor carpentry.
413-310-5099.

PLUMBING

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

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

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

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

STUMP GRINDING

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

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

HELP WANTED

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535**; or by email to **selectmen@northbrookfield.net**.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

LAND WANTED

Seeking 8-20 peaceful acres in Central MA for pet memorial sanctuary. Especially interested in lease-option, phased sale, or seller financing. Respectful, serious inquiry. Patrick | 508-735-3232 | **founder@rainbow-meadow.org**

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

2026 TAX TIME

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

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States

FAST TAX USA
TAX PREPARATION SERVICE
413-348-2279

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

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

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
Make checks payable to Turley Publications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Monthly Highlights for April at the Hampden Senior Center:

Please call 566-5588 to RSVP for all events or register for classes at the senior center.

Lunch is provided by Greater Springfield Senior Services daily at Noon. Suggested donation is \$3 per meal. You must reserve lunch by 11 a.m. one day prior. Feel free to schedule reservations for the month.

Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, Inc. Stop in and meet Tripp! Hampden Senior Center's Therapy Dog
Tuesday, April 7, 9:30 to 11:30 am.
Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to placing well-trained certified therapy dog teams in meaningful programs that provide comfort and caring through the human-canine bond. Our special volunteers serve in a wide variety of settings, including hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries, and other facilities where therapy dogs are needed.

National Pet Month Celebration Breakfast
Wednesday, April 8 at 9 a.m. Cost is \$3.00 per person.

Join us as we celebrate National Pet Month with a delicious homemade breakfast! The menu will consist of Fruit, French Toast Bake with delicious local syrup from Ferrindino Maple, Sausage, and Juice.

Stay and enjoy a quick fun and lighthearted game of "Name that Pet" Trivia.

Sponsored by JGS Lifecare, Ferrindino Maple & John Matthews.

Intergenerational Program with Green Valley Preschool Bubble Mania!

Tuesday, April 15 at 9:30 am.
The Hampden Senior Center is excited to once again provide an intergenerational opportunity for the

Senior Center Community and our friends at Green Valley Preschool. BubbleManiaJR! is a silly, sudsy, interactive entertainment program, fun for people of all ages! Sign up today!!

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hampden Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Can you help us bring Green Valley Preschool Students to the Senior Center?

The Local Cultural Council has generously funded the BubbleManiaJR! program, but we need your help in getting the preschoolers here. For a \$5.00 donation, you can sponsor a child's bus trip to and from the senior center. Stop at the senior center front desk for more information or to leave your donation and get your name on the wall of buses. Thank you for your support! The children at Green Valley Preschool appreciate your support.

Celebrate National Pickleball Month - Lunch and Learn

Friday, April 17 at Noon. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per person to GSSSI for lunch.

If you are thinking about playing pickleball or you're already an expert player, come and celebrate National Pickleball Month with us. Ann Maggio, Karen Kielb, and Mary Grasseti will share their love of pickleball and educate us on the many benefits of playing. They will also provide information about the Hampden Senior Center Pickleball Group.

Come and enjoy a delicious Hamburger with Cheese on a Wheat Burger Bun, Onions & Mushrooms, Roasted Red Potatoes, and Chilled Pineapple provided by GSSSI.

We will be sure to include PICKLES with lunch, and there will be a surprise dessert!

April 22 is EARTH DAY
10 to 11 a.m.: Paint & Plant with the Hampden Garden Club
Sign up to paint a flowerpot and plant herbs to take home and enjoy.

This is a FREE program. Space is limited.
11 a.m. to Noon: Conservation Commission Agent, Joe Zeno, will be here to talk about Environmental Education.

EARTH DAY reminds us to REDUCE, REUSE, and RECYCLE

Friday, April 24 from Noon to 2 p.m.
FREE PROSHRED Shred Event sponsored by the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens in the Hampden Senior Center Parking Lot.

Future of the Hampden Townhouse

Friday, April 24 at Noon
The Hampden Select Board appointed a committee of residents to explore options and research the former Hampden Townhouse located at 625 Main Street. The Committee currently consists of 8 residents (voting members). The Town Administrator and one Selectboard member also sit on the committee in a non-voting/advisory capacity. To date, the Committee has toured the building and reviewed past professional building conditions and accessibility studies, and has gathered information on projects other Massachusetts towns have undertaken to repurpose similar buildings.

The Committee will be at the Hampden Senior Center on Friday, April 24 at Noon to present information, distribute surveys, and answer questions about the future of this historic Hampden building.

Janna Brown from the Foundation for TJO Animals will be here for a Lobby Learning

Tuesday, April 28, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Foundation for TJO Animals raises funds to provide resources and support for critical veterinary care and enrichment for the animals at the Thomas J O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and depends on the generosity of its supporters to achieve its goals.

Second Chance Animal Services will be here with their "Homebound to the Rescue" Program for Cats & Dogs

Wednesday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to Noon. FREE Pet Vet Exams!

The program offers: FREE Veterinary exams, FREE vaccines (if needed), FREE flea treatment, nail trims, microchips, FELV/FIV or 4DX testing, and deworming (if requested).

You MUST have an appointment for your pet. Please call 566.5588 to schedule.

This program is made possible by grants from the Michel & Agnese Cestone Foundation and Petco Love.

Throughout the month of April, the Hampden Senior Center will be collecting the following items for the TJO Animal Adoption Center and Second Chance Mobile Pets.

Donations can be brought into the lobby of the senior center.

Catnip, liquid laundry detergent, dryer sheets, Cheez-Whiz, hot dogs, wet canned dog food, and turkey or chicken wet cat food. Bleach, paper towels, and high-quality items for big dogs to chew. Monetary donations are also accepted and appreciated (leave at the front desk). Thank you for your support of these amazing organizations that help animals.

DEATH NOTICE

Elizabeth Ellen Boudreau
Died March 24, 2026
Visitation:
Monday, April 6
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Beers & Story Palmer
Funeral Home

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Wilbraham PUBLIC HEARING: LIQUOR LICENSE-ALTERATION OF PREMISES (SEC. 19B)

The Wilbraham Select Board will hold a hearing under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 138, on **Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7:10pm**, at the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, to hear public comment on an application for an alteration of premises to serve malt beverages and wine, submitted by Scantic River Brewery, LLC, 6 Burt Lane, Suite #2, Wilbraham, with David J. Avery as the proposed Manager. Anyone wishing to comment on the application will be heard. This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).

Wilbraham Select Board
Local Licensing Authority
04/02/2026

NOTICE TO BIDDERS PUBLIC LIBRARY CHILLER REPLACEMENT 25 CRANE PARK DRIVE WILBRAHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 01095

The Town of Wilbraham, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for replacing the Public Library Chiller, 25 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham, MA 01095.

The Project consists of replacement of an outdoor chiller unit and associated indoor pneumatic valve and flow switch. Project will include replacing the 40-ton chiller and providing shut-off valves and trim, as well as replacing indoor pneumatics. Re-filling, balancing, and testing propylene glycol falls under the scope of this project. Chiller con-

trols shall maintain the current sequence of operations based on outdoor temperature. All electrical will be in support of chiller unit replacement.

Bidder selection, procedures and contract awards shall be in conformity with M.G.L. Chapter 149 section 44. State mandated prevailing wage rates must be paid according to M.G.L. Chapter 149 sections 26-27H.

Digital copies of the drawings and specifications may be obtained by emailing requests to Maeliz Colon of Robt. W. Hall Consulting Engineers, Inc. at mcolon@rwhall.com after Thursday, April 2nd, 2026. A contractor briefing on site is planned for Wednesday, April 8th, 2026 at 2:00 pm.

General bids will be accepted from eligible bidders at the office of the Board of Selectmen, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095 until **Thursday, April 16th 2026, at 12:00 noon** when they shall be publicly opened and read aloud. A 5% bid security is required to be included in the bid package.

The Awarding Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, should it be deemed in the public interest to do so.

Samuel Boyd, Facilities and Grounds Director
04/02/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No.

HD26P0623EA Estate of: Jean M Francis Date of Death: 12/06/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Marie Talbot of Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Marie Talbot of Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/21/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in

an **unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court, Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 24, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
04/02/2026

Town of Wilbraham PUBLIC HEARING: NEW SEC. 19B(N) ANNUAL LIQUOR LICENSE FARMER WINERY POURING PERMIT (WINE ONLY) FOR A SEC. 19B LICENSE HOLDER

The Wilbraham Select Board will hold a hearing under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 138, on **Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7:05pm**, at the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, to hear public comment on an application for a Farmer Series Pouring Permit (wine only), submitted by Scantic River Brewery, LLC, 6 Burt Lane, Suite #2, Wilbraham, with David J. Avery as the proposed Manager, that was granted a Sec. 19B License on March 5, 2026 by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. Anyone wishing to comment on the application will be heard. This meeting will be conducted in person

and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).

Wilbraham Select Board
Local Licensing Authority
04/02/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P0641EA Estate of: George Argyrios Pouloupoulos Date of Death: 02/23/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Lee-Ann Sheehan of Monson, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, the allowance of a proposed distribution and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/27/2026.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to

file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 23, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate
04/02/2026

Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 6:30 PM** in the Town Hall, 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, MA on the application of Salmar Realty, LLC c/o Peter Martins for a Special Permit under Section 6, Table of Use Regulation Use Code 4.14 within Table 6.0 of the Zoning Bylaw for a restaurant and a Special Permit with Site Plan Approval under Section 6, Use Code 4.12 for a retail establishment both within the Business District located at 2 Somers Road, Lot #3 (Parcel #12-040-000) owned by Hampden Farms LLC. 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. Published in the Wilbraham-Hampden Times on April 2 and 9, 2026.
04/02, 04/09/2026

Find your MARKET IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!
413.283.8393 • classifieds@turley.com
24 Water St., Palmer • 80 Main St., Ware

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:
EASEMBALEM
APPRECIATION
REUNION
SEERS
EPI
EDDAS
MC EGOS
MIAEDP
IDS
EELS
MID
MELLOW
ADAGION
RESTATEMENT
EPOCHS

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



HOMETOWN

▪ EXTERIORS ▪

The Beauty of Wood Without the Upkeep.

From cozy outdoor living rooms to breathtaking multi-level escapes, every deck that our craftsmen build is designed, engineered, and constructed with **quality, craftsmanship, and endless possibilities** in mind. We turn your backyard vision into a stunning, long-lasting reality.



LOCAL.
FAMILY-OWNED.
IN-HOUSE CRAFTSMEN.

OUR FAMILY OF COMPANIES

